

THE LEADING EDGE

The electronic newsletter of the AGTS D.Min. Program in Pentecostal Leadership
Shaping servant leaders to change the world in the power of the Spirit
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D.MIN. GENERAL COUNCIL CONFERENCE DEEP DISCOUNT!!!:

"Transforming Church Ministry for the 21st 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. D.Min. graduates and participants can register for \$35! That's 2/3 off the normal fee! Contact AGTS Continuing Education at 1-800-467-2487 x1004, email: agts-ext@agseminary.edu. Internet: <http://www.agts.edu/news/generalcouncil.html>

QUOTABLE: "Knowing your own strength is a fine thing. Recognizing your own weakness is even better. What is really bad, what hurts and finally defeats us, is mistaking a weakness for a strength." -- Sydney J. Harris

LEADERLIFE: PASSION AND MISSION

After working with over 600 congregations, Bill Easum concludes that having a passion for the church's mission is the distinguishing trait of effective leaders. He states: "It all goes back to why we are doing this...It's more than just maintaining or even growing a church, but believing your church can reach an entire city, or a region; believing they can make a difference."

Easum is correct. The question, then, is how do leaders acquire passion, and how do they spread it? Here are some insights gained from our observation of Leaderlife:

1. It's about discovery, not dogma: The mission of the church is defined by Jesus, not by framed mission statements in the lobby. Return to the Scriptures themselves until the mission truly captures your heart. Ask the Spirit for revelation and instructive experiences. Discover the mission for yourself and you are equipped to lead others into a similar exploration. If it doesn't move you, it cannot move them.
2. It's about who you are, not what you say: Vision slogans on matching polo shirts are no substitute for obedience. Personal evangelism and discipleship are your moral authority for communicating passion to the church. While exploring the mission, people want to know, are *you* doing it? In truth, winning a neighbor to Christ or mentoring a growing disciple will do more to keep the mission alive in you than anything else.
3. It's about the long haul, not the quick hit: Shifting the center of missional gravity within an established church can take years. The congregation will need time to assimilate new values. Moving the mission to center stage takes more than a sermon series or a weekend retreat. At times the previous occupants of this "missional space" do not vacate quickly or graciously. However, as people share the discovery process, build trust in leadership, overcome the discomforts of change, and rejoice over the fruit, the main thing can become the main thing again.
4. It's about courage, not compromise: Really owning the mission means structuring the church around it, spending, staffing, and strategizing to bring it to pass. These changes require significant departures from both tradition and fad. While transformational leaders maximize participation and ownership, there will be critical moments when leadership must make brave choices between a more comfortable present and a more fruitful future. Be courageous.

If you are a bulleted list fan, think of it this way: Be a discoverer, Be authentic, Be patient, Be courageous.

Earl Creps, Ph.D.
D.Min. Program Director, AGTS

DATA DUMP: INVASION OF THE SOCIAL SCIENTISTS

Growing leaders need to know about several huge new research projects. These surveys will produce more information about congregational life than ever before available.

For example, data was gathered on more than 850,000 worshippers in 3000 US congregations on April 29, 2001. Similar surveys are being conducted in three other countries - England, Australia and New Zealand. In all, the four-nation

study will involve about 2.45 million worshipers from 77 denominations and 17,300 congregations. Results will be available in January 2002. The purpose of the study is to assess congregational vitality and ministry. For more information, check these links: (<http://www.pcusa.org/pcnews/01125.htm>)
<http://news.crosswalk.com/religion/item/0,,341866,00.htm>

LINKS TO THE FUTURE: RESOURCES

<http://www.agts.edu>

Check out the newly (and totally) re-designed AGTS website. We have lots of new bells and whistles with more being added all the time. D.Min. syllabi and other materials will become available online before year-end.

<http://www.jbp.com/>

Check this site for Jossey-Bass publishers. Extensive leadership resources are a step above much of what is available elsewhere. For the serious leader.

<http://www.gospelcom.net/>

Gospelcom makes a ton of links available to all sorts of organizations and resources, including those devoted to leadership

IMPACT PLAYERS: D.MIN. PARTICIPANTS CHANGING THEIR WORLD

Pastor Anuparp Wichitnantana serves as the General Superintendent of the Thailand Assemblies of God. He is also a D.Min. participant (Cohort 5). In March he organized and led the first Church Planting Boot Camp ever conducted in his nation. (See the Pentecostal Evangel, July 1, 2001, p. 30.)

<http://pentecostalevangel.ag.org/pentecostal-evangel/>

Church leaders expect 40 new churches to be planted in the next 2 years as a result of training the 50 people who attended. There are 75 AG churches in Thailand currently.

Speaking of Impact Players: Lattis Campbell (Cohort 5), Dean of Student Affairs at Global University, has accepted the position of Dean of Higher Education for the Alaska District, and President of Far North Bible College! He will be responsible for leadership development at all levels of the church through a team called The Leadership Development Network. Lattis also plans to move his school to accredited status so students will be eligible to pursue graduate studies. Go Cohort 5!

WE RECOMMEND: free PowerPoint templates available through Presenters University. WebSiteEstates.com (<http://www.websiteestates.com/>)

also has a huge selection of free templates, and if you join their e-mail list you'll be notified of new templates twice a week. They also list the best PowerPoint Web sites

<http://presenteruniv.rgc2.com/servlet/cc?ikNDYTELJkLiIFHnLtPgHkRDLKNE0EC>

TOOLS: "THE SEDUCTIONS OF LEADERSHIP"

Chip Espinoza-Johnson is Executive Pastor leading the ministry team at Newport-Mesa (CA) Christian Center. He is also a college teacher, an organizational consultant, and a fan of really strong coffee.

Chip recently adapted an outline from Patrick M. Lencioni's book, *The Five Temptations of a CEO: A Leadership Fable* (Jossey-Bass, 1998) to make some critical points about the dangers leaders face. Chip sees the "Five Seductions of Leadership" as:

1. Choosing status over results: who is going to get the credit?
2. Choosing popularity over accountability: can you lead when people are unhappy with you?
3. Choosing certainty over faith: can you walk by faith?
4. Choosing conformity over healthy conflict: do you avoid pain at all costs?
5. Choosing invulnerability over trust: do you try to keep your weaknesses a secret?

This stuff not for the fainthearted!

You can get the Lencioni book at:

http://www.amazon.com/exec/obidos/search-handle-form/ref=s_sf_b_as/102-0288110-4486538

If you would like an MP3 audio (12 MB) or Real Media streaming version of the sermon, email Chip at: chip@mediamininggroup.com

HOUSEKEEPING: SUMMER SESSION

Starting in 2002, the D.Min. Summer session will move from May to June. AGTS graduation moves to May that year, so a change avoids many administrative complications. It also lengthens the brief interval between the Spring (February) and Summer classes, much to everyone's relief.

TALK TO US:

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THE LEADING EDGE...cutting a path from today to tomorrow