



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Living and Sharing the Gospel

GC2 equipper

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Equipping workers and leaders for Great Commandment–Great Commission (GC2) ministry

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by Ted Johnston



Leonard and Patama Banks

Dear fellow laborer in the Lord's harvest:

I'm happy to announce our new Ministry Development website at <http://www.wcg.org/mindev/> where you'll find resources to assist you in your harvest ministry. This includes sharing Christ's love with non-believers through *eternal CPR: cultivating friendships, planting truth and reaping disciples*. This takes vision, effort and patience as noted by Leonard Banks who pastors the WCG congregation in Rochester, NY:

"Since opening a food pantry in our church some 2½ years ago it's been a slow process of cultivating that is now involving planting. We started by serving six families—that's now grown slowly to over 70. It took over a year to develop relationships with the folks in the community that use the pantry. When we moved to our new facility we began to move from cultivating to planting. We took time before we served people the food to give them the real food—the simple gospel. I preached homilies before the food was distributed and talked about what we do during our church services. I chose short doctrinal topics from our statement of beliefs.

"This Christmas we added a major planting event—making our distribution of Christmas baskets more than just a give-away of goodies. We hosted an outreach party with a full worship service. Many members went above and beyond to make this possible, decorating the hall and providing finger foods, drinks, snacks and toys given in stockings. We started the service with music and prayer, and ended with an explanation of the 'reason behind the season.' The service was received very well by some people that may have never been exposed to a church service. A total of 107 attended.

"We have learned many things through the process of cultivating and planting. One is that we're on God's time table, not our own. Patience is of utmost importance. Secondly we learned that we may be sowers and someone else may reap. Thirdly, we learned that it's important to understand what type of event is being held. We focused on cultivating for well over a year. Then we moved to planting—including this recent Christmas party. We're looking forward to reaping if God blesses us to be a part of that process in the lives of some of these people."

My thanks to Leonard and his congregation. Let's all continue with patience and persistence in reaching out with Jesus' life-changing love to make disciples who make disciples. GC2 equipper and our new website are both provided to help us do just that.

Dan Rogers
Church Administration and Development director



Rochester, NY congregation
outreach Christmas service

Q & A: Tips and Resources



Q: Any tips on putting together our congregation's 2007 budget?

A: See the tips in Chapter 2 of the WCG Financial Management Manual (at <http://www.wcg.org/lit/church/manual/>). And see sample budgets and related forms at WCG online (password protected) at <https://www.wcg.org/online/scriptcontent/wcg/HomeHelpForms.cfm>

An annual budget will, of necessity include lots of numbers. But remember to explain the numbers in words (with a 'narrative budget') in order to describe what, with God's blessing, was accomplished in the year past, and is planned for the year ahead. Doing so will reinforce the congregation's vision and priorities—helping establish an environment of hope and expectancy.

On a related note, now is a good time to address in sermons, studies, newsletters and the like, the important topic of *stewardship*. Christ-followers are to be 'good stewards of the manifold grace of God' (1Peter 4:10, NASB). This grace includes spiritual gifts as well as time, energy, influence and financial resources.

It's important to remind members of their calling to be faithful stewards of their financial resources in advancing the cause of Christ in and through their church family. Some congregations are doing this through seminars and small group discussions. A good source for training materials is Crown Financial Ministries—see their website at <http://www.crown.org/FinancialWisdom/Church/Studies.asp>.

'MY WIFE AND I ARE NOT TITHERS, PASTOR — WE'RE CRISIS GIVERS. SHOW US A NEED, GET US CHARGED UP, AND STAND BACK! YOU CAN'T BUILD THE CHURCH WITH US, BUT WE DON'T MIND!



With permission from Joe McKeever
<http://www.joemckeeper.com/4images/>

Q: Any tips on spicing up our sermons?

A: If you are able to show videos in church, you can take advantage of a growing online library of video sermon illustrations.

At www.sermonspice.com you'll find professional 2-3 minute videos covering many topics. Preview them online and if you like, purchase them for \$15 or \$20 each. Typically one download is offered for free.

Also, you can get help in preparing expository sermons by subscribing (for free) to *Sermon Series*. This email service provides sermon-size exegetical outlines in series covering whole books of the Bible. These are great for helping in the preparation of sermons or Bible studies.

Send your subscription request to Ted.Johnston@wgc.org. You'll automatically be emailed a new issue every week or two.

SERMONSPICE

Effective Christian leadership

By Ted Johnston, Generations Ministries director



Ted Johnston

Over the last few years CAD has focused on equipping pastors and ministry leaders with skills related to leading Great Commandment–Great Commission (GC2) ministry. That leadership involves understanding both the gospel and church leadership. One without the other is inadequate as noted by David Andrew of Mathias Media in his article “Is Our Leadership Too Professional”:

“The gospel must drive and underpin all that is done in a church—it must be there for a true church to exist. But the technique of leading a church is the method by which the church’s gospel work is organized and integrated over time. Indeed, it is very possible to have all the technique of good leadership but no gospel. *But it is equally possible to have the gospel with a complete absence of leadership skills.* In churches, we can outline the possibilities like this:

A Gospel + Leadership Skills	B No Gospel + Leadership Skills	<p>A best chance of sustained church growth.</p> <p>B possible to have growth because of leadership skills, but it is not ‘gospel’ growth. Not really a church at all—a successful social club.</p> <p>C probably will have growth because of gospel, but full potential not realized because of lack of leadership skills.</p> <p>D very little chance of the church getting anywhere at all. Not really a church at all—a social club.</p>
C Gospel + No Leadership Skills	D No Gospel + No Leadership Skills	

“The combination we must be striving for is skill in leadership combined with the bedrock gospel value.”

You may read the full article at:

http://www.matthiasmedia.com.au/briefing/webextra/dec03_professional.htm

Additional resources related to leadership development are available on our new Ministry Development website at <http://www.wcg.org/mindev/>.

GC2 equipper is edited by Ted Johnston and published monthly by WCG Church Administration and Development (CAD). Note that our resource recommendations do not constitute unreserved endorsement. We welcome your questions, comments, short articles, resource recommendations, and testimonies. Send them to Ted.Johnston@wgc.org. GC2 equipper is posted on the WCG Ministry Development website at <http://www.wcg.org/mindev/>.