

# I was Afraid To Speak

By Craig Harrison DTM, PDG

I was afraid to speak  
No Lie, No Lie  
But did I get help?  
Noooooo, I'd rather die.

It's true, it's true  
I was afraid to SPEAK  
I'm called Mr. Whisper or else just Meek  
I Mumbled, I Bumbled, I Stumbled I did  
in an Adult World I appeared like a Kid

Yes, I had a fear  
Or should I say it had me  
And worst than that  
It was one all could see

Of strangers: I was afraid  
New friendships: never made  
Fun outings: I did shun  
Social settings: made me run.

Fear made me small  
Fear made me weak  
Yet God gave me voice  
With intent I would speak

I could sing in the shower  
of that I was able  
But in groups I did cower.  
I'd hide under the table.

I needed help  
Woe was me  
Yet the answer was here  
and it fit me like a "T"

My fear was my downfall  
it was potentially deadly  
but my struggle wasn't unique  
Heck, it started before Smedley.

I was at a crossroads  
Which way would I turn  
To be a confident speaker  
There was much to learn

So I became a Toastmaster  
now I'm the Cat with the DCP plan  
I'm working my manuals  
I am winning new fans

I replaced Fear with Fun  
When I joined my first club  
I made new friends  
the Club became my Hub

I gave a speech a month,  
I did, I did!  
And at work I did speak  
where before I had hid

I entered a contest  
I won! I won!  
I went to my first District  
Conference  
and my was it FUN!

At TLI I learned to be  
a better speaker & leader  
As the Very Reverend Verbal T.  
Toastmaster, I became a Preacher

I became a District Leader,  
and spread the Gospel of  
Toastmasters  
I saw potential in others  
& became an astute forecaster

Green Eggs & Ham  
may be for Seuss; For me,  
Green lights & certificates  
are of much more use

Now I don't like to brag  
& I don't like to boast  
But of all the folks I've met  
I love Toastmasters the most!

Because Toastmasters  
are really cool cats  
Toastmasters wear many hats

WordMaster, JokeMaster,  
TopicMaster Too,  
Something for Me  
and Something for You!

Toastmasters are  
really cool cats  
Some Toastmasters wear other hats



At Conferences and Conventions  
they campaign and vote  
As Sponsors & Mentors  
they coach & dote

So join a club, give manual speeches  
RAISE THE BAR and we'll  
ACHIEVE SUCCESS TOGETHER  
then we'll have lots to talk about  
instead of just the weather!

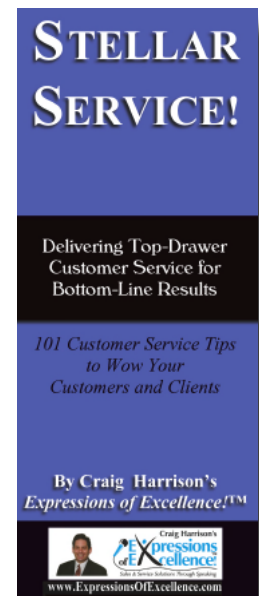
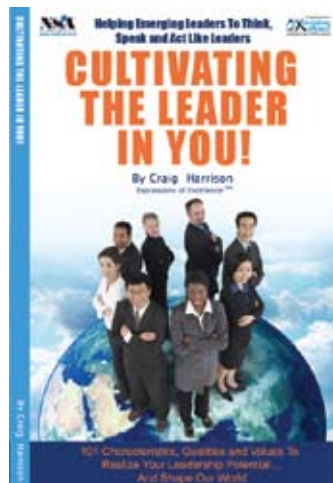
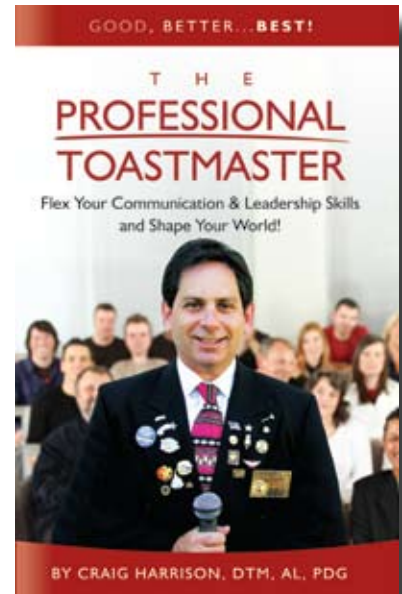
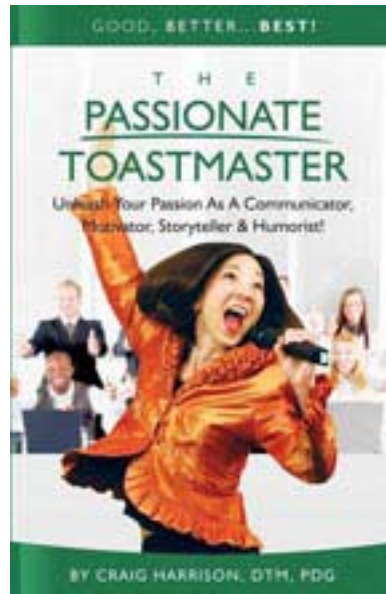
Through Speech we can Touch,  
We can Teach. We can Reach.  
We can Praise and be Praised  
I like to do each!

NOW IT'S YOUR TURN:  
WON'T YOU DO YOUR PART?

YES, Help others in need  
Turn Their Fear into Fun  
Start new clubs so even more  
'fraidy cats can come

AND REMEMBER  
Wherever you are on the  
Communication Continuum:

If I can do it ,  
you can too!  
Together we'll triumph.  
Until then,  
Adieu!



Learning Tools available at:  
**[www.SpeakAndLeadWithConfidence.com](http://www.SpeakAndLeadWithConfidence.com)**

Free articles and handouts found at:  
**[www.ExpressionsOfExcellence.com](http://www.ExpressionsOfExcellence.com)**

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