

Kiwanis Club of Barbados South
President's Message - February 2021

Greetings Fellow Kiwanians.

I hope that you are all well and staying safe. It's that time again when Past President David calls to try to squeeze an article out of me. It's not all easy, mostly because I try to write about what is important to me and to speak from the heart.

There is a quote from Theodore Roosevelt that's been on my mind: To quote Theodore Roosevelt: *"It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat."*

Kiwanis Club of Barbados South is not the only organisation that I am involved in, I'm President here and hold a leadership position in the other organisation as well. That one is relatively new to me and it has been a struggle to say the least. Gratefully, I'm not one to give up easily and I think sometimes that "Challenge" was meant to be my middle name.

There are people in every organisation who think they own it and never want to listen to anything other than their own voices. People who have walked the walk so to speak. They have been around forever and have garnered kudos for varying accomplishments. But when there is a new face, they sit in the bleachers and criticize every decision. These are the cowards. The ones who instead of offering suggestions and guidance wait in the wings to highlight

every mistake and cause distraction and strife, underestimating the damage they do to the organizations they profess to love and to their own reputations. I think Theodore Roosevelt opinioned this behaviour best.....

Let's ensure Fellow Ks, that when we speak we do so understanding the strength of our words and use that strength to build others up intentionally, not to remove the foundations from under them.

President Sandra