

## “Getting Ready”

This time of the year just seems like a “getting ready” time. Getting ready for school, getting ready for “the season” (like football), getting the house ready, getting the room ready, getting the yard ready, ..... You name it we are getting ready for it. And what I’m finding is that it is a great feeling. It’s not the feeling of accomplishment, but it is the thought of the accomplishment. It revs you up, starts the fire burning, gets you excited. You get the calendar out, start making lists, get everyone together, make assignments,..... You know, organizing your life.

You have spent the summer months in pretty much day-to-day chaos.....don’t you think? It ends up being another beautiful day so you go golfing instead of cleaning the garage. There doesn’t seem to be much structure to summer months. You’re just trying to get in as much fun as you can because you don’t know how many of these days we are going to have. (How do they get anything done in Mexico or Hawaii?) How many people in the last week have you heard say, “My goodness this summer has gone by quickly!” (Why doesn’t anyone say that about the winter??) So, when the “getting ready Fall months” come it begins to feel more like a structured chaos. Life is still busy, of course, but there seems to be more routine to it all. At least it is on the calendar.

And as much as we are never ready to give up our summer there is a part of us that really is looking forward to the what’s next. Last week I was involved in a strategic planning session with a non-profit organization. Before you groan and think “ugh, another planning session”, I want you to know that it was quite the opposite. People got excited, energized and re-committed to that organization. Not that they weren’t, but it got the engine running again. They were reminded of why they were passionate about the way that it was able to make a difference. And by taking time to look, in depth, at their organization again they were able to focus on a couple of key areas for growth and development. It felt really good!

So we have used the past few months to energize ourselves and are heading in to the season for reconnecting ourselves to our purpose. It seems like we do this in January, but it is time again. Now is the time to plan again. Now is the time to look, in depth at what is happening in our life and our work. Do we like what we see? Do we want change? Now is the time to create the future again, to dream again. Now is the time to focus, to make adjustments, make new commitments, try something new or to say, “I like what I see, it is working.”

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven” .(Ecclesiastes 3) This saying was on a stone plaque that I just received as a gift what a great reminder.....this really is the season for “getting ready.....again!”