



The Leading Edge

expanding the influence of leaders worth following

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Earl Creps' monthly leadership newsletter

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[Pre-Order Off-Road Disciplines](#)

Leading Edge Blog Edition

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

Next D.Min. Cohort Launches Feb. 2007

A brand new Doctor of Ministry cohort begins February 12-15, 2007. Following three Core courses, participants will be able to choose Concentrations in Missional Leadership, Biblical Preaching, Military Chaplaincy, or Self-Design Study. For more information contact [Lori O'Dea](#) at the D.Min. office.

Impact Players: Bill & Lena Shrader

Bill Shrader (Cohort 11) and his wife Lena and their four children have experienced a very common feature of life during our D.Min. program: a change of venue. Having entered the program as Chi Alpha staff members, the Shraders' currently are completing itineration to serve as AGWM missionaries to the nation of Peru. Find out more about their ministry at the Shraders' [website](#).

Online Talk: "Three Visions of the Pentecostal Future"

Given at the North Central University Chapel in November of 2005, this [talk](#) describes competing visions of the Pentecostal future and recommends ways we can form an optimal future out of the best of our past.

FasTrak: M.Div. Equivalency in Half the Time

Thinking about a D.Min. but not sure how to get there? Our 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 our [website](#).

Internet Resources: Responding to *The*

Leading Edge Archive

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

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 create our future
- **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

Earl Creps—Program Director
ecreps@agts.edu

Tracy Harrington—Administrative Assistant
tharrington@agts.edu

Stephen Lim—Project Coordinator
slim@agts.edu

Lori O'Dea—Program Coordinator
lodea@agts.edu

Cheryl Taylor—Program Advisor
ctaylor@agts.edu

DaVinci Code & Adult Ministry Training

Rick Warren is offering a collection of [articles](#) aimed at equipping believers to respond to *The DaVinci Code*.

The SBC offers a 28-page downloadable [training course](#) called, "Beyond the Walls: Multiply Your Adult Ministry" by John McClendon of Lifeway.

Futures Editor Glen Davis: Do We Know Anything About Leadership?

I think you'll enjoy this brief text [interview](#) by Guy Kawasaki with Bob Sutton (a Stanford professor). Sutton is basically an empiricist who is frustrated with all the hype about leadership divorced from actual research. The interview is short but stimulating:

[Glen and Paula Davis](#) are Chi Alpha missionaries to Stanford University:

Metrics: Wal-Mart

In 1995 there were 2,667 Wal-Mart stores in the US, one for every 100,000 Americans. In 2000, 3,118 stores provided a Wal-Mart for every 90,000 citizens. By 2010, Wal-Mart will have 4,523 outlets, providing one store for every 70,000 residents of the US. There are 263 Wal-Marts in Canada, and 774 in Mexico. ([Fast Company](#), March 2006)

Read this Book: *Pyromarketing*

Written by the person who directed Zondervan's marketing campaign for the *Purpose-Driven Life*, this [book](#) offers an interesting insider's view of how products go big. Some useful implications for evangelism and church marketing.

Quotable: Words vs. Example

"I talk and talk and talk, and I haven't taught people in 50 years what my father taught by example in one week." - *Mario Cuomo*

LeaderLife: The Ministry of Writing

Since completing the manuscript for *Off-Road Disciplines* (to be released in October by Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network) I have been reflecting on the little-discussed ministry of writing.

No one ever achieved influence by reading books, only by publishing them. Yet writing is usually regarded as either a craft or a business, seldom as a ministry calling.

Drawn from my own experience with *Off-Road*

Contact Us

Phone: 1-800-467-AGTS

Fax: (417) 268-1047

Mail: AGTS, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave., Springfield, MO 65802 USA

Web: <http://www.agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

Disciplines, here are a few reasons why we should think of writing as a ministry, a calling, not just as a skill set.

1. Writing is a long-haul process: Publishing my first book has taken half a century, so at this rate I will have been dead for twenty years before the next one comes out! Seriously, the influence that comes from being a producer is a life-time investment.

2. Writing is in God's hands: I asked my friend Margaret Poloma (who has published a lot of good books) how she managed to do that. Her reply was simply that she prays and waits on God. Oh....that.

3. Writing depends on relationship: This book happened because an Executive Editor from Jossey-Bass heard me give a talk at a conference. Unlike 50% of the audience, she actually stayed until the end. Right place/right time.

4. Writing involves lots of pain: My writing proposals have been shot down so many times I have lost count. For example, right now I am awaiting word from a publisher on a book idea that has been rejected something like 35 times. Being a producer is not for the fainthearted.

5. Writing begins with small things: While a first book has taken over 50 years, the truth is I have been writing articles, curriculum, blogs, etc. for a long time. Doing small pieces for Sunday School publications provided the opportunity and the practice I needed.

6. Writing creates obligations: My very first professional writing assignment (during the first Reagan administration) happened because a district officer, Gene Petty, went out of his way to connect me to an editor. Everything stems from that one moment. Thanks, Gene. Now, it's my obligation to open the door for the next person.

7. Writing is about hard work: Steven Lim, our Project Coordinator, says there is really no such thing as writing, only re-writing. He is right. Perseverance is the core discipline, not grammar.

8. Writing is costly: The hours consumed by reworking drafts will come from somewhere. Stanley Grenz told me once that his writing penalty was being able to read less. I have found this to be true as well. Everyone pays. The only question is how.

9 Writing is worth it: Creating compelling, well-organized text trains the mind even if the words are never published. Moreover, the influence of printed or electronic text is hugely greater than our spoken words in the long-term. With the internet available 24/7 no one needs to wait for a publisher to take their writing

global.

10. *Writing is servanthood*: Apart from the motivation to serve the Church and the world, writing does become just another profession. So it comes down to love. If the words spring from my love for God and for people, then writing manifests the fruit of the Spirit. If the words come from some other source, they manifest something less.

My major recommendation: write something; then re-write it.

Be a leader worth following,

Earl

ecreps@agts.edu

Off-Road Disciplines is available for pre-order on Amazon.