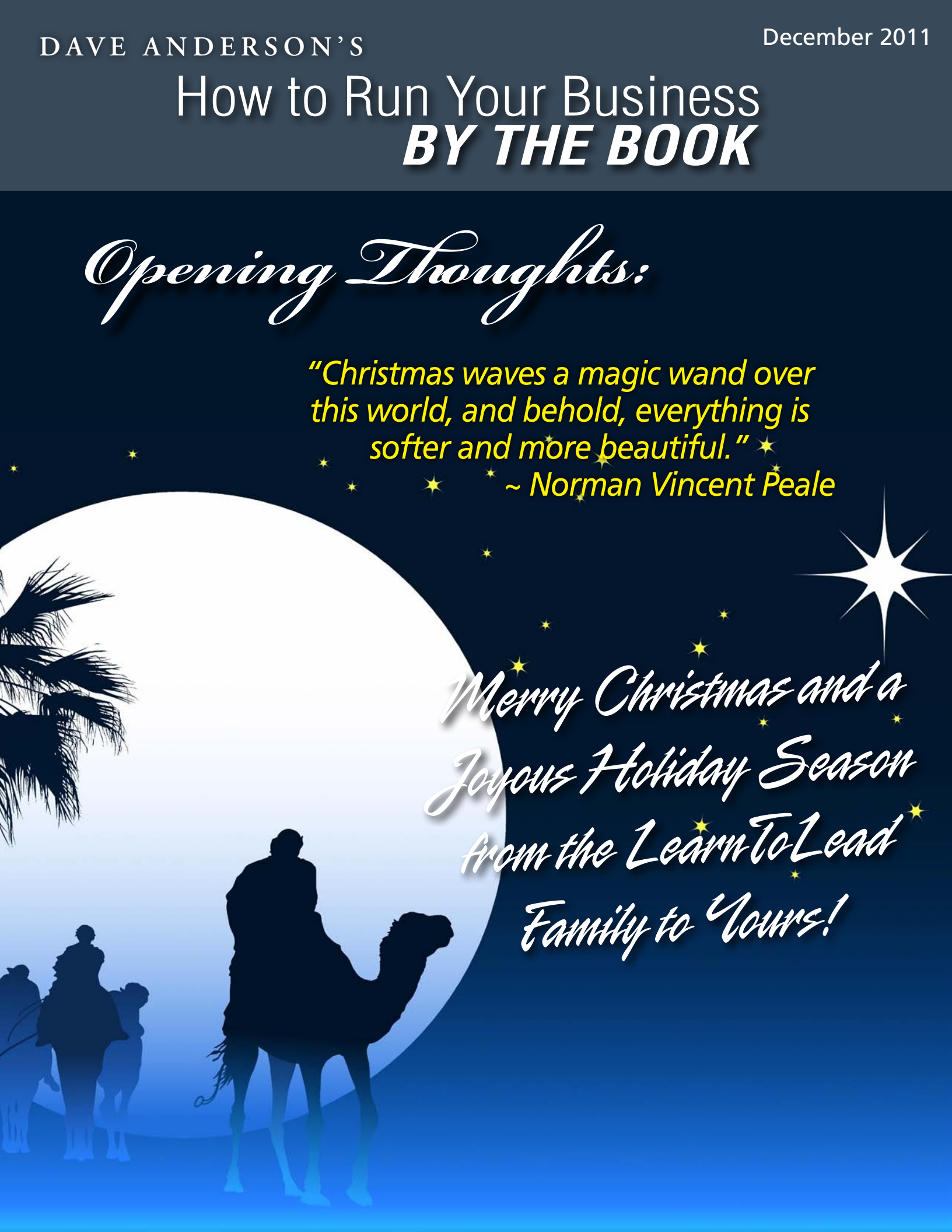


How to Run Your Business **BY THE BOOK**

Opening Thoughts:

"Christmas waves a magic wand over this world, and behold, everything is softer and more beautiful." ★

~ Norman Vincent Peale



*Merry Christmas and a
Joyous Holiday Season
from the Learn To Lead
Family to Yours!*

How to Run Your Business **BY THE BOOK**



This Month's Feature:

Complain to God, not about Him!

(NOTE: Highlighted links in each section may be opened by placing the cursor over the link and pressing Ctrl + click)

When things get tough or go wrong in your business or personal life is it wrong to complain to God? The psalmist wrote:

"I pour out my complaint before him; before him I tell my trouble." Psalm 142:2

Wisdom Hunters daily devotional offers the following insight to help us understand what God expects, and even invites from us when we go through rough spots:

A heavy heart needs an outlet to express fears and frustrations. If this option is absent there is a loss of perspective and an extended stay in pain. It may be the weight of leadership sapping your joy and testing your trust. The death of a loved one may have sent you into a downward spiral of loneliness and loathing. Maybe you feel unappreciated and ignored to the point of painful rejection. Troubles need a trusted and safe outlet.

It is in these moments of madness that we need a safe place to share our soul. The more we bring our complaints before Christ, the less we will complain before men. We have permission to complain to God, but not about God. He collates our complaints and files them in our folder of faith. Christ patiently hears our protests like a caring and just judge.

"I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul" (Job 10:1).

Your heavenly Father wants to hear your troubles, not for His enlightenment, but for your engagement with Him. You reveal troubles to God, not that He may see them, but that you may see Him. Your trust in the Lord triumphs over troubles, as you proceed in the process of prayer. Persevere in prayer and you will pronounce your troubles insignificant in comparison to intimacy with Christ.

You will avoid the troubles that come with complaining to people, if you first complain to Christ. Don't hold back because your complaint to Christ is your relief and recognition of Him. Christ's care and love will move you from chronic complaining to authentic thanksgiving. Offer your complaints as a sacrifice to Christ, and He will burn away the dross of fear and anger and replace them with His gift of peace and joy.

"Hear me, O God, as I voice my complaint; protect my life from the threat of the enemy" (Psalm 64:1).

Indeed, look to the Lord as you linger in uncertain days. It is better to vent your frustrations to your heavenly Father than for your soul to stew in bitterness. Complaints to Christ are your opportunity to come clean in your heart and to harness heaven's hope. He listens, He loves, He understands, He consoles, He encourages and He gives grace. Pour out your heart to Him and He will fill your heart with His Holy Spirit's comfort.

Jesus experienced this tension, "He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will" (Matthew 26:39).

What complaints do you need to bring before Christ, and trust Him instead of men? Begin this vital discipline today!

The **BOOK** History & Trivia:

Approximately how far is Bethlehem from Jerusalem?

- A. 1 mile
- B. 6 miles
- C. 11 miles
- D. 126 miles



Answer: B

How to Run Your Business *BY THE BOOK*



A Dose of Inspiration: *Give More this Christmas!*

In addition to the material gifts you'll give to others this Christmas, following are four inspiring and helpful offerings you can give team members that bring a substantial investment on your time:

1. **An end-of-the-year performance review.** Bring closure to what he or she did well, honest and constructive feedback for how they can improve, and heartfelt appreciation for their contributions to your organization.
2. **A personal planning session for the first quarter.** While it's wise to set their individual forecast for the year, it's even more powerful when you can narrow their focus to a first quarter game plan that creates urgency to jump out of the gates fast to begin the new year.
3. **A focused personal growth program for 2012.** Help each team member under your charge devise a personal growth program for the upcoming year. This can include identifying areas where you see potential for growth and prescribing resources for them to use—books, DVDs, CDs, courses—in order to maximize their potential in growth-target areas.
4. **Conduct a “how can I better serve you?” conversation.** Include verbiage similar to this: “As we go into the new year, I'd like for you to share with me what I can do to help you become more successful, and what you need from me to do your job better. In fact, if there are things I do that make

it difficult for you to perform well, please let me know so that I can correct it. Please be as specific as possible, as I want to do my best to serve you at a higher level in 2012.”

By THE BOOK Lifestyle: How Do You Honor God?

Here's an inspiring word from Joel and Victoria Osteen on honoring God.

“REMIND PEOPLE to be submissive to [their] magistrates and authorities, to be obedient, to be prepared and willing to do any upright and honorable work.” (Titus 3:1, AMP)

What do you do to honor God? A lot of times people think, “I go to church to honor God. I read my Bible to honor God. I sing and clap in worship to honor God.” And yes, those are ways to honor God, but did you know that you honor God just as much when you get to work on time? You honor God when you are productive each day and honor the people in authority over you. You honor God when you excel in your career.

*“There has been only one
Christmas – the rest are
anniversaries.”*

~ W.J. Cameron

Actions speak louder than words. When you give your very best in the workplace, your whole life is giving praise to God. Showing up with a good attitude, being friendly, organized, just being your best — people will notice there's something different about you. They'll want what you have.

As believers, we should set the standard in all areas of life. People should see the depth of your character and your spirit of excellence and know that you are a child of the Most High God. Make the decision to honor Him in all that you do because You are His representative on the earth today!



Matthew 25:35 Foundation:

Dave Anderson's LEARNTOLEAD is joining the Matthew 25:35 Foundation to boost their likes! Every person who clicks the "Like" button on the Matthew 25:35 Foundation page through the rest of 2011 will be instantly qualified to win these prizes! **Prize A:** Dave Anderson's By THE BOOK Package (\$440 value!). **Prize B:** \$100 American Express gift card. **Prize C:** \$50 American Express gift card. [Click HERE to Like Matthew 25:35 Foundation.](#) *Winners will be announced on January 3, 2012.

Book Dave!

To book Dave to speak to your business or church group, contact Rhonda@learntolead.com for details.



Dave Anderson

Helpful Website:

Visit and share Porn to Purity, an inspiring and helpful resource for those struggling with this life-stealing bondage. [Click here](#) to learn more.

New Blog Article:

Read and share, "The Lost Art of Taking Personal Responsibility!" at <http://blog.learntolead.com>.

Upcoming Workshop:

I'll teach my revised and updated, Up Your Business 2.0 Super Leadership Workshop in Atlanta in January! [Click here](#) for all the details and to review the powerful new agenda!



PARTING SHOT:

*"Don't be afraid to say, 'Merry Christmas!'
If it's what you celebrate, it's what you
should say. Denying Christ, even in small
ways, is still denying Christ."*

~ Dave Anderson

Grow your team with a one-year subscription to Dave Anderson's monthly *Leading at the Next Level* newsletter for \$99 per year. Site license permits the reproduction of this newsletter at the client's physical location.

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