



# The Leading Edge

expanding the influence of leaders worth following

March 2006

Earl Creps' monthly leadership newsletter

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## Leading Edge Blog Edition

<http://www.xanga.com/LeadingEdge>

## Leading Edge Archive

[http://www.agts.edu/dmin/leading\\_edge/index.html](http://www.agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html)

## Impact Player: Steve Lim

Steve Lim serves the D.Min. Team as our Project Coordinator and our Seminary as the Chair of Practical Theology. We congratulate him on the publication of his article, "5 Questions for Better Team Decisions," which appears on LeadershipJournal.Net. You can read Steve's article at:

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/leaders/newsletter/2006/cln60320.html>

## Earl's Talk: "Baton Passers"

This talk was given in late 2005 at The Oaks Fellowship. Drawing on the relationship of Paul and Timothy, it deals with the transition of leadership from older to younger. Download at:

<http://www.oaksfellowship.org/min-sermon-special.php>

## FasTrak: M.Div. Equivalency in ½ 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 as well as online and by DVD. Check it out at:

<http://www.agts.edu/fastrak/index.html>

## Internet Resources: Catalyst Podcast & Wharton Leadership Digest

Podcast: The folks at Catalyst (a conference for young leaders) are making a free podcast available through iTunes. The first installment features an interview with Andy Stanley.

[Download Catalyst Podcast](#)

## D.Min. Culture

**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 by trust and truth

## D.Min. Team

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Wharton Leadership Digest: Provides an overview of current resources, as well as short articles and interviews on subjects ranging from non-profits to megachurches. Check it out:  
<http://leadership.wharton.upenn.edu/digest/index.shtml>

## Futures Editor Glen Davis: Bible.org

Bible.org has some of the best practical biblical scholarship around. (One caveat: it's sponsored by a group from Dallas Theological Seminary, so they're not exactly enthusiastic about Pentecostalism.) The best place to start digging around the site is

<http://www.bible.org/topic.asp> Be sure to give it a visit before your next sermon. [Glen and Paula Davis are Chi Alpha missionaries to Stanford University:  
<http://xastanford.org/>]

## Complete 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 range 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. The next cohort begins on May 11th. For more information call us at 1-417-268-1022 or go online at: [www.agts.edu/degreecompletion](http://www.agts.edu/degreecompletion)

## Metrics: Corporate Chaplains

“Corporate chaplaincy is thought to be one of the fastest-growing faith-based employee programs. Industry groups estimate there are roughly 4500 workplace chaplains, but the National Institute of Business and Industrial Chaplains in Houston said it’s likely closer to 25,000.” (The Roundtable on Religion and Social Welfare Policy, 8 January 2006)  
<http://religionandsocialpolicy.org/news/article.cfm?id=3692>

## Read this Book: *Bad Leadership*

Barbara Kellerman’s book is about, well, you get it. She is the Research Director of the Center for Public Leadership, and a lecturer at Harvard’s Kennedy School of Government. Kellerman deals with seven types of “bad” leaders.

[http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1591391660/sr=8-1/qid=1143492334/ref=pd\\_bbs\\_1/104-2795107-9587131?%5Fencoding=UTF8](http://www.amazon.com/gp/product/1591391660/sr=8-1/qid=1143492334/ref=pd_bbs_1/104-2795107-9587131?%5Fencoding=UTF8)

## Quotable: Internet Milestone

“Sometime in 2005, we quietly passed a dramatic

milestone in Internet history: the one-billionth user went online. Because there is no central register of Internet users, we don't know who that user was, or when he or she first logged on. Statistically, we're likely talking about a 24-year-old woman in Shanghai...It took 36 years for the Internet to get its first billion users. The second billion will probably be added by 2015; most of these new users will be in Asia. The third billion will be harder, and might not be reached until 2040...It all started in 1969 when two computers—one in Los Angeles, the other in Palo Alto—were networked together." (Leadership Network, Advance, Feb. 2006)

## LeaderLife: A Life of Memos

Last month I wrote that leadership is often a life of meetings. But after those meetings, most of us head back to our offices to begin writing memos (emails). These messages often are designed to explain and implement the decisions made.

Even the best-managed meeting is almost pointless if the follow-up communication incurs the wrath, or, even worse, the apathy of those with a stake in the outcome. So here are some hard lessons I've learned about written communication.

*1. The interpersonal should supersede the impersonal:* Sometimes we have no choice but to send a written message about our decisions. If a solid interpersonal relationship is in place with the recipient (i.e., we actually like and respect each other) before the necessity arises, that message will get a much warmer reception. Otherwise, your email will read like "marching orders" from "The Man." A healthy text culture depends on a healthy oral culture.

*2. The flexible should accompany the textual:* Written text simply hits much harder than oral text because there is no smiling face to go with it. What seems innocuous to you can feel to a recipient as if you are powering up. So, unless you've got an emergency on your hands, frame your statements collaboratively as suggestions, questions, or observations. They will still pack plenty of punch, but may avoid unnecessary edge. Good questions get good answers, but starting with answers only elicits questions.

*3. The procedural should complement the practical:* An email announcing a new policy will catalyze implementation if those receiving it feel they have been in the loop on the issue from the beginning. Preparatory communications, sometimes even months in advance, can open the way for rapid action once the decisive moment comes. A little advance warning can be the difference between cataclysm and catalyst.

*My major recommendation:* If your oral (face to face or virtual) culture isn't healthy enough to support your textual culture, don't send emails about it! Build healthy, trust-forming relationships in the present, and your emails will get results in the future.  
Be a leader worth following,

**Earl**

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