



Interview with a Coach...

In each issue we'll profile an ICF **credentialed coach** in Australasia to forge greater connections with our coaching community. If you'd like to be interviewed for an upcoming issue, please contact the editor.

I interviewed Elisabeth Gortschacher about her project to create "WORLD LEADERSHIP DAY" on 20th March 2007.

I loved talking with Elisabeth and found her ideas inspiring and uplifting. I am sure you will enjoy reading what she had to say as much as I enjoyed speaking with her.



Q: What inspired you to create World Leadership Day?

Elisabeth: Today there is so much talk about leadership, or more precisely the absence of leadership, and yet I see leadership in every person I work with. It is an innate potential that we all have and it is expressed through our authenticity and uniqueness. I was looking for a way to recognise leadership in every person and not just the high profile leaders our society recognises endorses and celebrates. The actual idea was born during a discussion with my US publicist, Nancy Mills in September 2006. I was inspired by that thought and essentially ran with it without having a clue as to how I will make this a reality. I was amazed with all the talk on leadership that no one had thought of creating World Leadership Day before.

Q: What do you want to achieve with this first one?

Elisabeth: The Inaugural World Leadership Day is devoted to raise awareness and inspire a new way of discovering and developing leadership for the 21st century and beyond. Announcements of the event are in place in five Australian Cities – Sydney, Melbourne, Perth, Adelaide, and Brisbane and in three International Cities – London, New York and Los Angeles. So far I have received several emails from people internationally who were inspired by my vision and I have attracted one speaker from the United States.

Q: What longer term outcome would you like to see?

Elisabeth: I see World Leadership Day as a yearly, growing International event that is widely publicised online, through media releases to major newspapers, radio, and television. Ten years from now I see World Leadership Day being celebrated worldwide like Mother's Day is celebrated today. I envision leadership programs in place at all levels of our education systems, in communities, businesses, and at the political level, that ignite and nurture the innate leadership in every person. I believe this is a necessity and not an option if we are to survive as a nation where 1 in 3 people suffer from depression and the suicide rate exceeds the road toll. These figures are not unique to Australia. It is a worldwide trend. Einstein said it well when he stated, "The significant problems we have cannot be solved using the same level of thinking with which we created them." It's time for change, for radical change, to return us to a more humane world where human life and dignity are respected and honoured and where we start to heal ourselves and our planet. The answers to how to bring about this radical change are contained in the authenticity code of every person.

Q: What is your perception of good leadership?

Elisabeth: For me good leadership is authentic leadership that connects us with meaning and purpose. Authentic leadership comes from a place of love and contribution in contrast to the current predominant fear and competition-driven leadership. The former ignites the human spirit. The latter has the potential of killing the human spirit, which we see as widespread disengagement in organizations and all levels of society.

Q: How do you know when you are authentic?

Elisabeth: The dictionary definition is not helpful in establishing whether or not you are authentic in the true sense. It uses the terms "authenticity" and "genuine" as interchangeable. On the surface they may sound like being the same but as anyone who is connected with their authenticity will tell us in hindsight, they are distinctively different.

Q: So how does being genuine differ from being authentic?

Elisabeth: Genuine, to me, means not

pretending to be someone I am not. I have been a genuine person all my life, yet I have not been an authentic person all my life. I discovered being authentic is *being genuine minus social conditioning*. You can see that you will not meet your authentic self until you free yourself of social conditioning. A hallmark of authenticity is that you have a clear view of the world and what needs to be done and your role in it. You go about doing what you are here to do versus waiting for, or telling everyone else, what they should be doing. Connecting with your authenticity unleashes infinite energy, creativity, wisdom and courage to step up and out to live your true purpose. For most people this incredible potential is locked behind the bars of social conditioning. It's time to free our spirit and as Mahatma Gandhi (1869-1948) said, "Be the change you want to see in the world."

Q: Who is your target audience?

Elisabeth: Visionary and contribution-oriented leaders in all walks of life – family, community, business, career and in politics.

Q: One final question before we wrap this up – what would you like to share with our readers?

Elisabeth: I would like each person to recognize the leadership in each and every person that they come in contact with, or are in touch with. It is a given that we, as coaches, recognise the leadership within us, so it is out of this recognition that we see it in others.

Elisabeth is a founding member of BELL Alliance, a collective force of four independent coaching businesses who joined in a common vision – To expand global consciousness based on authenticity, contribution, positive transformation and peace.

Elisabeth, a Coach U graduate, certified in NicheCraft and Personal Branding DNA™, is the Founder and Director of E.E.G. Coaching Pty Ltd, Legacy Creators Worldwide™ and Politics At Ground Zero.

Her company, established in 1998, is an International coaching and training company that specialises in bringing about fundamental change in the way individuals and companies design, shape or reshape their lives, career path, business strategy and culture.

She is a spirited coach and leader dedicated to working with visionary leaders in all walks of life – family, community, career, business and politics who are committed to honouring their higher purpose and vision to contribute to the good of mankind. She is passionate about developing people and stands for authenticity, integrity and contribution.

I am very grateful to Elisabeth for taking the time to share her vision and insight with us.

*You can check out her websites or contact her on:
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