



WORLDWIDE  
CHURCH OF GOD

*Living and Sharing the Gospel*

# GC2 equipper

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Jesus' ascension

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 Easter Season resources
- 2 Q & A: Tips on prayer, using video, reaching GenXers

GC2 equipper is edited by Ted Johnston & published monthly by WCG Church Administration and Development (CAD).

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](mailto:Ted.Johnston@wgc.org).

GC2 equipper is posted on the WCG MinDev website at <http://www.wcg.org/mindev/>

Dear Servant of Christ:

I hope you and yours had a joyous celebration of Jesus' resurrection. As we continue in the season of Easter, we look forward to celebrating two other glorious events in Jesus' story and ours:

- **Jesus' ascension.** Ascension Day (May 17 this year) is often celebrated the following Sunday (May 20 this year). Our Lord's ascension is a vital part of God's saving work: Jesus, fully God and fully man (now glorified) ascended to the Father where he now serves as our High Priest.  
This truth has many wonderful implications—including our inclusion in Jesus' communion with the Father through the Spirit. For Ascension Day sermons see *worship and preaching resources* posted on our website at <http://www.wcg.org/MinDev/Web%20Documents/GC2%20equipper.htm>
- **Jesus' sending of the Spirit.** This event occurred on the day of Pentecost (celebrated May 27 this year). Jesus, as promised, sent the Holy Spirit of God to indwell his people, ushering them into a life of celebration and participation in his continuing ministry here on earth. For a Pentecost sermon go to the resource list noted above.

Together, Ascension Day and Pentecost remind us of who we are in our union with Christ who is eternally one with the Father and Spirit:

We are included! Through Jesus' incarnation, life, baptism, temptation, suffering, death, resurrection and ascension, we are included in the love and life of God—*“raised...up with Christ and seated...with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus”* (Ephesians 2:6).

We are sent! Because Jesus sends the Spirit to be our advocate and teacher, we are led ever deeper into God's life where we are gifted, empowered and sent to participate in Jesus' ministry on earth.

In this issue we offer tips concerning certain challenges we face in living out our calling to participate with Jesus in his ministry on earth. As you find other helpful tips and resources, please consider emailing them to me at [Ted.Johnston@wgc.org](mailto:Ted.Johnston@wgc.org). We'll share them with others.

*Enjoy!*

-Ted Johnston  
Editor

## Q & A: Ministry tips and resources

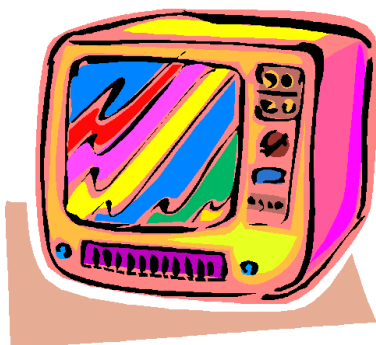
**Q:** Do you have any resource recommendations concerning prayer?

**A:** Richard Foster's *Celebration of Discipline* is a classic. Also see the recent *Christian Book Summaries* synopsis of Philip Yancey's new book, *Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?* It's online at <http://www.christianbooksummaries.com/library/v3/cbs0323.pdf>.

Yancey asks, Why do prayers often go unanswered? Why doesn't God intervene more with the problems of the world? Does God really listen when we pray? Yancey seeks to present prayer from God's perspective showing that prayer is about conforming to the likeness of Jesus, growing in our intimacy with God, and becoming co-laborers with him on earth.



**Q:** Any advice on the use of visual media to illustrate sermons?



**A:** We live in a highly visual world. People of all ages (particularly younger ones) desire and even expect learning to include a visual component. Our sermons can capitalize on this by using visual media (video clips, PowerPoint slides, etc.).

But in using these media, exercise care so that visuals add to rather than detract from learning. For helpful advice on this issue (related specifically to using video), see *Using Film Clips in Preaching* at: <http://www.christianitytoday.com/biblestudies/areas/biblestudies/articles/070403.html>

[Thanks to WCG pastor George Hart for this tip.]

**Q:** How do I reach out to young adults in their 20s and 30s?

**A:** This age group is often referred to as GenX or the buster generation. These young adults are children of baby-boomers and their involvement in church is sparse, both within the WCG and elsewhere. Yet God calls on us to reach out to all people—including this age group. So what do we do?

There are no easy, 'one size fits all' answers, but Dieter Zander, who has devoted his life to ministering with GenXers, offers some helpful tips in his article, *The Gospel for Generation X*. It's posted online at <http://www.christianitytoday.com/bcl/areas/missions/articles/070117.html>.

This summer, WCG Generations Ministries is offering a **National Young Adults Retreat** in Colorado with Dr. Jeb Egbert. Consider sponsoring young adults you know—it will help them feel loved and included in our fellowship. Download a retreat information brochure from the GenMin website at <http://youth.wcg.org/Generations/Events/YoungAdults2007brochure.pdf>

