

Ministry Update from the LTi Team

June 2008

Soul Care for Leaders

A Warmed vs. Quenched Spirit



Stephen A. Macchia
Founder and President

The Spirit is quenched by distraction of the attention from God and God's works, by excessive anxiety about worldly matters, by indulgence in sensual pleasure, by pandering to carnal desires, and by infatuation with material things. If the Spirit is quenched, then the Christian life will be quenched too.

(Adapted from *The Art of Prayer* by Iguimen Chariton)

Our souls are quenched when we let the cares and concerns of this world intrude our prayer closets and invade our daily lives. What is the most appropriate response of the spiritual leader? To know that God delights in our hearts burning unceasingly toward Him day and night! Our solitude must become more collected around God's Word, our prayers need to grow deeper and more sustained, and our reflection on our busy lives more focused on God and His amazing love and purpose for us. Only then will our quenched spirits become warmed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Spirit of God, descend upon my heart; Wean it from earth; through all its pulses move; Stoop to my weakness, mighty as Thou art, And make me love Thee as I ought to love. Hast Thou not bid me love Thee, God and King? All, all Thine own, soul, heart and strength and mind. I see Thy cross; there teach my heart to cling; O let me seek Thee, and O let me find! Teach me to love Thee as Thine angels love, One holy passion filling all my frame, The kindling of the heaven descended Dove, My heart an altar, and Thy love the flame.

(From *Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart*, George Croly)

Soul Care Retreats

Soul Care Retreats have been to me an oasis of calm in the busy pace of life—a place where I have stepped back from the tyranny of the urgent and learned to listen to God's still, small voice.

At my first Soul Care Retreat I remember Steve Macchia telling the group that caring for your soul is not selfish. What a revolutionary idea—I felt that taking time out just for me to draw nearer to God was an undeserved luxury. Steve's statement somehow gave me permission to enjoy the time and freed me from guilt about the responsibilities I was leaving behind.

While the teachings and group times are very helpful, for me the most powerful part has been time alone with God. When I take this time to rest in Him, God always honors that with His presence. It's as if He speaks to me through a megaphone when his voice does not have to compete with the noise of daily life.



Ellie Beatty
SCR participant



LeadershipTransformations.org

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And the unselfish luxury of time and space allowed me to listen well and hear the voice of Jesus, through Scripture, through drawing, through walking in the woods, through quiet resting. These are things I do not make time for on a daily basis. Soul Care Retreats are for me like water in the desert, and I have left each one refreshed, changed and renewed.

God calls to us: "Step out of the traffic! Take a long, loving look at me, your High God." (Psalm 46:10, The Message). Through Soul Care Retreats I have been able to do just that.

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, broken and blessed children of God. Our next Soul Care Retreats will be held on October 23-24, 2008 and December 4-5, 2008 (Women's Advent Retreat). Sign up today!

In addition, we continue to come alongside leaders and teams in a variety of ways...Spiritual Leadership Communities, Soul Care One-on-One's, *Selah* Certificate Program in Spiritual Direction, Team Care Retreats, and Team Care Intensives. Visit www.LeadershipTransformations.org or call toll free 877-TEAM-LTi for more information on these services.

Team Care for Ministries

Throughout 2008, the LTi team is coming alongside the Evangelical Christian Credit Union (ECCU) during their "Year of Renewal." Based in Brea, California, with an office in Colorado Springs, CO, ECCU provides financial resources for churches and Christian ministries all across the country and in several international settings. With Mr. Mark Holbrook at the helm, ECCU is committed to strengthening evangelical ministries with financial assistance, covering all their banking needs.



Your ministry banking resource.™



Kevin Miller
Executive Vice
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"The Church Health Assessment Tool really stands out. I like how CHAT identifies your church's strengths, involves every member, is easy to take online, and offers highly-readable results. What a great tool to assess where you are, fill people with hope, and together discern God's will for your future."

This year the leadership team chose to introduce rhythms of Sabbath rest and spiritual renewal throughout their team of 350 employees. LTi is serving the team by leading chapel services, facilitating soul care retreats, providing consultation to the management team, and recommending resources to utilize in their year-long endeavor. This unique opportunity has shown us once again how seriously the ECCU team is taking their responsibility as spiritual leaders in the body of Christ. They want to model this first throughout their organization and the ripple effects are being felt in the lives and ministries they are serving in the Church.

We'll be sure to keep you posted on the exciting developments experienced in this unique opportunity for the LTi ministry team.

Resources for the Church

LTi's CHAT survey has just gotten even better!



www.HealthyChurch.net

CHAT is receiving an upgrade this month in the form of an optional "custom questions" module that will allow a church to add up to ten of their own questions to their CHAT session for a \$99 upgrade. In response to feedback we've received from previous users, we've added this powerful new element to allow church leaders to ask questions specific to their situation while conducting a church-wide survey session. These custom questions can take the form of multiple choice or a 1-5 rating.

Every church has a unique thumbprint given to them by God. Our passion



Rick Anderson
Vice President,
CHAT Chief Architect

is to see churches everywhere discover what that uniqueness looks like. The church is not the bricks and mortar but rather the people who fill the rooms and form community. They are what make the church unique. CHAT is a listening tool for church leaders who are interested in having a “heart to heart conversation” with every member of the congregation. It’s a 72 question assessment based on research with thousands of churches and individuals. The survey questions are biblically centered and based on the cross-denominational, principle-based traits from *Becoming A Healthy Church* (Baker Books, 1999/2006).

CHAT is both easy to use and cost-effective. Since it’s web-based, all surveys can be completed in as few as 20-25 minutes from the convenience of home or office. CHAT also tracks the responses of the congregation and leadership team separately for direct comparison. Best of all, CHAT does all the work but the church

is in the driver’s seat from start to finish via our Pastor’s Console. At the end of the data collection window (dates chosen by the church), an easy to read, full color report is sent directly to the pastor’s email inbox. This user friendly report will clearly identify the strongest areas of the church as well as the soft spots, discrepancies between congregation and leadership team responses, participant demographics, open-ended comments from the participants, and suggested next steps which will empower the leadership team to make needed adjustments for increased ministry health and effectiveness. In addition, optional coaching packages are available in the implementation stage once the report has been received. One of our trained Church Health Coaches is just a phone call away to come along side churches that would like additional guidance.

CHAT is unlike any other resource available to the Church today – check it out at www.HealthyChurch.net and recommend it to your church leaders...it’s the best way to listen intently to your leadership and congregation.

Web Zone

LeadershipTransformations.org is much more than just information *about* our ministry. It’s a place offering resources for leaders, teams, individuals and churches looking for greater attentiveness to God, self and one another in life and service. Here you will find the full complement of ministry services and resources LTi is currently providing our constituents.

Our newly updated website features free PDF’s and articles for your ministry use, books, access to upcoming events, videos and a shopping cart that will soon allow you to, not only order resources, but also register for retreats online!

The site is the home to our time-tested resources: *Becoming A Healthy Church* (available in English, Spanish, Korean, Chinese and Thai)—a Baker Bestseller; *Becoming A Healthy Church Workbook*; *Becoming A Healthy Disciple*; *Becoming A Healthy Disciple Small Group Study and Worship Guide*; and *Becoming A Healthy Team*—another Baker Bestseller! We also have assessments designed and continuing to be improved to serve the needs of churches, individuals and teams. Find a convenient link to CHAT as well as an introduction to IHAT and THAT—coming soon! (What are IHAT and THAT, you ask? Find out on our assessments page!)

There are pictures to see, ministry updates to read and kind words shared by those we have served. And our wonderful LTi team is here to serve you, too! Come learn a little bit more about each of us on our bios page.

Thoughts? Comments? Questions? Always feel free to contact us by emailing info@LeadershipTransformations.org. Thank God for technology!

CHAT REDUCED SUMMER PRICING:

\$199 set up, \$2/survey, and
\$199 report (\$200 off)



Sage Chang
Executive Assistant &
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Renewal Yearnings

We have been reminded during this year's season of Pentecost that leaders and teams are in desperate need of soul care that's refreshed, renewed, and empowered by God's Holy Spirit. When we take ourselves too seriously and rely on our own strength (of heart, mind or body), we quench the role the Spirit delights to take in our lives. May you be reminded afresh today that God's Spirit wants to reign supreme in your heart and direct your steps along the pathway toward loving obedience and faithfulness to His call. May you open up yourself to His guidance, protection, grace and love today and always.

Ah, Lord God, Thou holy Lover of my soul, when Thou comest into my soul, all that is within me shall rejoice. Thou art my Glory and the exultation of my heart; Thou art my Hope and Refuge in the day of my trouble. Set me free from all evil passions, and heal my heart of all inordinate affections; that, being inwardly cured and thoroughly cleansed, I may be made fit to love, courageous to suffer, steady to persevere. Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing more courageous, nothing fuller nor better in heaven and earth; because love is born of God, and cannot rest but in God, above all created things. Let me love Thee more than myself, nor love myself but for Thee. Amen.

(Thomas à Kempis)

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.

Your Brother on the Journey,



Stephen A. Macchia, D.Min.

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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