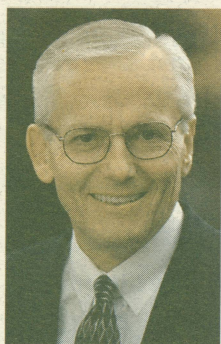


Northwest Argue *meants*

Pastor's Communiqué
from President Don Argue
Northwest College

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Have you considered the difference between being driven and being called? Recently, I read an article by my friend, Dr. Duane Litfin, President of Wheaton College, in which he shared some important thoughts regarding being **called or driven**.



The Vision Statement of Northwest College is "Carry The Call." The New Testament is very clear in presenting that we are **all called** to the cross in total surrender. Then the *Lord of the Harvest* calls and directs according to His Sovereign will. **We are all called!**

When you live your life knowing that the Lord of the Harvest has called you, your life work takes on a wonderful sense of fulfillment in completing that call.

Litfin suggests, "When we are driven we tend to seek accomplishment for the wrong reasons. Sometimes our motives are external: a quest for money, pleasure, prestige, power or position. More often, we are driven by deeper, internal motives such as searching for significance in a desire

to please others – in other words, a hunger for approval. Such motives can conspire to generate within us a consuming passion for 'success,' but at what price?" (Wheaton College, Alumni Magazine, Winter 2000)

As I look back over three decades of ministry, there have been times when I've made decisions from a **driven** motivation. On two occasions I was so frustrated with my ministry position that I accepted positions in other ministries only to realize that my motivation was wrong. God was not leading and I had to admit, concerning the new ministry, that I had made my decision improperly. This caused embarrassment for the moment. However, there later came a great sense of joy in knowing that God is faithful, and I could enjoy His blessing even if the outward indications of that ministry did not look successful.

In John 17, as a part His 'High Priestly Prayer', Jesus said, "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do." Jesus had completed His assignment on Earth and was now facing Calvary.

For seven years I had the privilege of ministering along side E. M. Clark. This good brother had been a successful pastor, evangelist, District Superintendent and General Council Executive Presbyter. Many times I was in his office when a pastor would call and share reasons for wanting a change in ministry. Clark would patiently listen. He would then refer to the words of Jesus and ask the pastor, **"Have you completed the work to which you were called?"** On numerous occasions the pastor would realize that the motivation for a change was based not on a call, but from being driven.

"Called people," says Litfin, "Work as hard as driven people but they often look and feel differently doing it. Their efforts gain purpose and meaning by being expended in the fulfillment of their God-given assignment."

Learning the difference between being driven and being called is vital if we are going to enjoy "ministry." If we are driven, the frustrations of ministry will soon overwhelm and rob us of joy. Called people have a sense of peace, joy, fulfillment, and destiny in spite of the failures and frustrations they may face.

Many times I have stated to young people who were facing challenges, "Where God guides, He provides!" This refers to far more than material supply and has been proven over time in the lives of thousands who have known the difference between being driven and being called. **My prayer is that in your calling you will be fulfilled!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Argue".

POINTS of Argue *meant*

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

Time For Truth by Os Guinness presents an excellent analysis of modern and post-modern approaches to truth. If you want to understand today's culture, this is a *must read!*

The New Evidence by Josh McDowell. **"Christians today face growing challenges to show that their faith is both relevant and credible."** This volume combines the two original best selling volumes into one with the addition of new research and documentation.

"The Book of Mark" by William Lane (The New International Commentary of the New Testament). A preacher's goldmine of material! Lane is theologically sound. This commentary will provide a great base for an expositional series of Mark's Gospel.

Leadership That Works by Leith Anderson. I read everything that Leith Anderson writes. This book gives hope and direction for church and para-church leaders in today's complex world. Leith produces some of the best material available to help pastors. He writes from the strength of pastoring a strong church.

Character Counts by Os Guinness. This book contains brief sketches profiling such great leaders as Presidents George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, the great English preacher William Wilberforce and Russian author Aleksander Solzenitsyn. It is an excellent resource for preaching on character and leadership.

You can find links to these resources at **Arguemeants-online**
www.nwcollege.edu/argue

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The Agony and The Ecstasy of Ministry

Someone has said, "It is the worst job you could ever love." Even when pastors achieve a certain measure of success (whatever that is) they are faced with the undeniable truth that they did not achieve what they should have or what they could have. Pastors always live with the knowledge that they are not, and never can be, what some people think they are.

The truth is, you never really can learn how to be a pastor. There is no textbook written that can teach you how. You can't learn this art in a classroom. It involves a lifetime of trial and error with a little success thrown in. Northwest College can teach the principles of pastoring, but in the final analysis your congregation and the people you care for, become your teachers. "The professors in the pew," if you please.

They give you a pass or fail grade every Sunday. It can be an unnerving process to say the least. However, most pastors I know would not do anything else, even if they could.

Yes, it has its share of sorrows but more often it is joy. It is true that the sustained, unrelenting, constant pressure of demanding duty and responsibility of the pastorate, coupled with the sometimes thoughtless and undeserved assault of criticism from inconsiderate people is enough to cause weariness and even burnout. However, there is nothing to compare with the joy of seeing people come to Christ and to watch them grow under your ministry. It is a profession that the angels covet. I thank God that He called me into the ministry. Someone once said, "I would be willing to pay to pastor rather than pastor for pay."

So, dear pastors—be encouraged. "Weeping may endure for the night. But joy comes in the morning".

Characteristics of Great Preaching

Preaching the gospel is both a tremendous responsibility and an awesome opportunity.

Preaching the gospel carries with it the responsibility to preach "the truth in love." It also carries with it the opportunity to see even the most hopeless of lives changed forever. The scripture declares, "How shall they hear without a preacher?" There is no substitute for great preaching. God's word is carried on the fresh wind of the Spirit as the preacher is preaching. Matthew tells us that, "Jesus came preaching." The twelve disciples were preachers preaching. Paul was a "preacher and a teacher of the gentiles." Church history has been and is being made around the world every day by preachers preaching.

Great preachers have the ability to bring profound and high truths to the bottom shelf without compromising the greatness of the truth.

When people hear a great preacher, they don't say, "That man is really smart!" They say, "Now I understand!" Billy Graham has been the most successful evangelist of this generation by delivering messages that can be understood even by children.

There is nothing to compare with the joy of seeing people come to Christ and watch them grow under your ministry.

Great preachers know when to land.

We often circle the airport many times before we come in for a landing. Or, worse still, we do several "touch and goes" before landing. We might have noticed that it is a lot easier for us to know when the other person should have landed, than it is for us to know when to bring our own sermon down the runway.

Great preachers practice what they preach.

They not only "talk the talk," they "walk the walk." Communicators may get away with private sins, but not great preachers. They not only practice what they preach, they can also preach what they practice. Jack Hayford believes that the most effective style of preaching is to speak out of the context of what God is saying to your own heart.

Great preachers know where they are going before they start.

They don't "wing it." They know what they want their audience to remember when the sermon is finished. Preparation is the preacher's friend. Often the sermon title will be remembered long after the text has been forgotten. So give good thought to your sermon title.

Great preachers realize that a sermon is like a surgery.

The preacher plays a dual role of anesthetist who keeps the patient alive during the operation, and the doctor who performs the surgery.

The anesthetist is actually more important than the surgeon. Without him it could be said that the operation was a success but the patient died. The preacher must be both. Keeping their eyes on the patient so they don't die, while they perform the operation that will make them well. It is an important role to practice. We may be having a great time up there behind the pulpit, expounding great truths, answering questions that no one is asking, while the people in the pew are miles away in their minds. In many cases it could be said, "The sermon was great, but the people were asleep and I think some of them died!"

Great preaching is the Spirit of God, using the Word of God, through the Man or Woman of God.

Jesus understood the power of these two elements working together when He said, "It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (Jn.6: 63).

And at the outset of His ministry Jesus picked up the Scroll in the synagogue and read from the book of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me..." (Lu.4: 14-18).

We know that the Spirit of God is adequate, and the Word of God is powerful...the only weak link in this potentially powerful combination is the instrument of God.

Reflections on Father's Day

Here are some questions for your consideration on this special day:

- Is my personal encounter with Jesus Christ fresh?
- What is my personal relationship with Christ right now?
- What is my relationship to my wife right now? (The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.)
- Do I spend quality time with my children?

What am I doing about my root system?

- What kind of books do I read?
- What kind of magazines are in my home and in my study?
- What kind of TV programs and movies do I watch?
- What do I view on the Web?
- Am I having regular personal and family devotions?
- Am I a man of integrity and consistency?
- Is there any bitterness or unforgiveness in my life?
- Am I seeking to grow spiritually?

How do I line up with the five characteristics of spiritual growth, which are:

1. There is a renewed awareness of sin. There always is when we get closer to God. John 16:8, Isaiah 6, Revelation 1:17-20.
2. There is a new hunger for God's word. Jer. 15:16.
3. There is a desire to live more of the Christian life style. 2 Cor. 5:17.
4. There is a new love for fellow Christians and a sincere desire to fellowship with them. John 13:35.
5. There is a desire to share Christ with others. 1 Peter 3:15.

In Conclusion

Promise Keepers and the National Center for Fathering report that:

70% of white children and 94% of black children born in 1980 now live in a fatherless home. These fatherless children have a 71% drop out rate from school, 85% are or will end up in prison and 75% will use drugs.

Among these fatherless children, young girls are more prone to becoming sexually active and have a poor self-image, while young boys are prone to become involved in gangs and violent crimes. The fact of the matter is the presence of an active, involved father has great power in the formation of young lives throughout their lifetime.

Having reflected on these questions. Let us rededicate ourselves to the pursuit of excellence in our spiritual lives so that we might be the men and the fathers that God intends for us to be. Aside from being a husband there is no more important role in life than that of a father. **God bless you fathers on your special day!**

Northwest College Alumni Golf Tournament

The Northwest College Alumni Golf Tournament has been set for Monday, August 14th at Bear Creek Country Club located in Woodinville, Washington. Registration will be \$125.00, which will include carts, balls, dinner and a silent auction. All proceeds to benefit the Alumni Scholarship Fund. This will prove to be a fantastic event at one of the NW's finest private courses. Please use the enclosed form to register, or go on line at www.nwcollege.edu/golf.

Northwest College Basketball Player

Brian Swisher, a 6'4" senior from Shelton, Washington, was named Cascade Collegiate Conference Player of the Week, NCCAA (National Christian Athletic Association) Player of the Week, and NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) National Player of the Week February 21,22. Brian finished the season as the conference's leading scorer with **20.6 points per game**.

Northwest College Ranks Tenth in Nation. Debaters Win Recognition At National Championship

Recently released national sweepstakes points for the 1999 - 2000 season by the National Parliamentary Debate Association ranks Northwest College tenth out of 288 member schools - or in the top three percent.

The sweepstakes point rankings were announced (March 12) at the national championship tournament at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska. 224 two-person teams from 81 participating institutions faced off in eight rounds of debate at the three day contest.

Northwest Coach, Associate Professor **Gary Gillespie**, was selected to be one of seven final round judges. The written critique of the seven will be published in a debate journal.

Not only is Northwest Eagle Debate one of the nation's top ten programs for the first time, but the college remains the top debate school in Washington State - a title it has held for the last two years.

Alumni & Friends Weekend 2000 September 28-30

Events include: The School of Nursing Dedication on Friday the 28th at 10:00 in the Butterfield Chapel and The Alumni & Friends Banquet that evening at Double Tree Hotel in Bellevue. **Mrs. Huldah Buntain** will speak at both events. Watch for further details and information about other events in your mail!

Distinguished Faculty Publishes Book

Associate Professor of New Testament Theology, **Dr. Blaine Charette** has just published a new book. The work is titled, **Restoring Presence, The Spirit in Matthew's Gospel** by Sheffield Academic Press. The book examines the operation of the Spirit in relation to the three theological categories of **Christology, soteriology and ecclesiology**.

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Northwest College
5520 108th Ave NE
Kirkland, WA 98033

425.889.5205

www.nwcollege.edu

publisher

Don Argue don.argue@ncag.edu

managing editor

Robert Vatter rob.vatter@ncag.edu

contributors

Dan Neary dan.neary@ncag.edu

Jim Swanson jim.swanson@ncag.edu

designer

Melissa Dillon melissa.dillon@ncag.edu

selah

"A good sermon should have an introduction and a conclusion, as close together as possible."

Overheard in the College Dining Hall. "Could we make this a prayer breakfast? I have a science test this morning."

"If your mind goes blank when you are preaching, be sure and turn off the sound."

"God could not be everywhere and therefore He made mothers."
Jewish Proverb

"Who ran to help me when I fell, And would some pretty story tell, Or kiss the place to make it well? My mother."
Ann Taylor

"Children will not remember you for the material things you provide, but for the feeling that you cherished them."
Richard L. Evans

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



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Northwest College
P.O. Box 579
Kirkland, WA 98083-0579

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