

Monthly Musings



courtesy of Fletcher Consulting

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Special Christmas Edition

I hope you enjoy this abbreviated edition of Monthly Musings. Please delight in the time spent with family and friends to celebrate the birth of our risen Lord Jesus Christ. As you drive frantically around shopping, remember that **Jesus is truly the Reason for the Season.**

SMART MOVE:

Send everyone home for Christmas - today!

If the person next to you at work is still performing in a diligent manner, odds are excellent that YOU are the one slacking off by daydreaming about Christmas.

Kudos to the *Fort Worth Business Press* for sharing [this article from Bloomberg News](#) that reveals how much of a challenge we have managing employees distracted by the grandest holiday period of the year.

... odds are excellent that YOU are the one slacking off...

Bloomberg reports that 60% of younger workers have already checked out mentally, and 40% of baby boomers are operating at a similar level.

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How can a smart manager maximize the office's performance rather than watch it sink into ineptitude? Here are your tips to maximize productivity between now and week's end:

1. Foster a positive work environment, celebrating the Christmas holiday and shopping season rather than complaining about lower work productivity.

To increase morale, allow employees time to shop...

2. Be sure to have employees checking on each other's work for accuracy; and you do some of that inspecting, too

- particularly on proofreading. Because your employees are distracted with the conversations about Christmas, traveling, visiting with family and shopping, they will not be at their peak performance. Neither will be the person proofing their work.

3. To increase morale, allow employees time to shop, either by giving them an afternoon off or allowing them dedicated time for online shopping. They are going to sneak into "shopping mode" on company time anyway and check their Amazon account, so earn their appreciation by giving them the time

they crave. As a result, they will concentrate more on their work. Now get back to work and roll those sad puppy eyes at the boss. Perhaps he/she will give you some dedicated shopping therapy time.

Have a Merry Christmas!

SMART STUNT:

Zeke raises \$\$\$ for Salvation Army

It's difficult to say which entity won more on Sunday night's game between the Dallas Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers: The Cowboys or the Salvation Army.

Ezekiel Elliott's dive into the Salvation Army red kettle captivated the nation's attention as announcers wondered how much a fine the NFL would impose upon the rookie running back.

In the post-game interview, Zeke said he would match whatever amount the NFL might fine him as a contribution to the Salvation Army. Yesterday the NFL, recognizing the popularity of his move, said it would not charge a fine.

By the way, Salvation Army online donations spiked by a whopping 61% in the next 12 hours.

What can you do that will raise awareness of a non-profit closest to your heart? Ezekiel has certainly raised the bar.



My two Christmas gifts to you

Thank you for being a loyal reader of Monthly Musings. To express my appreciation, please accept these two gifts.

1. [Visit this website](#) to experience the most spine-tingling, raised-hair-on-the-back-of-your-neck experience you could ever imagine as the [U.S. Air Force Band](#) gives a flash mob performance of Christmas music you will forward to friends and family.

2. Please join me on weekday mornings for Run with Endurance, a daily devotional that I currently email to 92 fellow Christian brothers and sisters. This is inspired by Dave South, the voice of Texas Aggie sports. [To sign up, please click here](#) and I will add you to the list. Start your mornings off with inspiration and encouragement through this very brief devotional.

