

## 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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#### **In this issue: new stuff!**

- New blog edition of the *Leading Edge*
- New online journal @ AGTS
- New pre-doctoral program @ AGTS
- LeaderLife: the educational journey

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#### **New blog edition of the *Leading Edge*!**

"Blog" is short for "web log," essentially a personal website where you can post thoughts, photos, links, etc. at your convenience and receive feedback in the form of posts and emails. The blog version of this newsletter, and other leadership-related postings, now appear at: [www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge](http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge). Check it out, and post your comments.

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#### **New online journal @ AGTS!**

AGTS has just launched an online journal of practical theology entitled, *Encounter*, which will explore the nature and function of Pentecostal ministry. Very practical. Very insightful. Check it out at: <http://www.encounterjournal.com>

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#### **New pre-doctoral program @ AGTS!**

*FasTrak* is the new pre-doctoral experience at AGTS.

Students with an M.A. now can earn academic eligibility for the Doctor of Ministry program @ AGTS in half the time! In the *FasTrak* model, students may choose to take AGTS courses for six credits instead of three, potentially reducing their study time to two years or less! Additional credits are earned through higher reading and writing requirements.

*FasTrak* advantages include:

- **Speed**—doubling the credits lets you achieve eligibility in half the time
- **Custom Fit**—courses that suit your interests (three-or six-credit options)
- **Scheduling Flexibility**—a year-round schedule to fit your calendar
- **Convenience**—locations near you, and no need to relocate
- **Less Travel**—doubling credits reduces the amount of travel required
- **Excellent Teaching**—world-class professors from quality institutions
- **Relevant Classes**—directly applicable to your ministry context
- **Support Team**—we're ready to walk you through the entire process
- **Modular Format**—most class sessions can be completed in one week
- **Academic Eligibility**—*FasTrak* provides M.Div. Equivalency, the academic requirement for admission to the D.Min. program.

A broad range of courses, designed to provide excellent preparation for a successful D.Min. experience, are offered at campuses around the country, such as:

- Springfield, Missouri
- Kirkland, Washington
- Phoenixville, Pennsylvania
- Phoenix, Arizona
- Conferences and seminars across the United States

For more information about *FasTrak*, contact the D.Min. Team at AGTS (417-268-1000, [dmin@agts.edu](mailto:dmin@agts.edu)) or visit [www.agts.edu/fastrak](http://www.agts.edu/fastrak) where you can find a downloadable brochure and other materials.

See you on the *FasTrak*...

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## **A new D.Min. cohort is forming February 14-18, 2005!**

- Leadership focus
  - Pentecostal perspective
  - In-service convenience
  - Cohort experience
  - Customizable program
  - Contact: [lodea@aGts.edu](mailto:lodea@aGts.edu)
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### **LeaderLife: the educational journey**

In 1992 I had a decision to make. Having already earned an M.A. and a Ph.D. in Communication, and holding a Certificate of Ministry from what was then called the Berean School of the Bible, I had the opportunity to return to school at AGTS by extension.

I had already served as a staff member once and now was pastoring my second church. Did I really need to do any more school? After all, I was able to preach, lead worship, facilitate meetings, marry, bury, and all the rest. Was there any point to studying things like New Testament theology, or leadership dynamics at this point?

I decided to try it anyway, mainly because I enjoy learning so much. Ten years, and much personal growth later, I graduated with my own D.Min. and became the Director of the program because of the change it made in my own life and ministry.

I now see why education needs to be a lifelong journey, rather than a four-year event culminating in graduation. Here are four of my reasons:

- *The classroom can be a mirror on life:* when I take a class on team-based ministry knowing that I have a training time with my team the following week, that course has my *full attention*. Learning venues like AGTS provide the kind of reflection on ministry practice that will produce 40 years of experience, rather than 4 years of experience ten times.
- *Lifelong learning is the oxygen of effectiveness:* while the truth of God's Word doesn't change, the culture we need to reach and the dynamics of ministry leadership are both morphing by the minute. The notion that I can receive one-shot preparation that will ready me for a lifetime of ministry is no longer valid, if it ever was. Effective leaders are lifelong learners.
- *I should be trained to be bigger than my task:* Leaders who are prepared only for the task at hand tend to struggle in highly complex environments. They also have greater difficulty expanding their influence. Education stretches leaders beyond the boundaries of their daily work, allowing them to reflect on it and grow in it.
- *The power of example is enormous:* John Maxwell has pointed out that I am only a leader if someone is following me. How can I ask others to learn from me, if I am not involved in learning myself? Learners produce learners.

These convictions grew in me as I pursued ongoing graduation education at AGTS. They represent some of the values you will find in all our programs, but especially in the D.Min. and in *FasTrak*, our new pre-doctoral experience designed to bring an MA holder to academic eligibility for the D.Min. in half the time. Check it out at: [www.aGts.edu/fastrak](http://www.aGts.edu/fastrak)

*My major recommendation:* Start the journey. While seminary is not right for everyone, all of us owe it to those we lead to be on the learning journey in some form. As Paul wrote to Timothy, "Be diligent in these matters; give yourself wholly to them, so that *everyone may see your progress.*" (1 Tim 4:15 NIV)

*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 through trust and truth

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**Leading Edge Blog:**

[www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge](http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge)

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**Leading Edge Archive:**

Past issues are archived at: [http://agts.edu/dmin/leading\\_edge/index.html](http://agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html)

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