

THE LEADING EDGE
Leaders Worth Following
April 2005

Earl Creps' Monthly Leadership Newsletter
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<http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Leading Edge blog edition
<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

Encounter Journal
<http://www.encounterjournal.com/current.html>

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Front-Edge Seminars @ General Council

AGTS is hosting three seminars in Denver on the Mon. & Tues. (Aug. 1 & 2) prior to General Council. Topics include:

- *Women's Talk Show*—with Dr. Linda Mintle
- *Cross-Cultural Communication*—with missiologists Drs. Judith and Sherwood Lingenfelter
- *Models of Multi-Site Ministry*—with Larry Osborn, Pastor of North Coast Church

Each of the seminars may be taken for 2 or 3 graduate credits through the AGTS Continuing Education office. For more information and online registration, check out the seminars at:

https://www.agts.edu/conferences/2005general_council/index.html

FasTrak: From MA to D.Min. Eligibility in Half the Time

Thinking about a D.Min., but not sure how to get there? Our new pre-doctoral program can take a qualified MA holder in full-time ministry to academic eligibility for the D.Min. (M.Div. Equivalency) in half the time using a specially designed course format available in many locations around the country. <http://www.agts.edu/fastrak/index.html>

New D.Min. Cohort Begins June 20-24, 2005 @ AGTS

- Leadership focus
 - Pentecostal perspective
 - In-service convenience
 - Cohort experience
 - Customizable program
 - Contact: lodea@agts.edu
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Impact Players: John Ikoni, Jim Thacker, Etienne Zongo

Three of our D.Min. graduates are partnering as the Administrative Team for the new Pan-African Theological Seminary at the West Africa Advanced School of Theology. With the goal of creating

a doctoral program to serve the African continent, John Ikoni (Cohort 4) will serve as President, Jim Thacker (Cohort 1) will serve as Academic Dean, and Etienne Zongo (Cohort 6) will serve as Registrar. These three holders of the AGTS D.Min. degree will join a growing list of our alumni who lead institutions of higher education.

Internet Resources : Internet Evangelism Day

<http://www.ied.gospelcom.net>

On April 24, 2005, churches, Bible Colleges and other groups will be joining together to recognize Internet Evangelism Day. With a billion people using the web, and more than 80 million Americans seeking out web-based spirituality resources, this special day is certainly appropriate. Check out the link above to learn about outreach strategies, planning an Internet focus day for your church, and locating the best resources for Internet evangelism.

Statistics: The Power of the iPod

CNN reports that 250 million songs have been downloaded from iTunes and 10 million iPod's have been sold as of April 2005.

Read This Book: *Culture Shift: Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out*

"Culture is the most important social reality in your church. Though invisible to the untrained eye, its power is undeniable." So say Robert Lewis and Wayne Cordeiro in their new book. Based on their personal experiences as pastors, the authors guide us through the often-arduous process of cultural change, while avoiding the easy answers. Check it out at:

www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/0787975303/qid=1113852188/sr=1-1/ref=sr_1_1/104-9784827-9985539?v=glance&s=books

Quotable: Facts and Preconceptions

"We want facts to fit the preconceptions. When they don't, it is easier to ignore the facts than to change the preconceptions."

--Jessamyn West

LeaderLife: Communication Studies, Part 2

As a young person in the ministry, I thought that communication skills were like a set of luggage that you packed once and were good to go for the duration. Now I understand communication, not as a static skill set, but as an art that must be cultivated to achieve its potential. My travels recently have felt like a return to communication school. Here are two more of my most important learnings:

- *Moderns answer questions, postmoderns question answers:* I was feeling pretty good about doing so much Q&A with audiences until my friend Nate agreed to pose the questions for me at a recent youth pastors conference. Sitting by my side on the platform, he dutifully asked each question submitted anonymously by the attendees on index cards. But after my responses, he challenged me, pointing out exceptions, contradictions, and complications in my answers. This was a wonderful moment for which I am so grateful to this friend. He helped me to hear what the audience was thinking in silence while I was talking out loud. Without the ability to challenge the answers, what seems like a dialogue is really just a monologue in response to questions. While this style is totally appropriate in some contexts, I'm glad its weaknesses were exposed for me under that spotlight. They skipped this in my studies at Northwestern.
- *The children's church folks have it right.* Communicating with children involves illustrations, object lessons, props, etc. Recently I have taken a page from this book and have begun using props in many of my sermons. These objects can range from chairs, to baseball hats, to neck ties. The extra level of connectivity offered by the physical

presence of an illustration is amazing. Now, I'm making a concerted effort to catch up to my children's ministry friends.

You may never do a Q&A session or wear a ball cap on the platform in your life. That's fine. But somehow, each of us has to find a way to continually cultivate the communication arts. The culture around us is doing so. The lessons are there to be learned if we will see them.

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://www.agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html

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