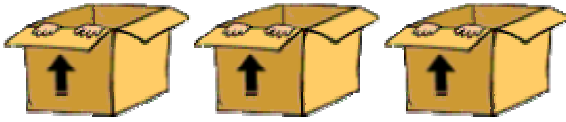


Boxes, Boxes, Boxes



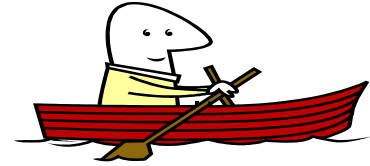
A Response to Adventures in Attitudes -

“Boxes, Boxes, Boxes.” The world is full of boxes. And crouched in each box is a person. Each person must own responsibility for the building of his or her own box. One side of the Box may be *DISTRUST*; another side *GUILT*, the third *IGNORANCE* the fourth *HATE*, the bottom may be *UNCARING*, and the lid may be *LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE*. People have boxes built of different kinds of sides, but they are still confined to their own particular box. A person is successful in direct proportion to the number of sides of their box they can kick out. Truly successful people have discarded their boxes completely. ***Adventures in Attitudes*** is a method of breaking out of our boxes and moving on to something new.

When I entered this class for the first time, I was safely ensconced in my box, and I noticed everyone else had their own particular kind of box. After a few sessions, I opened the lid on my box and saw someone else peeping out of their box. As I slowly emerged from my box, I saw others gingerly getting out and risking, as I was. As they found it safe and comfortable, they emerged more fully. I was amazed to learn that others had similar kinds of boxes, and were just as anxious to get out and rebuild as I was. Slowly I pried open the side of my box that was *EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION*, and began talking to my classmates. Some of them weren’t particularly limited by *COMMUNICATION*, but *LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE* was holding them in. I tried to help them remove that side of their box, and in so doing, I found myself *COMMUNICATING*.

LACK OF CONFIDENCE was the most limiting side of my particular box. But, by helping others emerge from their boxes, they revealed to me sides of themselves I never saw or suspected before. Outwardly they looked the same as I did – I wasn’t so different after all! There is still a strong tendency for me to crawl back into my box and pull the sides back up. Even through it’s confining, there is a certain comfort about it. It’s familiar and safe, and I’m used to it. But I knew that I wouldn’t progress, or learn or see anything new unless I got out of that confining Box. Doubts about myself are still standing, but I’m working to kick the sides of my box completely flat.

“Once the box is kicked completely flat, I will build a boat! Yea!”



The boat is “I AM” – the oars are “I CAN – and “I WILL” - The rudder is “PATIENCE” – and the sail is *SELF-CONFIDENCE*. As the captain, I’ll make room in that boat for all of my classmates who kicked their boxes flat. They will be helping me sail it. Who knows, *SUCCESS* may be just over the horizon.

It’s been difficult for me to write this paper because I previously had trouble communicating my ideas and feelings. I want people to know, but I don’t want them to misunderstand. And I want to “*appear*” more *CONFIDENT*.

If this paper sounds corny, then, maybe it is. The only way I could express my feelings was in an analogy. In summation, one of the main things I learned in this class, it is that even though we are all so different, we are all so very much alike.

