



THE INSIDE RUNNING

Functioning as a Team

October 2013

by Myan Subrayan

We live in times where focus on elevating the individual to be more important than the team is promoted. We are encouraged that it is all about number one: me, myself and I.

In rugby, for example, you will hear it is all about Dan Carter or Richie McCaw – what happened to the rest of the 14 other blokes who make up the team?

In a culture that sings the praises of individuals we tend to lose sight of the big picture. Some people seem to believe that they are the entire picture: Everything revolves around their needs, their goals, and their desires.

We need to realise that every man has an important role to play in the team and must come out of isolation to function effectively as God intended him to. In church, for example, whether you are doing the carpark duty, helping out with crèche, or doing teas and coffees, it doesn't matter how insignificant it may seem, you are making an important contribution.

Let's look to Jesus as our role model, as we are called to have the mind of Christ, according

to Philippians 2:5. What really is the mind of Christ? We get the answer from Philippians 2:3-4, which is to esteem others more than ourselves. In essence this means that the emphasis is not on the individual, but the team. Jesus prayed for teamwork in John 17:19-23.

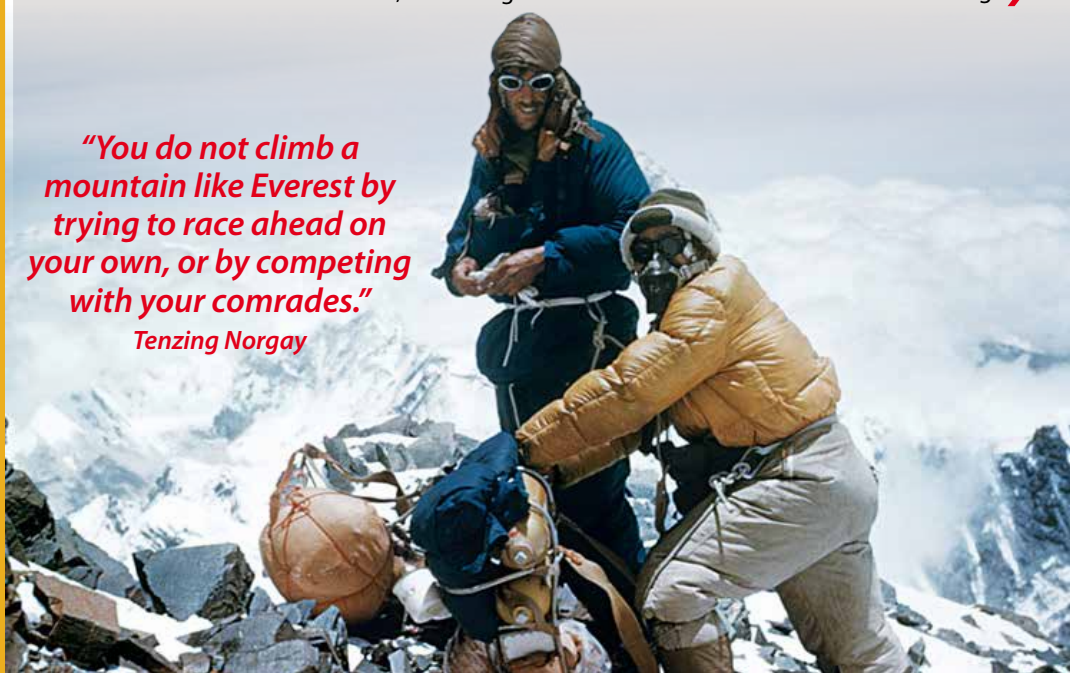
Why did Jesus pray this prayer? I believe it was because He knows that there is strength in unity. We read this in the famous unity psalm, Psalm 133. In verse 3 God commands a blessing where there is unity. Paraphrased, God is revealing to us that teamwork commands His blessing.

Every man needs to learn how to function as part of a team as we see in a building project in the Bible, when Nehemiah was rebuilding the city walls of Jerusalem.

Nehemiah 3 reveals a remarkable display of unity and working for a common goal. There were around forty groups working together and each person stuck to the task that they were given. This resulted in what seemed impossible being achieved because they worked and stuck to the game plan. It was a collective effort with them all coming ➤

"You do not climb a mountain like Everest by trying to race ahead on your own, or by competing with your comrades."

Tenzing Norgay



Two of the biggest issues facing us as men are passivity and isolation. These can stop spiritual growth in its tracks. God has put us in a family of believers so that we are not alone.

Whether it is your family, church community, men's group, co-workers, friends or fellow sportsmen, the ability to work with others as a team is crucial.

Some points that Ivan makes on this month's DVD really made me think. One quality he says is needed on a team is to be teachable. This involves a willingness to learn, admit when we are wrong, submit to others and choose to be humble. The opposite, being unteachable, is based on pride and arrogance.

Being teachable is the gateway to being empowered, having a great attitude and creating momentum.

Personally, I have had to cope with far more change in the last three years than the previous 30. Flexibility is the key. It means letting go of the old and relying on God and His provision for the future. Staying connected with like-minded people, especially brothers in a men's group, is incredibly reassuring and powerful.

Keep connected
and keep
moving!

John

John Subritzky



TRANSFORMING MEN!



> together as individuals for a common good.

Sir Edmund Hillary knew the value of a team and that it was only a team effort that made conquering Mt Everest possible. That is why Sir Ed had a team that helped him. Tenzing Norgay remarked,

"You do not climb a mountain like Everest by trying to race ahead on your own, or by competing with your comrades. You do it slowly and carefully, by unselfish teamwork... For where would Hillary and I have been without the others? It was only because of the work and sacrifice of all of them that we were now to have our chance at the top."

In our life we are called not just to believe but also to belong. Jesus highlighted this in John 15 by exhorting us to be connected to Him. We are blessed to be a blessing. God has given us abilities and talents, not for us to store them up and be a dam, but to be a channel of His blessing.

What a team can do for you:

- It makes you better than you are
- It multiplies your value to others
- It enables you to do what you do best
- It gives you more time
- It provides you with companionship
- It helps you fulfil the desires of your heart
- It makes everyone on the team a winner

As much as we admire individual achievement, the truth is that no individual has done anything of value solely by themselves. What seem to be solo acts are really team efforts. Hillary and Tenzing didn't reach the peak of Everest and make it back down by themselves. It was a team effort.

As Promise Keepers USA Coach Bill McCartney says,

"We have not come to compete with one another; we have come to complete one another."

(See DVD ROM for Myan's full article "Functioning as a Team")

What's on the DVD



FEATURED SPEAKER: Ivan Bezzant - Functioning as a Team: This is a clear and energising message on the benefits of team and what that looks like. Ivan makes some excellent points! 30 min

DRAMA: Half Time - The game belongs to the best team! 2 min 45

BONUS FEATURES:

- **Next Generation - Aaron More:** Aaron's life was transformed by a youth ministry. That is why he is passionate about reaching youth through *Transition*. 9 min 30
- **PK Music: Our God is Greater** 4 min
- **Relationship Status: Single - David Goodman:** Insights into the single life from David Goodman. 4 min

• **Men's Groups - Paul Subritzky:** Paul describes the power he has experienced in Men's Groups. 8 min

• **It's Not About the Nail** - Women want to be listened to, not fixed – seriously! 1 min 30

• **Health for Men - Paul Subritzky** 17 min

HUMOUR CLIPS: Learner motorcyclist; ghost car; speedy pram; paperless world; wingman 4 min

BETTER WORK STORIES: Space oddity - Major Chris Hadfield's cover of David Bowie's song, recorded aboard the international space station. Awesome! 5 min 20

DVD ROM: Access these using Windows Explorer (PC) or Command F (Mac)

ARTICLES: Including Derek Prince - Fitly Joined Together; David Delk - The Value of a Team; Francis Frangipane - Beware of the Stronghold of Cold Love; Kevin Forlong - Diligence; Ian Buckley - How God Builds You, Resolving Conflict in Your Office; Nikki Bray - Friendship in Marriage; Myan Subrayan - Functioning as a Team (full article)

RESOURCES: Including Bill Subritzky's Booklet - How to Break Curses; Weekly Studies for Men's Groups; *The Call* Event Photos & Stories CHC; *Pure Power* 2014 Event Advance Brochure; Paul Subritzky - Health for Men PowerPoint; Ivan Bezzant - Functioning as a Team Study Questions; Bible Reading Plans & Websites

MP3s: Including Derek Prince - God's Plan for Your Body 57 min; Bob Branston - Effectively Leading a Small Group 51 min **PKUSA Classic:** Ed Cole - Responsibility of Leadership 43 min **PKNZ Classics:** Myan Subrayan - Functioning as a Team 25 min; Mark Beale - Growing in Faith 30 min

Thanks to **Derek Prince Ministries** for supplying a hard copy of the article *Defence Against Discouragement*, sent with October WiseChoices. www.dpm.co.nz

Event Photos and Stories

It's a bit of a stretch...

TEAM

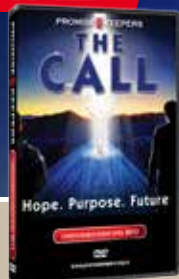
to think there's really an "i" in "team"!



**PROMISE
#2**

A Promise Keeper is committed to pursuing vital relationships with a few other men, understanding that he needs brothers to help him keep his promises.

**Next Issue:
PRAYER**



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