

How to Talk Well

James Bender, in his book, "How to Talk Well, relates the story of a farmer who grew award-winning corn. Each year the farmer entered his corn in the state fair where it won a blue ribbon. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it.

The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his seed corn with his neighbors. "How can you afford to share your best seed corn with your neighbors when they are entering corn in competition with yours each year?" the reporter asked.

"Why, sir," said the farmer, "didn't you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbors grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbors grow good corn."

He is very much aware of the connectedness of life. His corn cannot improve unless his neighbor's corn also improves.

So it is in other dimensions:

- Those who choose to be at peace must help their neighbors to be at peace.
- Those who choose to live well must help others to live well, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches.
- And those who choose to be happy must help others to find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all.

Adam Ludwig in Life Care's Tax Department shared this story with me. It is a very pertinent one for us because nobody understands these principles better than the associates of Life Care, American Lifestyles and Life Care at Home, because they practice them everyday.

The lesson for each of us, then, is this: If we are to grow good corn, we must help our neighbors grow good corn.

--Beecher Hunter