

# Climb The Ladder Of Success, Take Your Family With You

**LOU ANN GOOD**  
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LANCASTER (Lancaster Co.)  
— When Dr. Charles Petty was 10 years old, his family was fragmented.

"That's when I learned the importance of family and the need to balance our lives," said Petty, who since then has spent a lifetime speaking about achieving success at work and at home.

Recently Petty addressed the Northeast Poultry Show where his humorous speech was punctuated with insightful looks at family relationships.

"Family relationships affect the bottom line of a business," Petty said. "A person's productivity, creativity, and job satisfaction are directly related to his or her personal life."

According to Petty, people who are having trouble at home cannot concentrate on their work. Failure to get along at home takes its economical toll on the company and on the individual employee through absenteeism, illness, alcohol and drug abuse, extended coffee and lunch breaks, personal telephone calls, depression, anger,

affairs, burnout, accidents, mistakes, and resignations.

"If you put nothing into your job, how long do you think you would last at your job?" he asked the audience.

Although people recognize that their failure to put any effort in their job would result in immediate unemployment, they don't seem to comprehend that if they put nothing into their family they will soon end up without a family.

"There are no free lunches. You pay the price," Petty said.

He wants spouses to recognize that refusing to deal with small family problems result in bigger problems.

"Alimony," he said, "is like buying oats for a dead horse."

The best way to eliminate problems at home is to devote time and attention to family members.

"Little things make the difference. Warm words of praise, a touch, a hug. Bonding happens with touch — but do not hug teens in public," he said.

Petty emphasized the need to make time for each individual family member. Group attention is not the same. Avoid lumping children together by saying such comments as "You boys."

While it is important in conversation to balance fact with feeling, there is a time when you should only concentrate on one or the other. For example, in the midst of an argument, deal with feelings because spouting off a list of facts will not elicit a spouse to respond, "Dear, you are so right."

A question one should ask him



Dr. Charles Petty takes a humorous look at family interactions to encourage listeners to build strong family relationships.

or herself is how would you like it if your spouse acted like you do?

Relationships are more important than things, but families fight over things.

Petty said, "You can spend a lifetime of accumulating things and leave them to people you never had time for."

There are no perfect families, Petty said. It's important to establish priorities. Do that and let other things slide. Focus on what you are called to do.

"What you love is what you do." Unfortunately many spouses are workaholics and forget about

priorities.

The health of the nation depends on the health of the family.

For those who make family a priority, Petty said, "When you get to the last rung in your career, turn, and your family is right there beside you. Climb fast, climb hard and high."

Petty attempts to practice what he preaches. He has been married for 30 years and has two children.

To invite Dr. Petty to speak or to order tapes of his speeches, write to McKinney Associates, Inc., P.O. Box 5162, Louisville, KY 40205 or call (502) 583-8222.

## Lebanon Holiday Program

LEBANON (Lebanon Co.) — Attend the annual holiday program sponsored by the Lebanon County Extension. The same program is repeated November 1, 2, and 3 from 9 a.m. to 2:45 p.m. and in a divided form on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings from 7-9 p.m.

The program includes sessions: Gift Ideas You Make by Marianne Fritsch; European Cookies by Brian Peffley, Professional pastry chef, formerly with The Hotel Hershey; Musical memories and tradition by Bryce Donly; Pleasures of

Tea by John Enterline, proprietor of Tea and Gardens; Holidays Past by Susan Iezzi and Christenna Stamm; Holly and Ivy by master gardeners Joan Lutz and Debbie Hartman; Using photos in creative and preserving ways by Hetty Wengert.

Registration is \$3.75. Lunch is an addition \$3.75 or you can bring your own lunch. Advanced reservations by mail are required. Send your check, a self-addressed stamped envelope, and the date you will attend with your name and day-time phone number.

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