

Churchill's Hearing

What is a good way to build unity and teamwork in the centers of Life Care and American Lifestyles and in the work of Life Care at Home? Many suggestions could be offered. But some examples could be given about how not to do it, leading to the disintegration of those important dynamics.

A story widely told about Winston Churchill, the legendary prime minister of England, provides the illustration.

Churchill was attending an official ceremony in London. Two men behind him recognized him and began to whisper behind his back.

"They say Churchill's quite senile now," said the one.

"Yes, they say he's doing England more harm than good," replied the other.

"They say he should step aside and leave the running of this government to younger, more dynamic people," continued the first man.

Churchill turned and, in a loud voice, said, "They also say he's quite deaf."

The lesson, of course, is the negative impact of backbiting and gossip. Do the words issuing from your lips pass the face test? In other words, when you speak about someone, is the language such that you wouldn't mind him or her hearing, or that you would say directly to the individual?

When Lola and I moved to Bradley County, we soon discovered that the people of whom we spoke were, more often than not, related to at least one person in our circle of conversation.

Should that matter?

--Beecher Hunter