

The Family Letter

A service of Banther Family Advisors

“Helping families work together in business and live together in harmony.”

In This Issue:

- **Starting the New Year Out Right: Have you had a laugh today?**
- **New Year - New Relationships**
- **Recommended Resource: "The Fun Factor: Unleashing the Power of Humor at Home and on the Job"**

Welcome from Banther Family Advisors

It's been a little while since the last issue of The Family Letter from Barry Banther and Banther Family Advisors and we are excited that we could reintroduce this resource to our client families. We hope you enjoy our new format.

It is our goal to help families work together in business and live together in harmony. Our unique seven step process has helped families just like yours to establish timeless and lasting values, essential in building a strong and enduring foundation that will guide the generations to come.

As we strive to serve you and your family, please let us know if there is an issue of interest to you and your family that you'd like us to address. We look forward to helping you balance work and family during 2010!

Starting the New Year Out Right: Have you had a laugh today?

by Barry Banther, Senior Family Advisor

American author, Bill Rotsler was known to say, “Anyone without a sense of humor is at the mercy of everyone else.” These are pretty serious times we live in...just watch the evening news if you don't believe me. But if we are not careful, we can take our serious times too seriously! Don't get the wrong idea, I am not talking about abandoning all responsibility...just lighten the load a little.

What is a sense of humor? I think it's the ability to smile at almost any situation. If someone were looking in from the outside at your predicament, what would they see as humorous? I was stuck in traffic recently and kept getting more and more irritated. I went around several cars and then tried a side street...all to no avail.

I came upon a line of cars at a red light that seemed to be skipping every other cycle. And then I saw him. He wasn't holding a sign and he didn't have his hand out...he was just sitting on the bus bench staring at me. Without saying a word I could tell he read the anxiety all over my face and that's when he grinned from ear to ear and shrugged his shoulders as if to say...just relax you can't beat it.

He was on the outside watching me fret over something I really couldn't do much about. His grin brought a smile to my face. He was just sitting there letting the world roll on by while I was trying to move every car on the road. I think he had a point!

There will be plenty of opportunities today to keep your head down and plow ahead. But every now and then, why not stop and smile at your day. It will lower your blood pressure, calm your nerves and give you a fresh perspective that just might help you get to where you are going faster.

The red light turned green and I drove off, but I couldn't stop thinking about my nameless new friend, who, while sitting on a bench with nowhere to go, reminded me of just how important it is to enjoy the journey.

Rotsler was also known to say, “You cannot hold back a good laugh any more than you can the tide. Both are forces of nature.” As you begin your journey through 2010, consider the impact a simple smile would make on those with whom you come into contact. Smile first—ask questions later!

New Year - New Relationships

by Ruth Banther, Family Services Manager

A good friend recently asked me, “How do you reignite a relationship with a sibling that doesn't want to renew—or

[Click to subscribe!](#)

Connect With Us

Follow Barry
on Twitter

BANTHER
CONSULTING

BANTHER
Family Advisors



Barry Banther is a sought after family advisor, business consultant, and inspirational speaker. This body of work has earned him the highest accreditation from the Institute of Management Consultants as a Certified Management Consultant and from the National Speakers Association as a Certified Speaking Professional. He is one of less than 50 professionals worldwide to hold both designations.

To contact Barry, please call:
727-938-8927 or email,
barry@barrybanther.com



even seem to miss—the bond you may have shared as children?” As most of you know, I have five siblings and through the years, relationships between all of us have certainly had ups and downs. There were the years, when we were young, when we fought or bickered, but we were connected—we shared day-to-day activities and interests. Then there were the years where we didn’t really talk at all and only saw each other on holidays. I missed the old connection we had once shared. I missed the relationship that you can’t share with anyone else but your siblings.

The suggestion I offered to my friend was, don’t try and re-establish a relationship based on the old foundations—the past relationship you once shared—instead look toward a new foundation. Look past the experiences of the past to the person that your sibling is today.

When I look back on my life—young as it is—I can easily see how I’ve changed and matured. So, why then, is it difficult to see that our siblings have also changed and matured. Now, it’s true that people don’t always change for the better, but give your siblings the opportunity to share with you who they are now.

As a young person, especially during those painful high school years, I remember thinking: I can’t wait to grow up. I can’t wait to be an adult. What I didn’t realize then, and am just discovering now, is that growing up never really ends. And what a blessing this is! It is our salvation that we all have the ability to change—and grow up—no matter what our age.

As you appreciate the blank slate of a new year in your own life, give those closest to you the same opportunity. We all have so much to offer each other in our relationships, and with each passing day there is more to learn and more to share.

Recommended Resource

The Fun Factor: Unleashing the Power of Humor at Home and on the Job
(Kuhn M.D., Clifford Minerva Books; 2nd edition, September 1, 2003, 199pp)

Discover how "we are all humor beings"! This practical guide will help you discover "the benefits of laughter, the business application of humor, and the role of fun in family life." To get your copy of this wonderful family and business resource, call or email Ruth Banther: ruth@barrybanther.com or 727-946-6848.

For additional information on The Family Letter or Banther Family Advisors, please contact Ruth Banther:
ruth@barrybanther.com or by calling: 727-946-6848.

Did you enjoy this newsletter? Don't forget to [subscribe!](#)
Also be sure to check out our official [website](#).



Ruth Banther

Family Services Manager:

A graduate of Hillsdale College, Ruth has experience in both the public and private sector; she has worked for several families who balanced prominent leadership roles with the demands of young families. As Family Services Manager she provides resource and communication support to our client families.

Contact Ruth at:

ruth@barrybanther.com
or (727) 946-6848

BANTHER
Family Advisors