

THE LEADING EDGE
leaders worth following

Earl Creps' monthly leadership newsletter

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

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Impact player: Wayde Goodall

Wayde Goodall (Cohort #2), Senior Pastor of First Assembly of God, Winston-Salem, NC presented his D.Min. research at our May 2003 Project Symposium. Wayde's project took the form of a textbook on marriage and family issues that will be published by Global University in the fall of 2003. The publishers estimate that his text will be translated into at least 12 languages in which it could impact as many as a million homes within the next five years. Marriage and family is the topic most requested internationally from the publisher. Congratulations, Wayde!

A new D.Min. cohort is forming October, 4-8, 2004:

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

Internet resources : purpose drive life assessment

<http://purposedrivenlife.com/free.asp>

Rick Warren's *40 Days of Purpose* is being used in all varieties of churches across the nation. The link above will take you to the free resources associated with the book, including a handy purpose-assessment inventory that you can easily adapt for leadership training or self-assessment.

Statistics: AIDS

"It is estimated that over 8,000 people die every day from AIDS. Worldwide, 20 million and another 40 million are infected with the HIV virus. Especially alarming is the frightening spread of AIDS among the world's poorest and most populous nations—up to a third of the adult population in some African nations have this disease."

--*Religion and Ethics Newsletter*, October 2002

Read this book

Simply Strategic Stuff by Tim Stevens and Tony Morgan, Senior Management Team members at Granger Community Church in Granger, Indiana, provides 99 strategies for preventing a ministry from becoming so absorbed in the details of management that the larger vision perishes. Check it out at: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0764426257/qid=1074971341/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/103-1435824-0804635?v=glance&s=books Also, the Easum Bandy group is offering a workshop in support of the book. www.easumbandy.com

Quotable: what you don't know...

"Leaders are visionaries with a poorly developed sense of fear and no concept of the odds against them."

--Artificial heart inventor Robert Jarvik quoted in *Rev.*, Jan/Feb 2004, p. 17.

Leaderlife: three churches, three callings

After three years of field research studying the emerging church I am frequently asked, "What's going on out there?" Most leaders sense that things are changing—and they are right. The change has huge implications for our ministry calling and context.

In very general terms, I have found the American church to reside in three neighborhoods:

1. *Traditional*: this sort of church is defined its commitment to doing ministry according to forms received from the past. Success is judged by how close we come to the way we've always done things. The upside of this approach is its stability and faithfulness to the message, while the downside can be intolerance and irrelevance. Serving in this context requires the gift of *execution*, the ability to bring the forms to a high state of excellence.

2. *Contemporary*: these more suburban churches are the product of the Boomer generation, tending to do ministry in ways borrowed from larger churches. The advantages here are bottom-line pragmatism and large-scale organization. The disadvantages can be shallow experience and suburban blandness. Serving in this middle range requires a gift for *transitioning*, managing the many small and medium-scale changes that make up the life of the contemporary church.

3. *Emerging*: younger pastors are developing non-traditional churches which may include elements of the formal and the contemporary, but are largely experimental. The positive aspects here are innovation and missionary activity among twenty-somethings. The negative potential is that experimentation with structure may lead to experimentation with the gospel. Service in the emerging church suits those with gifts that support *innovation*.

My major recommendations: (1) Calling must fit context. The innovator unleashed in the traditional church will create only a disaster, while the formal person operating in a contemporary church will feel betrayed, etc. Know who you are and serve in a place that needs that person. (2) The older must help the younger. Churches of type #1 and #2 must plan now to plant, host, or fund churches and/or ministries of type #3. Young adults are the least evangelized generation in the US. To ignore type #3 is to make this condition perpetual. We owe better to our young people.

Be a leader worth following,

Earl

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D.Min. program mission: transforming leaders to transform their organizations

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

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