

## MAGH

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### The Triple A's – Part 2

#### Intro - A Recap of the Triple A's

On 6 Feb I had the honour of leading MAGH and I shared on how, after prayer and meditating on the Word earlier in January, the following words came to my heart:

- Advocate
- Agitate
- Activate

I shared how at the time I felt that this message was very much a theme to convey to the team at our law firm but then realised it was also a message for MAGH.

I can share the notes from 6 February if anyone would like to see them again.

Let me give a quick recap for you of what they are... [JP TO PROVIDE RECAP].

Today we dive in a little deeper into each.

At the end of each it would be great if one person shared any impact it has had on them and we can make today a little interactive.

But before we do that let's be clear that the Triple A's are not new. In fact that are fully grounded in the Word of God and we see a number of verses that tie advocacy, agitation, and action together.

James 1:22 ties all three themes together by referring to knowing, challenging, and doing.

*"But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."*

In Micah 6:8 we also see the reference to advocacy (via the reference to mercy), agitation (via the reference to justice) and activation (via the reference to walking humbly in obedience).

*"He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

**\*\* Let's reflect on this and pray.**

#### 1. Advocate

What this means for our business is, '*Holding hands with our clients, and keeping them updated, engaged, and connected*'.

Clients come to us in their time of need and that requires us to put our emotions and personal feelings on the backfoot in order to do all we can to help them.

Here the spiritual parallel is us standing in the gap for others - intercession, compassion, and integrity.

We need to challenge ourselves, '*how do we in our faith and interactions with family, colleagues and community stand in the gap? How do we speak for others and plead on their behalf?*'

Proverbs 31:8–9: "*Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.*"

Galatians 6:2: "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

Simple right?

Well it's not as simple as you might think. In my experience, what is advocacy is sometime misunderstood.

To help illustrate this, it is important to understand what advocacy is not.

Generally, advocacy should not extend to self-harm. As lawyers, yes, we have an obligation to act in the best interest of our clients, but this has limits. An overriding obligation we have is to act as officers of the court and that comes with its own obligations which can't be ignored just in order to support a client.

Some examples of those obligations to the court are:

LEGAL PROFESSION UNIFORM LAW AUSTRALIAN SOLICITORS' CONDUCT RULES 2015 - REG 19 (WA)

*Examples of lawyer's duty to the court:*

1. A solicitor must not deceive or knowingly or recklessly mislead the court (19.1);
2. A solicitor seeking ex parte interlocutory relief must disclose to the court all known, non-privileged factual and legal matters that could reasonably weigh against granting the relief or justify limiting it, even if adverse to the client (19.4); and
3. A solicitor must, at the appropriate time, inform the court of any binding authority, relevant appellate decisions, or applicable legislation known to them that is directly in point, against the client's case (19.6).

Breaching these duties to the Court can result in immediate procedural consequences such as relief being refused or set aside, adverse or even personal costs orders, and judicial criticism.

More seriously, the practitioner may be disciplined by the Legal Practice Board, and depending on the seriousness of the breach, this can lead to conditions on, suspension of, or cancellation of the practising certificate.

So even a lawyer's obligations to act in the best interests of clients has serious limits.

Whether you are a lawyer or not, all of us can be advocates.

The point here is that when we are being an advocate we still need to look after ourselves and make sure we are in good shape in taking on that role. This is because we can do our best to help others if we are the best versions of ourselves possible.

As lawyers, this means ensuring we understand the full background of a matter, ensuring we have a clear mind and that we have an objective understanding of all aspects of the case. This makes sure we can see what our clients can't see and that we have a broader view of situations and so we can rise above challenges for our clients.

**\*\* Time to Share - What does advocacy mean for you? Have you ever found yourself thinking you are advocating but instead gone too far and deep into their issue that you can't really help them out?**

**\*\* Let's reflect on this and pray.**

## 2. Agitate

Last time we likened agitation to the agitator in a washing machine - without agitation the dirt cells can't be released and the clothes can't be cleaned. And in the same way we need to be the agitators, the secret sauce, the reason that we get results.

In Hebrews 10:24 we hear: *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."*

We need to ask ourselves, *'how do we shake up those who don't believe? How do we shake up those who mock us? How do we shake up established views and institutions in this world we live in?'*

But why is agitation important?

If you don't move then nothing changes.

A good example comes from my days training in and teaching karate. In the dojo we taught students that "motion creates momentum." We used this saying as a mantra to get students moving – especially the ones that were a little lazy or unwilling to step up when called.

I agree with this but would also add, "momentum then leads to breaking through". Those who moved and got momentum would get faster, stronger and develop great technique faster. They would grade quickly to their next belt which made them excited and build even more momentum. A positive upward cycle.

So simply put agitation can start a positive cycle when:

- Motion creates momentum.
- Momentum leads to breakthroughs.
- The breakthrough creates excitement and an incentive to move again that creates momentum and now an even greater breakthrough.
- And with each breakthrough the bar is lifted.
- And the process repeats.

It's like a snowball going down a hill gaining momentum. It starts small and would have stayed small without that initial push down the hill. Once pushed (agitated) it goes down the hill and gains momentum which makes it go faster and grow bigger.

So agitation is critical for growing in our walk and relationship with God and for all aspects of our home and work life.

Yet agitation can work for both positive and negative results so we need to be careful here.

On Thursday, Ps Lakers referenced that distractions in our life can pull us away and cause separation between us and God. The distractions can start small, but over time they can grow larger and before you know it the gap is big.

Distractions can be agitators that move us into behaviours and actions that take our eye away from our relationship with God. These too can gain momentum and before we know it the amount of distractions are so many or so entrenched that we have forgotten who our God is and the path He has for us.

We need to ask God to help us to reverse such a negative cycle for us so that we can replace bad habits with positive behaviours and actions which can lead to positive momentum and positive breakthroughs.

**\*\* Time to Share – have any of you been in a negative cycle with distractions or bad habits taking over your life? How did you overcome this cycle? Are you struggling with this now and need prayer?**

**\*\* Let's reflect on this and pray.**

### 3. Activate

Last time I shared that agitation without action is meaningless. As an example I shared of how I told our legal team that we need to be clear on what needs to be done. That we then agree this with our clients, and then we do it. We keep our clients engaged along the way.

In the same way that agitation without action is meaningless, faith without action is meaningless. As Christians this is a calling to reflect on how intentional we are being in our faith walk.

We are called to do something. *'What is that something? What's going to change the dial? What's going to have an impact?'*

James 2:17: *"Faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead."*

But what if you advocate for or agitate things that are not aligned with God's will?

Well it goes to reason that then the activation that follows will lead to actions that are also not aligned with God's will.

For example (and this might seem an extreme example), if you advocate for liberalisation of methamphetamine and then agitate by protesting for regulators to relax current laws and this leads to actions that introduce drug liberalisation laws then .... You will end up with more people dying on the streets from overdosing and increased crime.

When we activate it must be deliberate and strategic and before we start we need to ask ourselves whether the background motivation is aligned with God or not.

If it does then you will bear good fruit. If it does not then you won't.

This is not a new concept, this is the Word of God:

Luke 6:43 NIV – says, "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit.

**\*\* Time to Share – what are you actioning now? Have you reflected on whether it is aligned with God's will and extending His Kingdom? If it doesn't what will you do about it? How will you pivot to align?**

**\*\* Let's reflect on this and pray.**

### 4. Joining the Dots

After I shared part 1 of the TripleAs on 6 Feb, it sparked a bit of discussion and ideas which some of you shared with me.

In particular, Ps Lakers shared a reflection that really illustrated how the Triple A's each interconnect.

He linked it to how leaders and businesses get stuck.

- Advocacy-heavy cultures lead to lots of vision but little traction.
- Agitation-heavy cultures lead to pressure, churn and attrition.
- Activation without advocacy leads to resistance and sabotage.
- Activation without agitation leads to premature execution that collapses.

Importantly, Ps Lakers took this further and stated that:

- Advocacy sets the vision.
- Agitation creates the urgency.
- Activation redesigns the system so growth is actually possible.

I love these insights as they show how the Triple As can be applied to our workplace and also to ministry in the workplace.

Another reflection came from Anna Storer who we are blessed to have as our Operations Manager at our firm. She reflected - at a personal level as we strive towards a closer relationship with God and each other, we could also see the Triple A's as the heart, mind and hands working together:

- Advocate = Heart (compassion and understanding)
- Agitate = Mind (challenge and recalibration)
- Activate = Hands (obedience and movement)

These three - heart, mind, and hands — reflect the whole person engaged in Godly leadership.

Now that really blew me away!

God is so good.

\*\* Time to Share – which “A” is God currently highlighting in your life? Maybe it's to Advocate more (listen, empathize). Or is it to Agitate (stir things up for growth)? Perhaps it's to Activate (step into obedience)?

\*\* Let's reflect on this and pray.