

RAISING THE STANDARD OF MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE!

APRIL 2011



Communicating Effectively

Ephesians 4:29 (KJV), "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers". ACTS is blessed with excellent curriculum. At the end of two years our students leave with great resources that can be utilized throughout their ministry. Yet there is more. Good curriculum is not enough. As oil is needed for the engine of a car to run smoothly, communication is the lubricant that enables instructors and students to work together smoothly. Communication builds and maintains the relationships necessary for ACTS to accomplish its mission. What is our mission? To pass biblical truth to the next generation by developing others for effective ministry and equipping them for lifelong learning. It is our goal to help individuals reach their maximum potential in Christ and fulfill God's call and vision for their lives. ACTS is all about "raising the standard of ministerial excellence". The greatest vision for ministry will not accomplish anything if it cannot be communicated clearly.

In this newsletter, I want to share three points about communicating effectively. These have been taken from Andrew Seidel's book *Charting A Bold Course: Training Leaders for 21st Century Ministry* (pp. 235-237).

"Body language communicates the majority of the emotional content of any message. In fact studies show that 55% of the emotional content of any message is communicated non-verbally."

(1) Communication is a complex process. The success of communication depends upon reaching a common understanding. Communication may be defined as "the process we go through to convey understanding from one person or group to another".

Of all the leadership skills, communication is the one most taken for granted. It is so easy to think that because we have talked with someone we have communicated with him. However, we have not actually communicated with him unless we have reached a common understanding. When the meaning he understands is the meaning we meant to convey, only then have we truly communicated.

(2) Communication takes place on many levels. Anything one person says to another is filtered through many grids. The speaker's grid includes his own past experiences of communication,

how he perceives the message he is communicating, what he perceives the listener's attitudes to be, and his own personal needs. Talking is such an integral part of life that we are usually unaware of the grids that shape our communication attempts. The listener has the same filters working: his own past experiences with the

speaker, what he perceives to be the speaker's intentions, how he feels about the subject of the message or the context in which it is given, and his own personal needs. As a result, people tend to hear what they expect to hear or what they want to hear. What we do not expect or want to hear is screened out. This is called "selective perception". Our tendency to selective perception is the source of many misunderstandings in the classroom and on a larger scale explains certain conflicts in the church.

For example, selective perception is the reason why two people can be part of the same class teaching and afterward describe it in entirely different terms. It is also the reason why people on different sides of a conflict can promote totally opposite descriptions of the same events. Neither group is lying; its members simply saw what they expected to see and interpreted others' actions according to their grid.

(3) Nonverbal communication is, in many situations, as important as verbal communication. Nonverbal communication consists of facial expressions, gestures, body positions, physical mannerisms, and actions. These are commonly called "body language". Body language is usually involuntary.

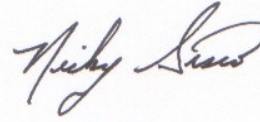


It is therefore more spontaneous. People generally do not consciously control their body language, especially their facial expressions. This means that body language, which one does not usually control, is often a more accurate reflection of the speaker's thoughts than are his words, which he normally does control carefully.

Body language communicates a powerful message. In the classroom, we need to make sure that our verbal and nonverbal communications agree that the material being taught is great, relevant, interesting and life changing. As Myron Rush of *Richer Relationships relates*, "Body language communicates the majority of

the emotional content of any message. In fact studies show that 55% of the emotional content of any message is communicated nonverbally". As *instructors*, we are *communicators*. We need to be careful that we do not just talk, we must communicate effectively.

Pursuing Ministerial Excellence,



Rev. Nicky Sisco
PRINCIPAL

MARCH 13TH was **ACTS STUDENT DAY**. To date, twenty-three churches have responded and for that we say thank you. May you experience God's favor for sowing financial seeds that will produce an apostolic harvest tomorrow.

Thank You!

Dreamlight Chapel—La	300.00		Bethel Temple:	150.00	
Agona Nkwanta:	15.00	Asamankese:	60.00	New Bortianor:	14.00
Odorkor:	80.00	Ho:	150.00	Abeka:	50.00
Tamale:	200.00	Takoradi:	100.00	Elubo:	45.00
Bonyere:	30.00	Madina:	200.00	Kasoa:	60.00
Darkuman:	25.00	Akweteman:	34.00	Winneba:	40.00
Cape Coast:	30.00	Adabraka:	14.50	Kotobabi:	60.00
Lashibi:	23.00	Achimota:	40.00	Koforidua:	50.00
				Anonymous:	500.00



Celebrating Excellence @ ACTS



Rev. D.K. Tei, past immediate superintendent of UPCI—Ghana, entered the ministry in 1976 while attending Bible College. After completing his theological training at Ghana College of the Bible in 1978, he was transferred from Suhum to Nkawkaw. Later he was moved to La, Dansoman (Bethel Temple) and then Tema—Community 8.

Over the years, Rev. Tei has served in various leadership roles within our organization. Namely Greater Accra Youth President and Regional Presbyter, Dean of Students, Assistant Superintendant and in 2006 he became the first nationally elected superintendant of UPCI—Ghana. He retired from pastoral ministry in December 2009.

Rev. Tei travels throughout Ghana as an itinerant speaker and continues to teach at African Centre for Theological Studies.

We are grateful for the twenty years Rev. D.K. Tei has taught in the Bible school. God bless you for your faithfulness.