

**An eLetter to the ceCommunity
from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education
biblical answers...empowered ministry...global impact...
December 2006**

What's Below?

ceLines - A few words from the ceDirector
ceWhat??? - A few things that make you go hmmm...
ceLinks - A few web sites you can surf
ceSources - A few tools you can use
ceCourses - A few courses coming your way
ceStaff - A few of the people here to serve you

ceLines:

Hello Friends:

It's hard to believe that the Christmas season is once again upon us. Remember, there are only **X** (fill in the number based upon when you read this) shopping days left until Christmas. If you are the kind of person who likes relatively useless information, here's a [link](#) to the US Census Bureau's "holiday" statistics.

I suppose I could launch into another mind-bending rant based upon some new thought or idea that pops into my otherwise idle mind, but it seems to me that it might just serve you best to remind you of how important you are to God and his kingdom ministry in this advent season. God has formed you by virtue of your life and experiences into the kind of ministry vessel that he desired. He is continually forming you as you cooperate with him to fulfill his mission in your sphere of this world.

So...be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Don't only rely on your own resources or skills, but in everything acknowledge that he is at work with you, in you, and before you to accomplish his purpose.

It is my hope that the presence and blessing of the Lord will be upon you, your family, and your ministry during this time.

Until next time...

I wish you well,

Dr. Randy C. Walls, Director
AGTS Continuing Education

ceWhat??? Things that make you go hmmm...

Six things leaders need to know about how to discipline

1. Use the techniques of effective discipline to eliminate problem behavior.
2. Communicate concerns in terms of behavior rather than perception or opinion.
3. Minimize defensiveness and focus on solutions.
4. Reduce conflict avoidance behaviors that undermine team morale, impart perceived fairness, and impede overall productivity.
5. Review performance to make sure the problem is resolved.

6. Recognize the importance of team member participation in defining the problems and solutions.

(Adapted from an e-letter by *TalentSmart.com*, October 2006.)

My curiosity gets the better of me on this one. I wonder how much “discipline” actually occurs in the local ministry setting. Any thoughts or insights that you have on this would be appreciated.

ceLinks:

Check out these web sites!

<http://www.city-data.com/>. Here’s a site that will give you some insight into the demographics of your community.

<http://www.bible.org/> - This is the host site for the nEXt Bible, an internet based electronic bible and several study resources associated therewith.

<http://marty-center.uchicago.edu/> - Site for the advanced study of religion at U of Chicago, named after its well-known chairperson.

ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

I thought I’d do a couple of re-runs for you in this section this month. The two best books I’ve read this year are:

Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders by Earl Creps, Director of the AGTS Doctoral Studies Programs.

The Missional Leader by Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk.

If you haven’t picked up a copy, you should do so soon. These are life and ministry transforming books that every leader **MUST** read!!!

FYI: If you would like to order your books from AGTS, just contact Ray Reid in our bookstore at rreid@agts.edu. He can have it delivered to your front door.

ceCourses:

Here’s the link to the [ceCourse schedule](#) – and the link to the [ceCourse selection form](#).

Don’t wait for the new year to sign up for one (or more) of these great courses.

If we can be of service to you, don’t hesitate to call...

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