

**An eLetter to the ceCommunity
from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education
"dangerously authentic...radically transformed"
November 2003**

What's Below?

ceLines - A few words from the ceDirector

ceLinks - A few web sites you can surf

ceSources - A few tools you can use

ceLines:

Hello Friends:

In case you haven't noticed, there is a significant deficit in the number of twentysomethings attending our churches. While your church may be an exception, for the most part this age group has migrated away from church attendance. There are multiple reasons for this exodus, but one that I hadn't seriously considered before came to my attention through a recent study by the Barna Research Group.

It suggested that one of the reasons that many twentysomethings struggle to find their place in churches is that many young people may feel overlooked as potential leaders. The study showed that just 4% of young adults currently serve as a lay leader at their church; only 12% have been a leader at any time in the past two years. Older adults are three to four times more likely to serve as church leaders. The age group with the greatest number of church leaders are those in their 50s.

Despite that, young people do not lack confidence in their leadership capabilities. The study showed that people in their 20s and early 30s are actually more likely than are older adults to think of themselves as leaders – and they are much more likely than mature generations to want additional training to become better leaders. Yet, young leaders were also the least aware of any leadership training opportunities provided by their congregation. Nevertheless, young leaders are a challenging target for leadership preparation since they are busy, skeptical of churches, and often unwilling to commit to such development, especially to classroom-style training without hands-on leadership opportunities. The research points out that mentoring is the most appealing form of leadership development for young adults.

I have listed below a few practical resources that might assist you in starting your journey as a mentor. If you have had some success in this area with the twentysomethings of your community, I'd love to hear your story. Drop me a line and let me know what's happening with you.

Until next time...

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

ceLinks:

Check out these web sites for mentoring resources

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

<http://www.homestead.com/mentorandmultiply/>

<http://www.cornerstoneconsultants.org/mentoringbook.htm>

ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

Stories of Emergence by Mike Yaconelli. Mike was a founding member of Youth Specialties and the (in)famous *Wittenberg Door* journal. He has compiled a great testimonial of persons who are grappling with the challenges of ministry in the 21st century. Included in the list is our own Earl Creps, Director of the AGTS Doctor of Ministry program.

FYI: In case you haven't heard, Mike Yaconelli was recently killed in a traffic accident.

The Social Sciences and New Testament Interpretation by Richard L. Rohrbaugh. This not the kind of book that I usually recommend. However, it is a seminal work by a NT scholar who is attempting to get a closer look at the social structure of the Ancient Near Eastern world. The book is actually a bibliographic resource for understanding the various issues at work in the biblical world. Anyone who is interested in understanding the issues that shaped the worldview of the NT period should consult this resource. It will give you insight into the biblical text that you might not otherwise have.

FYI: If you ever come across a book that you would like to order, just contact Arlene Dilley in our bookstore at adilley@agts.edu for a price quote. If you'd like to order it, she can have it delivered to your front door.

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

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

Monty C. Galloway, ISP Specialist - mgalloway@agts.edu

Vicki L. Jacobson, Coordinator - vjacobson@agts.edu

Randy C. Walls, Director - rwalls@agts.edu

Web: http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/index.html

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