

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: Reginald Stone

Reginald Stone (Cohort #4) completed a Doctor of Ministry project at aGts dealing with church planting among Hispanics living in the Carolinas. "My project is not just an academic exercise," Reg points out. He is already ahead of his timetable to launch 50 Hispanic churches in the next five years, and was scheduled simply to start the first one as part of his project. However, Reg launched 5 before the project's conclusion, one of which had 115 present and 8 decisions for Christ in its very first service. Congratulations, Reg!

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

Leadership roundtables: Stanley Grenz

In 2004, aGts will host two Leadership Roundtable conferences with Dr. Stanley Grenz, one of America's premiere scholars of culture and the church. The theme this year is, "Ministry on the Edge: The Mission to Post-Christian America." Conference dates are April 12-13. Space is very limited. The conferences can be taken for up to three aGts Masters credits. Information and registration can be found online at:

http://www.agts.edu/conferences/roundtable_2004april/agts_april04roundtable.pdf

Internet resources : improve your search techniques

<http://www.sc.edu/beaufort/library/bones.html> .

If you need to brush up on your Web searching techniques, you'll find some good material at "Bare Bones 101" This resource has been created by Ellen Chamberlain, Head Librarian at the University of South Carolina Beaufort campus.

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: Learning Journeys

Learning Journeys (Davies-Black Publishing, 2000) is an anthology supplying hard-earned lessons from strategic leaders who have been there and done that. Drawn from personal experience, this volume looks at leadership from the inside, as you take a trip through the school of pain. Check it out at: http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0891061479/qid=1077843628/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/103-8997012-7879021?v=glance&s=books

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: the day my team fired me

I knew something was up when our team had a closed-door meeting—without me, their fearless leader. When the door opened I was summoned in and took a seat.

The team started the meeting by informing me that they were deeply concerned for my health and welfare, given the demands of travel, teaching, administration, etc. They went on to point out that if I didn't mend my ways, something bad was probably going to happen to me. By implication, of course, this meant that something bad would happen to the team as well.

The truth is always my friend. So when I was confronted I had to confess my sins: after just having spent a week teaching on self-leadership, I was living so far beyond my physical and emotional limits that my well-being as a human was in jeopardy. I told them simply that everything they were observing was true, that I did not feel well, that I was indeed beyond my boundaries, and that I was blowing it for them.

They asked me to talk out my PDA on the spot and book several vacation days. (This is now referred to on the team as being "fired." We have since "fired" another team member for a day.) They made it clear that we were not negotiating. I took the first of the days that week. I take the next one tomorrow.

I have learned a hard lesson about setting priorities, and about the absolute necessity of working with people who will tell you the truth. Leaders who intimidate, evade, or fight back are robbing both themselves and their colleagues.

I am also completely re-thinking my decision-making method when it comes to work-related assignments. The first part of the new method is not say "yes" until I have had time to think; the second part is not going it alone.

My major recommendation: surround yourself with people who love you enough to tell you how it really is. Love them enough to create an atmosphere where the truth has a fighting chance.

I feel better already.

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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