

A Secure Leader

During the presidency of Ronald Reagan, leaders of seven industrial nations were meeting at the White House to discuss economic policy.



Pierre Trudeau and Margaret Thatcher

At one point in the meeting, Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau strongly upbraided British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, telling her that she was all wrong and that her policies wouldn't work. She stood there in front of him with her head up, listening until he was finished. Then she walked away.

Reagan went up to her and said, "Maggie, he should never have spoken to you like that. He was out of line, just entirely out of line. Why did you let him get away with that?"

Thatcher looked at Reagan and answered, "A woman must know when a man is being childish."

Author and speaker John C. Maxwell, a developer of leaders, refers to that incident in his book *The Maxwell Daily Reader*. "That story surely typifies Margaret Thatcher," he said. "She appeared to have no doubts about herself or her beliefs – and she was absolutely secure in her leadership as a result. That is the case for all great leaders."

Secure leaders, Maxwell said, are able to believe in others because they believe in themselves. "They aren't arrogant; they know their own strengths and weaknesses and respect themselves. When their people perform well, they don't feel threatened. They go out of their way to bring the best people together and then build them up so that they will perform at the highest level. And when a secure leader's team succeeds, it brings him great joy. He sees that as the highest compliment he can receive."



Margaret Thatcher and Ronald Reagan

That advice is worth adopting for those of us who lead in Life Care, Century Park and Life Care at Home.

– Beecher Hunter