

## **THE LEADING EDGE**

Earl Creps' leadership newsletter

Director of the [AGTS D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership](#)  
**August 2002**

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### NEW MONTHLY COLUMN: THE COFFEE DOCTOR!!

It's my pleasure to introduce AGTS staff member David Godzwa, the Coffee Doctor. As Dr. C., David will provide a new feature column each month on the many aspects of java. Our motto: "Great Coffee Makes Great Leadership". Here is David's first installment:

#### Why Coffee?

For the next few issues of this newsletter, I've been asked to share with you about coffee. We'll talk about what a good cup of coffee is and how to achieve it. I don't consider myself an expert, for coffee is as much art as it is science, but what I know I look forward to sharing with you. Won't you join me on the quest for the perfect cup?

So, you may ask "Why coffee?" Why do we turn to the mug instead of the soda can or even the medicine cabinet? Allow me to present some reasons.

1. It's in your blood. Your father probably drank it. Your grandfather and his father probably drank it. Drinking coffee is like carrying on a heritage.

2. It's good for you. Certainly, there have been enough studies fashioned to besmirch coffee's reputation, but there are also studies that have revealed the benefits of moderate coffee

drinking. Some of those include enhanced memory, lower risks of certain forms of cancer, and increased stamina. Plus a cup of coffee sans cream or sugar has 0 calories.

3. It just fits. Are you the no-frills type? A cup of black Columbian may suit you. Are you a strong up-front personality? You may be a candidate for an espresso. Had a rough day? It's easy to relax with a rich cappuccino. You get the idea. Coffee just fits.

I invite your comments. Email me at [dgodzwa@agts.edu](mailto:dgodzwa@agts.edu)

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NEW D. MIN. COHORTS WILL BEGIN in October of 2002 and February of 2003. Inquire about joining the program, or achieving M.Div. equivalency, by contacting our Team (see the end of this newsletter.) Extensive program information is online at: <http://agts.edu/dmin/index.html>

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QUOTABLE: GOD'S PURPOSE OR PRESS AGENTS?

"Two centuries ago, when a great man appeared, people looked for God's purpose in him. Today we look for his press agent."

—historian Daniel Boorstin

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MINISTRY ON THE EDGE: THE MISSION TO POST-CHRISTIAN AMERICA  
Brian McLaren, author of *The Church on the Other Side*, will be the primary speaker for this AGTS Leadership Roundtable Conference, November 18-19, 2002 in Philadelphia. The conference can be taken for AGTS MA-level credit. (Registration: \$150 before Nov. 1.) Details are online: [http://www.agts.edu/conferences/roundtable\\_nov\\_02.html](http://www.agts.edu/conferences/roundtable_nov_02.html) Register online, by phone (800-467-2487, x1044), fax (417-268-1009), or email ([agts-ext@agts.edu](mailto:agts-ext@agts.edu)).

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LEADERLIFE: EVEN MORE THINGS I'VE LEARNED LEADING MY OWN TEAM

While awaiting the birth of our Program Coordinator's baby (Natalie Ann, born August 25th!) my team has been shorthanded. It's amazing what can be learned when working conditions are outside of the "normal" range. So, here are some additional lessons from leading my team:

1. Pain clarifies the mind. After my life stopped passing before my eyes, it became clear that this season without a Coordinator could be positive. I would be forced to take a hard

look at everything. In short, pain and shock create a kind of accountability. They are a reality check, and getting in touch with reality is always a positive.

2. The truth is always my friend. I suffered a massive computer crash this month that left me without a megabyte to my name for three days. Suddenly I became much more focused, efficient, and peaceful. The truth was the time spent on the computer can feel like work without actually being productive. Consequently, I now spend my evenings at home "unplugged" doing things like reading, resting, or being married. Think of it.

3. Crisis is a wonderful motivator. When my team's structure faced a radical change, the really important things suddenly became clear—and I had to do them. With more help available, I could afford to dialog at length about everything (I like to think of this as being "participatory".) But when everything changed for us, I had to get things done—right now.

4. You're the leader because you interpret the crisis. Some leaders try to secure their position by insulating the organization from difficulty. When under fire, they evade, deny, or scapegoat. Credibility works in exactly the opposite way: I'm the leader if I embrace and interpret the crisis first. Only from this basis in reality, can I lead a team.

My major recommendation: see crisis through eyes of faith as an opportunity to understand your organization and make positive changes that would be very unlikely in a more stable time.

Blessings,

Earl

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IMPACT PLAYERS: D.MIN. PARTICIPANTS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Jim Thacker, Principal (that's president to us) of East Africa School of Theology is a member of cohort 1. He is currently working in support of the first young adult church plant in Nairobi, Kenya. With over a million adults under the age of 35 in the city, there is virtually no ministry targeted to this age group. Jim's team is supporting much more than a church plant. They are developing an entirely new way to do ministry in this growing, international city. Go for it, Jim!

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DATA DUMP: COCOONING

"A poll by USA Today, CNN, and Gallup showed that a third of Americans say September 11 was a life-altering event that changed their priorities, and 62% now feel a need to spend more time with family and friends. 'The families of those victims are giving us a new sense of what is important, and that is relationships' says Baby Boomer Dennis Taylor." (Rev. March/April 2002)

(Online articles to help you interpret the events of September 11 and minister to those affected can be found at:  
<http://www.leaderu.com/>)

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LINKS TO THE FUTURE: WEB RESOURCES

Leadership article collection

[http://www.successfactors.org/fred\\_roach/fred\\_roach.html](http://www.successfactors.org/fred_roach/fred_roach.html)

Check out this handy set of articles on leadership topics by Fred Roach of the Baylor Health Care System. Covers topics like, "What Is World Class?" "Leveraging Our Time," and "Dealing With Negative People." If you like Maxwellian-style lists with a business slant, Fred's stuff is for you. The site is associated with Campus Crusade

Reaching young professionals

<http://www.ipriority.com/interior/index.cfm>

A website devoted to ministry to young professionals. Hosted by Campus Crusade, the site addresses the issue of defining real success. Their motto is "developing leaders from the inside out." A similar site run by the same people is

<http://www.successfactors.org/>

Free online resources by Earl Creps

<http://agts.edu/faculty/creps.html>

Downloadable resources are available on a range of leadership topics including pastoral ministry, communication, We Build People, generational issues, postmodernism, discipleship, revival and renewal, evangelism, etc.

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TRAINING WE RECOMMEND: TIMBERLINE CHURCH LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

This outstanding conference will be held November 3-5, 2002 at Timberline Church in Fort Collins, Colorado. (The conference can be taken for AGTS MA-level credit). Speakers include Byron Klaus, Mel Ming, Doug Oss, George Wood, and many others. Topics include: "Seeker Sensitive Services & Pentecost: An Impossible Marriage?" "Church Structure: Framework or Cage?", and "Beyond Sunday: Church that Changes the Community." Registration is \$49

before September 1st and \$59 afterwards. Hotel information is available at 970-482-4387 and online at:

<http://www.timberlinechurch.org/>

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BOOKS WE RECOMMEND: BRIDGING DIVIDED WORLDS

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0787949906/ref%3Dmk%5Fpb%5Ffejr/104-1700828-9083957>

Bridging Divided Worlds by Jackson W. Carroll and Wade Clark Roof, two experts in the field of contemporary religion, presents a comprehensive study of generational dynamics within congregations. Their groundbreaking work analyzes the crucial role the generations play in reshaping the American religious landscape. Throughout the book the authors examine current religious and spiritual trends and reveal how these changes can offer opportunities for enriching a congregation's faith and ministry.

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ARCHIVES & IDEAS

Past issues of the Leading Edge are archived at:

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

Email your ideas for future issues to: [dfegler@agts.edu](mailto:dfegler@agts.edu)

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