

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: David Crosby

A member of Cohort 6, David is pioneering a church in upstate New York. Pocono Community Church is growing rapidly under his leadership, with 1000 people attending the 2003 Easter outreach. A major renovation of the congregation's website was developed for one of David's D.Min. electives. His busy members tend to commute long distances for work, so the site is a key to keeping everyone in the loop at church. Check it out at: www.poconocc.com

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 roundtable: Stanley Grenz

aGts is hosting a Leadership Roundtable conference 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 in Denver. 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/roundtable_april04.html

Internet resources : online leadership archives

<http://www.fastcompany.com/guides/leadership.html>

Fast Company has a great collection of articles on leadership themes. The link above will take you to their section on Leadership Styles. Then go to their homepage where, toward the bottom, you'll find links to similar archives on Leadership Lessons, Leading Your Team, and Great Leaders. Recommended.

Statistics: bible reading?

"Many single adults 'profess to live by the Bible without ever having read more than 5- pages of it. Their knowledge of what is in it come from their parents, their preachers, and their Bible study leaders, as well as from movies such as *Left Behind*. There is no one thing that can be said about all of these interpreters except that they all have more power than the text."

Read this book: movie-based illustrations

Looking to develop more visual support for your speaking ministry? Check out Zondervan's new title, *More Movie-Based Illustrations for Preaching and Teaching*. This book offers 101 complete illustrations tied to film. You will get both great resources *and* lots of models for incorporating the cinema in your teaching. Find the book at:

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0310248345/qid=1079190798/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/103-3070608-1737447?v=glance&s=books

Quotable: the impact of TV preachers

"We live in a media-saturated age in which we can watch, listen to, or read the brightest and best preachers at any time. The pressure on the local pastor to match this eloquence is felt on both sides of the pulpit."

--Editorial, *Christianity Today*, 9 December 2002.

Leaderlife: attending conferences like the pro's

I have attended enough conferences in the last 10 years to qualify for "professional" status. Here are some hard lessons learned about how to maximize the value of such experiences:

1. *Arrive late and depart early*: your time is a precious asset. Most conferences have the stuff that matters in the middle; so be around for that, but don't be afraid to skip the ramp-up and concluding aspects. (aGts conferences are short—they are *all middle*.)

2. *Skip most of the sessions*: God created conventions so we could network with influential people, not so you could listen to speeches. Attend only the session that are precisely relevant. Otherwise, lurk in the halls, at the vendor tables, and anywhere coffee is found. I was able to publish an article last year because I bumped into an editor at a book table. (aGts conferences are almost 50% interaction—we actually want you to connect with people.)

3. *Only geeks wear nametags*: you get the idea. Having a badge on is like carrying a sign reading "No One Knows Me!" Introduce yourself appropriately and beam or hardcopy a business card when necessary. Follow-up by email. (You don't have to wear a tag at aGts conferences, unless you're a....you know.)

4. *Don't stand in line to meet famous people*: they hate this, especially when dead tired after speaking. Waiting to meet conference celebrities makes you look small time. Be bold. Have confidence in your calling, and you'll be surprised what happens. I got to know both George Hunter and Leonard Sweet, in part, from driving them to airports. (aGts conferences are kept small—so you can get up close to our guest speakers.)

5. *Buy audio of interesting sessions*: listen to these products *after* the conference when you're commuting, etc. Networking time is often wasted by following the conference schedule (which is also for geeks.) Be a player. Spend time with people when they are available—listen to data dumps after the fact. (aGts conference content is posted on the internet—so you control the information flow.)

6. *Never eat or have coffee alone*: breaking bread with new friends is the best way to grow your personal network. (aGts conferences feature great coffee—we recognize that caffeine is the lubricant of greatness. In fact, we even have our own brand of coffee: *aGts Blend*.)

7. *Bring work and multi-task shamelessly*: the travel time to an event, and the hours spent at the hotel and even in sessions is a great opportunity to get caught up on projects, especially writing. (You sit at tables during an aGts conference—we let you decide what to work on.)

8. *Keep a log:* I am most creative on the road, so I write down every new thought. A typical conference will generate about a dozen new ideas for writing, speaking, research, planning, etc. If it doesn't, I don't attend that one again. In fact, if I don't get ideas for teachings, articles, and books, while listening to a speaker, I'm not sure he or she has any anointing. (If you come to an aGts conference and go home without a lot of creative ideas.....well, you won't.)

My major recommendation: See the experience as an opportunity to serve. I know how all the above sounds. But if you ask the Lord to connect you with people *you can help* at a conference, I don't think you'll be disappointed. Sow and reap: open doors for others, and doors will open for you.

By the way, I'm writing this newsletter at a conference.

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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