

## **Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, November 8, 2014**

"Teamwork" is not only critical in sports and business but in all aspects of life. Our natural tendency is to make every effort to work out solutions on our own. Even sports which appear to be individual are actually filled with team members who often function behind the scenes. Race car drivers may be the only one behind the wheels, but their pit crew and mechanics are critical to their success. Professional golfers at the highest level talk about their teams. Caddies, trainers, coaches and psychologists all play an integral part in the life of most touring pros. We've all seen amazing players dominate their role on the field, but without a good supporting cast their personal accomplishments may still end in a frustrating loss.

As a business professional I've come to value the dynamic of working with others. In my insurance business, I count on people in our general office, insurance underwriters and service personnel to complement the work I do for my clients. On any given day, I may be communicating with at least half a dozen team members even though contact may come by phone, fax or computer. I will never meet many of these folks, but we still work as a team with a common goal - to serve our clients to the best of our ability. I guess I first realized the importance of teamwork in business when I was studying for my Master of Arts in Management. Working in the Human Resources discipline at the time helped me to apply what I learned at night in my work during the day.

One of the greatest opportunities for teamwork can be found in marriage. Successful marriages are built on good communication and working together on all kinds of family issues. The worst thing we can do in marriage is to devalue our spouse in the decision-making process. Marriage is beautiful to behold when couples call upon each other in all aspects of their life together. In fact marriage entails two lives becoming one life. One of my life verses is found in the book of Ecclesiastes 4:12b...."A cord of three strands cannot be quickly broken." Bringing God into the relationship as the third strand is what makes it all come together! I've seen it at work in our marriage for nearly thirty years.

When I first got involved in CBMC in early 1987, I became part of a local Committee. In recent years, we've come to better define our relationship with others as a "team concept" and we are now part of Christian Business Men's Connection (no longer a Committee). Our connection with other Christian business and professional men needs to be built on teamwork. Personally, I meet weekly with three distinct teams as well as other team connections that go on for special events like our Community Prayer Breakfast. We need not have assigned roles, but we have one thing in common - our love for Christ and what He's done in our lives and our desire to please Him in all we do and in who we have become. What's amazing is what He allows us to accomplish as we work together for His glory.

So, I hope this will at least give you a nudge to become more open to meeting together with Christian brothers as we strive to share the joy of Christ with a hurting world. Together, we can accomplish more than any one man can accomplish on his own. Synergy is possible in sports, business, family and our work for Christ. Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto by his side!

Here to serve,

Jim Langley, CLU

Passages to Ponder: Hebrews 10:24 & 25; I Corinthians 12: 22 – 27.

*Note: Jim Langley has been an agent with New York Life since 1983 and an active member of CBMC of Santa Barbara since 1987. These "Fourth Quarter Strategies" discussions are designed to "light a fire" under Christian business and professional men so we might be more effective in the marketplace for the sake of Christ, our Lord and Savior!*

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### Hebrews 10:24-25 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>24</sup> And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, <sup>25</sup> not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

### 1 Corinthians 12:22-27 New King James Version (NKJV)

<sup>22</sup> No, much rather, those members of the body which seem to be weaker are necessary.

<sup>23</sup> And those *members* of the body which we think to be less honorable, on these we bestow greater honor; and our unpresentable *parts* have greater modesty, <sup>24</sup> but our presentable *parts* have no need. But God composed the body, having given greater honor to that *part* which lacks it, <sup>25</sup> that there should be no schism in the body, but *that* the members should have the same care for one another. <sup>26</sup> And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with *it*; or if one member is honored, all the members rejoice with *it*.

<sup>27</sup> Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

[New King James Version \(NKJV\)](#)

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