

Who's in charge of the weather?



Some native Americans during the autumn in Iowa asked their Chief if it was going to be a cold winter.

Not really knowing the answer, the chief took a guess and replied that the winter was going to be cold and that the members of the village were to collect wood in order to be prepared.

Being a wise leader, he then went to the nearest phone booth and called the National Weather Service and asked, "Is this winter to be cold?" The man on the phone responded, "All signs are this winter is going to be quite cold indeed."

So the Chief went back to urge his people to collect even more wood to be prepared. A week later he called the National Weather Service again, "Is it going to be a very cold winter?" "Yes," the man replied, "it's going to be a very cold winter." So the Chief went back to his people and ordered them to go and find every scrap of wood they could find.

Two weeks later he called the National Weather Service again "Are you absolutely sure that the winter is going to be very cold?" "Absolutely," the weatherman replies, "the native Americans are collecting wood

like crazy!"

This interesting story poses the question, who leads and who follows? When looking for a pattern to follow we need to be certain that the one we choose is the correct one.

In the roles we perform the vast majority of us are followers of one kind or another. The vision or the goals presented are the ones we follow by accepting a position within that organisation.

So what are the traits of a good follower?

Here is a mental questionnaire.

Be honest in answering:

Do I cooperate with others to achieve the desired

goal?

Am I willing to accept the ideas of other people?

Am I a team player? Or do I prefer to work by myself?

Am I willing to give the leader and others credit and public recognition?

Am I loyal to the group?

Am I flexible?

Or does it have to be done my way?

'Followers who tell the truth, and leaders who listen to it, are an unbeatable combination.'

Warren Bennis

Am I rational or dogmatic?

Am I dedicated to the group's goals?

Am I dependable?

Can others count on me to do my part?

Can I provide constructive feedback without being negative?
(Questionnaire courtesy of R Campbell)

There is no pass mark, no perfect or final score for these questions. Our answers will change for different groups, different situations and different times. All of us can improve on all of these attributes.

Good followers shouldn't hesitate to voice their own views and give constructive criticism particularly if it is believed the leader isn't acting in the best interests of the group. Sometimes it takes courage.

Keep these questions in mind, both when we are a leader or become a follower.

They will help us succeed at both.

Major Ian Field, Chaplain

Prayer Diary

January 27– February 2, 2014 - Week 5

We give thanks in our prayers for the work of:

M.A.G. External Engineering
M.A.G. Community Relations
Air Malta
Starbucks Coffee Co
Airline Services
Tunis Air

The Chaplaincies at

Brownwood Regional Airport
Budapest Airport
Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Intl Airport

Daily Prayers (Christian) take place every day at 8.30am in T1 Prayer Room (and at many other times and places too)

Friday Jummah Prayers (Islamic) are held in T3 Prayer Room

1300 GMT (Winter)