

Ministry Update from the LTi Team

October 2008

Overflowing Grace

LTi Celebrates *First Five* Years of Ministry



Stephen A. Macchia
Founder and President



“Christian ministry is more than doing good. Ministry is an act of service performed either consciously or unconsciously in the name of Christ. Ministry is Jesus Christ expressing his life through us. It is born, therefore, not in activity; but in solitude, where through the Spirit we experience the power of life from within.”

Ministry and Solitude by James C. Fenhagen

More than five years ago, Leadership Transformations was founded with the express intent of reclaiming spiritual leadership in the life of the Church. Spiritual leaders understand that unless their souls are grounded in the love of God - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, established in the Word, and nourished by a life of prayer, they are destined to burn out and self-destruct. Having witnessed this in far too many places, and coming close to burnout myself, a band of brothers and sisters joined their hearts and hands with mine on a common mission...to feed the souls of leaders and teams. Since July 1, 2003 we have seen many remarkable stories of life transformation emerge right before our very eyes - and we are pausing this fall to offer thanks to the Lord for His hand of harvest blessing on our shared labors of love.

Confronting together the leaders' propensity to acedia (spiritual boredom or indifference to matters of religion, or simply spiritual laziness), LTi set out to provide services that will come alongside leaders and teams and offer ministries of attentiveness that focus afresh on the needs of the neglected soul. As a result, we have provided one-on-one spiritual direction, spiritual formation groups, soul care retreats, spiritual leadership communities, spiritual direction training, spiritual discernment for teams, and a plethora of spiritual formation resources (books, articles, newsletters, pdfs, online assessments for churches, and retreat resources). We are delighted with how the Lord has opened doors for us to serve his Church all across America and in several nations. We offer God all the honor, praise and glory!

“What makes life splendid is the constant awareness of God. What transforms the spirit into his likeness is intimate fellowship with him. We are saved - from our pettiness and earthiness and selfishness and sin - by conscious communion with his greatness and love and holiness.”

Discipline and Discovery by Albert Edward Day.



LeadershipTransformations.org

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Reflection on Five Years

By David Schultz, Board Chairman



It is hard to believe that it was only five years ago that Steve Macchia shared his vision for LT*i* with a group of friends sitting around our kitchen table. I can clearly recall our excitement building as we began to understand the potential impact of the new ministry Steve outlined. Since that time I have been privileged to have been a small part of the team of supporters God provided for LT*i*, and what an exciting experience that has been! God has regularly and faithfully answered our collective prayers for guidance and discernment as LT*i* has reached out to ministry leaders across the United States and several other countries. Participation in LT*i*'s

first five years finds me overflowing with thanksgiving for God's powerful blessings and filled with anticipation for where God may lead us over the next five years!

Join the Celebration!

On Saturday, November 15, 2008, we will be hosting a special ½ day event to commemorate our First Five years of service to the body of Christ. From 8:30-noon, at Grace Chapel in Lexington (MA) we will host an event for leaders and teams entitled "Experiencing God's Transforming Grace" with Chris Webb, newly appointed president of Renovaré (the spiritual formation ministry founded by Richard Foster), Adele Calhoun (co-pastor of Redeemer Community Church and author of *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*) and Steve Macchia, president of LT*i*. [Event and registration information](#) is available on our website. The first 150 to register will receive a complimentary copy of Adele's book, *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook* (IVP).



Soul Care Retreats – Sign up today!

Soul Care Retreats offer you a two day experience of listening to God in prayer, biblical reflection, and community conversation. As a result, we grow in our awareness of being the beloved and blessed children of God. Our next Soul Care Retreats will be:

October 23-24, 2008

December 4-5, 2008
(Women's Advent Retreat).

Soul Care for Leaders and Teams

Selah Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction

By Sue Currie, Coordinator of Spiritual Direction Training



Selah's "wide open space" is expanding with life, as our 15 interns continue growing as spiritual directors! Moving into year 2 of our program, the interns are all offering spiritual direction to directees, so already the circle of those receiving soundly Biblical, Trinitarian, and contemplative direction has widened. Selah interns continue to be supervised in their practice of direction, this year moving from one-to-one supervision to peer group supervision (still facilitated by Selah faculty). This not only provides them with ongoing feedback and critique, but brings them into an ongoing practice of accountability that is intended to continue after their training ends.

Additionally, our faculty has grown: Steve Macchia and Susan Currie have been joined by Angela Wisdom (Associate Faculty), a gifted spiritual director, retreat leader, and teacher! We are further enriched by several adjunct faculty who are beginning to make their appearances at Selah residencies, offering teaching from their own wealth and breadth of experience in spiritual direction and spiritual formation.

Typically, year 2 of Selah will continue to focus on the central practice of spiritual direction, as well as its foundational theology in spiritual formation. We'll broaden our application of spiritual direction's practice from one-to-one settings to group direction practice, and give some attention to its place in the life of the local church.

Our Selah community is a rich one, filled with the light and love of Christ, resonating with his life, and growing in our Christ-presence to those whom we companion in direction. [Read more about us](#) and consider joining us for our second cohort, beginning in fall of 2009.

Spiritual Leadership Communities

by Diana Bennett, Coordinator of Spiritual Leadership Communities & Consultant for Small Group Leadership Training



Slowing down and noticing God...quieting our minds and focusing on His great love...being challenged in our disciplines and being open to life transformation... that's what the Spiritual Leadership Communities are all about! We finished our first year in May with an overwhelming response to continue for a second year. We've added a handful of new members and look forward to our first gathering this month.

What is a [spiritual leadership community](#)? We are a small group of 15 designed to provide ongoing encouragement and discernment for leaders of ministries who come together for worship, sharing, prayer, and personal reflection. By coming alongside one another's spiritual journeys for one full year (with the option of a second year), it is our hope that we will develop a lifestyle of spiritual formation which will impact our personal walk with Christ and infiltrate our daily ministry context. We make our meetings a priority in our calendars and strive to create authentic Christian community. We meet four times a year for two-day retreats and once in January for a full day intensive.

Our topics this year include: Spiritual Autobiographies, Spiritual Friendship, Role of the Holy Spirit in Spiritual Formation, Spiritual Discernment, Reflective Listening, Praying the Scriptures, and Spiritual Community.

We are grateful to God for this experience of developing supportive community. We have bonded in love for God and for one another. What a privilege to be part of this powerful experience in growing together in our spiritual journeys. This year we welcome Roberta Messina as a new member of our facilitation team. We're growing spiritually and numerically and it's pure joy for all.

Resources for the Church

New LTi Online Store



Rick Anderson
Vice President

Our new shopping cart features books, downloads, events, program registrations, and online donations. In the coming days, we'll continue to add resources to this new store, compiling a comprehensive inventory of spiritual formation resources. We'll be expanding our book line to include the best of the best on prayer, Sabbath rest, spiritual disciplines, personal identity, spiritual formation, intimacy with Christ, personal discipleship, spiritual direction, spiritual friendship, spiritual reading, listening prayer, spiritual living, and spiritual leadership. Check back often for ongoing updates and featured products.

We're excited to offer, for the first time, a downloadable "self-guided" soul care retreat resource. The first in a series to come, this download will walk you (or a group) through a half day soul care retreat format. Complete with the packing list, schedule, Scripture verses, worship outlines, and touch points – all you need to do is choose a place to retreat and set the time aside to dive into some quiet, reflective time with God by following the road map we've laid out for you. Other retreat downloads to come will feature an array of spiritual formation topics/themes and will be available in different time blocks such as half day, full day, and overnight. We're excited that the retreat style and

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The CHAT survey helps churches listen, plan, and grow. Tell your pastor to take advantage of our special fall pricing –

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Also, the custom questions module now gives churches the option to add their own questions. Visit HealthyChurch.net for more info.



www.HealthyChurch.net

Have a Frequent Flyer credit card?

Make your donation via Visa or MasterCard and earn frequent flyer miles in addition to your tax deduction.

LTi's Vision

Our vision is to see Christian leaders and teams transformed by a lifestyle of spiritual formation and discernment, resulting in depth of spiritual insight and vitality in God's service.

LTi's Mission

Our mission is to encourage the spiritual formation of leaders and equip leadership teams to discern God's unique will for their life and ministry.

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format we've honed over these first five years – one that has proven so spiritually stirring time and time again – can now be multiplied for use by leaders (and their teams) all over the country and the world.

The new shopping cart also allows us to accept online donations. Would you like to earn frequent flyer miles in addition to your tax deduction? Click on "Donate" from anywhere on the LTi site to choose between one-time donation options and automatic recurring monthly donation options. No checks, no stamps, and you earn miles while you support the important work of LTi.

Visit our [newly updated website](#) for additional resources for leaders and teams or call toll free 877-TEAM-LTi for more information.

Here you will find the full complement of ministry services and resources LTi is currently providing our constituents.

- All five of Steve Macchia's books: Becoming A Healthy Church (available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Thai), Becoming A Healthy Church Workbook, Becoming A Healthy Disciple, Becoming A Healthy Disciple Small Group Study and Worship Guide, and Becoming A Healthy Team;
- New self-guided "Soul Care Retreat" download
- PDF's and articles for your ministry use
- E-newsletters and ministry updates
- Meet the LTi Team!

Renewal Yearnings

"For too long we have thought of the Christian life as essentially either involvement in political, economic, social concerns that wear us out and result in depression, or activity which keeps the church intact and doctrinally pure. Our primary orientation cannot be an institution or some great cause or even other people, but first and forever to God. Unless our identity is hid in God we will never know who we are or what we are to do. Our first act must be prayer, Oratio. To be human is to pray, to meditate both day and night on the love and activity of God. We are called to be continuously formed and transformed by the thought of God within us. Prayer is a disciplined dedication to paying attention. Without the single minded attentiveness of prayer we will rarely hear anything worth repeating or catch a vision worth asking anyone else to gaze upon."

The Spiritual Life by John Westerhoff and John Eusden

May you continue to prioritize the care of your soul, out of which you will experience vitality in your relationship with God and your service to others.

Your Grateful Brother in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve", written over a thin horizontal line.

Stephen A. Macchia, D.Min.