TO: Professional Development Committee  
FROM: Greg Spencer  
RE: Sabbatical Report  
DATE: February 16, 2009

Here is my belated sabbatical report. I plead the Tea Fire, along with general and specific acts of procrastination. I have pasted below my sabbatical goals, as stated in my sabbatical application. I have made comments on progress toward each goal.

Goals to be met through the sabbatical leave:

1. Make significant progress on book project: *Shouting Softly: Recovering the Quieter Virtues in a Boisterous World*

   Indeed, this project was the main work of the sabbatical. I completed about 200 pages between January and September, and finished the last 90 pages during fall semester. I have included a few details from the project, now titled *The Quieter Virtues: Living Well in Calamitous Times* (but the title may yet change). The book is now with the editors of InterVarsity Press. It will be returned to me on March 6th so that I can begin my last edit. The book will be released in April, 2010.

2. Submit book proposal to various publishers


3. Use this material to aid in revising COM 140, Media Ethics

   I am currently using about half of the manuscript in COM 140. The students have read one chapter.

4. Begin a file of material for third novel, a first-person narrative

   Not much progress here.

5. Recover from stressful years caring for Janet’s mother who has Alzheimer’s

   As is typical, one stress was replaced with another. Alas, such is life!

I would be happy to submit any other materials: a sample chapter or the entire manuscript.
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Definitions and Disciplines
(parent virtues in italics)

Discernment is the wisdom to recognize the difference between life and death—and to choose life.

Discipline: Attentiveness (the stewardship of the present)

Innocence a sense of justice that directs us to set all good things free, and to bind up evil—without our being bound by it.

Discipline: Advocacy (arguing for the good and against evil)

Authenticity is a rigorous inside-out consistency that courageously cares for others.

Discipline: Real Presence (being fully, sincerely in-the-present)

Modesty is gladly tempering the expression of our fullness with an understanding of our emptiness.

Discipline: Timely Remembrance (remembering to learn the truth about the self)

Reverence is, in faith, kneeling before the sacred and standing up to the profane.

Discipline: Astonishment (the willful appreciation for the miracle of the ordinary)

Contentment is the strength hope gives us to live the unsatisfied life in a satisfying way.

Discipline: Ars Morendi (the art of dying well)

Generosity is the predisposition to love open-handedly.

Discipline: Incarnational appreciation (imitating Christ’s empathy and poverty)