

From Recruiter To Best Selling Business Author - Why You Need Some Comeback Sauce In Your Life!

By David Head, Recruitment International

Earlier this month I met a real live Kansas Tornado.....just like the kind that Dorothy and the Tin Man encountered from the classic Hollywood film, The Wizard of Oz.

The tornado I'm referring to is named Mary B. Lucas. She's a whirlwind of positive energy, a vortex for a joy filled life and she does indeed hail from America's heartland – the state of Kansas. But that's where the similarities end. You see, the Mary that I know is a high profile author and speaker and I had the pleasure of seeing her in action while attending the recent CIETT 2012 World Employment Conference in London.

Mary gave two presentations to a standing room only crowd during the conference, and everyone was blown away by her message based on her best selling book, "Lunchmeat and Life Lessons: Sharing a Butcher's Wisdom." It's a tribute to her father, a Kansas butcher with an eighth grade education, yet he was the smartest man Mary ever knew.

So taken with her after having attended her powerful workshop that I immediately brought her book home to learn more. My son devoured it first and I began to wonder if this book review would deliver on time to make the current issue. Fortunately, I made my own deadline.

Growing up, as Mary enjoyed countless lunches with her dad sitting around the butcher block in the family kitchen, she was not only nourished physically, but emotionally as well, through her dad's timeless wisdom that afforded her practical applications to all areas of her life.

If you think you have an appetite for life, then reading the page-turning, wisdom-filled book, "Lunchmeat & Life Lessons" will undoubtedly make you ravenous for the continuing life experiences you encounter in the staffing industry, as this book will leave you with a fresh and new perspective on dealing with almost anything that comes your way at work and at home. It all starts with some good old-fashioned common sense and lunch served around the butcher's block.

Mary's dad, John Bichelmeyer, was a long-time local butcher in the Kansas City area. He was known just as much for his mouth-watering advice as he was his delicious meats. He had the unique vision to inspire others, provide unparalleled customer service, and had the consummate business sense to maintain a thriving butcher shop despite the various roller coasters of life over the decades.

Bichelmeyer was a child of the Great Depression and no stranger to hard work. He maintained three jobs to feed his wife and 10 children,

saving enough money to eventually own his own butcher shop, a lifelong dream of his. If John Bichelmeyer ever encountered a stumbling block, he instinctively knew how to turn it over into a stepping stone to greater opportunity. Bichelmeyer was an ordinary man of extraordinary purpose, and Mary saw that beam of light from an early age.

Just like her siblings, Mary received regular and wise counsel from her father whenever she felt she needed a bit of encouragement, a bit of understanding, and even a bit of emotional prodding to get her motivated at times.

Bichelmeyer was never short on dispensing sage advice and sound wisdom in a loving effort to guide his children to find their own footing in life. His humorous insights and comforting words continue to inspire generations and fulfill a legacy that is sure to remain in the hearts of everyone who find themselves immersed within the pages of Mary's motivating and moving account of a man who lived with purpose and on purpose.

Here are a few of my favorites among the many Butcher's Wisdoms:

- Make a good first impression—remember that the first hunk of meat you sell is yourself!
- See the best in people—if you don't like somebody, then they don't like you.
- Take control of your life—be a person who makes things happen.
- Don't be self-centered—when you're all wrapped up in yourself, you make a damn small package.
- Be prepared—don't let go of one limb until you have a firm hold on another.

When her father died in 2004, Mary self-published her book, "Lunchmeat & Life Lessons" as a tribute to her late father and originally just intended it as a gift to her nine siblings. The book speaks candidly about life lessons and how anyone can apply the sound wisdom of Bichelmeyer to nearly any aspect of life. (You have been warned, however, that your eyes may not stay dry as you read it.)

However, just because the man John Bichelmeyer passed on did not mean his words had to die with him. As Mary aptly notes in her book, "To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die." Those words ring true on every page. It was not long before word spread that "Lunchmeat & Life Lessons" deserved grand applause.

In fact, Mary is now in her ninth printing of the book, with an audio book and hardcover



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Mary is the Chief Resource Officer for Staffmark, a division of Recruit Co., Ltd. one of the world's largest and most successful staffing companies with

U.S. headquarters in Cincinnati, Ohio. Staffmark's primary focus of delivering exceptional people and exemplary results is a perfect match for Mary's philosophy.

Mary has more than 30 years of experience in the staffing and workforce management industry and has coached professionals at all organizational levels to successfully reach goals, enhance working relationships and improve employee retention & team performance.

To order a copy of *Lunchmeat & Life Lessons* visit www.Amazon.com and for more information about *The Butcher's Wisdom*, please visit www.MaryBLucas.com

collector's edition recently released along with a Korean translation. It is also used as requisite reading material for many companies and leadership classes at the high school and collegiate level across America. Now that she's visited us on this side of the pond, I am hopeful that's the case for here in the U.K as well.

In short, all John Bichelmeyer really wanted to give his kids over the years was inspiration, and the ability to discover that from within themselves. Little did he know that his simple messages, delivered with a smile and "a side of comeback sauce," would serve inspiration to thousands of people who never even had the unique opportunity to know him.

As her dad was fond of saying, "Be a person who makes something happen." Mary did. You can, too. That is, after you have read "Lunchmeat & Life Lessons," wiped a tear from your eye, and pulled yourself together. I promise you that you will not get through the book without being touched. If you just close your eyes, I am almost certain you will feel John Bichelmeyer's presence. You may not have ever known him, but his words will now leave footprints in your heart.

Just follow your own path and enjoy the journey. The destination will take care of itself.