



teamtalk

motivating business

Improve team spirit

Who packs your parachute?



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Sometimes in the daily challenges that life gives us, we can overlook some important little things that acknowledge other people - like saying a happy hello, a polite please and thank you, or, even passing on a compliment and doing something nice for no reason.

Charles Plumb was a jet pilot. After 75 combat missions, his plane was destroyed by a missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted behind enemy lines as the burning fuselage was destroyed below. Captured by the enemy he spent 6 years in a prisoner of war camp. Now he lectures on lessons learned from that experience.

One day, in a restaurant, a man came up to Plumb, and said “You flew jet fighters, and were shot down. I packed your parachute.” Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man shook his hand said “I guess it worked!” Plumb assured him, “It sure did. If your chute hadn’t worked, I wouldn’t be here today”. Plumb couldn’t sleep that night, thinking about the man. “I kept wondering how many times I might have seen him and walked straight past, because, you see, I was fighter pilot, and he was just a sailor.” Plumb thought of the many hours that sailor had spent packing parachutes in the bowels of the ship, each time holding in his hands the fate of someone he didn’t know.

Now, Plumb asks his audience, “Who’s packing your parachute?” Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day.

There are people at work who help many others without them even realising it. This might be just in the little things, but without them we possibly couldn’t do our job properly, or, enjoy being at work. When you smile, are polite, pass on those compliments and help someone out for no reason - you’re packing their chute and helping them through their day!

Suggestion: As you go through this week why not try packing someone’s chute with good cheer and also remember to recognise those that pack yours.