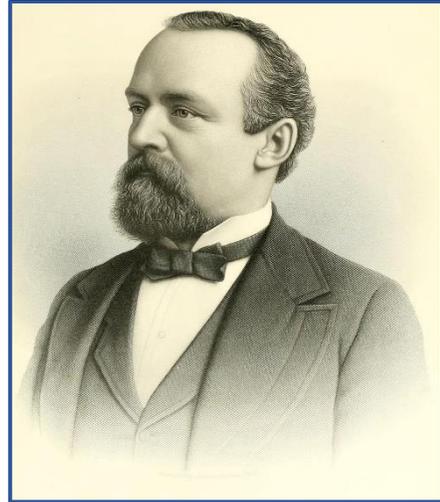


The Marks of a Servant

Philip W. Pillsbury (1903 – 1984) was a grandson of Charles Pillsbury, co-founder of the flour-milling company that grew to be among the world's largest diversified food companies.

The Pillsbury Company was bought by General Mills in 2001. Advertising company Leo Burnett Worldwide created Pillsbury's Doughboy and Jolly Green Giant, which are two of the agency's top brand icons. But let's look at a little history.

C.A. Pillsbury and Company was founded in 1872 by Charles Alfred Pillsbury and his uncle, John S. Pillsbury, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The company was second in the United States (after Washburn-Crosby) to use steel rollers for processing grain. The finished product required transportation, so the Pillsburys assisted in funding railroad development in Minnesota.



Philip Pillsbury was a member of the Yale College Class of 1924. He was a starting guard on the undefeated and tie-free 1923 football team, an All-American water polo athlete and a tenor for the Yale Glee Club. He was elected to the company's board of directors in 1928, and in 1940, he became president and maintained that post after election to the chairmanship of the board in 1951.

He had an international reputation as a connoisseur of fine foods. But to his employees, he was one of the troops.

Pillsbury bore the unmistakable mark of a journeyman grain miller – the tips of three of his fingers were missing. He would not allow his wealth and prestige to separate him from the workers he led, and he had the factory scars to prove it.

He fit the definition of a servant leader. That term describes leaders who serve those whom they lead – leaders whose main task is to remove the obstacles that might keep their followers from succeeding.

We have emphasized the servant leader concept in the Life Care Journey sessions conducted at Life Care, and we believe it is the best way to lead.

Dr. David Jeremiah, senior pastor of Shadow Mountain Community Church in El Cajon, California, writes about servant leadership in his book, *Turning Points*.

(more)

“Jesus Christ was certainly a servant leader, as was the apostle Paul,” Dr. Jeremiah said. “In fact, Paul confessed that he would rather do anything than hinder the speed of the gospel. So, he gave up his rights in order that none would be confused about his motives. He adapted himself to the lifestyle of those he sought to win to Christ. And he bore in his body the telltale marks of a follower of Jesus.”

The question for us in Life Care and Century Park is: What marks, signs or tangible demonstrations do we show that reveal our willingness to serve those we are called to lead?

Commitment to our mission is measured by the self-denial we're willing to endure to see it accomplished. Jesus put it this way:

Whoever would be great among you must be your servant (Matthew 20:26 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter