



WORLDWIDE
CHURCH OF GOD

Living and Sharing the Gospel

GC2 equipper

www.wcg.org/mindev/

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A monthly ministry development ezine of WCG-USA Church Administration and Development
Equipping workers and leaders for Great Commandment–Great Commission (GC2) ministry

Dear church leader:

Many GC2 equipper readers lead congregations and ministries within congregations. Thanks for your labor of love! What you are doing is vital kingdom-building work that is helping people discover, embrace and participate actively in the love and life of our Triune God. What a blessing! And what a challenge.

One of your challenges as a pastor or ministry leader is seeing that your ministry leaders and workers are equipped for active and skillful participation in Jesus' discipling ministry. Equipping (training) is an often over-looked priority because we all tend to be busy "doing ministry." But know this: equipping is vital for growth in effectiveness. Think of it as "sharpening the saw."

In "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" Steve Covey invites us to envision a walk in the woods. There we come upon a man working feverishly to saw down a big tree. He is clearly exhausted from this work. And wanting to help, we suggest he take a break to sharpen his saw. We are surprised when he replies, "I don't have time to sharpen my saw, I'm too busy sawing."

Covey says that one of the routine habits of highly effective people is occasionally taking time away from the work of sawing in order to sharpen the saw. Doing so saves time and energy in the end, thus adding to overall effectiveness.

And so it is in ministry leadership. It's important that we take time away from routine (and necessary) ministry tasks for "saw sharpening."

I encourage you to do so in 2008. Take time to equip your ministry leaders and workers. This issue of GC2 equipper shares ideas, insights and resources to help you do that.

May God richly bless you in the New Year.

- Ted Johnston, GC2 equipper editor



Take time to
sharpen the saw

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Q: How do I get my ministry workers interested in being equipped?

A: Consider some advice from Fred Smith Sr.

In “Training the Core Workers,” (the full article may be purchased at www.buildingchurchleaders.com), Smith notes that the key here is personal relationship: “Before any of us can be trained, we need to believe somebody wants us to do well, believes in us, likes us, respects us.”

Within this relational context Smith offers principles concerning training core ministry workers. Here are two of them:

1. Train strengths, not weaknesses

It’s more productive to make what is already strong stronger rather than focusing on overcoming existing weaknesses. As a pastor or ministry leader, point out the strengths of your workers and then offer to get them help to develop those strengths. By taking this positive approach, you provide encouragement that may awaken in that worker a strength they did not know they had.

2. Not everything at once

Ministry workers can make only so much progress at one time. Help them break down the need for growth into small pieces they can handle without feeling overwhelmed. One step at a time.

Q: Where do I go for equipping resources?

A: Here are three ideas:

1. Contact WCG-USA **Ministry Development** (MinDev) for assistance. MinDev is part of WCG-USA Church Administration and Development (CAD). Its services are profiled on the MinDev website at www.wcg.org/mindev/. You can contact one of MinDev’s ministry developers through your district pastoral leader, by directly contacting the ministry developer in your region, or by emailing church.administration@wgc.org.
2. Go to the MinDev website and click on “GC2 character and competency” where you’ll find a library of equipping resources including links to websites, downloadable articles, and information about equipping books, seminars, etc. These resources are catalogued in accordance with various areas of ministry knowledge and skill.
3. Bring your ministry leaders and ministry workers to **Connected!** the WCG regional conference coming to your region in 2008 (see box to the right). Further information about this conference is available from your pastor, your district pastoral leader and CAD.

Connected!

You are invited to **Connected!** – the 2008 WCG Regional Conference held in nine US locations. The conference theme is God’s good news: **We are Connected!**

In plenary sessions and workshops we’ll explore three aspects of this joy-filled message:

Christ: Connected with Jesus in the triune circle of God’s love and life. Who is Jesus? How are we connected?

Commission: Connected to what Jesus is doing in his world. How may we participate in the global and local commission he is working to fulfill?

Community: Connected together by the Spirit; in community. How may we be faithful to the Spirit’s design?

Connected! is being held in nine US locations in 2008:

- Agoura Hills CA: Feb. 8-10
- Portland OR: April 4-6
- Chicago IL: April 25-27
- Union NJ: May 16-18
- Denver CO: May 30-June 1
- Lexington KY: June 27-29
- Dallas TX: July 25-27
- Kansas City MO: Sept. 12-14
- Orlando FL: November 14-16