

ceLink

An eLetter to the ceCommunity from the AGTS Office of Continuing Education

"Shaping REAL People for REAL Ministry in a REAL World"

April 2002

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What's Inside?

ceLines - A few words from the ceDirector

ceLinks - A few web sites you can surf

ceSources - A few tools you can use

ceCourses - A few classes coming your way

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ceLines:

Several things have influenced the words that follow. In recent months, I've used this e-letter to speak with you about mission. I've pressed home the issue that mission is the heart and soul of ministry. In recent days, I've been immersed in a classroom setting with some of my peers in the AGTS D.Min. program talking about mission. My thoughts and my passions about this subject have been thoroughly stimulated. So, this month, I'd like to spend a little more time with you to flesh out this idea of mission.

Classic descriptions of our ministry paradigms focus on worship, fellowship, discipleship, and evangelism. We create a four-legged stool, each leg representing one of these biblical distinctives of a balanced ministry. In a best-case scenario, churches actually work to integrate all four of these ministry components into the life of the local church. In most case scenarios, ministry is roughly hewn around a model of one or more of these legs, usually the ones that most appeal to the immediate needs/desires of the congregation.

It is not my intention to poke holes in this somewhat sacralized ministry paradigm. My concern is that we may fall into the trap of compartmentalizing these four ingredients of the ministry of the local church. In this view, our mission is to get each of the four "self contained" units into full operation, thus achieving what we believe to be a "biblically" balanced ministry.

I'll spend some more time in next month's edition of ceLines deconstructing this 4-legged stool. I'll also try to provide another mental model for us to replace the deconstructed stool.

However, I don't want leave you hanging. This isn't a soap opera sequel, or a prime time cliffhanger story. Here's my whole point! Mission is not so much what we do as it is who we are! We are to "be" like Christ, who came to fulfill the will of the Father to "seek and to save those who are lost." If we are to be like Jesus, then we must reflect the same passion to fulfill the Father's will as he did. He was so passionate about it that he became the "incarnated" mission of the Father. Mission was enfleshed by Christ, and so it must be embodied by us!

If this is true, then mission cannot be just another thing we do in the local church. It must be its very identity. If we embody the mission of God, then we will look and act and be like Christ. Therefore, if a local church is not reaching the unreached, then can it, by definition, be called the Church?

Drop me a line and let me know what you think about my comments on mission. What are the challenges you face in building your life and ministry around these missional values? Do you need more resources for equipping your congregation in defining and fulfilling the mission of God? What are you doing well to fulfill this mission?

I'm praying for you...

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

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ceLinks:

As a follow-up to the information on pornography in the February ceLink, I thought I'd send you a few more websites that may provide you with further resources for support, assistance, information, and development. If you find any others on the web, please send me the links so we can add them to our resource lists.

Go to <<http://www.afa.net/pornography/internet.asp>> for excellent resources from the American Family Association.

See also Focus on the Family resources at <<http://www.family.org/topics/a0018139.cfm>>.

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ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

Lost in America, by Tom Clegg & Warren Bird. If you are looking for a book that has its hand on the pulse of mission in America, this one is a treasure. It's practical, yet thoroughly founded on some of the best research available on the contemporary church. I recommend a lot of books to you...but this is about as good as it gets.

The Next American Spirituality, by George Gallup, Jr. and Timothy Jones. A great companion book to Lost in America from one of the best research institutes in our nation.

Contact: [adilley@agseminary.edu](mailto:adilley@agseminary.edu) <<mailto:adilley@agseminary.edu>> at the AGTS Bookstore to place your orders.

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ceCourses:

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

FYI: For the east coasters, we have another Emerging Church seminar with Brian McLaren coming this fall. (The roundtable gathering in Sacramento was excellent.) We're working to finalize the details as to the date, location, etc. We'll be in touch soon, so keep your eyes open and your web-browser set on [www.agts.edu](http://www.agts.edu) <<http://www.agts.edu>> for more details.

AGTS Branch in Springfield, MO

May 6-10 PTHM 545 Ministry Development Seminar (3 Credits)  
Bradford/Spurling/Walls 1-10 pm

May 13-17 PCPM 625 Counseling with Special Populations (3 Credits)  
Johann Mostert 1-10 pm

June 10-14 PTHM 640 Managing God's Money (3 Credits) Rich Schulz 1-10 pm

July 22-26 BTHM/ PTHM 640 Theology and Practice of Spiritual Gifts in a Multicultural Ministry (3 Credits) David Lim 1-10 pm

NC Extension in Kirkland, WA

June 17-21 PTHE 545 Ministry Development Seminar (3 Credits) Rozell/Carlson/ Spurling 8 am - 5 pm

SC Branch in Lakeland, FL

April 29 - May 3 BTHB 529 Foundations of Biblical Theology (3 Credits) Charles Estridge 8 am - 5 pm

May 6-10 PCPB 548 Ethical/Professional/Legal Issues (3 Credits) Larry Hazelbaker 8 am - 5 pm

May 20-24 BTHB 652 Biblical Theology of Signs and Wonders (3 Credits) Paul van der Laan 8 am - 5 pm

June 3-7 PTHB 625 Effective Leadership (3 Credits) Mark  
Rutland 8 am - 5 pm

VFCC Branch in Phoenixville, PA

April 22-26 PTHB 545 Ministry Development Seminar (3  
Credits) Eggert/Meyer/ Scolforo 9 am - 6:30 pm

May 20-26 PTHB 528 Vision Centered Leadership and Management(3  
Credits) TBA 9 am - 6:30 pm

June 24-28 PTHB/ THEB 642 Theology of Prayer (3 Credits)  
Paul Grabill 9 am - 6:30 pm

July 8-12 BNTB 639 Special Studies in the NT: Gospel of Matthew  
(3 Credits) 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

Network Partners (Graduate Credit Option Available)

A/G Home Missions

Various Dates/Sites Church Planting - Boot and Reboot Camps Jay  
Taylor Camp Schedule

June 10-22 @ AGTS Chi Alpha - Reach the U Joe Zickafoose  
Seminar Schedule

June 11-15 @ AGTS Chi Alpha - Reach the U for Church Staff  
Joe Zickafoose Seminar Schedule

July 14-17 @ Springfield, MO Chaplain Training Conference  
Charles Marvin Seminar Schedule

A/G World Missions

June 17 - July 8 @ CBC Pre-field Orientation Cary Tidwell  
Seminar Schedule

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

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

Illinois District

April 9@ Lake Williamson Christian Center Leadership of the  
Heart Seminar with Dan Webster Gary Allen Seminar  
Schedule

May 20 @ Crowne Plaza Hotel in Springfield, IL Leadership  
Seminar with Paul Allen Gary Allen Seminar Schedule

LABI, San Antonio, TX

June 10-14, 2002      Spiritual Leadership and Paul Jim Hernando  
9 am - 3 pm

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      Paul Martinez      8 am - 5 pm

National Leadership Institute A/G

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

Northwest District

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

Rocky Mountain District

May 8 @ District Council Leadership Training Seminar      Jay  
Taylor      Seminar Schedule

Search Party 2002

May 15-18 @ St. Louis, MO      Ministry in Emerging Culture      Earl  
Creps      Seminar Schedule

Southern Missouri District

May 16 @ District Office Establishing an Effective Evangelism  
and Discipleship Program David Watson      10 am - 3 pm  
July 16 @ District Office      Life on Purpose - Principles of  
Leadership Management      Jim Risner      10 am - 3 pm

Willow Creek Association

April 14-16 @ WCCC      Student Ministries Conference WCA Staff  
Conference Schedule

April 17-19 @ WCCC      Promiseland Conference      WCA Staff  
Conference Schedule

May 14-15 @ WCCC      Prevailing Church Workshops      WCA Staff  
Conference Schedule

May 16-17 @ WCCC      Prevailing Church Conference      WCA Staff  
Conference Schedule

June 5-7 @ WCCC      Arts Conference      WCA Staff Conference  
Schedule

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

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

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