

**An eLetter to the ceCommunity
from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education
"Connecting Relevant Ministry for a Changing World"
December 2002**

What's Below?

ceLines - A few words from the ceDirector
ceCommunity - A few updates on your peers
ceLinks - A few web sites you can surf
ceSources - A few tools you can use
ceCourses - A few classes coming your way

ceLines:

I've been trying to decide what to "chat" with you about this month. Although I have plenty of high horses to mount, the thought of pontificating on another topic seemed a bit too much for the holiday season. So, I decided to chat about "deciding."

Have you ever thought about the number of decisions that you make in a day? No...I'm not talking about which shoes to wear with the day's attire, or what to eat for lunch. I mean real life decisions that impact your life and the life of those who look to you for righteous leadership. If my suspicions are true, we make numerous decisions like these every day. In fact, the deluge of data in this information age, along with the greater access to this data by more and more people, may be the source of the growing number of decisions that we face/make each day.

In a recent article online from Harvard Business Review there are three common traps that decision makers often fall into. 1) The "anchoring" trap occurs when we give disproportionate weight to the first information we receive. It can be avoided by: a) Seeking information from a variety of sources, b) Pursuing other lines of thought in addition to the first one that occurs. 2) The "confirming evidence" trap occurs when we seek information that supports our point of view. It can be avoided by: a) Asking a colleague to play devil's advocate, b) Examining all evidence with equal rigor, c) Avoiding "yes-men." 3) The "sunk cost" trap occurs when we make decisions in order to justify past choices. It can be avoided by: a) Allowing yourself to be wrong, b) Remembering that even the best leaders make mistakes, c) Getting opinions from people who were not involved in the original decision.

In Smart Choices (see ceSources below), Hammond, Keeney, and Raiffa suggest a proactive approach to decision making. They use the acrostic PrOACT to guide the decision-making process focusing on the Problems, Objectives,

Alternatives, Consequences, and Tradeoffs involved in every decision. This simple "systems-thinking" approach to decision making and problem solving will serve you well as you prayerfully navigate the potential mine fields of decision.

On a practical note, try keeping a journal of your decisions. Review the journal weekly or monthly with a view toward determining the consistency of your decision making process. It may also provide you with a template for analyzing a more significant challenge that lies ahead.

The new year offers us another great opportunity of service for the King. Let's be about our Father's business with passion and integrity.

Until next time...I wish you well,
Randy C. Walls, Director
AGTS Continuing Education

SPECIAL NOTICE: THE AGTS ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED DECEMBER 23-27 AND JANUARY 1 FOR THE HOLIDAYS. VOICE MAIL SYSTEMS WILL BE OPERATIONAL IF YOU WISH TO LEAVE A MESSAGE.

ceCommunity:

Andy Raatz and his family are itinerating to raise their missions budget for ministry in Moldova (Former Soviet Bloc Nation). Their hope is to finalize their fundraising and be on the field by May of 2003. Please keep them in prayer.

ceLinks:

Check out these web sites!

<http://www.reachoutads.com/>

Here's a great web site dedicated to designing media campaigns for local churches. The person who runs this ministry, Barry Copeland, is an AGTS alum with a strong background in marketing and media development. The website provides four examples of media themes that can be personalized for your local ministry. Check them out. You might even notice a familiar face among the ads.

<http://www.ginghamsburg.org/>

If you want to see some great use of image in church worship, check out this United Methodist church in Tipp City, Ohio. There aren't too many churches who do it as well as Ginghamsburg. Their lead pastor, Michael Slaughter, has even written a book about their media "reformation." It's called *Out on the Edge*. It includes a great interactive CD-Rom.

**ceSources:
Books you can count on!!!**

Smart Choices, by John S. Hammond, Ralph L. Keeney, and Howard Raiffa.
This is the PrOACT source that I mentioned above. It's a great primer on decision making.

The Spirit in the Gospels and Acts, by Craig S. Keener. This book is something of a diversion from my normal recommendations, but I think every Pentecostal church leader should read it. There's some great stuff here!

Contact: adilley@agts.edu at the AGTS Bookstore to place your orders.

**ceCourses:
A Full Slate of Courses for All of Your ceNeeds!**

SPECIAL NOTICE: We will have two courses available for delivery "online" by late February or early March of 2003. A special ePromo will be coming soon with more information. If you'd like to participate in our first online project drop me a line. I'd love to hear from you.

AGTS Branch in Springfield, MO

January 13-17
PTHM 545
Ministry Development Seminar (3 Credits)
M. Bradford/J. Taylor/R. Walls
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

January 20-24
PTHM 640
Putting an End to the Worship Wars (3 Credits)
Tom McDonald
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

February 10-14
PTHM 625
Effective Leadership (3 Credits)
J. Melvyn Ming
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

March 3-7
BNTM 533/ BTHM 640
Special Studies in the Letters of Paul:
I Corinthians (3 Credits)
Russ Spittler
Monday 1-10 pm/T-F - TBA

March 10-12
HOME 640
Pentecostal Preachers Week (2 or 3 Credits)
TBA
Seminar Schedule

March 17-21/24-28
MHTM 638
Jewish Cultural History (3 Credits)

Ray Gannon
6-10 pm

NCU Branch in Minneapolis, MN

May 19-23
PTHB 625
Effective Leadership: Managing Change (3 Credits)
Carolyn Tennant
TBA

June 2-6
MCSB 639
Special Intercultural Studies: Race and the Modern Church (3 Credits)
Curtiss DeYoung
8am - 5pm

NC Extension in Kirkland, WA

February 24-28
PCPE 550
Interpersonal Techniques in Helping Relationships (2 Credits)
Melody Palm
Monday 1-3, T-F 8am-Noon

February 24-28
BNTS 542
Special Studies in the General Letters: I Peter (2 Credits)
Blaine Charette
Monday 3-5, T-F 1-5pm

SC Branch in Lakeland, FL

January 6 - April 21
BTHB 523
New Testament Theology (3 Credits)
Robert Herron
Mon. 5:15-8 pm

January 6 - April 21
PCPB 637
Group Counseling (3 Credits)
Larry Hazelbaker
Mon. 8-10:45 pm

January 9 - April 24
MCSB 529
Foundations of Cross-Cultural Ministry (3 Credits)
Rodney White
Thurs. 5:15-8 pm

January 9 - April 24
HOMB 531
Methods of Biblical Preaching (3 Credits)
Bill Hackett
Fri. 7:30-8:50 am

January 9 - April 24
PTHB 526
Renewing the Established Church (3 Credits)
Wayne Lee/Mike Rakes
Thurs. 10:20-11:35 am

February 10-14
BTHB 538

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit (3 Credits)
Jim Railey
8am - 5pm

VFCC Branch in Phoenixville, PA

Jan. 24-25, Feb. 21-22, Mar. 28-29, Apr. 25-26
PTHB 640
Multiple Staff Ministry (3 Credits)
Phil McLeod
Fri. 6-9:30pm, Sat. 9am-5pm

Jan. 13-14, Feb. 10-11, Mar. 10-11
PTHB 625
Effective Leadership (3 Credits)
Tom Keinath
Mon. & Tues. 9am-5pm

February 3-7
PTHB 544
The Spiritual Formation of the Minister (3 Credits)
Russ Eggert
9am - 6:30pm

March 3-7
HISB 546
Initial Evidence and Spirit Baptism (3 Credits)
Gary McGee
9am - 6:30pm

Network Partners

David C. Cook Publishing

February 26 - March 1
SAM & FutureGen Seminars
Earl Creps
Seminar Schedule

Districts

Illinois - March 24-25 @ LWCC
Ministry on the Edge: The Mission to Post-Christian America
Leonard Sweet
Seminar Schedule

Rocky Mountain - February 3, 4, 6, 7, 13, 20, 24, 25 @ Various Locations
Sectional Council Tour Seminar: "Conflict Management"
Gary Allen
Seminar Schedule

Southern Missouri - Feb. 11 @ District Office
TBA
TBA
Seminar Schedule

National Leadership Institute A/G

Various Dates and Locations
Foundations of Leadership Conferences
Ron McManus
Seminar Schedule

Contact us 8am - 4:30pm CST at:

Ph: 1(800)467-2487, ext. 1044 Fx: 1(417)268-1009

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If you prefer to not receive this eLetter, please send an e-mail to mgalloway@agts.edu.