

Are You the Benjamin Franklin of Today!

Remember that guy who did the experiment with a key and a kite in the rain? You would be surprised at everything “The First American” did during his life. Yes, this guy, who we know for playing in the rain to discover electrical flow, really blew the sock off others during his time in history. Did you know Benjamin Franklin was also first in the following areas? And the list is not exhaustive!

- Being a newspaper printer and editor
- Writing a controversial column in the first newspaper under a fake name
- Inventing a battery, condenser, stove, swim fins, glass armonica, flexible urinary catheter, modern odometer and more
- Developing and influencing one of the first population studies
- Making eight voyages across the seas to map out the Gulf Stream
- Dabbling in wind movement to advance the field of meteorology
- Publishing and authoring the famous Poor Richard's Almanac
- Creating and theorizing on oceanic findings
- Creating the “Pro and Con” list of decision making
- Advocating paper money
- Advancing efforts in politics
- Being the British Postmaster for the colonies

Whew! I hardly have time work and take care of a family! Yet without the conveniences of the modern world, Benji (as I like to call him) took on so many efforts and stood his ground on many issues that created the nation we live in today. Have you turned on your air conditioner lately? Yes, he dabbled in that theory and practice, too.

Recently, I came across a quote by Benji.

“All mankind is divided into three classes: those that are immovable, those that are movable and those that move.”

We can say with certainty, he was in the third group from his first voyage to America to his last breath. What about you? Which group are you in?

The first group tends to be those individuals who are immovable ... stuck and stagnant ... unwilling or unable to move. I am sure they make statements like, “It should not be done that way.” “It has never been done before.” “I am too tired.”

"I have too much other responsibility." "There is not enough time." "Let someone else do it." "I have enough with my problems." "I have my own family to take care of." I hope you have not said and done these things.

The second group is those that are movable. "Whatever you decide." "Whatever you want?" "Sure, I will help you but I can't do it alone." "Sure, I will attend if you set it up." "You do it." "OK, I will follow you." "Where do you want me?" "Where do I go?" "What do I say?" "What do I do?" Movable – people who are followers and allow others to influence them to a great extent. They never make much movement on their own – and certainly not outside their comfort zone.

Then, there is the third group– those that move. These individuals create action on their own, without help and direction but with initiative and innovation. They are the ones that make things happen. This group makes all the progress in our nation. They get up each day believing they can make a difference. They didn't learn this by taking a "how to" class. They do not wait for someone else to make it happen and then join in. They just get out of bed determined to make this world a better place.

Charles De Gaulle said it so eloquently. "Nothing great will ever be achieved without great men, and men are great only if they are determined to be so." Are you determined? As you have read the last several articles in the newsletter, have you allowed changes in your lives? Have you gone to someone else with a disability and asked how to assist them? Have you called up a community group and asked to come speak on behalf of your disabled child? Have you contemplated how you could create a device that could work with a specific disability? Have you written your senator or representative regarding the needs of children with disabilities? Have you even written a card to people who have stepped up to help you?

It seems we are too busy to reach out to others to forward the efforts needed in our society, government, community, neighborhood and family. I am so glad that our founding fathers were not too tired, too busy and/or too burned out to create a new civilization in what we now know as America.

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