

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

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**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**

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**ceLines:**

Hello Friends:

Dr. Gary McIntosh is an educator and church consultant who has written extensively about leadership and church growth. My personal favorite of his books is "Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership." His web address is <http://mcintoshcgn.com/index.htm>. In a recent newsletter, he presented the results of a survey that was done in rural community churches. Here are the survey findings regarding the rural churches that are effectively reaching their communities.

- The pastor and members were involved in community activities.
- They were located in towns of 2,500 people or more.
- They were fewer than ten miles from a Wal-Mart.
- The population was in transition.
- They were pastored by younger pastors.
- The church was "very friendly," not just friendly.
- The church was open to new methods.
- Evangelism was a number one priority.
- The atmosphere of the church was open and safe for newcomers.
- The church had multiple children's ministries.
- Mentoring activities were available for newcomers.
- A high percentage of members were involved in ministry.
- Evangelism was the strongest skill of the pastor.
- Guests were welcomed and treated as though they were members.
- The church had written plans and goals.

--The McIntosh Church Growth Network newsletter

With little comment, I would suggest that you consider the qualities that are present in this list and compare your own ministry by them. If you'd like to respond about the things that most interest you about the list and how you have attempted to incarnate them, I'd love to hear from you.

Until next time...

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

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**ceLinks:**

**Check out these web sites!**

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

Here's a company that provides an online survey that will help you assess your church or ministry website. Just click on the "Get your site tested" icon to the right of the home page.

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

This is a youth oriented web-site that was created by the Southern Baptist Convention to provide an online interactive site for discipleship and ministry.

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**ceSources:**

**Books/Articles you can count on!!!**

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/le/2003/003/3.34.html>. This is an article by Brian McLaren in the Christianity Today online journal. He points out the three primary streams of the emerging culture churches. It's a great summary of what some of us are trying to do to make the gospel seen and heard in our communities.

Instead of a book, allow me to connect you with a resource for small groups/cell ministry development. The group, based in Houston, TX, is TOUCH® Outreach Ministries, Inc. The web address is [www.cellgrouppeople.com](http://www.cellgrouppeople.com).

**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](mailto:adilley@agts.edu) for a price quote. If you'd like to order it, she can have it delivered to your front door.**

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**Contact us 8am - 4:30pm CDT at:**

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