



ASSEMBLIES of GOD
THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY

Prez Release



An eNewsletter to AGTS Friends

January 2007

Day of Renewal
Thursday, January 25

Special Guest:
Evangelist Sam Farina

Service Times:

9:30 a.m.

1:30 p.m.

6:30 p.m.

**All services will be
available by live audio
stream on our website:
www.agts.edu**

Lessons I've Learned This Past Week

The weekend of January 12-14 a major ice storm hit Southwest Missouri. Hurricane Katrina was considered a #5 natural disaster and this ice storm has been considered a #4. There are at least 25,000 households that still don't have power even after 10 days. Only one day during this time has temperature been above freezing, with many nights in the teens and lower. (Check out the photo gallery at www.news-leader.com).

I've been doing my best to encourage the AGTS community since there are employees and students who are still without power. We've been working hard to get classes back in session and create some sense of normalcy.

I must admit that the pioneer spirit of "Little House on the Prairie" living left me long ago. I'm just tired of being cold and tired. It is amazing how one week can seem like an eternity.

The natural disaster in the Springfield area has shown us all how dependent we are on electric power. Our expectation is that it will always be there to "power" our lives. We've found out in no uncertain terms what happens when that power isn't present. We thrash around helpless, frustrated and, at times, angry that our lives have been disrupted. With each day we became a wee bit more clueless as to how interwoven

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The Prez Release is a monthly commentary from the President of the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary. If you want to be removed from this mailing list or would like to update your email address, please contact sstarkey@agts.edu.

our lives are with electronic power sources and services. There is very little in our offices, homes and personal lives that is not connected to electricity. As we rely, in even greater ways, on this growing phenomenon, we also set ourselves up for retro experiences when the lights are turned off. Candles aren't even romantic after about 12 hours, battery operated radios are 20th century gizmos and even ipods need recharging regularly. Going cold turkey from electronic communication of all sorts has some of our community ready to join 12-step programs! (Note: hyperbole is overstating a case to make a point) which is: it takes a major disruption in life, like an ice storm, to give us insight into what we rely upon to sustain our lives. For better or worse!

I wonder if you can sense, as I have so vividly, the application of this current crisis spiritually. One of the biblical characters that might be instructive is Samson. (See Judges 15-16). The assumption that God's power could be presumed upon was a serious fallacy in Samson's life. His self-centered presumption on God's presence destroyed his call to service as well as the anointing that had characterized his efforts in representing Jehovah God.

Imagine Samson's realization as he got up to deal with the Philistines in a maneuver he had become accustomed to. Can you sense his horror as he moves into this well-practiced routine and realizes there is nothing present to empower him as usual?

You might be saying, "Isn't this a little bit dramatic? Aren't you just whining a bit too much?" I suppose that Hurricane Katrina victims and those in the Florida storms last year could trump my tales of woe. I'm simply saying—natural disasters like ice storms test our endurance, patience and inner fabric. That test is not only physical (to which I may plead guilty for whining), but these storms have shown me spiritual pictures that have convicted me of my presumption on God's presence in my life. I know I'm going to have to be better prepared for future ice storms. I'm sure that I'm going to have to ponder even longer the level to which I've presumed upon God.

BYRON D. KLAUS

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President