

# A Northwest Arguemeants

Pastor's Communiqué  
from President Don Argue  
Northwest College  
Volume 2, Number 3 • May/June 2001

Recently, the results of a study were released; they underscored what I already knew: Northwest College is committed to **academic excellence**. We are decidedly student-centered with an emphasis on **service excellence** across the campus. And our key distinctive is a Christ-centered environment: **worship excellence**.

**Academic excellence:** In our School of Ministry, School of Nursing and Division of Education, students can declare their major when they enroll... but they will not be admitted to their declared major until the beginning of their junior year. The reason for the two-year period is so the faculty can evaluate if the student is meeting the expectations for that major (we've called it "coming to standard"). People could get straight A's in pastoral ministry but, at the same time, their own life is disastrous. At Northwest College, when a student is admitted to a major in Pastoral Ministries, the faculty is fully aware of the spiritual development and commitment of that individual.

The head must be trained. Our culture is demanding a graduate who is trained and possesses the ability of an educated individual. That is why Northwest College is academically demanding.

**Service excellence:** This means being pro-active and responsive to student needs. Student satisfaction is regularly assessed. One current, simple indicator of our success in service excellence is our record-setting pre-registration stats; students are excited about coming back next fall.

**Worship excellence:** Our Student Development Program provides leadership for Chapel ministries, residence halls and student outreach ministries. Chapel is the focus of our daily lives. If students are to be successful, they must possess a character to match the call. A friend of mine recently pointed out, "Great causes, without great character, will not last."

Pastor, your young people will make many life-directing choices during their college years. Give strong guidance to parents and young people and they will thank you.

As parents of three grown children, Pat and I are so grateful for their walk with the Lord. All three attended Christian colleges where their faith was affirmed and strengthened. In a safe environment, they were encouraged to think through their faith commitments.

Did a Christian college cost us more than a state college? YES! Was the cost difference worth the investment? When our children are serving the Lord there is really no discussion. The answer is an emphatic, YES!

Two of our three children have attended graduate programs in secular institutions. Since their faith had already been established, they emerged strong in their walk with Christ.

By personal experience, Pat and I have become **evangelists** for Christian higher education. With a commitment to excellence, Northwest College is our choice!

Pastor, I encourage you to join with us!



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Argue". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

## POINTS of Arguemeant

My selections this month are specifically designed for pastoral ministry. These selections are given with the desire to strengthen and encourage your ministry. Read them and be blessed!

### They Call Me Pastor

by H. B. London Jr. & Neil B. Wiseman.  
" 'Pastor.' What a beautiful word. Each time someone calls me pastor, I am awestruck...there is no higher privilege than being a pastor." The words of H. B. London, Jr., celebrate the uniquely deep bond between a pastor and his congregation and the unsurpassed rewards of life-long commitment to serving our Lord. Rekindle your passion to the loved ones you lead. *They Call Me Pastor* will touch your heart in a way that few books ever have.

### What's so Amazing About Grace?

by Philip Yancey. The author writes, "There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less. We speak of grace often, but do we understand it? More importantly, do we truly believe in it...and do our lives proclaim it as powerfully as our words?"

I have revisited this wonderful book in recent days. Pastor, you will find excellent material for sermon illustrations in this well written book. The story of *Amazing Grace* at the very end is worth the purchase of the book.

**Northwest**  
COLLEGE

## Whatever Christians in a Whatever World

I want to be like "the men of Issachar, who understood the times and knew what Israel should do" (1 Chronicles 12:32). Doing the right thing, at and for the right time, appeals to me!

Most scholars agree on describing our current times as **postmodern**... but there is a fair amount of disagreement as to what postmodern actually means. Here's an interesting exercise that I went through recently: I stumbled into amazon.com and entered postmodern. In just a few seconds the web site reported that they had 1,287 books that matched the search. I'd say that indicates a hot topic. I went one step further and read the synopsis for one of the books that popped up at the top of the list. It read, "Although no one knows exactly what postmodernism is, *Postmodernism for Beginners* gives a perfectly clear explanation of the subject."

And it seems that the author found this to be a perfectly rational statement. How can you clearly explain that which no one can describe? It doesn't have to make sense these days. Ideas don't have to go together to be acceptable. Disjointed is good. Listen to the Psalmists of the present age "It's the end of the world as we know it... and I feel fine (REM)."

*It's the end of the world as we know it... and I feel fine (REM)*

So back to the men of Issachar who understood the times... what kind of times are these? I think of these postmodern times as **whatever** times.

One way to look at this is that technology is the god of the age. Thinking back to Theology 101, I remember learning the four attributes of God:

**Omnipresence:** Our God is everywhere all the time. Technology is pervasive; it is everywhere all the time. Stop right now and look around you. As I look around my office I see the computer on my desk, my pocket computer (Palm Vx), the computer in my cell phone, the computer in our sophisticated desk phones... I know there are computers running the air-conditioner and the lights. I've got chips in my car and kitchen appliances. They tell us we'll soon have chips in our clothes. Technology is omnipresent.

**Omniscience:** Our God knows everything. I'm continually amazed at the data that is available at my fingertips. Just the exercise of accessing 1,287 titles on postmodernism within seconds demonstrates the power of the all-knowing Internet. Technology is practically omniscient.

**Omnipotence:** Our God has all power to do all things. We are increasingly able to convince ourselves that there is little that we can't accomplish with our all-powerful technology. My Palm Pilot has more computing power than what it took to launch the first Apollo missions. Technology is practically omnipotent.

So the new god, technology, has the attributes of God. Well... at least three of the four. What was that fourth one again? It was the one that doesn't start with "omni." **Immutability:** our God does not change. And that, of course, is where the comparison falls apart, because technology is ever changing. The experts tell us that computing power doubles every year for half the money. Technology not only is always changing, the rate of change accelerates... it changes faster and faster.

That is why technology suits the postmodernists as their god. David Harvey, one of the leading scholars on the subject says, "postmodernism rejects all attempts to represent the immutable or ordered patterns and totalities, in order to revel in flux, fragments, difference, and chaos."

The postmodernists will tell you that the only thing that is absolute... is that there are no absolutes. It's an age-old question of course... "What is Truth?"

So what are we supposed to do in these whatever times? I've been telling people lately that we need to be Whatever Christians.

I found 182 whatevers in my Bible. You ought to check them out sometime; it is a great word study. The best whatevers, in my mind, are found in Colossians 3:

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (v.17)

Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men (v. 23)

*the best way to face postmodernism is with a sound theology of calling.*

I think the best way to face these postmodern, whatever times is with a sound theology of calling. At Northwest College, we have packaged a theology of calling into our vision statement: **Carry the Call.**

**Heart** – We start with the idea that we are all called. God touches hearts and calls everyone to relationship with Him and submission at the foot of the cross. Then the Lord of the Harvest directs each of us along the path that he sets before us. (v. 15)

**Head** – We believe that the best response to God's call is to develop exceptional competence and character. Our heads are trained. Don Argue simply says, "There are no shortcuts." Whatever the challenge the Lord calls us to meet... there is preparation work for us. (v. 16)

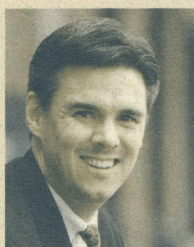
**Hand** – We realize that God calls us to service. Our hands must be engaged. We worship God not just by uplifted hands... but also with hands calloused and soiled by the work entrusted to us by the Lord. (v. 17)

My challenge to you, the challenge I've been presenting in pulpits these past several weeks, the challenge we should all be keeping before God's people, is this:

In these **whatever** times,  
surrounded by **whatever** people  
in a **whatever** world...  
we too should be **whatever** people.  
But our **whatever** is with a purpose:  
**whatever** we do,  
whether in word or deed,  
we do it all in the name of the Lord.

Dan Neary is Northwest's Vice President for College Advancement. He preaches in pulpits throughout the region and would be honored to bring this **whatever** message to your congregation.

Dan can be reached at 425.889.5205 or dan.neary@ncag.edu



## Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament August 13, 2001

Northwest College is set to host the Third Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament at one of Washington's most challenging private golf courses, Bear Creek Country Club.

This wonderful event is intended to raise scholarship dollars for students at Northwest College.

You may follow the links listed below on the registration form to get more **information**, **register online**, even sign up to be a **sponsor**!

The event is expected to fill early and we encourage interested golfers to register ASAP!

**Date & Time:**

Monday, August 13, 2001

10:30 - Registration

12:00 P.M. - Shotgun Start

**Location:**

Bear Creek Country Club

13737 202nd Ave. N.E.

Woodinville, WA 98072

**Format:**

Two-Person Scramble

**Registration:**

\$125.00 per person includes: green fees, golf cart, range balls, score cards, tee bag, a premium polo shirt, box lunch, and a wonderful buffet dinner. *Dinner Buffet for non-golfer \$50.00*

**Prizes:**

Best Team Score

Ladies & Men's KP

Longest Drive

Hole-in-One (grand prize valued at \$30,000)

Door Prizes



**Yes** sign me up to golf in the Third Annual Alumni Scholarship Golf Tournament!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Check enclosed \$125 X \_\_\_\_ golfers = \$ \_\_\_\_

\$50 X \_\_\_\_ non golfer buffet dinners = \$ \_\_\_\_

Total = \$ \_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type \_\_\_\_\_

Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt Size  Sml  Med  Lrg  XL  XXL

Teammate (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

I would like more information about sponsoring.  
Please contact me.

I know of organizations that would like to sponsor.  
Please contact me.

**Please return this form to:**

NC Alumni Golf Tournament

fax: 425.827.0148

mail: PO Box 579, Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

online: <http://www.nwcollege.edu/golf>

for more information call 425.889.5206

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selah

"Better build school rooms for the 'boy,' than cells and gibbets for the 'man'."

*Eliza Cook*

"Let us dare to read, think, speak and write."

*John Adams*

"Education is a danger . . . At best an education which produces useful coolies for us is admissible. Every educated person is a future enemy."

*Martin Bormann*

*German Nazi leader*

"The only sure weapon against bad ideas is better ideas. The source of better ideas is wisdom. The surest path to wisdom is a liberal education."

*Alfred Griswold*

*President of Yale*

**Rob Vatter, Director for Church Relations,** is available to respond to questions and needs related to the local church. He is available to represent Northwest College to churches, missions conventions, and conferences. You can reach him at 425.889.5205 or [rob.vatter@ncag.edu](mailto:rob.vatter@ncag.edu)



Preparation  
for Calling

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Northwest  
Arguemeants

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