

A Word from Mack

Mack McCarter

Successful models trump empty words

We are in the throes of an intensely political season. And every four years the winds of the political rhetoric howl at the gale force velocity which threatens to rivet our attention to the urgency of the moment. I have to confess to you that I have to take a series of deep breaths to keep from calling in to the siren's call of the scream of issues which confront all of us in today's madly spinning world. It is so easy to allow the urgent to eclipse the vital.

But even in the midst of an election year, there is the wonderful grace of God which allows us to retreat, to back off, to gain a perspective larger than partisanship and refocus our priorities which bring about a new clarity of purpose and commitment. This miracle can be tangibly felt even when candidates and political parties raise voices to a feverish pitch hoping for a stampede to the polls.

It is then that all of a sudden, a calm destroys the storm. Do you see what a paradox this is? Because usually it is just the opposite! Usually it is the storm that blows away the calm! So, here is what I realize: (despite Aristotle's conviction that you and I are "political animals.") I remember that no political leader and no political party are capable of fundamentally transforming human society. The very best that they can do is to inspire the people to desire transformation and to create a climate for that change to occur. But there is no such thing as changing our communities without the consent of those who comprise those communities.

No Presidential Decree or Commission can by force of initiative affect the creation of a safe and caring human society. No Legislative Body can mandate a great community which produces whole and healthy human beings. And no army can by force of arms generate and sustain the loving relationships necessary for a lasting peace to endure. No! The great things for the people must come from the people themselves.

So it is with true community renewal. Even when the political rhetoric reaches white hot heat, we must recognize that it is the ineluctable laws of relationships which will ultimately govern our conditions. Successful and working models inevitably trump ultimately empty words.

I am honestly proud to say to each of you that I believe with my whole heart that together we are on an unshakable path to real and substantive change. I believe that we have a model for concretely initiating, systematically generating, and methodically sustaining safe and loving human community with real and measurable results here in Shreveport and Bossier City and by our example, the world.

I know that I have seen miracles of renewal in our midst occur. And I know that I am not alone. Thousands of you have witnessed the same. Now we are not dummies. We are not

buffoons. We are not easily given to flights of fantasy. No! Something very real is happening here. It is worth paying attention to. It is worthy of our devotion and our generosity.

Community Renewal has and is a new model for the change that we all long for. So come and join with us this election year by voting with your devotion and commitment and wallet to a new and lasting world for our children and their children. Elections come and go. Millions and millions of dollars are raised and then go away, but you and I can and must devote ourselves to the renewal of our community in real and tangible ways. Will you join us?

God bless you all.