

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: Reg Stone (Cohort 4)

Three years ago, Reg Stone proposed a D.Min. project involving planting a Hispanic church as part of a larger initiative in the Carolina's. Five churches eventually took root. With 25 Hispanic churches in the area as of 2001, the vision was for each one to plant one. This year the 40th church was planted and Reg is now working with the New Jersey District as a catalyst to church planting there. This kind of ministry is what the D.Min. program is all about.

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

Leadership roundtable with 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 November 8-9, 2004 in Charlotte, NC. The conferences can be taken for up to three aGts Masters credits. Contact our Continuing Education Team for registration and/or credit at 1-800-467-aGts, or at: vjacobson@aGts.edu

Internet resources :

<http://www.clusterbigip1.claritas.com/MyBestSegments/Default.jsp>

The MyBestSegments website lets you enter a zip code and then provides a demographic breakdown of the type of person who lives in that neighborhood. For example, in 65802 (the aGts zipcode), the PRIZM NE software onboard says our locale is populated mainly by five groups: Mobility Blues, New Beginnings, Suburban Pioneers, Old Glories, and Hometown Retirees. Click on a link to discover that the "Mobility Blues" subgroup tends to buy hard rock music, watch "Cops" in syndication, go to billard clubs, watch the WWF, and drive a Nissan pickup. If nothing else, the site will get your team talking about how well you are really understanding the people God has called you to reach.

Statistics: internet withdrawal

Yahoo recently completed an *Internet Deprivation Study*. Consumers were asked to stay offline for 2 weeks and to keep video and written diaries about the experience. Promomagazine.com reports that "all participants suffered withdrawal and frustration, feeling, 'left out of the loop,' and had to

'resist temptation' to go online. The median time participants could stand being offline: five days. Participants often "forgot or didn't feel like using 'old-fashioned tools' like the phone book." "It was incredibly difficult to recruit participants for this study, as people weren't willing to be without the Internet for two weeks," said Yahoo chief sales officer Wenda Harris Millard. In the end only 28 consumers agreed to participate.

Read this book: Preaching to a Shifting Culture

Preaching to a Shifting Culture offers 12 essays on how the classical preaching arts are being adapted to a culture that the authors describe as "postmodern," "anti-authority," hostile." While the book owes much to classic exposition, it also frames the preaching event as a fundamentally missionary enterprise in post-Christian times.

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0801091624/qid=1097701551/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/104-2286091-9876750?v=glance&s=books

Quotable: credibility or perfection?

"At some point in your life you must decide whether you want to *impress* people or *influence* people...The most essential quality for leadership is not perfection, but credibility."

--Rick Warren, *The Purpose-Driven Life*, 277.

Leaderlife: power lunch

Most days, "lunch" is when I work with a burrito on my desk. Or, I might have a "lunch meeting" in which tactical planning is squeezed in between bites of another low-carb grilled chicken Caesar salad. This food-for-time trade is probably a necessary evil. The idea of an hour-long break from work spent enjoying a leisurely mid-day meal sounds like science fiction.

Lunch is more than a meal. It is a powerful tool that leaders underestimate, but can be used to great effect if we are *intentional*. What if we thought of the noon meal as an opportunity, rather than just an open schedule slot waiting to be filled? In any given month, there are at least five types of lunch that can be powerful forms of influence if we plan them well:

1. Accountability lunch: meeting with a partner/group regularly who asks us tough questions is vital to being a led leader
2. Missionary lunch: spending time with unchurched people keeps the mission of Christ close to our hearts and, by itself, shapes our leadership toward that mission
3. Mentoring lunch: investing our lives in the leaders who are rising up to work with us, and eventually replace us, is one of the most rewarding parts of being a spiritual leader
4. Marriage lunch: for married leaders, there is no substitute for a time when spouses receive our undivided attention
5. Support lunch: spending time with encouraging people keeps us from "going it alone," and helps us remember how to laugh

None of these formats represents a new idea. But each of them has a strong basis in *fellowship* (because we are breaking bread together) and represents an intentional use of time to accomplish specific goals. Also, each of them is a minimum intrusion on other leadership activities because they happen at, well, lunch.

My recommendation: for the next 90 days, try scheduling each type of lunch once a month. I would be very surprised if you didn't want to maintain this schedule.

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 Archive:

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

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