

LEADERSHIP TRANSFORMATIONS

DEPTH OF SOUL
VITALITY IN SERVICE

Ministry Update from the LTi Team

March 2009

Reflections



Stephen A. Macchia
Founder and President

"It is unlikely that we will deepen our relationship with God in a casual or haphazard manner. There will be a need for some intentional commitment and some reorganization in our own lives. But there is nothing that will enrich our lives more than a deeper and clearer perception of God's presence in the routine of daily living" (*A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God*, p. 76)

Over 100 of LTi's friends and ministry supporters are reading and praying through *A Guide to Prayer for All Who Seek God* (compiled by Rueben Job and a favored resource of the LTi team). Each week we are reorganizing our lives around spiritual practices that will deepen our commitment to Christ. Why? Because we all believe that a 'casual or haphazard' approach to our personal spiritual formation will not lead us to that goal.

It excites me to know that so many of our friends are sharing this prayer discipline—together, yet individually. I find myself reflecting often on the power of such a shared experience. When I'm holding my *Guide to Prayer* in my hands each day, I'm praying for the nourishment of the souls of others joining me on this journey. When the LTi board or ministry team gets together for our team meetings we share with one another how God is using this material to deepen our intimacy with Christ and strengthen us for the journey ahead. Often it's the same Scriptures, Psalms, or spiritual readings that have touched my heart as well.

Are you one of our *Guide to Prayer* companions? If so, I'd love to hear how the *Guide* is being used of the Lord in your life, relationships and/or ministry. Want to join the LTi family in this endeavor? Then click here to order your copy and pick up the trail with us (the *Guide* follows the church calendar so we're all in sync on what we're reading week to week).

Highlights

From the LTi Ministry Team

Join us April 2-3 for our next regional Soul Care Retreat in Hingham, MA. We will focus on the Lenten season, with biblical themes of spiritual growth, including times of worship, small group sharing, and spacious blocks of time for silence and solitude. Facilitated by Diana Bennett and Steve Macchia. [Click here](#) to register.



On February 24 and 25 Rick Anderson and Steve Macchia were blessed with the opportunity of sharing two days at ECCU (Evangelical Christian Credit Union) in Brea, CA. One day they facilitated a Soul Care Retreat Training Day for members of the ECCU staff who are sensing a call to this kind of ministry in their local churches. On the second day Steve spoke in their staff chapel (photo), which followed a Soul Care Retreat day for more than 30 of their 300 employees. We thank God for ECCU (www.ECCU.org).



LeadershipTransformations.org

EXECUTIVE TEAM

Stephen A. Macchia
President

Rick Anderson
Vice President

Sage Chang
Executive Assistant & Graphic Designer

MINISTRY TEAM

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

Sue Currie
Coordinator of Spiritual Direction
Training

David McKiel
Accountant

Roberta Messina
Team Associate

Richard Plass
Team Associate

Warren Schuh
Church Health Coach & Consultant

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LTi's 3rd international mission will be to the former Soviet Union country of Moldova. In cooperation with the international missions team of Grace Chapel (Lexington, MA), Steve Macchia and Rick Anderson will come alongside Dr. Vitalie Fedula (one of Macchia's Doctor of Ministry students – photographed here with his wife and daughter at Vitalie's recent graduation from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary), Senior Pastor of Jesus Savior Church in the capital city of Chisnau. Steve and Rick will speak to this congregation, consult with the ministry leadership teams, and teach at the local college and seminary founded by the church. Please join us in prayer for this exciting missions adventure. If you would like to support this trip, [click here](#) to make your donation.

Last month Steve Macchia and Rick Anderson spoke at the "On Target" evangelism conference in Riverside CA, hosted by the California Southern Baptist Convention (CSBC). The CSBC is an active CHAT partner, offering our online church health survey to all of the churches in their statewide denominational network. There are currently more than a dozen such CHAT partner networks nationwide (and growing all the time)!



Resources For the Body of Christ



Introduction
The Bible has more than 66 references to the subject of rest. When we grasp the concept of rest, we can have a better understanding of the importance of rest in our lives. Rest is not just a luxury, it is a necessity. Rest is not just a reward, it is a requirement. Rest is not just a goal, it is a journey. Rest is not just a destination, it is a process. Rest is not just a state of mind, it is a state of being. Rest is not just a feeling, it is a reality. Rest is not just a dream, it is a promise. Rest is not just a hope, it is a certainty. Rest is not just a wish, it is a command. Rest is not just a desire, it is a need. Rest is not just a want, it is a requirement. Rest is not just a goal, it is a journey. Rest is not just a destination, it is a process. Rest is not just a state of mind, it is a state of being. Rest is not just a feeling, it is a reality. Rest is not just a dream, it is a promise. Rest is not just a hope, it is a certainty. Rest is not just a wish, it is a command. Rest is not just a desire, it is a need. Rest is not just a want, it is a requirement.

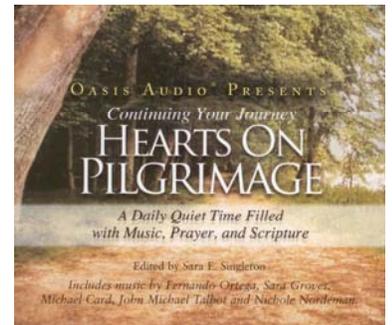
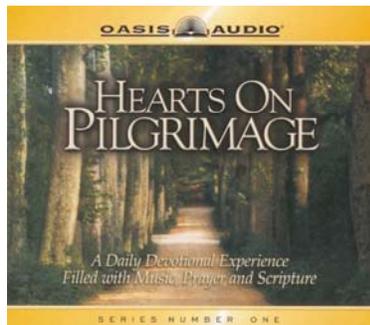
First in our series of downloadable resources, the Half-Day Soul Care Retreat on "Reclaiming Rest and Renewal" has already been used by several teams and individuals. Here's what one friend had to say about this new resource.

"When the idea of spending 4 hours of our leadership retreat doing a 'Soul Sabbath' was first presented, the reception was at best lukewarm. But after explaining what we would be doing based on LTi's 'Half Day Soul Care Retreat: Reclaiming Rest and Renewal' download, the sentiment started to change. In planning the retreat I found the material to be just exactly what we needed as leaders. In order to better help those going through such a retreat, I provided a simple outline using the material interspersed with times of walking and resting. We started with an hour of worship based on the material and then went our separate ways.

What happened in those 3 hours only testifies to the great need to do this more. We were overwhelmed at the impact it had. Thank you so much LTi for providing such a wonderful tool that helped our leaders not only understand the great need for rest and renewal, but to experience it!"

- Dan Schlueter, Head Elder, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Topsfield, MA

New to the LTi store, these audio devotionals called Hearts on Pilgrimage. Each include 20, 15-minute segments, meant to nourish you throughout four, five-day work weeks. Through a collection of Scripture readings from the Gospel of John and other Old and New Testament passages, ancient and modern prayers, and worship music, the listener is invited to join in the historical practice of daily, meditative worship. Featured are the prayers of St. Augustine and Martin Luther, Mother Teresa and Richard Foster, as well as the music of JAC Redford, John Rutter and the Cambridge Singers, K. Lee Scott, and the St. Olaf and Concordia College Choirs from Minnesota. Also included are worship songs by Fernando Ortega, Billy Crockett, Bob Bennett, and Laurie Klein, among others. Available in part one and part two.



Other resources available in the [LTi Store](#) include:

- CHAT – LTi's church health survey (www.HealthyChurch.net)
- Online registration for all LTi sponsored events
- Books and articles written by the LTi ministry team
- Downloadable retreat resources
- Online donation capability

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.

NEW ENGLAND OFFICE
P.O. BOX 338
LEXINGTON, MA 02420
P 978.646.4175
F 978.646.4576

COLORADO OFFICE
P.O. BOX 64530
COLORADO SPRINGS, CO 80962
P 719.785.3600
F 719.785.3601

