

## THE LEADING EDGE

The electronic newsletter of the AGTS D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership  
Shaping leaders to change the world in the power of the Spirit  
April 2001

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**FROM THE DIRECTOR:** Welcome to the first installment of our monthly email newsletter. It has three purposes: (1) connectivity: to maintain ongoing contact with our participants, and other key leaders; (2) service: to place resources in your hands that have immediate application; (3) information: to keep you in the loop on leadership-related issues.

From a cold start four years ago, our D.Min. program has grown into one of the top ten in the nation in terms of enrollment. We offer a leadership emphasis, a Pentecostal distinctive, and a cohort model that set us apart. This coming June, AGTS will confer the first Doctor of Ministry degrees in the history of our movement!

The D.Min. is a professional, in-service degree designed to enhance spiritual depth and ministry competence. The future of our program holds growth, globalization, and technological enhancements. Also, we see our mission expanding to serve churches and Districts through training, consultation, research, and intervention. We are here to serve the body of Christ as a resource center.

I am dreaming big. I hope you will dream with me.

Earl Creps

D.Min. Program Director, AGTS

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**THE TEST OF A LEADER** according to Robert K. Greenleaf...

“Are the served becoming healthier, freer, wiser, more autonomous and more likely themselves to become servant leaders?”

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LINKS TO THE FUTURE...

<http://www.fastcompany.com/online/36/sgodin.html>

An article with some great diagnostic questions that will help assess your organization's openness to change. Uses the NYSE as an example.

<http://www.barna.org/cgi-bin/PagePressRelease.asp?PressReleaseID=84&Reference=F>

American religious life is on cruise control according to George Barna 's latest.

Eddie Gibbs, Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry.

InterVarsity Press, 2000.

<http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/ASIN/0830822615/qid%3D985878723/107-4751012-6898913>

Gibbs defines the 9 basic changes that are required for the church to become relevant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. It's all about moving from the consumer model to the missional model. Great stuff!

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INSIGHT: THE POWER OF THE POSITIVE

“One particularly interesting experiment used video to record a bowling match. For one team, the experimenters edited out all of the mistakes and showed the team the film of everything they had done right. For the second team, they edited out everything done right and used the more traditional training method of showing the team its mistakes and strategizing how to correct them. While both teams improved, the team seeing what they did right had 100% greater improvement than did the team that was shown its mistakes.”

Jane Magruder and David Cooperrider, “Appreciative Inquiry: A Transformative Paradigm.” OD Practitioner, Vol. 31, No. 4.

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TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES: "Transforming Church Ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" is a partnership seminar (AGTS/DHM) featuring church planter/author Brian McLaren. It will be held just before General Council, August 6&7, 2001 at the Westin Crown Hotel in Kansas City. McClaren will focus on how churches can and must navigate the cultural upheaval of the new millennium. The Seminar can be taken for AGTS credit! Contact AGTS Continuing Education at 1-800-467-2487 x1004, email: [agts-ext@agseminary.edu](mailto:agts-ext@agseminary.edu). Internet: <http://www.agts.edu/ACADEMIC/extension/Extension.html>

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IMPACT: D.MIN. PROJECTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Every D.Min. participant writes a project that applies to his or her ministry context. The first projects are just being completed this year under the direction of Dr. Stephen Lim. Here are two examples of their impact:

Missionary Doug Norwood's project was to organize and conduct a colloquium for national denominational and organizational leaders in Surinam. This was the first unified meeting of Christian leaders on this scale in national history. The church had been characterized by separation and mistrust for many generations. The meeting resulted in mutual appreciation and deep repentance. News of this spread to another city, which requested a similar colloquium and experienced similar results. Shortly after this, 20,000 Christians gathered for a unified service.

AGTS Student Life Director Jay Taylor wrote his project on spiritual formation, and then taught the material as a master's level class. A church staff member who attended brought Jay's model back to his congregation, which is now training its leadership in this approach with an eye to applying it much more widely in the church.

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WE RECOMMEND...a subscription to [www.audible.com](http://www.audible.com) For \$9.95 a month you can download two audio books monthly to both your HD and portable audio player. You can buy a player from them pretty cheap! Many titles. Best for catching up on that material you meant to get to but never did.

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PUTTING THE POWER INTO POWERPOINT requires skill. Check out these simple techniques drawn from university educators who face the challenge of doing video-supported presentations ever day.

1. Use PowerPoint to promote interaction, rather than replace it.
2. Open a blank slide and type in main points as they emerge from discussion of the teaching.
3. Leave some blank places in any handout, so listeners follow along to fill them in.
4. PowerPoint gives you several options for printing out your slides with handy note-taking places. Almost always a good idea!
5. Follow the "rule of six": maximum of six points per slide and six words per point.
6. Use contrasting but complementary colors. Generally, a dark background with light text is best.
7. Minimize "bells and whistles." Special effects should support the presentation, not be the presentation.
8. Minimize the number of slides: there is a fine line between presenting material, and narrating a slide show.
9. Use a consistent design from slide to slide.
10. Avoid laser pointers.

(Adapted from Syllabus, March 2001, p. 27)

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TALK TO US:

Ph: 1-800-467-AGTS Fax: (417) 268-1047

Web: [http://www.agts.edu/ACADEMIC/Doctor\\_of\\_Ministry.html](http://www.agts.edu/ACADEMIC/Doctor_of_Ministry.html)

Dr. Earl Creps—Program Director [ecreps@agseminary.edu](mailto:ecreps@agseminary.edu)

Deborah Fegler--Department Secretary [dfegler@agseminary.edu](mailto:dfegler@agseminary.edu)

Dr. Stephen Lim—Project Coordinator [slim@agseminary.edu](mailto:slim@agseminary.edu)

Cheryl Taylor—Program Coordinator [ctaylor@agseminary.edu](mailto:ctaylor@agseminary.edu)

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To unsubscribe: email us at [dfegler@agseminary.edu](mailto:dfegler@agseminary.edu)

Please feel free to forward to a friend.