

# The Business Connector

A Quarterly Newsletter from AmSpirit™ Business Connections

## *The Mousetrap Fable* Summer 2010 Vol. 12 No. 2

We are only human. Each of our lives have been shaped by tens of thousands of years of development. As such, much of our actions, habits and attitudes can best be described as “human nature.”

For example, we are a social creature. Thus, human nature drives us to seek companionship.

Or, we seek to keep ourselves safe from harm. Thus, human nature compels us to avoid situations that make us uneasy.

But we also position ourselves to maximize our chances of survival. Thus, we strive to make the highest and best use of our limited time and resources. While this may serve us well, there are times when it can hinder the flow of good networking energy around us.

Consider a time where you learned that there was a person in need. And in that moment, you quickly opted to do nothing. In your mind, you may have rationalized your inaction with, “Why should I lend a hand – this does not affect me and there is nothing in it for me?”

In the grand scheme of survival, this is simply human nature. This thinking, however, flies in the face of sound networking wisdom. We should be giving to the world around us and expecting nothing in return.

After all, in this civilized world we are all connected and the problems of others are our problems, even if they might not

directly impact us. Consider this tragic tale.

*One day, a mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. “What food might this contain?” He was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap.*

*Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning. “There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!”*

*The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, “Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it.”*

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*The mouse turned to the pig and told him, “There is a mousetrap in the house.”*

*The pig sympathized, but said, “I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers.”*

*The mouse turned to the cow. She said, “Wow, Mr. Mouse. I’m sorry for you, but it’s no skin off my nose.”*

*So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer’s mousetrap alone.*

*That very night a sound rang out throughout the house – like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey.*

*The farmer’s wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.*

*The snake bit the farmer’s wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital, and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup’s main ingredient.*

*But his wife’s sickness continued, so friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the pig.*

*The farmer’s wife did not get better. In fact, sadly she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them.*

Now more than ever, no person is completely isolated. And now more than ever, another’s troubles somehow, someday eventually relates back to us. Thus, the problems of others will ultimately be our problem too.

So, the next time we learn that someone is troubled, we should consider lending a hand. After all, we are all connected. When one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. ▼