

## Trust in Transparency

I've used the words "transparent" or "transparency" regularly and seemingly for decades, both in my personal and business lives. I frequently get Googled and referred for senior housing by people who either want to develop or get into the senior housing or senior living business. Most are wide-eyed and unrealistic, and the majority are also lacking in transparency. This may be regarding a specific location, experience in combination with capital, why a market analysis followed by a financial analysis on a site/market is so critical and more. Instead of transparency, most have over confidence and "blind faith" if seemingly a faithful person. However, blind faith is supposed to be reserved for our Lord.

In business I've often told people, "Make believe I'm from Missouri, the Show Me state, and give me black and white documentation on a project. Show me, as in facts over opinions or hyperbole." For most, that request goes in one ear and out the other. "I can't help in a vacuum," I often think and have said in my less tolerant past.

Trust in transparency is important in all aspects of our lives, including all meaningful relationships. Being totally open to *A Better or Worse Approach to Living and Loving* with loved ones and those around us is best for a dramatically better opportunity for understanding. Understanding promotes health, well-being, healing, and love, and gets worthy business pursuits done as well.

The need for trust and transparency is also true for the church. RCHP prints a very detailed annual budget reviewed in an annual meeting or otherwise with a thorough description of all aspects of the church efforts and related budget items. Many churches, from traditional denominations to non-denominational mega churches, have limited transparency. Churches that are totally transparent can bring the skeptics back to church, and therefore to faith and God.

Unfortunately, in all aspects of our lives, many people no longer expect transparency. We must regain that expectation in all meaningful aspects of our lives. This includes family, friends, fellowship efforts, in our pastors and our government. Open communication with transparency rebuilds lost trust. When trust builds and is combined with faith, we can accomplish great and worthy deeds together.

April 4, 2015, May 2019, and January 17, 2020