

THE LEADING EDGE
leaders worth following

Earl Creps' monthly leadership newsletter
ecreps@agts.edu

Director of the aGts D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership
<http://www.aGts.edu/dmin/index.html>

August 2003

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A new D.Min. cohort is forming Oct. 13-17, 2003:

- Leadership focus
- Pentecostal perspective
- In-service convenience
- Cohort experience
- Customizable program
- Contact: ctaylor@agts.edu

Impact player: Deborah Fegler

Early in September, Deborah Fegler, our D.Min. Team Secretary, will be moving to Singapore to become a member of the faculty at the Asia Theological Center for Evangelism and Mission. Deborah completed her M.Div. degree at AGTS last May and has served the D.Min. program with great distinction for over two years. We appreciate Deborah's contribution so much, and are so proud of her!

Online integrity resources

Dr. Cheryl Taylor, our D.Min. Program Coordinator, has completed very important research on the moral integrity of Christian ministers. Cheryl's work offers hope for preventing tragedy. You will find one of her presentations at:

http://www.agts.edu/community/sexual_integrity.html

Cheryl is already providing preventive training on these issues in a number of venues. Contact her to schedule training at ctaylor@agts.edu

"text me" statistics

33 million text messages were sent in the US by cellular phones in 2001. 252.8 million were sent in December of that year. 996

million cell text messages were sent in June of 2002, with the monthly total rising to 1.1 billion in December 2002. [Source: Cellular Telecommunications Internet Association]

read this book

Ed Stetzer's *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age* (Broadman & Holman 2003) is going to be a winner. I spoke to Ed recently and am very impressed with the quality of both his field research and his insights into the emerging church. Check out the book at:

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0805427309/qid%3D1059142020/sr%3D11-1/ref%3Dsr%5F11%5F1/104-2273446-6618328>

Quotable: the edge

"People used to think the edge was the place where one fell off into the abyss. Today we know the edge is where innovation takes place. It is at the edge that true transforming mission happens." [Paul McKaughan, President of the EFMA]

leaderlife: out on the edge

A lot of thinking about leadership has been reduced to little more than jargon. We strive to be "ahead of the curve," "out of the box," "in the loop," and at "the cutting edge"—all at the same time. How did we ever get along before curves, boxes, loops, and edges?

In the Age of Discovery (15th & 16th century) those who believed in a flat earth thought long-distance sailing vessels would actually cruise right off the edge of the world. If they survived the sea monsters, that is. Change-resistant leaders could be thought of in this way, as flat-earthers: they refuse to face the fact that change management is now what we do for a living. Many days, it is all we do.

Another sort of leader is so change-addicted that she is willing to sell her soul to emulate the latest fad. This person preaches expository messages this month, introduces hip hop music to the worship service next month, and changes her title to "Lead Cultural Architect and Spirituality Coach" the month after that. This leader turns relevance into an idol, burning so much energy in its pursuit that the reason for leading is lost in the shuffle.

Balanced leaders understand "the edge" neither as a nightmare zone of unforeseen consequences, nor as the hopeless quest to keep pace with whatever is on MTV. As Paul McKaughan points out, the true edge is where the redemptive mission of Jesus encounters a world alienated from God.

This connection is so utterly impossible to manage in our own strength that one of two things will happen: (1) we will be sensitized to our helplessness and return to a childlike dependence on God that leads to innovations above and beyond what we ask and think, or; (2) we will retreat into some version of the flat earth or fad-chasing mentalities.

The mission of Jesus is magnetic for the power of the Spirit. Stay at the edge. Do only that which cannot be done. And God will show up.

Be a leader worth following,
Earl
ecreps@agts.edu

D.Min. program vision: leaders worth following

D.Min. program values:

- the extra mile—others before ourselves
- the personal touch—everyone counts
- the cutting edge—we get there first
- the real deal—excellence in everything
- the better way—listen to improve
- the positive word—choose to encourage
- the unique person—enjoy diversity
- the X factor—synergy by trust and truth

D.Min. team:

Earl Creps—Program Director	ecreps@aGts.edu
Deborah Fegler, M.Div.--Department Secretary	
dfegler@aGts.edu	
Stephen Lim—Project Coordinator	slim@aGts.edu
Cheryl Taylor—Program Coordinator	ctaylor@aGts.edu

Archives:

Past issues are archived at:
http://aGts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html

Talk to us:

Phone: 1-800-467-aGts

Fax: (417) 268-1047

Mail: aGts, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65802

Web: <http://www.aGts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Deborah Fegler

Department Secretary
Doctor of Ministry Office
Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
1435 North Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802
www.agts.edu
1-800-467-AGTS