

## THE LEADING EDGE

### *leaders worth following*

Earl Creps' monthly leadership newsletter

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

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### **Impact player: Jack Belin (Cohort 7)**

As an experienced overseas missionary for AGWM, Jack Belin now serves with Convoy of Hope International providing disaster relief around the world. In addition to serving areas of Florida devastated by recent storms (the equivalent of 2.4 million pounds of supplies touched 65,000 people), Convoy is also working this month in Honduras in partnership with Bonita Valley Christian Center to minister to as many as 5,000 families living in poverty. Check out an online scrapbook of the COHI:

<http://www.convoyofhope.org/gallery.asp?distID=charley>

### **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)

### **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](mailto:vjacobson@aGts.edu)

### **Internet resources : 5 dimensions of quality**

<http://www.ldri.com/articles/93fillservqual.html>

Richard Winder's online article provides an interesting discussion of how organizations can achieve high quality performance. The dimensions of quality include experience, measurement, relationships, interconnectivity, and value sharing. A useful piece for staff

training and/or for creating a measurement tool to evaluate your own organization.

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**Statistics: runaway meetings**

When asked “which one of the following would you say is the worst culprit in terms of wasting the most time?” the responses in a national survey of workers

[www.officeteam.com](http://www.officeteam.com)

27%: “meetings that last too long”

26%: “unnecessary interruptions”

21%: “socializing too much with colleagues”

21%: “disorganized work area”

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**Read this book: Death by Meeting**

Dr. Lori O’Dea, our D.Min. Program Coordinator recently trained our team using Patrick Lencioni’s excellent book, *Death by Meeting*. Implementing his situational meeting format (which is something like “situational leadership”) has provided immediate benefits for our group in the form of improved focus and higher productivity. I strongly recommend this book.

[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books)

<[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books)>

<[http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr\\_1\\_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books](http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787968056/qid=1094652110/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/102-4052760-5034550?v=glance&s=books)>

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**Quotable: information implosion**

"It is estimated that today’s college graduates are exposed to more facts in one year than their grandparents were in a lifetime. According to Twigg and Oblinger (*The Virtual University*, 1997), the sum of all that is known is now doubling every seven years... Within the fields of science, engineering, and even business, it is estimate that much of what undergraduates learn in four to five years of college will be obsolete by the time they graduate..."

–John Ebersole, Dean, Boston University Division of Extended Education

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**Leaderlife: the wisdom economy**  
**[pt. 3: reverse mentoring]**

Leaders sometimes lose touch with how much we enjoy getting attention from others. Playing the “expert” role is pretty heady stuff. But being an “authority” is also becoming harder by the day.

John Ebersole (quoted above) points out that, “according to futurists Michael Dolence and David Norris (*Transforming Higher Education*, 1995), each individual in the workforce will need to accumulate learning equivalent to that associated with 30 credit hours of instruction, every seven years, if they are to remain competent and competitive

in the face of the knowledge explosion...”

What is a leader to do? Clearly, the answer is not just more of the very information that seals our obsolescence. The answer is more *wisdom*.

In the last few years I have found a new source of wisdom in *reverse mentoring*, turning to those much younger than I am to seek out forms of training unavailable in any other way. This discovery did not come from a book or a conference, but from my wife turning to younger women in the last church we pastored for fashion advice! Spending time with younger people helped us understand their customs at a level that more formal education could never match.

This kind of reverse mentoring has benefited me in several ways just recently:

*Texting:* Justin, Dan, and Brian, my young friends at The Oaks Fellowship (AG), spent considerable time teaching me to send text messages on my cell phone. I will never forget the thrill of texting the first time! While I have forgotten how to find this command on my phone since then, I will be always indebted to them for helping me get inside the world of the “texter.”

*PowerPoint:* after hearing a presentation of mine that included PowerPoint, my friend Glen (1/2 my age) asked, “I thought you had a degree in communication?” This gift of the truth taught me the difference between effective use of PowerPoint (a skill I had yet to learn), and the kind PowerPoint that has people laughing in the car on the way home.

*Online classes:* last weekend I interviewed Natalia and Rhonda, both young enough to be my daughter about their experiences with internet-based courses. The insights of actual online education users were invaluable to a similar project I am working on for aGts.

*Coffee:* my friend David (could be my younger brother) revealed many secrets of grinding and brewing the perfect cup of coffee that would have remained hidden for the rest of my life had I not spent time in his office.

These small examples do actually prove something: the best way to stay in synch with what is happening is to befriend those for whom it is natural (the culturally indigenous) and spend time with them.

Corporations now routinely require their marketing and sales personnel to have reverse mentoring sessions with those young enough to understand emerging markets. Perhaps the Church should consider the same thing?

Asking someone with less seniority (and perhaps less reputation and influence) than you have for advice and instruction is profoundly humbling. Even if the insights aren’t useful in the end, the process of humbling ourselves always is. Humility is wisdom’s constant companion. One seldom shows up without the other.

*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](http://aGts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html)

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