

**THE LEADING EDGE**  
**February 2006**

Earl Creps' Monthly Leadership Newsletter  
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AGTS Doctor of Ministry Program Director  
<http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

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

Encounter: A Journal for Pentecostal Ministry  
<http://www.encounterjournal.com/current.html>

AGTS DVD Resources  
[http://www.agts.edu/continuing\\_education/ministry\\_resources/order.html](http://www.agts.edu/continuing_education/ministry_resources/order.html)

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**Impact Player: Lois Olena (Cohort 10)**

As a participant in Cohort 10, Lois expanded her involvement in equipping the Church with the historical and cultural sensitivity needed for evangelism among Jewish populations, as well as the necessity for prophetic opposition to anti-Semitism in its many forms. Lois' D.Min. project takes on both of these issues and will further develop her writing, training, and evangelistic ministries. We are proud of her.

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**AGTS Degree Completion Program: Earn your MA in one night a week!**

AGTS now offers a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at our Springfield campus that allows those living within driving distance to earn an MA without leaving their full-time positions. Classes meet one night each week for approximately eighteen months. This unique degree completion program is custom-designed for busy professionals. For more information call us at 1-417-268-1022 or online at: [www.agts.edu/degreecompletion](http://www.agts.edu/degreecompletion).

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**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, as well as online and by DVD. Check it out at: <http://www.agts.edu/fastrak/index.html>.

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**Earl's Talk: "The Other Disciplines"**

This talk was given on November 14, 2005 in the Northwest University Chapel. It deals with the ways in which God meets us beyond the necessary "official" disciplines of prayer and Bible reading. Download at: [http://eagle.northwestu.edu/chapel\\_mp3/20051114.mp3](http://eagle.northwestu.edu/chapel_mp3/20051114.mp3)

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**Internet Resources: Online video/audio**

<http://www.loc.gov/today/cyberlc/results.php?cat=7>

Check out the Library of Congress' religion webcasts, including titles such as "Bible in American Public Life" by Mark Noll and "Changing Face of Christianity" by Lamin Sanneh.

<http://www.wheaton.edu/CACE/resources/tapes.htm>

The Wheaton Center for Applied Christian Ethics offers a host of audio, video and CD resources, featuring topics ranging from the Sermon on the Mount to stem cell research.

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**Futures Editor Glen Davis: Tuning in to young adults**

Want to get a quick peek at what's hot with young adults? Check out

<http://facebook.com/pulse.php>

Connect with Glen and Paula Davis, Chi Alpha missionaries to Stanford University at:

<http://xastanford.org/>

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**Metrics: TV Olympics vs. Internet Olympics**

The <http://www.NBCOlympics.com> site already drew more than 167 million page views, surpassing the 145 million page views during the entire 2002 Winter Games in Salt Lake City with more than a week of competition left in Turin, Italy, according to NBC Universal.

Overall, for the first four days of competition, the average Olympics television viewership of 21.6 million people was down 36 percent from Salt Lake City.

<http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/business/13908431.htm>

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**Read this book: *Real Leadership***

Dean Williams' book is subtitled "Helping People and Organizations Face their Toughest Challenges." He defines the central responsibility in these terms: "Real leadership gets people to face reality." Check it out at: [http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1576753433/sr=8-1/qid=1140642473/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_1/102-9066345-9152902?%5Fencoding=UTF8](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1576753433/sr=8-1/qid=1140642473/ref=pd_bbs_1/102-9066345-9152902?%5Fencoding=UTF8)

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**Quotable: Facing reality**

"Real leadership is not about having strong convictions and imposing them on the group. Nor is it about amassing followers and showing the way forward...Real leadership gets people to face reality."

--Dean Williams

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**LeaderLife: A life of meetings**

Leadership in most settings is a life of meetings. The books and websites devoted to the topic often portray the bold individual slashing through red tape and projecting vision at 50,000 lumens.

But most days are not like that. Usually you're sitting around a table with 4-8 other tired people trying to figure out how to solve a problem.

A great deal of success has to do, not with driving an exhausted dog team across arctic ice (although I know leaders who treat their subordinates that way), but with how good you are in meetings. Here are a few thoughts (some serious, some not) on how to make meetings more productive:

1. *Have a meta-meeting to discuss how good your meetings are.* What if surgeons never reviewed their cases or football teams never looked at game films? We let meetings happen as if

they are easy (they're not) and inevitably successful. If they are inherently productive, why do most people go to them reluctantly.

2. *Buy Lencioni's book, Death by Meeting, today.* One of my team mates discovered this book and trained our team in its use about 2 years ago. Lencioni's design puts the right issues in the right settings, taking pressure off everyone and making sure the right things get done.

3. *Meetings are no better than the people in them.* If you are the "dog sled" type of leader (i.e., your idea of leading is to shout, "Mush, you huskies!" at every opportunity), then your meetings will operate below their potential. The same is true if you are lazy and cynical. So the point is to get the right people into the circle.

4. *Set time limits for everything and talk about the important things first.* Typical meetings do easy issues first (like the Minutes) because that makes everyone feel good short-term, but burns the energy you need to do the heavy lifting. Do little things by email before the meeting, big stuff right at the top, medium stuff (like minutes) at the end, and set a drop dead time at which the meeting ends.

5. *Let meeting leadership flow to the best person.* I don't lead our team meetings because one of my team mates (maybe all of them) is better at it than I am. I want to talk too much. So having someone else run the meeting keeps us on track. On specific issues, "leadership" can float to whoever is best suited. Just because you are the nominal "boss" doesn't mean you have the skills to optimize meetings, or the best ideas.

*My major recommendations:* buy the Lencioni book and have that meta-meeting right away.

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 leading 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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