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Celebrators Classified

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SELF-IDENTIFICATION

ADAPTED BY TAL D. BONHAM

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There seem to be three kinds of people in every organization: including those involved in planning a town festival or celebration — those who make things happen, those who watch things happen, and those who have no idea what is happening.

The Initiators get things done. They are self-starting. They do their own thinking, planning, and acting. Most towns or cities would be dead indeed without some of these people around. They make up the 20% who subscribe 80% of the budget and do 80% of the work.

The Spectators watch other people do their work. They may be sympathetic, but they do very little participating. Someone else has planned every function they attend. They live all their lives in the grandstand. They enjoy watching others sweat, but they expend little energy, time, or money through their organization.

The Freeloaders couldn’t tell anyone else what their organization is doing if their lives depended on it. They pour whatever interest they have into one tiny segment of the organization. They never attend planning meetings or training sessions. They make themselves as inconspicuous as possible if they happen to attend the function planned by their organization, and they slip away as soon as possible. But still they expect preferential treatment from those who have done the work.

Those who are in places of leadership in planning organizational events are indeed fortunate if there are several Initiators in their ranks. Perhaps the time has come for all of us to find out what our own OQ (Organizational Quotient) is.

Dr. Tal D. Bonham, who was reared in Clinton and earned a B.A. degree at OBU, is now Executive Director-Treasurer of the State Convention of Baptists in Ohio. His books on church humor are in demand nationwide.