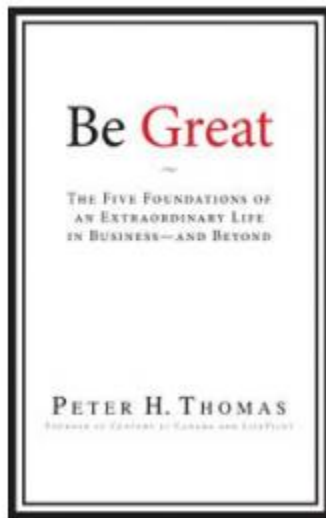


Director of Todd Thomas Institute reviews new book by Peter Thomas

By *Ichambers*

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News



Peter Thomas, in his new book called *Be Great: Five Foundations of an Extraordinary Life in Business—and Beyond*, reminds us that while life is abundant, it is also time-limited. His observation that there are 86,400 seconds in a day and 700,000 hours on average in a lifetime makes that case poignantly.

Below, Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Professor, School of Leadership, FSAS, and now Director of the Todd Thomas Institute for Values Based Leadership (TTIVBL) reviews Peter's book - describing it as "a passionate invitation to make the most of every moment and every opportunity."

Creating a values-based life

Making the most of every moment is simple to say. Not so easy to do in a world in which we often feel swept into the minutiae of life at an increasingly dizzying pace.

Peter offers a comprehensive array of very practical tools and perspectives that enabled him to successfully manage the complexities and challenges in his own life.

The first practical value of Peter's book is as a helpful *how to* handbook for creating a values-based life. Organized into each of the five domains or foundations he has found to

be essential — values, focus, visualization, inspiration, and reflection — there are useable tools and tips to consider and test out.

There is genius in each of us

The second practical value of the book is that it challenges our habitual and limiting ways of thinking about ourselves and what's out there for us.

A key example is Peter's view that there is genius in each of us and that it is our task to discover our own particular kind of genius and actively develop it. This one belief can be life-changing.

The third practical value of the book is a source of inspiration and encouragement in times of doubt, disappointment, and even deep sadness. There are the many inspiring stories within, both Peter's own and those of his friends and public figures, and they are dramatic and surprising reminders of what's possible when we are mired down in tough times.

Use time and opportunities well

This book is not meant to simply foster a view of ourselves as great but to enable the hard work needed to create an exemplary life through great use of our time and opportunities.

About himself, Peter says:

"The world is made up of ordinary people who do extraordinary things every day. Sometimes people tell me that I live an extraordinary life but I know I am just an ordinary guy who has ordinary fears and ordinary intelligence. I'm able to live an extraordinary life because I've tried to build my life on the Five Foundations that I'm sharing with you in this book" (p. 147).

As director of the Todd Thomas Institute for Values-Based Leadership at Royal Roads University that honours the life of Peter's late son Todd, I am not a neutral reviewer of this book.

Peter and I share a passion for fostering a values-based world. I can say I learned from reading this book and that I admire his commitment, communicated powerfully between the lines in this book, for making a difference to the quality of others' lives.

More on Peter

Peter H. Thomas is best known in Canada for his success as founder of Century 21 Real Estate Canada Ltd., chair of Samoth Capital Corporation (now known as Sterling Centrecorp Inc.), and the development of the Four Seasons Resort in Scottsdale, Arizona. After the tragic loss of his son in 2000, Peter decided to focus his time and energy on social entrepreneurship and to share his experience and philosophy with others. He is founder and chair of LifePilot, founder and chair of the Todd Thomas Institute for Values-Based Leadership at RRU, chair *emeritus* of the Entrepreneurs' Organization and vice-chair of the Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization. Peter and his wife Rita reside in Verbier, Switzerland.

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