

Women: The World Needs Your Voice

By Steven L. Anderson, Ph.D., MBA

The other day I read in the local newspaper that recently, women were given the right to vote in Kuwait. Kuwait is the first country in the Middle East to do so. Voter turnout was reported to be ninety percent among women. It was also reported that women were dancing in the streets over this newfound right.

Wow, that is exciting! I think it is the most significant development in the Middle East in many years. I do not believe that one can force another to think as they do the way our government has attempted to do in Iraq. Enlightenment must come from within. The best we can do is to support developments in the world which seem to move people toward a greater sense of freedom, happiness, and respect for others.

Why do I think women voting in Kuwait is so significant? I think it is important because I think this world is sorely in need of a stronger voice from women, in general. We are so steeped in the thinking of dominance, aggression, and the idea that it is winning, not living well, that is the purpose of life. Women, in general, do not start wars or seek to dominate each other. Women seek compromise, communication and collaboration. They value relationships for relationships sake. In my opinion, that is a value worth pursuing.

Women reading this may feel like, "That's nice, but since it's a man's world, how do I get heard?" The answer is to stand up for what you believe in. If you're a leader, use your feminine instincts to bring the value of relationships into your workplace. If you are not the leader, gently but firmly insist that you be treated with respect and dignity. You may think this suggestion is naïve, but Gandhi changed a nation doing just what I am suggesting.

For too long, this world has accepted as the norm that it is okay to seek to control and dominate each other. I believe that the more we soften that stance with feminine leadership and place value on kindness and respect, the better off we will all be.