

Deep and Wide

by: *Bob Adams*

90 years ago today humorist Will Rogers appeared in his first movie. As a salute to one of the greatest observers of his culture, I'm launching this blog with two favorite Rogers quotes:

A man only learns in two ways, one by reading, and the other by association with smarter people.

Things ain't what they used to be – and probably never were.

I'm inviting you to join me in a weekly conversation about all things connected with the church and its attempts to interact with the culture around us. We all can learn by reading, but we can all learn more by our "associations" with other people. I'll start the conversation – why don't you join in?

My background is from a church associate pastor role of over 23 years. For the past four years, I have served as a church development consultant with JH Batten, a church design-build company. My current role allows me the wonderful opportunity to explore what churches are doing today to grow and be healthy, and to help them achieve their vision.

I'm a student of history, but I view it as a bridge to our future rather than a rock to cling to. Let's celebrate the past and learn from it, but let's not get stuck there. As Rogers observed, our view of history grows dimmer the longer we move away from an event in time.

My formal theological training came at a time when churches were expected to provide programs for everything and to involve members in hours of meetings and activities. I bought into that model full steam ahead – but to what result? Churches with all heat and no light? I've come full circle now, and am growing restless with the complexity and ineffectiveness of church today.

It's only appropriate that I close with a Scripture passage from Proverbs 25 suggested by my editor and good friend, Karen Butler:

2 God delights in concealing things;
scientists delight in discovering things.
3 Like the horizons for breadth and the ocean for depth,
the understanding of a good leader is broad and deep.
The Message

I'm certainly no scientist, but I have a burning passion to discover things that will help the church, the Body of Christ, grow spiritually and numerically. You know – deep and wide.