

# Northwest Arguemeants

Pastor's Communiqué  
from President Don Argue  
Northwest College

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Welcome to this first issue of **Northwest Arguemeants**! I am thrilled to provide this publication as one more tool to strengthen the lines of communication between pastors and Northwest College. In my travels, meeting pastors throughout the region, you told me that you would like to receive a publication



like this... something simple that shares a few tips and ideas from my perspective.

We intend to provide a fresh **Northwest Arguemeants** six times a year. Each issue is written specifically for senior pastors and will include my personal reflections, helpful resources, some College news, and tips and ideas especially for pastors. Pastor Jim Swanson is helping me by supplying much of the *pastoral helps* materials. Jim has had a great

ministry over the years supplying this kind of information to pastors; I'm thrilled by his contribution on the **Northwest Arguemeants** team.

Building on a great history, Northwest College is strong today. We are enjoying an all-time record enrollment of 972 students. New programs are adding excitement, not the least of which is the **Mark and Huldah Buntain School of Nursing**. The Lord is blessing the ministry at the College through the generosity of donors; some are long-time friends, while others are new to the Northwest College family. Our faculty is solid... men and women of excellent character and competence. And the *esprit de corps* is high as we all rally around the vision of **Carry the Call**.

Those who have been around me for very long know that I am committed to this simple axiom: *The strength of our college is derived from the strength of our supporting churches*. Our lines of communication to our pastors are vital! Let's face it... you supply our leadership, you send us our students, you employ our graduates, and you support us through prayer and finances. We exist to serve you and we prosper because of you.

That is why I am so pleased to have one more way to serve you. I hope you will find Arguemeants useful; we are doing it for you! I would be happy to hear your feedback. How can we make this more useful? Feel free to drop me an email ([don.argue@ncag.edu](mailto:don.argue@ncag.edu)), write, or call (425.889.4202).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Argue', written in a cursive style.

## POINTS of Arguemeant

Here are some of the books that I have been recommending to Christian Leaders:

**The Call** by Os Guinness looks at finding and fulfilling the central purpose of your life. This book helped form my thinking that led to our College vision statement.

**The Asian Mind Game** by Chin-Ning Chu is an excellent resource for understanding the Asian mind and how to work with Asians. It is a westerner's survival manual.

**Finding God At Harvard** Edited by Kelly Monroe is a spiritual journey of thinking Christians. This can be a helpful resource in dealing with individuals questioning their faith.

**Great Souls** by David K. Aikman is about six extraordinary people who changed the century-Billy Graham, Nelson Mandela, Aleksander Solzhenitsyn, Mother Teresa, Pope John Paul II & Elie Wiesel. David Aikman will speak in our chapel March 20-21 as our *Staley Lecture Series* speaker.

**The 21 Irrefutable Laws of Leadership** by John C. Maxwell is a *must read*. I've given copies to those I am mentoring.

Jim Swanson is recommending a great new magazine: **REV**. It is not your typical Pastor's magazine. No sermons, no theology, just practical helps, innovative ideas, and personal encouragement. To order call 800.447.1070, or write Box 469102, Escondido, CA 92046-9688.

You can find links to these resources at **Arguemeants-online** [www.nwcollege.edu/argue](http://www.nwcollege.edu/argue)

**Northwest**  
COLLEGE

# Northwest Arguments

## Energy for the new Millennium

Ten percent of our life is made up of events that happen to us. Ninety percent of our life is made up of how we handle the ten percent.

Nothing is going to happen to us this year, that we and God together, cannot handle.

As we look ahead and reflect on the year behind. We probably have felt the weight of many responsibilities: The midnight conferences with families in crisis, the marital fractures, the emotional cripples, death of loved ones, battles with personal self doubt, power struggles at the church, the cry of the suffering, emergency room conferences with families in crisis, trying to encourage grieving families while at the same time grieving yourself, endless committee meetings, struggles with apathy, trying to balance home life and church responsibilities... on and on it goes.

*Jesus taught us that we really do need each other. We should not try and make it all alone.*

We are tired and need a break and we wonder if Jesus ever felt like this? He too had family misunderstandings, people clamoring for his attention. He carried a heavy load of responsibility. He had to deal with ego struggles among his followers. He too endured the criticism of his enemies. He spent long nights alone. Do you ever wonder if He ever felt like He wanted to run, hop on a chariot and get out of town?

### Jesus taught us how to face these struggles in the following ways:

1. He leaned heavily on human companionship. He was not a loner. He realized that He needed fellowship. The first thing He did when he entered public ministry was to select some men to fellowship with and to join Him in his work. He taught us that we really do need each other. We should not try and make it all alone.
2. He saturated himself with the Word.
3. He remembered the end of the story.
4. He took time to pray and commune with the Father.

### What can we learn from what Jesus did?

1. We too must reach out to our fellow ministers for fellowship. We will not be loners.
2. We must spend more time in the Word.
3. We will remember the end of the story. The joys of Easter would not be possible without the sorrows of Good Friday.
4. We will keep the daily discipline of prayer.

Remember, life does what it has to do and then we move on.

Whatever may have happened to us in 1999, the new year is God's way of saying: "New beginnings are possible... Move on."

Have faith in the future... if there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present.

As we begin the new year... here is a sure fire way to make 2000 the most meaningful of your life!

## Remember to forget

Philippines 3:13,14. Genesis 41:51 "God hath made me forget all my trouble..."

- We regard a good memory as a great thing... a unique and wonderful gift. To recall a name, a face, etc. is a great attribute to be developed and envied.

Power to forget is equally as great an attribute. Many of us already have that gift. We forget our wives birthday's, anniversaries, etc. Most of us forget a lot of things if we don't write them down.

**Illustration:** There was a man who went to a Psychiatrist to complain about his bad memory. The Dr. asked, "How long have you had this problem?" Answer... "What problem?"

- One of the most feared and sad diseases that afflicts older people is Alzheimer's. An attack on our memory.
- There is no question that such kinds of forgetfulness cause serious problems and they should not be taken lightly.

A bad memory causes a lot of problems, but a bad forgetter can be equally as damaging.

**The importance of forgetting...** the passage of time and the erasing of memories is a great natural consequence of life.

- When Joseph became a man of substance in Egypt a son was born to him. He named him Manasseh... which means... "God has made me to forget." Flung into a pit, sold by his brothers, slandered by a woman, thrown into prison... Now it was all behind him. The bitterness had left his spirit as he explained... "God has made me to forget."

Someone once said: "The conscious memory has a preference for the pleasant"

### Things we should forget:

- The hurtful things that were said about you last year.
- The sins that God has forgiven.
- The dumb things you have said.

### Things you should remember.

- Remember who you are...
- Remember where you are going...
- Remember who is going with you...

We often sing a line from an old and familiar hymn, "Because He lives I can face tomorrow." But how often we forget this important reminder of truth. Because He lives... He has already faced everything you and I will ever face. Because He lives... You and I will never face any difficulty, trial, or burden alone. And because He lives... you and I can forgive and forget.

In this new year of ministry may we remember truth rather than injury. As Romans 8:28 reminds us, "...that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose."

## Introducing Rob Vatter

We are happy to introduce Robert Vatter, Director for Church Relations.

Rob is a Northwest native and has been actively involved in ministry throughout the Puget Sound region for over 20 years. He has served in various roles as associate pastor and as senior pastor. He has a Bachelor of Ministry and Masters in Theology from International Seminary.

Rob served as Executive Director of Crisis Pregnancy Center of King County from 1989-91. He also served as Senior Associate Pastor of Shoreline Community Church (Assemblies of God) from 1993 - 98.

In 1994 Rob became involved with CRISTA Ministries to help establish the first evangelical group home for those who are HIV positive or people living with AIDS.

Rob served as the volunteer Chaplain of the CRISTA AIDS Outreach until 1999. His responsibilities included: training caregivers, facilitating support groups and speaking out concerning the church's responsibility to respond with love and compassion to HIV/AIDS related issues, as well as other issues affecting the hurting within our communities. As a result of Rob's experiences, his story was published by Focus On The Family, in the 1995 edition of the Promise Keepers "Power of a Promise Kept." He has been a featured speaker on College and University campuses, made guest appearances on radio and television shows, and has been featured in CHARISMA Magazine, The Pentecostal Evangel and various newspapers.

Rob and his wife Teresa have been married 29 years, have two daughters Holly and Jennifer and are enjoying the thrill of being grandparents.

Rob 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 425.889.5207 or [rob.vatter@ncag.edu](mailto:rob.vatter@ncag.edu)



## Less is More

David Baker, our new Dean of the Chapel, recently shared exciting statistics that reported on last semester's chapel services.

You may know that after an extensive study of our chapel programming, we made changes to the chapel format including: longer chapel services, three daytime chapels, extended "altar" time, and fewer excused absences.

The stats reveal that, in this case, **less is more!** Even though there are fewer chapel services, **attendance actually increased.** Student-contact hours in our fall semester **increased nearly 50%.** We can attribute this to longer chapels, fewer skips, higher quality programming, and a noticeable increase of fervency in our student body.

## Seattle Times Says Hats Off

News of the academic excellence of Northwest College is spreading. Success of our intercollegiate debate was reported for the third time this year in area newspapers. Besides two reports in the **Eastside Journal** last month. On Monday, December 13 the **Seattle Times** printed a feature column entitled "**Hats Off**".

## Nursing Keeps Accelerating

We are thrilled to report the following recent victories in the development of the Mark and Huldah Buntain School of Nursing.

**October 1999** - Mission of Mercy awarded a grant of \$100,000 to underwrite start-up costs. "Mission of Mercy is helping to meet the physical and spiritual needs of hurting people in poverty-stricken areas of the world," explains Bob Houlihan, President of Mission of Mercy. "Our partnership with Northwest College is more than funding. We have supported the vision from the beginning and eagerly anticipate the next steps."

**November 1999** - The Board of Directors named Dr. Carl Christensen as the Dean of the School of Nursing. Dr. Christensen brings professional and academic credentials including: Fulbright Scholar, Ph.D. from George Washington University, and registered nurse. Dr. Christensen said, "I feel that God has uniquely prepared me for leadership of the Buntain School."

**December 1999** - The State of Washington gave approval for Northwest College to award a four-year Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing.

**December 1999** - A businessman and his wife from California gave \$100,000 to help start the School of Nursing.

**January 2000** - Northwest College announced the official dedication of the School of Nursing. Huldah Buntain will be in attendance at ceremonies on September 29, 2000.

# Northwest Arguemants

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So you think your church is small! We heard of a pastor sitting in his office on a Sunday morning when the phone rings. The conversation went like this: "May I speak with the pastor?" "Speaking." "What time does your morning service start?" "Answer" "I don't know, what time can you get here?"

A reporter saw a sign on a door: "Absolutely no admittance. Trespassers will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. There will be no exceptions." The signature was what caught his attention. It was signed..."The Sisters of Mercy."

"Tell me what the **world** is saying today, and I'll tell you what the **church** will be saying seven years from now." Francis Schaeffer

"We wouldn't worry nearly as much about what people think of us, if we knew how seldom they did."

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity." William Penn

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