

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

What's Below?

ceLines - A few words from the ceDirector

ceWhat??? – A few thoughts to make you go “hmmmm...”

ceLinks - A few web sites you can surf

ceSources - A few tools you can use

ceCourses - A few classes coming your way

ceLines:

Hello Friends,

The following quote is a short review by Clay Christensen, Professor of Business Administration at Harvard Business School, of a new book on business management:

"Peripheral Vision is a sound, practical guide that helps managers to determine which developments on the periphery of their corporate vision they can safely ignore, and which ones pack the disruptive potential to fundamentally change the world in which they compete."

While the book is obviously oriented toward the corporate sector, the title of the book *Peripheral Vision* is what caught my attention. I began to reflect on whether or not I was aware of my own peripheral vision as it relates to how I work to fulfill my life and ministry mission. Do I see all the elements of the landscape that surrounds me as I try to remain intentional about fulfilling my God-given purpose? Or...am I virtually blinded by a myopic view of only what's in front of me. Do the tasks of every day ministry become a rote process that I mindlessly perform almost oblivious to the panoramic possibilities of new ministry opportunities? The answers to these questions made me stop to further reflect about my own failure to develop better peripheral vision.

The implications are significant...if God is working to redeem the world to himself, everywhere, all the time, then it seems incumbent on me to keep my eyes wide open to the possibility that he might want me to participate in those arenas of ministry where his work and my life intersect. If I'm more concerned about getting "my" work done than I am participating with him in his work, I just might miss an opportunity to advance the influence of his kingdom in my space.

I never want to be satisfied with just getting my work done, as though somehow I've accomplished his purpose for me in doing so. The work that I must do, I will do, but I must remember that this work includes the larger scope of what God is actively at work to do ...in me ...through me ...around me ...in spite of me.

And so, my exhortation to you today is that you prayerfully seek the Lord and ask for a broadening of your peripheral vision. While he is at work doing more than we could ever hope to see or even imagine, I suspect that there are plenty of things that he will make clearer to us. Thus, we can "make the most of every opportunity" (Eph. 5:16) to see the hand of God at work in us.

I'd love to hear your thoughts on this idea. Drop me a line and let me know what you're thinking.

Until next time...

I wish you well,



Dr. Randy C. Walls, Director
AGTS Continuing Education

ceWhat???

Some surprising(?) insights about unchurched people from Dr. Thom Rainer...

- Surprise No. 1 - Most of the unchurched prefer to attend church on Sunday morning if they attend.
- Surprise No. 2 - Most of the unchurched feel guilty about not attending church.
- Surprise No. 3 - Ninety-six percent of the unchurched are at least somewhat likely to attend church if they are invited.
- Surprise No. 4 - Very few of the unchurched had someone share with them how to become a Christian. And Christians have not been particularly influential in their lives.
- Surprise No. 5 - Most of the unchurched have a positive view of pastors, ministers and the church.
- Surprise No. 6 - Many of the unchurched have a church background.
- Surprise No. 7 - Some types of "cold calls" are effective; many are not.
- Surprise No. 8 - The unchurched would like to develop a real and sincere relationship with a Christian.
- Surprise No. 9 - The attitudes of the unchurched are not correlated to where they live, their ethnic or racial background, or their gender.
- Surprise No. 10 - Many of the unchurched are far more concerned about the spiritual well-being of their children than themselves.

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How can we take these ideas and build our outreach ministry on them? Drop me a line and let me know what you think...

ceLinks:

Check out these web sites!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/print/religion/religions/christianity/features/cslewis/audio.shtml>. Perhaps you've been a big fan of C.S. Lewis, but have always wondered what he sounds like? Well, here's your chance to hear him.

<http://facebook.com/pulse.php>. If you're in to top 10 lists, here's a website that provides an up-to-date listing of the top 10 music, books, movies, and TV shows. This one's for the cultural gurus among us who are curious about what the world is listening to, reading, and viewing.

<http://www.churchteams.com/>. An interesting website for those of you with small groups ministry in your church, or those of you who study the small groups phenomenon.

ceSources:

Why Great Men Fall by Wayde Goodall. This is a great book with excellent biblical and practical insights into the things that all good leaders must do to avoid moral failure. Plus...it's written by our good friend and AGTS adjunct faculty member. Check it out!

You can order this book and all the textbooks for your ceCourses in the AGTS bookstore; just contact Ray Reid at reid@agts.edu.

ceCourses:

Here's a listing of the courses available:

http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/2006_ce_schedule.html

Pick out a course today and use this link to reserve your place:

http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/ce_course_selection_form.html

NOTICE: If you live within commuting distance of Springfield, you should consider the M.A. in Theological Studies degree completion program. It is structured so you can earn a degree in 18-22 months by attending classes one night a week on the Springfield campus.

Your previous course work is applied toward the degree where applicable. You take only the courses you need which saves time and money. The classes are structured so that you go through the entire program with peers, one course at a time.

A flat tuition package rate protects you from tuition increases unless you change cohorts. Financial aid, scholarships, and tuition discounts are available to eligible participants (see website http://www.agts.edu/academics/programs/mats_completion.html).

TUITION AND FEE INCREASES

AGTS continues to grapple with the accelerating costs of providing graduate education. While tuition and fee increases are inevitable, our board of administration works hard to keep the increases as low as is possible. In fact, your tuition dollars only cover a little over 50% of the actual amount required for AGTS to operate. We depend upon our regular supporters and the grant from the AG to keep the operation running in black ink.

Here is the tuition and fee information for the Fall 2006 semester:

Tuition = \$381 per credit hour

Audit fees = \$96 per credit hour

Student Services fees = \$130 (each semester that you take a course)

Technology fees = \$150 (each semester that you take a course)

You will notice the addition of student services and technology fees to your school bill beginning in the Fall of 2006. The reason for the addition of these fees to the ceProgram is to evenly distribute the costs for these services through the entire student population. The resident students of AGTS have been underwriting these costs, yet the services and technologies are available for all of the participants in the AGTS graduate studies programs. Therefore, in order to balance out this inequity, you will be charged the student services and technology fees for each semester in which you take one or more courses in the ceProgram. **YOU WILL NOT BE CHARGED THESE FEES IF YOU DO NOT TAKE A COURSE IN ANY GIVEN SEMESTER.**

We hope that you will understand the need to balance out this inequity, and we thank you for choosing to pursue your education with us. We are here to serve you in any way that we can. Please call us any time that you have a need.

Contact us 8am - 4:30pm CDT 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.