



LTi E-Newsletter  
September, 2004

*"Talk about Transformation!"  
Depth of Soul ~ Vitality in Service*

From the Ministry Journal of Steve Macchia

### **Personal Reflections...**

"Let him who cannot be alone beware of community. Let him who is not in community beware of being alone. One who wants fellowship without solitude plunges into the void of words and feelings, and the one who seeks solitude without fellowship perishes in the abyss of vanity, self-infatuation, and despair." These are the words of Christian martyr, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, from his classic on the subject of Christian community, *Life Together*. I recently reread this wonderful text and was profoundly challenged by his words. As we serve church and parachurch ministry teams, our call is for them to pursue solitude in prayer, Scripture study and reflection in order to achieve vitality of service in the context of their team and ministry community. May it be so in your life today!

### **Coming Alongside...**

Authentic community is a core pursuit of LTi. It begins with our board, and spreads throughout our ministry connections as we come alongside leaders and teams in their spiritual and leadership formation. We praise God for the many relationships we have developed and enhanced in this first full year of service... with and for over 30 local churches and parachurch ministries; hosting soul care retreats for ministry leaders; conducting seminars; providing resources; and consulting with ministry leadership teams as they discern God's gracious will for their shared mission and ministry. It's been a fabulous inaugural year!

Recent additions to the "virtual team" we are creating include the following pastors who will be assisting us in our work with local church teams who are pursuing health and vitality: Pastor Tom Griffith (River of Life Church, Jamaica Plain, MA), Pastor Steve Poole (Grace Community Church, Rochester, NH), and Pastor Paul Hubley (Denominational Executive for the Baptist General Conference of the Northeast).

We want to come alongside you in your personal spiritual development. Our Soul Care Retreats this fall are a great place to begin that process. Each will be held at Emery House, situated along the banks of the Merrimack River in West Newbury, MA. The dates are: October 25-26; November 8-9; and December 6-7. Registration information is on our website – space is limited!

## **Recommended Readings...**

Summer reading led me to several great books. A few I heartily recommend are:

- *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer – great read on “community”
- *The Dream Giver* by Bruce Wilkinson – refreshing for “finding your dream” rather than merely “living your life!”
- *Your God is Too Safe* by Mark Buchanan – subtitle says it all “rediscovering the wonder of a God you can’t control”
- *TrueFaced* by Bill Thrall, Bruce McNicol and John Lynch – learning how to trust God and others with who you really are...an “ah-ha” for all of us

Be sure to check out our website for additional resources:

**[www.LeadershipTransformations.org](http://www.LeadershipTransformations.org)**

Here you will find the full complement of ministry services and resources LTI is currently providing our constituents. Note some of the free resources available, the new *Becoming A Healthy Disciple Small Group Study and Worship Guide*, as well as the growing number of language translations now available for *Becoming A Healthy Church*. And, every time you enter the CBD site through our website, a donation is provided to our ministry – another way to support LTI!

## **Renewal Yearnings...**

I recently discovered John Piper’s definition of love in his book, *The Dangerous Duty of Delight*, “Love is the overflow and expansion of joy in God, which gladly meets the needs of others. Love is not merely the passive overflow, but the aggressive extension and expansion and completion of joy in God. It is first a deeply satisfying experience of the fullness of God’s grace, and then a doubly satisfying experience of extending this joy in God to another person.” This is the kind of love that defines the yearning of hearts and lives all around you – even today. I thank God for the love you have shown to our family and the ministry of Leadership Transformations, Inc. Let’s continue to contagiously share that love with others!

*I trust you will continue to be an active part of the team – through your love, prayers, gifts, ministry suggestions and participation!*

**Your grateful brother in Christ,**

Steve Macchia

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