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Get Ready To Set Goals in January

By Wendy Hearn

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December tends to be a hectic time for most of us and before we know it January is upon us. Your thoughts may then turn to the goals you're going to set yourself during next year. As a coach I work with people to set goals that work for them and encourage them on the route to achieving them. I've found that many people want to set goals in January and this is great, but they often forget to review what they've achieved previously.

December is a great time to reflect on your achievements during the past year, both personally and professionally. I really encourage you to take some time to write this down. Think back to January 1st and ask yourself, "How far have I come this year?" "What have I achieved?", "How have I improved myself?" and "What were my strengths?"

Remember to include achievements which relate to you as a person. Perhaps you've become more relaxed or more focused. The feeling of success which derives from reviewing the past year's achievements can be a wonderful inspiration for what you can strive for during the next year. In the quest to achieve more, we often forget how far we've come. This continuous driving forward can leave us feeling that there's something missing in our success. I challenge you to harness and use your strengths fully and be ready to set goals in January. What will it take for you to do this?

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Are You "Set Up" For Success?

Get Ready To Set Goals in January

By Craig Binkley

Believe it or not, 2004 is already here. Yeah, I know, where has the time gone? My mom always told me that as I got older, the years would start to fly by. Did anyone ever tell you that? Did you believe them? Well it is happening to me right now.

Before I get too deep into this article, just let me say that the intention of this article is NOT to make people angry or depressed. The real purpose for this article is to help the reader determine if he/she is doing a few key things for their business. Let's take a look at the three main things that I feel any business owner needs to have in place if they are serious about making their business a success.

Setting Goals: Sound familiar? Of course it does. Have you done this? If you ask a lot of people, the answer you get may vary from "I know what I want to accomplish" to "Do I really need to set goals? I'm here to say that if you have not set your goals for you business, then take a few moments and write them down. Yes, I said write them down.

Be sure to set your goals realistically. Goals should be reachable. If you set unrealistic goals, then don't meet them you are setting yourself up for failure. You need to set short and long term goals. If you don't meet your goals on schedule, do not feel defeated. Re-set your goal and strive harder to reach it.

Setting a Plan of Action: Okay, you have set your goals. Now what? How are you going to get there? This can be the real tricky part for some. You need a plan of action that is going to keep moving you closer to your goals on a daily, weekly and monthly basis.

If only there was a "master plan" we could all use. Since there is not, only you can know what needs to be done in your business. Look at your goals and determine what action you need to take. Set your plan of action according to the goals you are striving to reach.

Be specific! Being too vague in your plan of action can leave you sputtering along. It is very important that your plan be detailed. You need the "how" and "when" of your business plan.

Implementing your plan of action: Now that you have a written set of goals and a detailed plan of action, the last key element is implementing your plan. After all, what good are your goals and plan of action without acting on them?

For most, this is the hardest part. In my mind, it can be even more so in the home business sector. If you work for some one else, you probably have that constant "some one is watching over you to make sure you get all your tasks done on time.

In the home business field, it can be very easy to procrastinate. Yes, we have all done it. Some more than others though. This is where you divide the men from the boys. While many of the "boys" are preparing to find the perfect time to get ready to get started, the "men" are already in action.

We know that there is no "perfect" time to get started. If you are waiting for this, do yourself a favor and

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give up. It is never going to come. To be successful, you are just going to have to do it. And do it now!

In conclusion, let me say that although these three key elements are all very easily done, doing them does not guarantee success. There is another intangible, YOU! Add your own personality to your business and let it grow.

Here's to you and your success. Today, not tomorrow!

Craig Binkley - husband, father and home business owner assisting in the restoration of the "traditional" family through home business ownership.

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