

Creating Your Own Future

by **Steven D Huff**

The book *Futility* is about the maiden voyage of a fabulous ocean liner, a ship far larger than any previously built, and one labeled "unsinkable." The vessel set sail for New York from Southampton with a full compliment of passengers. It then strikes an iceberg en route, and goes down. And the ship was called...the Titan. So why didn't author Morgan Robertson come right out and say it? His Titan was obviously the Titanic.

Paul Harvey, in *The Rest Of The Story*, tells us that both liners were touted as the biggest, the grandest, the most luxurious and foolproof. Both struck icebergs on their maiden voyages between Southampton and New York. Both were inadequately stocked with lifeboats, resulting in heavy casual-ties. And both sank at exactly the same spot in the North Atlantic, each on a cold April night. Both displaced nearly 68,000 tons and were approximately 800 feet long. And both liners could travel up to twenty-five knots with up to three thousand people. All of the similarities were there. Yet, this book didn't recount an event, it foretold one. It was written in 1898, 14 years before the Titanic set sail.

It is difficult to explain the apparent coincidence between the story and the real events. But it is not hard to figure out that most business people wish they could forecast their own future so accurately. We all have an interest in the future because, as Charles Kettering once noted, we're each going to spend the rest of our life there. If you're concerned about your future, remember the words of management consultant Peter Drucker. He said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it."

Here are a few suggestions for shaping your own future:

- **Dream Of New Possibilities** -- If you want to see your career or business take off in a certain direction, begin to dream of the possibilities. What do you want the future to look like? What essential relationships and resources do you see in that picture? If you could wave a wand and make it happen, how would you describe it? The future belongs to people who see possibilities before they become obvious. Remember, your dreams are the seeds that contain your future.
- **Passionately Pursue Your Mission** -- Everyone knows that many businesses have mission statements; the question is: How many are on a mission? John Maxwell once noted, "If there is hope in the future, there is power in the present." Perhaps the real hope of the future is what we do with the present. Focusing on the priority of your mission today will shape each of your tomorrows.
- **Press Forward With Courage** -- Victor Hugo suggested the future has several names. "For the weak, it is the impossible. For the fainthearted, it is the unknown. For the thoughtful and valiant, it is the ideal." Don't let the uncertainty of the future hold you back from making your future happen.
- **Increase Your Intensity Level** -- Many people seem content to simply take the future as it comes. And that's perfectly acceptable if you don't mind living with whatever happens. But if you would rather be more proactive in shaping your future, increase the intensity of your work efforts. It was Harry Lauder who once said, "The future is not a gift--it is an achievement."