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**Fellowship of Companies for Christ
 Greater Hartford Chapter
 R HOUSE Restaurant
 September 21, 2011**

- Opening prayer / praise reports
- Introductions
- Today's Topic: **Maintenance: a necessity, not a frill**

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds; for riches do not endure forever, and a crown is not secure for all generations. —Proverbs 27:23-24

My father-in-law was Director of Maintenance at Old Sturbridge Village for decades. Can you imagine trying to maintain priceless, rare and unique centuries-old buildings and their contents from relentless bombardment by weather, wildlife, aging and the general public? Some OSV leaders were more understanding about allocating resources to maintenance, others weren't. Some viewed maintenance as a nuisance and a frill. He used to warn them, "pay me now, or pay me later," but they wouldn't listen.

I'm also going through a major maintenance project at my log home. If we aren't diligent about maintaining logs, eventually they will rot. Some owners of log homes choose to coast, and pay a huge price later.

Here's my point: how are you with business maintenance? There are many dimensions: emotional, mental, physical, financial and spiritual. Are you allocating enough resources to maintain what you have? How can you grow if you don't maintain what you have? It's true in your business and church. Let's examine some core maintenance issues from the Book of Revelation and discuss how they apply today:

- You've left your first love. Have you drifted from the core purpose of your business?*
- Compromised teaching. Are you drifting toward the world's principles, strategies and tactics?*
- Are you keeping and enabling bad employees who are polluting the culture?*
- Are you watching and strengthening that which you still have, or careless?*
- Are you feeling intimidated because you're a small organization, or moving through the open doors?*
- Have you become comfortable and apathetic, or are you still hungry and enthusiastic?*

Evaluate yourself from 1 (weak) to 10 (strong) in terms of "maintenance."	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Why did you give yourself this rating?										
What benefits might you enjoy by becoming wiser in this area?										
What specific actions can you take to become wiser in this area?										

- Next meeting: here on Wednesday, October 5 @ 7:30 am
- Upcoming events/news
- Closing prayer