

## Leadership

One of the hot topics, not only in the church, but the world is how to develop good leaders who will lead us in the right ways of life. The answers aren't easy, and I am certainly not an expert in this area. However, there are some easy to follow directions in the Word of God that help us all to not only develop good leaders, but they will also help us to become the leaders God intends for us to be!

One of my favorite quotes comes from that wonderful source - anonymous: "In every age there comes a time when leadership must come forth to meet the needs of the hour. Therefore, there is no potential leader who does not find his time. Tragically, there are times when no leader arises for that hour."

Never before in my life time has the need been greater for leaders who will "fear nothing but God, and hate nothing but sin." It is a daunting task, but now is the time for those who love the Lord, love His Church, and who follow His Word to stand up and be counted before it is eternally too late! How can we do it? Allow me to offer 10 simple suggestions.

1. The complete Lordship of Jesus Christ in all we say and do is essential. (Luke 6:46; Matthew 7:21)
2. The Bible has to be our guide. Every pilgrim on a journey needs the right directions to arrive at the destination safely. (Hebrews 4:12-12; II Timothy 3:15-17; II Timothy 2:15; Psalm 19)
3. We have been given the ability to create the atmosphere that will allow the Word of God to grow; we must be holy and positive. (I Peter 1:13-16; Hebrews 12:14-15; Philippians 2:1-5)
4. There is no question, people will perish without vision. (Matthew 9:35-38; John 4:35)

## We want to start a new Church – How do we begin?

This question has come up on more than one occasion. Now, I am not a new church plant expert so my words may go against the grain of what the experts say. To be right, I would say, find those who are doing it right and learn from them. You may also want to read the words of Acts and see how the first church got its start.

Many things come to mind as I read that wonderful history of the New Testament Church. The people had received a commission from the Lord Himself, which is always a good place to start. They prayed like there was no tomorrow. They boldly proclaimed the truth no matter the cost. There was a group of godly men who led the way. The women were supportive in all that needed to be done, especially in constant prayer support. They worked out the needs of the body as they went along. They were more

## The Trouble with Troubles!

In the Gospel of John, the beloved Apostle records words of our Lord offering hope, comfort, and courage in struggling times. He writes these "Hopeful" words: "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (John 16:33, NIV) Troubles have an amazing way of derailing the life we are intended to live.

We don't expect troubles to come our way, but Jesus said they would always be there.  
When troubles come we act just like Peter, we take our eyes off the Master and begin to sink.  
Troubles distort our focus; we have trouble seeing the truth.  
When troubles surround us we find it hard to learn the lessons we should be growing through as we rest in our faith in Jesus.  
We have a terrible tendency to sing, "Nobody knows the trouble I've seen," and we forget the next phrase, "Nobody but Jesus."  
When we sold out to Jesus we may have innocently bought into the idea that as a Christian all of our troubles are now over.  
Everyone

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5. Learning to work together as a T.E.A.M. is essential for success in any endeavor. (Romans 12:3-8; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Proverbs 12:17)
6. Discipleship training is the down and dirty work of growing children into mature servants of our Lord. (Matthew 16:24)
7. The process of equipping people for the work in the vision we have created from the pages of God's Word is time consuming, but of vital importance. (Ephesians 4:11-16; Hebrews 10:19-25)
8. Learning how to "let go" so equipped disciples can fulfill their role in the work of the vision is called empowerment. (II Timothy 2:1-2; Acts 1:8)
9. Accountability, the necessary work of shepherds who have responsibility for the sheep in their flock, has to be done. (Romans 14:12; Hebrews 4:13)
10. The final element I would suggest is not last because it is of least importance – I place it here because without faith we will not do the hard work required to be leaders. (Hebrews 11:1-6)

When these 10 elements are bathed in the prayers required of all who would lead children created in the image of the Living God, then leadership starts to become all the God we serve intends for it

concerned with what God wanted than what man wanted. They gave all the credit to the Resurrected Savior and Lord Jesus Christ. They were obedient to the Words of the Lord.

There is much you can find; all that is required is a praying people to study the book of Acts and you can begin a new church plant. And you don't have to re-invent the wheel; talk to the people who are doing it well now. You will be amazed the difficulties one can avoid when we ask those who have gone before us how it is done.

One note of interest I find in just the first 8 chapters of Acts. The church had become just a little too comfortable in the city of Jerusalem. Well, in Acts 8 a persecution broke out that drove the body out of town. Amazingly, everywhere they went, "those who were scattered preached the word wherever they went..." (Acts

should know that isn't what Jesus taught.

We moan in our trials, "God will never put on me more than I can bear." It sounds good, but that isn't what the Bible says. The Bible

says, "God will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear..." (I Corinthians 10:13, NIV) There is a huge difference between the temptations that come our way and the trials that come our way. "Tests and trials are there to help us grow; that's what a loving Father does for all of His children.

You know Phil, I am not sure I agree with you, but if you are right what can I do when I face the troubles of this life? I am really glad you asked!

Trust in the Lord with all your heart – He really does know what is best for each one of us.

Do not lean on your own understanding – "My way," has gotten me into more trouble.

In all your ways acknowledge the Lord – He knows what is happening in your life, He has allowed it to come into your life,

## We are Using Them Up and Want to Help you Train More

A local church mission chair recently spoke the above words to me. He said we are “using up” preachers, youth ministers, worship leaders, counselors, teachers, writers, missionaries and we want to help you train more. These were more than pious platitudes – the church put Cincinnati Christian University in their mission budget.

Our mission at CCU is clear and concise – “training Christian leaders to serve the church and shape the world for Jesus”. Our President, Dr. David Faust, articulates with passion that vision and message. More importantly he is a practitioner, modeling ministry. He loves the church, serves the church, inspires the church and is devoted to training Bible based scholars and leaders to serve the church.

Over 1100 students are currently enrolled in our three colleges. In November of 2007, Dr. Faust launched a bold initiative to train a record number of ministers, missionaries, church planters, teachers, youth ministers, counselors, educators over the next ten years. We are praying and working to double enrollment in an effort to train thousands to reach millions with the everlasting gospel.

### Some CCU Fast Facts:

## A Message from Bob Russell

### Who Ministers to the Minister?

Almost monthly we hear about another preacher who has dropped out of the ministry because of burn-out or a moral failure. Others who continue to preach are discouraged, spiritually wounded and in much need of nurture. But who ministers to the minister?

Phil LaMaster does. He has a special gift for spotting hurting preachers and coming alongside to encourage them. The Living Hope Ministry which Phil established in 2005 has already provided counsel and inspiration to hundreds of preachers and has the potential to reclaim and inspire hundreds more in the future. Phil refreshes battle-weary ministers through timely seminars led by experienced preachers and through his personal one-on-one visits.

The Apostle Paul wrote that God, “comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.” (2 Cor. 1:4) In

## A Message from Ben Merold

Living Hope Ministry exists to offer encouragement and practical teaching for ministers and other Christian workers. Seminars, each only a few hours in length, are packed with spiritual teaching and ideas for growth and evangelism. Phil LaMaster and his helpers make every effort to present living Hope Ministry at a convenient time and a very affordable price. Every

We have missionaries who have served or are currently serving in

71 countries around the world.

This academic years 14 mission trips are planned for CCU students.

The vast majority of students at CCU are actively preparing for some form of ministry in and through the church.

25% of all church planters have degrees from CCU.

Every degree at CCU has a major requirement in Bible.

In an effort to make tuition as affordable as possible we need \$3500 in gift income for every student enrolled.

Chapel is offered on Tuesday and Thursdays at 10a.m. with worship and preaching – it is voluntary and the students still fill the

chapel

We give thanks for the many individuals and churches who stand with us in prayer, financial support, sending students...helping us train more!

Wally Rendel

Director of Church Relations

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other words, no one understands like someone who has been there. Phil LaMaster has been there. For twenty five years he served in growing yet difficult ministries. He understands the victories and joys, the pressures and frustrations of serving a local church. Those experiences enable him to empathize with other pastors. More importantly, Phil really cares; he not only listens and counsels, he follows up and maintains a mentoring relationship with those he assists.

Living Hope Ministry merits the fervent prayers and financial support of all who care about ministering to ministers. The church of Jesus Christ shouldn't be losing qualified preachers and ministers shouldn't have to face their struggles alone. The Scriptures teach us to, “Bear one another's burdens”. By supporting The Living Hope Ministry we have an opportunity to bring hope and comfort to leaders who are weary and burdened and in need of rest.

Reinforce the faithful and refresh the weary and reinvigorate the discouraged.

presentation will emphasize preaching, teaching and pastoral care and furnish an opportunity for refreshment, fellowship and a “jump-start” in your work for Jesus Christ and the church.

Ben Merold, Minister-at-Large  
Harvester Christian Church, St Charles, MO

## “Help! Our Church is Struggling; What Can We Do?”

1. Stop everything and start praying 24/7 – One very wise Christian said, “God does nothing, except in answer to prayer.”
2. Humble yourself before God and confess the secret sins that might be causing the “trouble in the camp.”
3. Accept your part in the struggle.
4. Check your attitude – When our attitudes are negative the good seed of the Word of God has trouble growing.
5. Stop looking out for your own needs and start caring for the needs of others.
6. Watch your mouth!
7. Make sure your actions are pro-active, helping and not hurting the body of Christ.
8. Use the Word of God to help when the hurts are caused by people – (Matthew 18:15-20)
9. Don't spend all of your life fighting with the brothers and sisters. Sometimes we get so caught up in the war we forget just how brief life really is! Forgive the offenders and go on to do good works in the name of Jesus. Yes, you may need to find a new church home. “But that isn't fair!” Who ever told you this life was going to be fair? What in the world is fair about Calvary!

## A Simple Perspective on our Daily Testimony of Life

Dr. David Jeremiah has the following poem in one of his books. As you read the poem answer the question as to what kind of worker you may be in the Kingdom of God.

I saw them tearing a building down  
A group of men in a busy town,  
With hefty blow and lusty yell,  
They swung with zest,  
And a side wall fell.  
Asked of the foremen,  
“Are these skilled men?

The kind you would hire if you had to build?”

He looked at me, and laughed, “No, indeed!  
Unskilled labor is all I need.

Why, they can wreck in a day or two,  
What it has taken builders years to do.”  
I asked myself, as I went my way,  
Which of these roles have I tried to play?  
Am I a builder with rule and square,  
Measuring and constructing with skill and care?  
Or am I the wrecker who walks the town  
Content with the business of tearing down?