

Talk About Transformation! from the ministry desk of Steve Macchia

A PUBLICATION OF LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMATIONS, INC.

LTi E-Newsletter Fall 2006

www.LeadershipTransformations.org

Personal Reflections

Regarding the Psalms

"There is one thing still remaining which cannot be neglected without great injury to your devotions: to begin all your prayers with a psalm. There is nothing that so clears a way for your prayers; nothing that so disperses dullness of heart; nothing that so purifies the soul from poor and little passions; nothing that so opens heaven or carries your sense of delight in God; they awaken holy desires; they teach how to ask, and they prevail with God to give. They kindle a holy flame; they turn your heart into an altar; they turn your prayers into incense, and carry them as sweet-smelling savor to the throne of grace."

(William Law, The Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life)

As the LTi board and staff team pray through our *Guide to Prayer*, we are delighted with the many ways God pours out His grace upon our shared life and ministry. We hope that your life of prayer is enriched by your reflective reading of the Psalms, God's great prayer book for all who hunger after righteousness. This spiritual dietary staple is good for your soul! If you are interested in joining our journey of prayer, please let me know and we'll point you to some of the best resources available for enhancing your prayer closet experience.

Coming Alongside

As you know by now, we have two offices...one in New England and one in Colorado Springs, CO. Each time I'm in Colorado, Rick Anderson (our VP) and I serve leaders and teams in that great city (which is filled with over 100 Christian ministry headquarters!). During my upcoming trip later this fall we will have the privilege of speaking to the largest chapter of the Christian Management Association (on the subject of healthy teams), facilitate our Colorado Soul Care Retreat for ministry leaders, and co-labor with our friends at the Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU) leading a Healthy Church seminar for local pastors. We praise God for the wonderful

opportunities opening up for us in this strategic place of Christian ministry...of which we are now an official part!

{By the way, with the travel demands growing for Rick and yours truly – mostly between Boston and Colorado Springs – we are looking for generous frequent flyers to donate miles to our ministry. If you have lots of spare miles on American, United or Delta, we could certainly put them to good use! Please let us know if you're willing to share them with your friends at LTi!}

In addition to providing ministry training, soul care retreats, and practical



Rev. Dr. Steve Macchia, D.Min.
Founder and President

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COMING ALONGSIDE

CMA
Colorado Soul Care Retreat
ECCU

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

C.H.A.T.—Church Health Assessment Tool
www.HealthyChurch.net

RENEWAL YEARNINGS

Next Soul Care Retreat:
October 27-29, 2006

resources, we also come alongside leaders and teams by offering: individual spiritual direction; certificate program in spiritual direction; spiritual leadership communities; team care retreats and consultations/facilitation of strategic ministry planning processes. Call 978-646-4175 or email my assistant, Sage Chang (Sage@LeadershipTransformations.org), for more information.

Serving with me as we come alongside leaders and teams are faithful members of our board of directors: Diana Bennett, Kathy Crowell, Todd Klipp, Kevin Parke,

Brian Lacey and David Schultz, Chairman, and our staff team: Rick Anderson (VP in our Colorado Springs office), Sage Chang (my multi-talented assistant), David McKiel (our accountant). In addition, our team associates are positioned to serve the body of Christ in particular areas of expertise: Warren Schuh (church health coach), Susan Currie (training in spiritual direction) and Diana Bennett (spiritual leadership communities). When you pray for our ministry, please remember to commit the work of our board and staff to our gracious and loving Father. We have joyfully entered our fourth year of service as a leadership team of twelve!!



Recommended Resources

NEW Ministry Resource from Leadership Transformations, Inc.!

Church Health Assessment Tool (C.H.A.T.) ~ Check out www.HealthyChurch.net today!

C.H.A.T.™ is a convenient, affordable, user-friendly online survey that allows you to get an accurate measurement of your church's health. In as little as 30 days, you can collect crucial feedback from your congregation and leadership team.

C.H.A.T. assimilates your data and provides you with a comprehensive, easy-to-understand report delivered right to your email inbox. The report is designed to help you frame your strategic decision making for increased ministry effectiveness. Best of all, you aren't required to hire an expensive consultant to walk you through the process – you are in the driver's seat! You can even track your progress from start to finish via our Pastor's Console™.

C.H.A.T. is a 72-question assessment covering the following cross-denominationally applicable church health principles outlined in *Becoming a Healthy*

Church (Baker Books, 2005): God's Empowering Presence, God-Exalting Worship, Spiritual Disciplines, Learning & Growing in Community, A Commitment to Loving & Caring Relationships, Servant-Leadership Development, An Outward Focus, Wise Administration & Accountability, Networking with the Body of Christ, and Stewardship & Generosity.

Since the assessment is web-based, participants can take the survey from the convenience of home or office (paper option also available) in a 20-25 minute timeframe. Responses of the congregation and leadership team are tracked separately for comparison in the final report. Identities of the respondents are kept confidential, though you will be provided with demographics of the participants such as age, gender, marital status, and years attending your church.

C.H.A.T. is unlike any other resource available to the Church today – check it out and recommend it to your church leaders...it's the best way to listen intently to your leadership and congregation. Register online by 10/15/2006 and save 25% on your set up fee!

**"C.H.A.T. IS
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TODAY"**



www.HealthyChurch.net

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

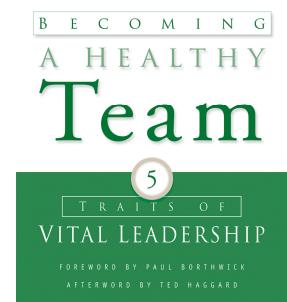
www.LeadershipTransformations.org

Here you will find the full complement of ministry services and resources LTi is currently providing our constituents. If you haven't picked up a copy of *Becoming A Healthy Team*, then be sure to order one today. In *Becoming A Healthy Team* I focus the reader's attention on the importance of learning how to lead and serve ministry teams in a cooperative, community-based fashion. The primary biblical focus is the book of I Corinthians, with particular emphasis on chapters 12

and 13. I offer a holistic definition of healthy ministry teams based on the image of the body of Christ and outline five key traits of vital leadership for effective teams: Trust, Empowerment, Assimilation, Management and Service (which spells TEAMS!).

In addition, note some of the free resources available on the website, plus the *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* (now available in Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Thai) and *Becoming A Healthy Disciple*.

STEPHEN A. MACCHIA



Renewal Yearnings

Our next Soul Care Retreat in New England is scheduled for October 27-29, 2006 at Emery House in West Newbury, MA. Be sure to visit our website for registration information – it's good for your soul!

I close this e-newsletter with the inspiring and challenging words of John Bode's hymn,

"O Jesus, I Have Promised"

O Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; Be Thou forever near me, my Master and my Friend.

I shall not fear the battle if Thou art by my side, nor wander from the pathway if Thou wilt be my guide.

O let me feel Thee near me! The world is ever near; I see the sights that dazzle, the tempting sounds I hear; My foes are ever near me, around me and

within; but Jesus, draw thou nearer, and shield my soul from sin.

O let me hear Thee speaking in accents clear and still, above the storms of passion, the murmurs of self-will.

O speak to reassure me, to hasten or control; o speak, and make me listen, Thou guardian of my soul.

O Jesus, Thou hast promised to all who follow Thee that where Thou art in glory there shall Thy servant be.

And Jesus, I have promised to serve Thee to the end; O give me grace to follow, My Master and My Friend.

May the grace of God sustain you now and always. I trust you will continue to be an active part of the LTi team – through your love, prayers, gifts, ministry suggestions and participation! We value your companionship as we journey together in this uniquely meaningful way.

NEW ENGLAND
SOUL CARE
RETREAT:
OCTOBER 27-29,
2006 AT EMERY
HOUSE IN WEST
NEWBURY, MA