

ceLink

An eLetter to the ceCommunity from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education
"Shaping REAL People for REAL Ministry in a REAL World"
July 2002

What's Inside?

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ceLines:

George Barna is prognosticating again...as usual. He has some interesting statistics and comments about the impact of Christian media on American culture. If you'd like to read the whole article on this go to: <http://www.barna.org/cgi-bin/PagePressRelease.asp?PressReleaseID=116&Reference=A>. If that link doesn't work, go to www.barna.org, the BSG home page and look up the article.

It is interesting to see Barna's analysis that indicates more adults are connecting to Christian media today than before the "fall" of the televangelists back in the mid 1980's. Keep in mind that this represents all Christian media, not just television, although television viewing still exceeds that of the televangelist era. Part of the answer to this seems to be the proliferation of the growth of Christian media through radio, cable networks, satellite broadcasting, and publishing. There are more Christian media options today than there were back then.

It appears that the greatest impact by Christian media on American culture is through Christian radio, either talk or music. Christian music's growth in the overall music industry within the last few years certainly accounts for the increase. More people are listening to Christian music than ever before. There are also several Christian books on the best-sellers lists, e.g. Jenkins/LaHaye, Wilkinson.

Barna's offers two comments on this survey that were of greatest interest to me. The first is that there are more people accessing Christian media (141 million) than there are attending Christian churches (132 million). He highlights this trend early on in his analysis. This complements a forecast that he made back in April of 1998 about the number of people who will primarily use the Internet for their religious affiliation. The current survey answers any question that might arise as to the value of missional investment in media and technology for the advancement of the Gospel. It's already happening, so we can't ignore the data. The Church must continue to utilize the media resources available to it to reach a world that is progressively seeking spiritual growth, but digressively involved in local church ministries to get it.

The second of Barna's comments raises another challenge to the local church. This survey identifies about 15 million non-Christians, including agnostics and atheists, who regularly access Christian media. Without comment from the surveyors to indicate the reasons, it makes me wonder why they are doing so. The reasons are probably all over the map. but let me suggest why this presents a challenge to the Church. If non-Christians are taking the time to find out about Christianity, regardless of their reasoning, why is it that Christians are not taking the time to find out about non-Christianity. Simply put, we do not reach a post-Christian society by viewing it through a Christian worldview lens. Post(pre)-Christian people do not feel, think or act the way that we do because their life experience and understanding of the world does not incorporate Christian value systems. Therefore, we must understand what it is that makes them tick so that we can build bridges of cross-cultural communication that incarnate the Gospel to them into meaningful and understandable messages.

If Barna's trends continue as the years go by, more and more people will never consider the local church as a relevant option for their lives. They will not come to us. We must go to them. and when we do, we must understand them in order to reach them and disciple them into mature followers of Christ. I think Jesus had a few words to say about this, Matt. 28:18-20.

This may be new (and frustrating) territory for you. I completely understand. Our normal response is withdrawal from the world and not entrance into it. It's a challenging path to travel, but we have a master navigator who is with us to assist us on the journey. Enter the quest with confidence in Him.

I'm praying for you.

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

ceCommunity:

Paula Davis, ceDept. Secretary, and her husband Glen are well on their way to the west coast. Within a few days they will take up residence in Palo Alto, CA to become the Chi Alpha directors for Stanford University. We thank Paula for her wonderful service to the ceTeam and wish Glen and Paula the very best of God's blessing in this new ministry venture. If you'd like to connect with Paula to say thanks, or wish her well, her e-mail address is paula@glenandpaula.com.

We welcome Monty Galloway as the new part-time Administrative Assistant for the ceTeam. Monty is a resident M.Div. student at AGTS. He will be connecting with you to assist in your ISP courses and inquiries, as well as a number of other information and communication processes. Welcome Monty!

We continue to make the transition with our new ceTeam. Mark Atterson, new ceCoordinator, has been working hard to get up to speed on all the nuts and bolts details of ceLife.

Just remember that we are here to serve and your ceNeeds. Please contact us via any method listed below to assist you. We look forward to hearing from you.

ceLinks:

I didn't hear from you about your favorite websites. Are you surfing anything of value out there? I'd love to hear from you if you are. Please drop me a line to let me know. In the meantime, check out these sites.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/bcl/>

Here's a great site from Christianity Today on Building Church Leaders. Check it out for resources on raising up leaders within your ministry to multiply the team.

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2002/002/11.89.html>

Here's another great article on leaders choosing leaders. Remember, the primary characteristic of good leadership is the quality of the leaders with whom the leader chooses to surround herself/himself.

ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

I only heard from one of you about books you're reading, but here is the short list:

From John Sisk, Missionary to Cambodia: "I just finished my first reading of *The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn (Multnomah Publishers). This book is challenging me to re-examine my priorities regarding giving and stewardship. It is written from a positive, constructive perspective---no arm-twisting here---simply an unearthing of wondrous, setting-free truth!"

You might also want to check out *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News* by Rick Richardson (InterVarsity Press). It's a great book to read for understanding the cross-cultural bridge building that I mentioned above in the ceDirector section.

ceCourses:

A Full Slate of "Fall" Courses for All of Your ceNeeds!

"Ministry on the Edge: The Mission to Post-Christian America" is coming to Philadelphia

November 18-19, 2002. We'll be at the Renaissance Hotel next to the airport for two days of strategic thinking and interaction with Brian McLaren, Byron Klaus, Earl Creps and a panel of church leaders seeking to impact their culture with the Gospel. The cost for the seminar will be \$150 per person through November 1 (early bird special), and \$175 afterwards. The hotel is giving us a special group rate of \$115/night plus taxes through November 1. Participants must book their own hotel rooms. For those traveling longer distance to attend, the group rate applies to Saturday night, Nov. 16 through Tuesday night, Nov. 19. We look forward to seeing you there! The syllabus for the course is available on our web page for those interested in taking the graduate credit option (registration fee waived).

AGTS Branch in Springfield, MO

July 22-26,
MHTE 639
Sp. Stu.: Rom. Catholicism & Orthodoxy European Miss.
Gary McGee
9 am-Noon
1-3 pm

July 22-26,
BTHM/MHTM/PTHM 640
Theology & Practice of Spiritual Gifts in a
David Lim
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

TBA
TBA
Multicultural Ministry (3 Credits)
TBA
TBA

July 22-26
MCSE 631
Introduction to Islam (3 Credits)
Harry Morin
8-Noon 1-5 pm

July 29 - August 2
MSSE 639
Approaches to Islam (3 Credits)
Phil Parshall
8-Noon 1-5 pm

September 16-20

PTHM 626
Conflict Resolution in the Church (3 Credits)
Gary Allen
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

September 16-20/23-27
MCSM/PTHM 548
Jewish People & Local Faith Community (3 Credits)
Ray Gannon
6-10 pm

October 14-18
BNTM 533
Studies in the Letters of Paul: Romans (3 Credits)
Isaac Canales
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

November 4-8
HOMM 531
Methods of Biblical Preaching (3 Credits)
Richard Dresselhaus
1-5 pm 6-10 pm

NCU Branch in Minneapolis, MN

July 22-26
PTHB 526
Renewing the Established Church (**Cancelled**)
George Westlake
9-Noon 1-5 pm

July 29-Aug. 2
PTHB 640
Communicating to Postmoderns (3 Credits)
Earl Creps
9-Noon 1-5 pm

Sept. 3-Dec. 18
PTHB 640
Pastoral Leadership (3 Credits)
Jim Allen
Flex Schedule

Oct. 14-18
PTHB 545
Ministry Development Seminar (3 Credits)

J.Allen/J.Smith/TBA
9-Noon 1-5 pm

NC Extension in Kirkland, WA

September 23-27
MCCE 630
Intercultural Patterns of Communication (2 Credits)
Del Tarr
1-3 pm (Monday) / 8-Noon T-F

September 23-27
BOTE 540
Special Studies in the OT: Wisdom Literature (2 Credits)
Robert Stallman
3-5 pm (Monday) / 1-5 pm T-F

SC Branch in Lakeland, FL

Aug. 21-Dec. 5
BTHB 533
The Holy Spirit in the NT Church (3 Credits)
Mark Rutland
Tues,Wed,Thur. 9-10 am

Aug. 22-Dec. 5
PTHB 640
Leader as Communicator (3 Credits)
Mark Rutland
Mon,Tues, Thur. 10:20-11:45 am

Aug. 22-Dec. 5
PTHB 535
Pastoral Ministry (3 Credits)
Wayne Lee
Tues,Thur. 7:35-8:50 am

August 26-Dec. 9
PTHB 545
Ministry Development Seminar (3 Credits)
D. Boyd/W. Lee
Mondays 5:15-8 pm

August 29 - Dec. 12
PCPB 539
Counseling Issues in Life Span Development (3 Credits)

Larry Hazelbaker
Thursdays 8-10:45 pm

October 14-18
PTHB 544
The Spiritual Formation of the Minister (3 Credits)
Mike Rakes
8-Noon 1-5 pm

November 4-8
BOTB 538
Preaching from Hosea, Joel, and Amos (3 Credits)
Roger Cotton
8-Noon 1-5 pm

VFCC Branch in Phoenixville, PA

July 8-12
BNTB 641
Special Studies in the NT: Gospel of Matthew (**Cancelled**)
Don Tucker
9 am - 6:30 pm

August 5-9
PCPB 626
Dying, Grief, and Crisis Counseling (3 Credits)
David Scolforo
9 am - 6:30 pm

August 30-31, Sept. 20-21, Oct. 11-12, Nov. 15-16
PCPB 550
Interpersonal Techniques in Helping Relationships (3 Credits)
Ron Hall
Fridays 6-9:30pm / Saturdays 9am-5 pm

Sept. 13-14, Oct. 18-19, Nov. 1-2, Nov. 22-23
THEB 547
Eschatology Today (3 Credits)
Dwight Sheets
Fridays 6-9:30pm / Saturdays 9am-5pm

September 9 thru November 18
BTHB/MCSB 529
Foundations of Biblical Theology (3 Credits)
Malcolm Brubaker
Mondays 6-10 pm

October 14 - 18
PTHB 630
The Church and Contemporary Society (3 Credits)
Randy Walls
9 am - 6:30 pm

Network Partners (Graduate Credit Option Available)

A/G Home Missions

July 14-17 @ Springfield, MO
Chaplain Training Conference
Emanuel Williams
Seminar Schedule

A/G World Missions

July 9-18 @ CBC
School of Missions
Cary Tidwell
Seminar Schedule

July 22-26 @ CBC
Roman Catholicism & Orthodoxy European Missions
Gary McGee
9 am - 3 pm

July 22-26 @ CBC
Ministry to People in Buddhist Contexts
Dave Oleson
Seminar Schedule

July 22-26 @ CBC
Introduction to Islam
Harry Morin
Seminar Schedule

July 29 - August 2 @ CBC
Approaches to Muslims
Phil Parshall
Seminar Schedule

22 al 26 de julio @ AGTS
La Facultad - Hermeneutics and Exegesis (Spanish Only)

Harold Carpenter
lunes 1-3 / M-V 8-12

22 al 26 de julio @ AGTS
La Facultad - Expository Preaching (Spanish Only)
Reginald Stone
lunes 3-5 / M-V 1-5

Montana District

July 8-12 @ Hungry Horse Camp
Cultural Shift and the Emerging Church
Doug Oss
Seminar Schedule

NACBA

July 15-19; 22-26 @ AGTS
Church Business Administrators Seminar #1 (**Cancelled**)
Paul Martinez
8 am - 5 pm

National Leadership Institute A/G

Various Dates/Locations
Foundations of Leadership Conferences
Ron McManus
Conference Schedule

North Carolina District

September 12
Emerging Models of Ministry in the 21st Century
Earl Creps
Conference Schedule

Northwest District

Various Dates/Locations
Church Leadership Development (Cohorts)
Mel Ming
Cohort Schedule

Rocky Mountain District

September 23-26, 2002
Leadership Boot Camp
Jay Taylor
Conference Schedule

November 5-9, 2002
Minister's Retreat
Earl Creps
Conference Schedule

Soularize 2002

Oct. 15-18 @ Minneapolis, MN
Ministry in an Emerging Culture
Earl Creps
Conference Schedule

Southern Missouri District

July 16 @ District Office
Life on Purpose - Principles of Leadership Management
Jim Risner
10 am - 3 pm

September 10 @ District Office
Ministry in the Smaller or Rural Church
Ralph Adcock
10 am - 3 pm

November 12 @ District Office
Ready the Pen of the Writer
Robert Strand
10 am - 3 pm

Willow Creek Association

August 8-10 @ WCCC
Leadership Summit
WCA Staff
Conference Schedule

September 26-28 @ WCCC
Small Groups Conference
WCA Staff
Conference Schedule

October 21-23 @ WCCC
Contagious Evangelism Conference
WCA Staff
Conference Schedule

October 22-23 @ WCCC
Prevailing Church Workshops
WCA Staff
Conference Schedule

October 24-26 @ WCCC
Prevailing Church Conference
WCA Staff
Conference Schedule

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

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