

THE LEADING EDGE

Earl Creps' leadership newsletter

Director of the AGTS D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership

November 2002

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IMPACT PLAYERS: D.Min. Stories Featured in Christianity Today

The October 7, 2002 issue of Christianity Today carried a special supplement on Doctor of Ministry education that featured the testimonies of two AGTS participants, Anuparp Wichitnantana (Cohort 5) and Douglas Norwood (Cohort 1), among others. See for yourself in the attached PDF file!

A NEW D. MIN. COHORT WILL BEGIN in 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>

QUOTABLE: Relationship Economy

"The experience economy has gone...we're in a relationship economy now. People will pay for a relationship with content providers. This is great for the church if we can be who we say we are."
--Len Sweet

LEADERLIFE: Warm Off the Presses—Resources that Deserve Your Attention

There is something refreshing to me about having the newest resources on leadership in my hands. I feel prepared to teach, while at the same time gaining valuable insight into how those outside the ministry are living and training.

However, there is also the danger that the rush to have the "latest and greatest" (sometimes to impress our peers) will lead to underestimating the value of works that are just a bit older than what appears in the airport bookstore these days. Many times the real worth of a book is not realized for a year or two after the fact!

So, here is a short list of what I would call "warm" resources, books that have been out too long to be RED HOT, but will be of enduring value long after trendier tomes have found their way to garage sales:

Warren G. Bennis & Robert J. Thomas, *Geeks and Geezers: How Era, Values, and Defining Moments Shape Leaders*. Harvard Business School, 2002. (224 pages)

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1578515823/qid%3D1038428416/sr%3D11-1/ref%3Dsr%5F11%5F1/104-7095648-0378302>

I feel this book will become the new benchmark for those sorting out how generational issues form leaders and how the generations can work together in an organizational context.

John P. Kotter, *The Heart of Change: Real-Life Stories of How People Change Their Organizations*. Harvard Business School, 2002. (208 pages)
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/1578512549/ref=pd_huc_sim_1_3/104-7095648-0378302

Following his outstanding work, *Leading Change*, Kotter's latest puts flesh and blood on his change management principles.

Bill Hybels, *Courageous Leadership*. Zondervan, 2002. (256 pages)
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/031024823X/qid=1038431414/sr=2-1/ref=sr_2_1/104-7095648-0378302

The title says it all, and the author has done it.

George Barna, *A Fish Out of Water*. Integrity Publishers, 2002. (240 pages)
http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/tg/detail/-/1591450179/ref=pd_bxgy_text_1/104-7095648-0378302?v=glance&s=books

The publisher says: "Drawing on years of research and thousands of interviews with respected leaders, /Barna/ outlines practical concepts and actions that will help you succeed as a leader. This is not a book of standard leadership principles and motivational sound bites. *A Fish Out of Water* goes deeper to help you discover your God-given potential and unique leadership style so you can be the effective leader you are called to be." It is different. Check it out.

Blessings,
Earl

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THE COFFEE DOCTOR: Just What Is "Good" Coffee?

Coffee preparation is an art as well as a science, but there are certain elements that, when present in the coffee preparation, tend to lead to a better, more drinkable beverage. The Specialty Coffee Association of America (www.scaa.org), a group of coffee professionals that promote a better brew, suggest that it takes a certain kind of raw coffee bean, properly prepared, freshly roasted, and properly brewed to make a superior final product.

The Raw Coffee Bean. Good coffee grows in relatively very few environments, where the temperature, soil and altitude contribute to produce a quality bean. This kind of coffee is called Arabica. It is a full-bodied, flavorful, and highly prized bean type. These factors contribute to its higher price. Robusta, the other major coffee bean type is a heartier, more easily cultivated, and higher yield bean, but is routinely outshined in the cup by its more expensive Arabica cousin. So you can see that in the coffee, "you get what you pay for."

What does this lesson in coffee agriculture do for you? Well, it makes you a more conscientious coffee consumer. If you want great coffee in the cup, then you need to start with the right bean. So next time you are out and about, ask the waiter if they use 100% Arabica beans in their coffee. If they don't know the answer, chances are you will get a better cup someplace else!

Keep looking at this space for more in the quest for the perfect cup. Until next time, feel free to drop me a line a dgodzwa@agts.edu.

Dave G. (aka The Coffee Doctor)

DATA DUMP: E-mail Statistics

"One e-security firm estimates that U.S. e-mail users will receive 206 billion junk messages in

2006, or 1,400 per person, double the 700 per person for this year. Already, spam makes up one-quarter of all e-mail at some major U.S. companies.”

--Jeff Siegel, American Way, 1 November 2002.

LINKS TO THE FUTURE: Online Resources on Leadership & Systems Thinking

The Monster Leadership Resource Center

<http://leadership.monster.com>

The people at Monster.Com who are famous for helping people find jobs, now offer a fairly extensive set of leadership resources online. Handy articles cover key subjects like vision, values, strategy, training, etc.

Leverage Points e-mail newsletter

<http://pegasus.com/lpsub.html>

Pegasus Communications does training on issues related to systems thinking and leading in complex environments (sounds like the ministry!). I recommend their free e-mail newsletter for helpful training and resourcing for systems thinking. The newsletter also supplies information on the newest books related to these subjects.

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.

ARCHIVES & IDEAS

Past issues of the Leading Edge are archived at: http://agts.edu/dmin/leading_edge/index.html

Email your ideas for future issues to: dfegler@agts.edu

TALK TO US

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Please feel free to forward to a friend.

THE LEADING EDGE—tools for transformation