

What Would Help Maori Most

There is a lot of talk, especially around election time, about what Maori need. The solutions offered are usually things like better access to education, better housing, more housing, better health care, better everything.

But none of these are the solutions. Literally billions of dollars have been injected for decades into 'the betterment' of Maori but nothing has solved the Maori problem. Which is?

That on just about every measure of negative social indication, Maori get the gold medal - suicide, obesity, child poverty, child abuse, alcoholism, family violence, incarceration, violent crime, unemployment, welfare dependency.

So what is wrong? What the solution? What I am about to say does not just apply to Maori, but to all people in all cultures, right around the globe.

The solution has to do with the development of character. This word is hardly ever talked about today, but it's the ancient golden key to success in life, proven over time, tested, and trusted.

Character needs to be developed. No one is born with it. Character has to do with what's on the inside of a person. It's their locus of control.

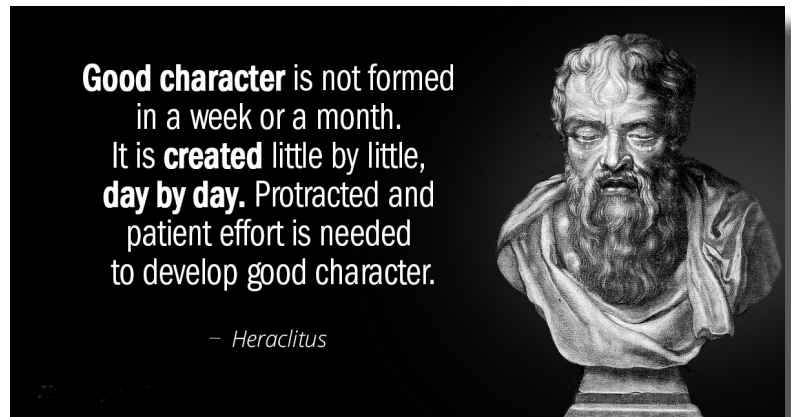
Character training starts in life by teaching children, and their parents if they don't know, about the absolute connection between success in life, whatever path one chooses, and the development of character.

Life is tough, a lot of the time, and when things get tough, and you don't have character, it gets much much tougher. Hence the birth of the so called 'disadvantaged' class. That is to say, when things get hard, really hard, and things start to go wrong, they don't have the character to pull out of a nose dive. They crash and burn, and sometimes never recover, and fall to the bottom, and they end up being labeled 'the disadvantaged.' But they are not really the disadvantaged. Rather, they are the characterless.

So what is character?

"Character" can be defined as a cluster of internally driven skills, drivers, and attitudes such as:

- integrity,
- honesty,
- hard work,
- the ability to persevere when things are tough,
- the ability to solve problems,
- the ability to handle criticism and success,
- the ability to handle disappointment, and lots of it,
- to be self disciplined,
- the resolve to take personal responsibility for one's health and wellness,
- the ability to plan and set goals, and the skills to achieve them, particularly financial and health goals,
- the desire to work hard, and work long hours when it's necessary,
- the skills and commitment to look after a life partner and children and pour wisdom and support and



encouragement into both,

- the discipline to look after property and possessions and maintain them,
- the ability to manage time and to prioritise,
- having the discipline to eliminate distractions,
- to focus on growing the inner man or woman, or girl or boy,
- to put family first, to be a generous / giving person.
- to learn to be altruistic.
- And so on.

Here's the thing - character transcends culture. If you don't have character, no matter what cultural group you belong to, life will destroy you. It will push you to the bottom, fast.

People with character, deep character, obey the law, rise above their many problems, obey rules, respect authority, work hard, pay their taxes, love their families, contribute to society, and take responsibility. They exhibit all the attitudes, drivers, and skills I have just listed.

When big big problems come to them, they overcome, even the ultimate problem which is death. How so? They die victoriously, leaving a legacy of people all around them who they coached and nurtured in the art of character development. Anyone who dies in this state, with this legacy, dies a worthy death.

In other words, people of character produce children who are the same as themselves. They become model citizens who contribute to the country much more than they take.

The police never visit them, and they rarely need hospital care. They make a priority of educating themselves to the highest level possible. They invest in their minds, and their health, and their families, and thus their futures.

Imagine the outcomes for a country where everyone was like that? A tiny police force, a tiny need for healthcare system, and a big tax take.

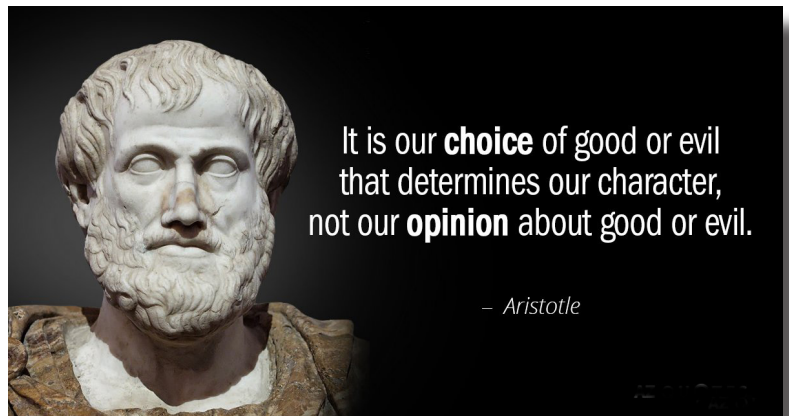
How does one achieve that?

By government implementing a deliberate and sustained character education initiative, starting at birth for children, and immediately for parents who don't know all this. Character acquisition is a life long pursuit. No one 'arrives' with character development. They never "have it all". There is always room for growth.

Many parents have not had such education, so don't know what they don't know. Thus they can't pass onto their children the character skills their children will need to succeed in life.

Successive governments have, I think, unwittingly created the opposite - the characterless.

They have created a welfare state monster which is now insatiable. They have created a group of people who have come to think of themselves as *victims*, not as victors. Essentially, governments have given a growing number of people a ticket to give up on life, sent them a message that it is ok to be characterless, to let life beat you down. Thus, when down and out, you receive your new name - you are "A Disadvantaged Person."



The main concern of most governments, and most MPs, is re-election, or election, and not long term solutions. Votes are their gods.

Hence they offer voters money and incentives, lollies, rather than long term solutions. Voters are themselves too stupid to resist. So a dreadful vicious cycle is set in motion.

This cycle must eventually be broken if we want a prosperous and truly healthy country.

In this respect, most politicians are so utterly and shamefully shallow. They are self serving to the core.

Hence we have generations of deeply characterless people living in New Zealand who think that life is about what is owed them, rather than what they can give and contribute to society.

In this respect, Maori, generally speaking, get the gold medal. In the Olympics of entitlement and victimhood, they stand highest on the dais.

The result? What we have now in New Zealand a heavy dependency on the state, and an ingrained entitlement and “I have been grieved” and “I demand compensation” attitude. All cultures can suffer from this.

Successive governments who offer empty hollow and unsustainable ‘solutions’ for the disadvantaged, principally to win votes and buy themselves into power, who don’t address the root problems, and who don’t offer root solutions, are the problem.

Make no mistake. Character is the golden key to success in life. Guaranteed. It’s the golden key to a prosperous and radiant country. What’s true for an individual is true for a community, and a country, and a world.

We could say that the health and prosperity of a nation is in direct proportion to the sum total of the depth of character, or otherwise, of each of its people.

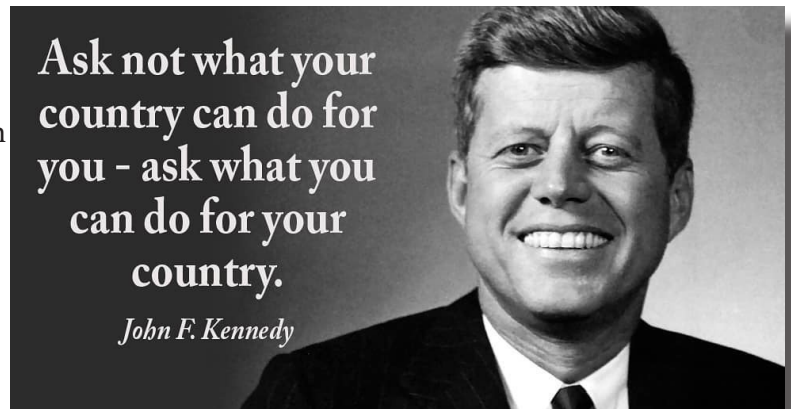
Yet, no political party in New Zealand has ever talked in these terms. Ever. Why is this? It could be that they don’t know about character.

Or they know about character but will not talk about it because it will not win votes. If the latter, then for sure, they think they possess character, but in reality they do not. Why? Because one of the great marks of a man or a woman of character is this - they do the right thing, and say the right thing, regardless of the consequences. This is how real leaders lead.

They know what is right, and what is wrong, and they tell people the difference, even if they lose popularity in doing so, it does not matter to them. They just go out and do right, and don’t do wrong. That’s a real leader.

Plastic leaders, characterless leaders, on the other hand, focus on doing and saying what is popular. What will win them votes. They don’t care if what they say is right or wrong, or what they do is right or wrong, they just want power.

Lack of character, at every level, has gotten this country into the mess it’s in now, and only character, at every



level, will get us out.

Equality Vs Equal Outcomes.

I believe in equality of opportunity, but not in artificially creating equal outcomes. There ought to be a level playing field, where everyone has the same chance of succeeding. The rules should be the same for all. The goal posts should be the same for everyone.

But as for equal outcomes? **No.**

Why not? If a man or a woman works hard to develop their character, and they achieve great outcomes in life, this is a wonderful thing. They will have earned their success. All power to them. I applaud them.

But what of the man who is lazy, who displays other traits of the characterless, and ends up with poor outcomes? Who ends up being labelled 'disadvantaged'?

Should we artificially compensate the man with poor outcomes, gifting them money and resources, which have been generated and earned by the man with character, so that these two men, the characterfull and the characterless, have equal outcomes?

No. Absolutely not. Why?

If we did that we would be rewarding bad character. And what does that do? We teach that man that he can be rewarded for his bad character.

This is absolutely the worst thing to teach any person. It's inhumane. It's abuse.

Why? We teach him to live a lie. To believe a lie. What then? He develops more bad character, and so we will push him into a downward spiral. For example, the woman who figures out that having more illegitimate children can earn her a lot of money from the government. That's right, we absolutely cause her demise, her destruction. She will quickly become a disadvantaged person. She will then model for her children how they too can become disadvantaged people. It's the same for a man who realises that not working and being on the dole is a wonderful thing. He has children and he teaches them the same, and they all become disadvantaged too.

What happens next? He or she starts costing a lot of money to keep. The hardworking people of character have to keep him or her. They have to pay to keep him or her alive and in comfort. On the balance sheet, the characterless person becomes an ongoing loss. If a country is a ship, every characterless person is a leak. A leak on the financial health and prosperity of a country. And if there are too many leaks, the ship sinks.

And no man, no woman, no country can prosper and flourish when it's built on a lie. Why? Because when the storms of life come, and they will, that man, that woman, that country will sink.

Outcomes for an individual or a country are in direct proportion to character. If a man or a woman has great character, they will achieve great outcomes. If not, then poor outcomes. This is just how life works, and there is no point in arguing any other way.

It's a law of life, like gravity. This is the truth, nothing more, nothing less. And in the end, the truth always wins.

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