

## **May 2011 - Leadership Letter (59)**



### **When in Doubt ... REBOOT!**

**Hello Everyone!**

By now, even I know what the term “reboot” means ...

This Leadership Letter is about “rebooting,” not only as a computer problem-solving approach, but as a way to perhaps approach the problems and opportunities of everyday life.

Rob Daly, a friend and colleague from P&G’s Engineering Division, was also a gifted and funny coach and consultant.

One day, as I was moaning about several situations I felt frustrated about ... Rob asked me ...

- “Do you notice what’s common to all these situations?”
- I said “no; what do you see?”
- He said, “Well ... **you** are there.”

I hope you enjoy “**REBOOT**” and find it helpful as I did ...

**REMINDER:** If you need to reach me quickly, please do not email. Please call or text me on my cell at **513/919-7672**. I have my phone with me while consulting, traveling, planting trees, biking or canoeing!

With regards,

***Mel***

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# When in Doubt ... REBOOT!

My pastor, Jeff Hosmer, gave us another of his thoughtful and thought-provoking messages on April 25, 2010, with this theme: *When in Doubt ... Reboot!*

Jeff noted that for many years, computer professionals have been telling us that simply re-booting will solve 80-90% of computer freeze-ups/breakdowns. It also often works for other electronic devices.

It **also** works in the **human domain**. As in, if what we're doing at the moment isn't working, or is frustrating, or is leading us either nowhere or in reverse ... Jeff suggests we **reboot (stop and start again)**.

My consulting colleague and friend John Parmater (an excellent coach) has a similar message: If what you're doing isn't working, **try anything else!** He notes that ...

When we are stuck, frustrated, baffled or blocked, our tendency is to do **more of the same**, just more forcefully. But, trying "**anything else**" has a better chance of success!

## **PERSONAL EXAMPLE:**

A good client of mine recently asked for a way to improve a particular senior personnel situation. I offered a good tried and true approach. My client didn't really see how it might help, so I explained it in more detail.

**But** later, another and better thought came along! A simpler, easier, and more direct approach. Which I shared as preferable to the first suggestion! (Reboot.)

Which reminds me of creativity teacher **de Bono's observation**: What often appears to be a "good" idea (approach, solution, process) may really only be the absence of any competing (possibly better) ideas!

## **JEFF'S EXAMPLE:**

Much of Jeff's message on "Reboot" focused on **John Newton** (1725-1807). He went to sea with his father, a captain, and later was pressed into service by the Royal Navy and made midshipman. He became such a problem, he was broken back to ordinary seaman.

Problems worsened and he was off-loaded onto a **slaver's ship** as a seaman! Problems continued and he was given over to a slave merchant where his job was to **serve the slaves!**

At some point, Newton rebooted, did well, and was made a captain, and he was the captain of several slave ships during that time.

Having been part of most aspects of the slave trade slowly worked its way on him. Newton finally left it and studied to begin a new life as a pastor! He worked with William Wilberforce in Parliament to **halt the slave trade**. (Reboot again.)

He also wrote several revered hymns, the most memorable being ...

***Amazing Grace ... how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me!***

Near the end of his life at 82 years, John Newton noted that his memory was fading, but he could still recall the two most important things ...

**I am a great sinner.  
I have a great Savior.**

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***Postscript:***

A small group at our church is raising awareness about modern day human trafficking and **slavery**, worse now than ever before in history.

There are currently ~27 million in slavery worldwide, including a significant number in the **US**, where human trafficking is greatly increasing.

Eighty percent of the victims are female and fifty percent are children. To learn more or find out how to help, contact the following:

- [www.oasisusa.org](http://www.oasisusa.org) (Oasis International)
- [www.IJM.org](http://www.IJM.org) (International Justice Mission)
- [www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/trafficking) (National Human Trafficking Resource Center)
- End Slavery Cincinnati, of the YWCA ([www.ywcacincinnati.org](http://www.ywcacincinnati.org); [esc@ywcacin.org](mailto:esc@ywcacin.org))
- P.A.T.H. (Cincinnati Women's Crisis Center)



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