

ceLink

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

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

May 2002

What's Inside?

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ceLines:

Last month I opened up discussion on the classic model of church ministry...the four-legged stool of worship, fellowship, discipleship, and evangelism. I suggested that the stool in and of itself is probably a good paradigm to illustrate four primary areas of ministry in the local church. Churches that develop a comprehensive ministry paradigm based upon these four elements would generally fall within the realm of what we would call a healthy church.

However, there's something about the stool that bothers me. The model itself suggests that an effective church is built upon all four legs. Church leaders must find a way to balance ministry between each leg, making sure that they each remain stable in order for the stool to stand. The "stool," i.e. the Church, will wobble if one leg is shorter than the other. The problem with this model is that it focuses on the legs of the stool. It makes ministry a balancing act, whereby we manage the four legs (programs) to make sure that one leg doesn't grow longer than the other.

Let me suggest another mental model...a deconstruction/reconstruction of the stool. Let's make this new stool a three-legged stool, the three legs being worship, fellowship, and discipleship. Where's the mission component, you ask? It's the seat, upon which all kingdom ministry is based. The church rests solidly on the seat of missional outreach. Its focus is intentionally upon the seat, not the legs. A focus upon the seat makes it possible to view the

legs in their proper perspective. The legs both proceed from and find their purpose in the seat.

The purpose of the Church is to pursue with passion the priority of the Father's heart, "to seek and to save what which was lost." Worship proceeds out of mission by keeping us close to the heart of the Father. Fellowship proceeds out of mission by reminding the community that we find our union in the heart of the Father. Discipleship proceeds out of mission by focusing our maturation process on the priority of the Father's heart. The legs of worship, fellowship, and discipleship converge in/find their purpose in the seat of mission, the very heart of the Father. Their length isn't a problem. They will extend naturally from and toward their basis and goal.

There are many other applications of this new paradigm...but I think you get the point that I'm trying to make. Mission is THE THING that defines the church. If this is the primary focus of the church, then battles over "styles" of worship will virtually disappear. If mission, not fellowship, is the primary reason that people "share together" in the local church, the level of communion will multiply beyond the ability of the church leaders to schedule "koinonia." Finally, discipleship will find its true center in the lives of maturing disciples reproducing the kingdom of God in the lives of the nonchurched, instead of producing complaints about the lack of "depth" in the pastor's preaching.

Well...there's my version of the stool. Whatcha' think? Send me your critiques, insights, etc. about my proposition. We'll keep the dialogue going as long as you wish.

I'm praying for you...

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

ceCommunity:

Linda Mayne, student relations specialist on the ceTeam, is making a transition to pursue a ministry that God laid on her heart several years ago. It is with great joy that we wish her

well as she moves into this new ministry role. Here's a personal message from Linda to all of you who have come to know her and been blessed by the wonderful service that she has provided the ceCommunity.

As I have congratulated some of the Continuing Education participants at graduation, it was very affirming that the past eight years at AGTS has been a rewarding experience for me. It has been a joy to serve you, and I will miss my many "phone friends" and those of you I've met in person.

My continued prayers are committed to this institution and it's endeavor to enhance the ministries of God's servants. Joe and I pastor a church, and I am beginning Kaleidoscope Ministries: Life of Color, Rainbow of Promise. The ministry will involve writing materials and reaching out to abused people. God has already opened doors, and I am excited for the opportunity for full-time ministry.

I appreciate Randy, Paula and the AGTS family for their kindness and support.

Blessings!
Linda

(If you wish to send Linda a note of thanks, best wishes, etc., please send them to the ceOffice via our regular address below or e-mail address, agts-ext@agseminary.edu. We'll make sure that your messages are delivered to Linda.)

We also welcome Mark Atterson, our new coordinator of continuing education, to the ceTeam. Mark has served in two churches as an associate pastor, and most recently served as Senior Pastor in Jay, Oklahoma before moving to Springfield to pursue his master of divinity degree. Mark is a wonderful addition to our ceTeam, and we know that you will come to appreciate his passion for ministry and his service to the ceCommunity.

ceLinks:

Since I've spent so much time telling you about the sites that I've surfed for information, I'd love to hear from you about the "waves" you've been riding. Drop me a line and let me know

where you find your information, inspiration, etc. on the web. I'll be sure to share it with the ceCommunity in the next (June) ceLink. I look forward to hearing from you.

ceSources:

Books you can count on!!!

If you prefer the "old technology," i.e. actually reading text on a page derived from processed tree fibers...that's "paper" for the ecologically challenged, send me your favorites, or something you've recently read that has helped you get a better perspective on mission, ministry, culture, leadership, etc. Journal articles also apply. FYI: I still love to read the printed page, even though it cost another tree its life.

I'll print the "best of" list of preferred readings from the ceCommunity in the June ceLink. Look forward to hearing from you.

ceCourses:

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

"Ministry on the Edge: A Dialogue on the Mission to North America" is coming to Philadelphia November 18-19, 2002. We'll be at the Renaissance Hotel next to the airport for two days of strategic thinking and interaction with Brian McLaren, Byron Klaus, Earl Creps and a panel of church leaders seeking to impact their culture with the Gospel. The cost for the seminar will be \$150 per person through November 1 (early bird special), and \$175 afterwards. The hotel is giving us a special group rate of \$115/night plus taxes through November 1. Participants must book their own hotel rooms. For those travelling longer distance to attend, the group rate applies to Saturday night, Nov. 16 through Tuesday night, Nov. 19. We look forward to seeing you there!

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)	Johan 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
July 22-26, MCSE 631 Introduction to Islam (3 Credits) Harry Morin 8-Noon 1-5pm
July 29 - August 2 MSSE 639 Approaches to Islam (3 Credits) Phil Parshall 8-Noon 1-5pm

NC Extension in Kirkland, WA

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

SC Branch in Lakeland, FL

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

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
July 22-26 @ CBC Islamic Institute ??? Seminar Schedule
July 29 - August 2 @ CBC Islamic Institute ??? Seminar Schedule
22 al 26 de julio @ AGTS La Facultad - Hermeneutics and Exegesis (Spanish Only) Harold
Carpenter 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

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

Rocky Mountain District May 8, 2002 @ District Council Leadership Training Seminar Jay
Taylor Conference Schedule

September 23-26, 2002@ Boot Camp Leadership Boot Camp Jay Taylor Conference
Schedule

November 5-9, 2002 Minister's Retreat Earl Creps Conference 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

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

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

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