

LTi E-Newsletter Summer 2005

From the Ministry Journal of Steve Macchia

“Talk about Transformation!”
Depth of Soul ~ Vitality in Service

□ Personal Reflections

One of the greatest gifts of this new ministry journey has been several very encouraging connections with Dr. Larry Crabb, well-known psychologist, author, and founder of New Way Ministries. He laments, “Most people go through their entire life never speaking words to another human being that come out of what is deepest within them, and most people never hear words that reach all the way into the deep place we call soul. But we all have the power to relate to people in such a way that we can say, ‘There’s something within me – and something within you – that, if known, explored, discovered, touched, released, could move you toward the vision and maturity God has for you, whether anything in your circumstances changes or not’” (from his book, *SoulTalk*).

Leadership Transformations invites leaders and team members of local church and parachurch ministry settings into a ministry life that speaks to God and others from the depth of the soul – and it’s a joy to watch how lives and ministries are being altered from the inside out. Most are now saying, “I never want to go back” to the old way of relating to God and one another which only touches on the surface and reaches skin deep. Is this your choice too?

□ Coming Alongside

In the month of July (2005), LTi will become “international” and even more “multi-lingual” – how can this be true? Well, we have contracted to come alongside a church team in Toronto, Canada...taking us outside the US for the first time! In addition, we have now translated into Spanish our leadership team and congregation assessment tools, as well as 25 critical pages of the *Becoming A Healthy Church Workbook*, joining the previously translated *Becoming A Healthy Church* book. I’m also engaged in training Hispanic pastors in the southwest who are learning how to use these materials in their local church and denominational settings. We delight in serving the diversity of the body of Christ!

Other ways we come alongside leaders and teams include: soul care retreats (visit our website for upcoming dates); individual spiritual direction; ministry team consultations; spiritual formation groups; church and team ministry health assessments. Call 978-646-4175 or email my assistant, Sage Chang (Sage@LeadershipTransformations.org) for more information.

□ Recommended Readings

This season has been rich with reading on the subject of leadership, in anticipation of the teaching I’ve done within the Doctor of Ministry context. Some of the excellent books I’ve read include:

Spiritual Leadership by Henry and Richard Blackaby – this is a comprehensive look at Spirit-centered leadership from a soul-based perspective;

Overcoming the Dark Side of Leadership by Gary McIntosh and Sam Rima – a challenging book for any leader honest enough to embrace their “dark” side;

The Ascent of a Leader by Thrall, McNicol and McElrath – should be retitled the ‘descent’ of a leader, since it promotes humility, transparency and sacrifice;

The Call by Os Guinness – a fabulous treatment of an all-important subject for leaders and team members alike;

In The Name of Jesus by Henri Nouwen – one of my favorite texts on leadership that is worthy of a reread every year or so!

Be sure to check out our website for additional resources for leaders and teams:

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 (www.ChristianBook.com) site through our website, a donation is provided to our ministry – another way to support LTI!

Coming soon: *Becoming A Healthy Team* (Baker Books, 2005) by yours truly!

□ Renewal Yearnings

Let me close this newsletter with words from the conclusion of Henri Nouwen's *In the Name of Jesus...*

“Too often I looked at being relevant, popular, and powerful as ingredients of an effective ministry. The truth, however, is that these are not vocations but temptations. Jesus asks, ‘Do you love me?’ Jesus sends us out to be shepherds, and Jesus promises a life in which we increasingly have to stretch out our hands and be led to places where we would rather not go. He asks us to move from a concern for relevance to a life of prayer, from worries about popularity to communal and mutual ministry, and from a leadership built on power to a leadership in which we critically discern where God is leading us and our people. It is the image of the leader with outstretched hands, who chooses a life of downward mobility. It is the image of the praying leader, the vulnerable leader, and the trusting leader. May that image fill your hearts with hope, courage and confidence...”

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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