

Leadership Network Journey – January 2004

"Gentlemen, this is a football."

This quote comes from a story about legendary football coach Vince Lombardi of the Green Bay Packers. Each year he would gather his players for training camp. In front of him sat some of the best athletes in the world. They had played football since they were children. They were some of the highest paid athletes of their day, and some of them are now in the Football Hall of Fame. And the coach would stand up in front of them, hold up a football, and say, "Gentlemen, this is a football." He certainly did not have to tell these men what this object was. He was not trying to demean or belittle them. He was simply making the point that they were going to go back to the basics.

History has validated his technique, as his Packers teams will certainly be remembered as some of the greatest teams in the NFL.

Eighteen months ago, the team at Leadership Network gathered at "training camp" and made a similar decision to go back to the basics. In our case, we decided to go back to our roots and do what has made Leadership Network a viable, trusted organization that has connected innovators to multiply.

In the early days of LN, the program was simple; we invited the best and the brightest to gather for a few days and learn from one another. We not only didn't have any answers, we weren't even sure what the questions were. As the early groups met at Glen Eyrie in Colorado Springs, they had common questions and, by working together, figured out the answers. The result of their time, and our efforts to bring them together, was explosive, innovative ministry.

So, it's "back to the future" for LN. It's "Gentlemen (and ladies), this is a football." We are betting the ranch that returning to a model that is similar to that of the early days will result once again in explosive, innovative ministry. Why? Because YOU have the answers! Our role is to provide a context for you to ask the questions.

What is different from these early days is that the groups we gather have a name - Leadership Communities. They concentrate on a topic of discussion and an area of strategic priority, and each group meets several times instead of only once. The Leadership Community isn't just for churches or organizations that want to emphasize a particular topic, rather, this emphasis area is a top strategy in their ministry. So, seventy percent of the services provided by Leadership Network will be delivered through LC's. The remaining thirty percent of our services will come through various other events, products, and e-mail publications. I'll say more about those in future newsletters.

Many of you know that we launched four Leadership Communities in 2003:

- **Multi Site.** The Multi-Site Churches Leadership Community is designed to identify, connect, and resource church leaders who are either currently involved in a multi-site church ministry or who have a strategic plan to launch a multi-site ministry within one year. Leadership Network provides an environment where people from diverse church programs can learn collaboratively, work through issues, and formulate new strategies and approaches for doing multi-site ministry.
- **Externally Focused Churches.** These are strong churches that have a strategic priority and program of ministry. Sometimes these ministries have the label of "urban ministry", "community impact ministry", or the like. These churches have a multi-faceted approach of addressing the needs and opportunities outside the walls of their church. They engage their communities with the good works and good news of Jesus Christ with the result being a community that is a better place to live.
- **Halftime in Churches.** The Halftime in the Local Church Leadership Community is designed to identify, connect, and resource church leaders who either currently have an existing ministry designed to serve people in Halftime or who have a plan to launch a ministry to Halftimers within one year. They serve Halftimers with a similar environment as the Multi Site Learning community, collaborating, working through issues, and formulating new strategies for service.
- **Halftime National Ministries.** This community consists of ministries with a national scope that serve people in Halftime. Each participating ministry plays a critical role in a person's mid-life transition from

success to significance. As a result collaboration is complex but has significant benefit to both the ministries as well as the Halftimer.

All of these "LC's" already have multiple groups dealing with the same topic. In the coming months, I will highlight various Leadership Communities in order for you to get an up close and personal feel for the work being done. However, if you would like information about these or future groups, please contact Dave Travis, Senior Vice President, at 770-972-8792 (dave.travis@leadnet.org).

In addition to these LC's, we anticipate launching two more innovative practice leadership communities in 2004. The first one will be on the area of churches that have focused leadership development programs within their church. The second will be for those churches that have aggressive church planting programs. These communities are for church leadership teams that are setting bold initiatives for the next three years in their church.

We also anticipate the beginnings of our life stage leadership communities. These communities will be limited to Senior Pastors or Senior Directional leaders only and will be based on a peer group that ties together the age and stage of both Senior leader and the church. We will begin with groups for younger Senior Pastors and middle of life pastors first.

The reason I am sharing this information with you is more about YOU than the information itself. The Journey newsletter is a supplement to our other Leadership Network publications, designed for our closest friends and strategic customers to give you an "insider's view" of what is happening or about to happen at LN. You will always get the "advance notice" kind of information that is reserved for a few. I hope it will be informative as well as thought-provoking and useful.

At year end, we took time to reflect and evaluate 2003, as well as to make plans for 2004. In doing so, I was reminded of a quote by Dwight D. Eisenhower, "In preparing for battle I have always found that plans are useless, but planning is indispensable." There is no way any of us would dare enter a new year without a plan, but we find that in the heat of the battle, as in football games, things may change and circumstances might force us to be flexible. Sticking to the basics and keeping our focus on the objective rather than the plan, will serve us well when we encounter unexpected changes.

My prayer for Leadership Network is that God will direct our every step and alter each of our plans so that the needs of those we serve will be the focus of our ministry. Oswald Chambers offers a great reminder of where our plans, ideas and resolutions fit in relationship to the One who should direct our every move: "All our promises and resolutions end in denial because we have no power to accomplish them. When we come to the end of ourselves, not just mentally but completely, we are able to receive the Holy Spirit. Receive the Holy Spirit - the idea is that of invasion. There is now only One who directs the course of your life, the Lord Jesus Christ." ("My Utmost for His Highest", January 5th)

On behalf of Leadership Network, we wish you and your ministry God's richest blessings in this new year. I am deeply grateful for the opportunities we have to partner with you for the cause of Christ.

Warmest Regards,

Tom Wilson

Leadership Network Journey – February 2004

In his book *Sacred Romance*, John Eldredge writes the following:

"My wife Stasi reads the end of the novels first. Until recently, I never understood why. "I want to know how the story ends, to see if it's worth reading," she explained. "A story is only as good as its ending. Even the best stories leave you empty if the last chapter is disappointing. But the opposite is also true," she added. "A really tragic story can be saved by a happy ending."

"But doesn't knowing the end take away the drama?" I asked.

"It only takes away the fear and frees you to enjoy the drama. Besides, some things are too important to be left to chance," she said, and turned back to her book.

Eldredge continues, "A story is only as good as its ending. Without a happy ending that draws us on in eager anticipation, our journey becomes a nightmare of endless struggle."

I am sure you have already discovered multiple uses for this illustration, but the one I would draw attention to is from the quote, "A story is only as good as its ending." By the way, I highly recommend *The Sacred Romance*, it's on my top ten list.

I celebrated my 57th birthday in February. The Lord willing, I have the opportunity of many more years to serve the Lord. However, I am not interested any more about how well I started, but rather I am much more focused on how well I will finish. My desire is to finish well as a husband, father, grandfather, brother, friend and follower of Christ. The beginning "Chapter" of my life book helped build a foundation, but the story's end depends on the crucial years that lie ahead.

In my last Journey report, I mentioned that two of our Leadership Communities are focused on the "Halftime®" of life space. "Halftime®" is a growing phenomenon of people arriving at midlife with healthy longevity, some measure of success and a desire for the second half of their lives to have eternal significance. Because of the success of the first part of their lives, they have options to restructure and reorganize their professional lives in order to better serve the Kingdom.

When Bob Buford wrote his book *Halftime* in 1994, he not only told his personal story, but he also put language to this phenomenon that was already happening. As you know, our desire at Leadership Network is to serve men and women who find themselves at this juncture of their lives as well as to assist the local church to better serve these individuals. Rather than say more about how we can help, I invite you to download a Concept Paper written by our "Halftime®" team. [Click here to view the concept paper.](#)

I trust that the contents of this report will assist you in helping the "halftimers" in your sphere of influence to finish well. The last chapter as well as the ending have not been written. Our desire is to help you end well!

As we enter the Lenten season, we are once again reminded of the phenomenal ending of that Big Story in life. It is presented with Christ's own words from the cross, "It is finished." For that we are deeply and humbly grateful. I trust that these next 40 days will be a blessing to each one of you.

Tom Wilson

Leadership Network Journey – May 2004

As I write today, I have just finished reviewing some of the work of our recent Leadership Community gatherings. As many of you know, the churches in these groups are leading the way in several important areas of kingdom innovation.

The gatherings of these groups are producing change at a much faster rate in their churches and organizations than is possible when a church works in isolation.

Here were some of the comments from the churches that are involved in our Multi-Site Leadership Community:

"We have accelerated our reproduction rate of both sites and disciples. In addition, we are making some structural changes in our organization based on what we have learned from the group that we feel will further accelerate our progress."

"This is changing not only how we think of ourselves as a multi-site church, but also is changing the values and our understanding of our structure and staffing."

"We feel we have been able to accelerate our impact into communities that we are serving in our sites."

As I reflect on these comments, I am seeing how being a part of our Leadership Communities gives these leaders freedom to test their ideas and practices against loyal compatriots that cheer them on to do greater things for God. Almost all of our participants cite the value of having trusted peers to call on for encouragement.

We are constantly looking for new innovative churches to be in our new Leadership Community groups. As you may know we presently have communities in:

- * Multi-Site Churches
- * Externally Focused Churches
- * Halftime in Local Churches,

as well as a community for Halftime National Ministries.

We are planning to add several new communities in the near future. These will include churches with strong internal leadership development systems and churches that are planting more than one church a year.

If your church team desires to see if it qualifies for these programs, please shoot me an email to dave.travis@leadnet.org and we can begin the conversation to determine where your team might fit.

If you want to see some of the results and papers based on the Leadership Communities, [click here](#).

Other Upcoming Opportunities

We are having a new team-based experience September 14-16, 2004, called "Quantum Leap." We are looking for churches that want to make quantum leaps in their ministry over the next two years. Participating churches will:

- * Connect with a select group of other fast-track, innovative leaders
- * Explore your quantum leap ideas and those of others with the opportunity for feedback from your team, other participating churches and the Leadership Network team
- * Walk away with a "quantum leap" action plan with real, breakthrough next steps leading to accelerated results.

Our focus is not just talk, but going home and taking bold steps to implement.

It is limited to 20 church teams so if you want to get in, [hit this link](#) to get more info.

We are now allowing some new friends to subscribe to this email. If you want to send it to a friend, we would appreciate it. **Journey** is designed to let you know about the behind the scenes aspects of Leadership Network and its activities. We have a lot of good things coming, so to stay in touch watch your email. Next month we will let you in on a special upcoming Learning Adventure.

Remember Us In Prayer

By the time you read this, our board will be meeting to review our progress and help us with future planning. Our board has been fantastic in helping us give direction and raise the necessary funds that make it all possible. Please remember our board in prayer.

Pray for the impact of the churches we serve.

Pray for our staff team as we strive to fulfill our mission of serving you.

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – June 2004

Yesterday my colleague Greg Ligon and I spent the day with a group of 45 Japanese pastors and leaders who had come to learn more about Leadership Network and the present state of the churches in our country. This was a diverse group of leaders from a range of denominations, sections of that country and subsets of the Japanese society. The group included leaders of some of the largest churches in Japan. We have been fortunate to have a relationship with this group for some years, and we help them connect with some of the healthy churches throughout the United States from which they can learn.

When I asked the organizer about the value that these "tours" provide for the group, he replied, "As soon as the plane lands in the U.S. many of the things that separate them in Japan are gone. They see each other in a new way, as fellow learners. The lines that would come between them back home are erased."

This is very similar to our Leadership Network events and Leadership Communities. We have a diverse group of clients that are capable, willing and eager to learn from one another how they can serve God's kingdom in more effective ways.

I wrote last month about our Leadership Communities and want to "clue" you in to our Quantum Leap Experience and Napa Valley Learning Adventure.

Napa Valley Learning Adventure -- October 13-15, 2004

I will actually start with our Napa Valley Learning Adventure in October. This follows a long line of experiential learnings that have included: the Harley-Davidson Learning Adventure, the Southwest Airlines Learning Adventure, the Silicon Valley Learning Adventure and similar key experiences. In each Learning Adventure we take leaders into a different environment and immerse them in this environment so that they can draw lessons for their own work.

At the Napa Valley Learning Adventure, practical lessons of modern day viticulture will be intertwined with an exploration of the ancient scriptural metaphors Jesus used when He spoke of the vine and the branches. No scriptural metaphor is referred to more frequently than that of the vine and the branches because it speaks of the very essence of our relationship with Christ.

Designed to be an experience that will enrich and refresh your team intellectually and spiritually, we encourage pastors and leaders to bring their leadership teams, including board members and lay leaders. We believe this experience will build teamwork, unity and deeper relationships. Our desire is that these days together will bless you spiritually and also serve as a tool to help you better communicate the timeless truth of God's word.

Mark Driscoll, senior pastor of Mars Hill Fellowship in Seattle, Washington, will serve as our teaching pastor and guide as we explore the beautiful passages of Jesus' teachings throughout the experience. We will spend a day together for a behind the scenes tour of the Kirkland Ranch Winery vineyards and wine cellar. Our host invites the most adventurous among us to accompany her into the vineyard to share in the harvest experience by hand-picking grapes from the vines. The following morning we will travel to the Christian Brothers Retreat and Conference Center to enjoy breakfast and a time of fellowship before meeting in the historic chapel for a concluding time of teaching, prayer and worship.

Space is limited, so I would suggest you reserve your place now. To find out more information, please call our toll free number (800-765-5323) and ask for Yolanda Cardenas. Tell her you saw it in the Journey.

The Quantum Leap Experience -- September 14-16, 2004

Those of you who have been around our organization for a long time may remember our team forums for larger churches. These forum experiences were designed to bring together leaders with similar roles to explore their challenges and solutions through a dialog process. Our Quantum Leap Experience has some similarities but also has some added features.

The Quantum Leap Experience is designed for churches that are considering the next chapter or stage of ministry for their church. It is for those churches that have wondered, "What is next?" We will use a team-based process that encourages each church to envision "what is next," to help them refine their plans and to interact with leaders of other churches, as well as the Leadership Network staff.

At the end of the experience, each church will leave with concrete "next steps" that will assist them in making their vision become a reality.

The Quantum Leap Experience will be held from September 14 to 16, in Dallas, Texas. It is only available by application. To find out more click [here](#).

I will be present at both of these experiences and hope to see many of you there.

For the entire team at Leadership Network,

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – July 2004

By the time you read this I will be on vacation, so I am spending some time today gathering up a bag load of books to take to the beach. Reading is recreation for me, and I personally enjoy many different genres.

I take the time to write today to tell you about several books you might want to take on your vacation or add to your list of books to read in the coming months.

The first book comes from one of our Leadership Network team members, Eric Swanson. The Externally Focused Church has just been released by Group in the past month. Written by Eric and pastor Rick Rusaw of Lifebridge Church in Longmont, Colorado, this book lays out the stories of dozens of churches that have chosen to transform their communities by serving them with Christ's love. Those of you who have downloaded our "Ten Paradigms of Community Transformation" free paper from our web site will recognize the themes and see an expansion of the ideas in the book. Many of the stories, examples and thoughts are derived from some of the experiences with our Externally Focused Churches Leadership Community. For those of you who are thinking about getting involved with our Leadership Communities, this is a good opportunity to check out their progress in book form. This book is short enough to be read in a few hours but deep enough to make you think of how your church can tap into some of these very important ideas for the future. For a preview chapter, [click here](#). You can get a copy through your bookstore, Amazon or the Group web site.

For those who have been around Leadership Network for a long while, you might remember a beautiful fold out chart that featured the Millennium Matrix model, developed by Rex Miller. This chart described the trends of history when it came to church understandings of Worship, Architecture, the Nature of Truth and Faith and other ideas. It is also the most requested reprint that we have ever had in our history, and can be accessed by [clicking here](#). Just released this week, and the latest in our Jossey-Bass/Leadership Network book series, is a new book by Rex titled The Millennium Matrix. In his book, Rex elaborates on the chart and also provides a great discussion and learning tool to help believers understand how the past can help inform the future. The first half of the book walks the reader through an understanding of how our culture arrived to where it is today; the second half speaks to navigating the church into the future to address the culture. If you want to see a few chapters, [click here](#). You can also purchase this book at this same online location, and, if you use our discount code XM173, you will receive a 30% discount on this and any of our other Leadership Network books.

I also had a chance in the past week to read two good books by some Leadership Network pastors. The first was Less is More Leadership: 8 Secrets to How to Lead and Still Have a Life by Dale Burke and published by Harvest House. Dale is the Senior Pastor of First Evangelical Free Church in Fullerton, California. I think Dale's book is great for large church pastors in helping them focus on the right things. The second book was Serious Times: Making Your Life Matter in An Urgent Day by the pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church, James Emery White. This book is a good blend of history, accessible philosophy and practicality on addressing how believers need to rise to the challenge of modern thought and address it head on. This book is published by Intervarsity.

FREE OFFER

Speaking of Mecklenburg Community Church, Leadership Network actually shares a team member with them: Lloyd Reeb. Lloyd is one of the "movers" in our Halftime area and has devoted some significant time in developing a ministry with Halftimers at their churches. He has recently created a new resource called A Collaborative Day for High Capacity Leaders. This resource clearly describes the process of engaging high capacity leaders in projects that are big opportunities for your church and community. It has been tested and has proven very successful. It can be purchased on our web site now, but if you will send an email directly to me, I will send you the paper for free. Just email me at dave.travis@leadnet.org, ask for this paper, and I will send it right back to you via email.

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – August 2004

A good discount offer is below.

Dear Friends,

At my house summer is over -- the kids are back in school, soccer season is cranking up, and many programs are kicking off at church.

Even though summer has seemed like a respite, we at Leadership Network have been hard at work on our programs. Please let me share some news with you from the summer.

We have given a lot of emphasis to our Leadership Communities in our ministry. These groups of 12 churches, focused on similar goals and innovations, have proven to be extremely valuable in helping the member churches rapidly advance their visions and ministry implementation. We have just completed an evaluation of the progress. Here are some of the actual comments from participant churches:

. . . giving leaders with similar challenges the invitation and opportunity and structure to concentrate on shared issues. It has surfaced our specific challenges, our resources, and our passions and desires and coupled them with fresh perspective, processing time, clear action plans and good follow-up.

It's been a great learning process for us as a team. We've been forced to get things down in print...to wrestle with and come to conclusions on hard issues. We've learned simply by hearing what others have been through and are going through.

Probably the most important contribution is that the LC forces us to retreat as key leaders to focus on the development and clarification of our vision and strategies. It has also helped us identify a couple of other churches with which to network.

Accountability is the main factor. We feel very much that we are responsible for reporting how we're doing, and this is the first time we've been part of a group where that is the expectation.

Accountability - they are relentless - that's good.

Outstanding! I'm still a bit fuzzy as to how LN works but this has been a FABULOUS adventure thus far. Thank you.

The process used in the Leadership Communities is a combination of goal setting, consultation, peer coaching, accountability, measurement and learning, which combine to give a strategic team a huge advantage over working in isolation.

We are very proud of how helpful the process has been for our clients, and we are equally proud of how we are capturing and distributing the learning's through various concept papers and tools now available on our web site. You can see them at www.leadnet.org under resources.

We are now exploring new topics for Leadership Communities and will ask for your referrals soon. Our Leadership Communities are very select groups, and, while there are application processes required for admission, once a church or organization becomes part of an LC, they find it to be of great value.

If you need to know more about these, just drop me a message to the email below. I haven't mentioned some of our Halftime Initiatives lately but do want to pass along one of the Halftime opportunities: Halftime Summits

Halftime Summits are one-day events that afford churches and other groups the opportunity to help those in midlife and beyond move from success to significance. They feature:

* A keynote address from Bob Buford - Author of Halftime, Game Plan, Stuck in Halftime, and Finishing Well
(Bob is not present at all Summits)

- * Facilitation by Lloyd Reeb - Author of From Success to Significance
- * Curriculum proven to pave the way for your midlife transition
- * Personal "real life" halftime stories
- * Networking opportunities with peers
- * Solid "Next Steps" to pursue this most important time of life

Not only will a Halftime Summit help your church reach out to mid life professionals and business owners in your community, it will also help your church discover and deploy these new leaders into various ministries. And, it is a fun day.

If your church or organization would like to find out more and possibly apply to host one of these please email Greg.murtha@halftime.org. You can find out more through our Halftime Web site at www.halftime.org.

Until Next Month,

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – September 2004

Dear Friends,

As is the case with most leaders during this season of the year, we have been very busy over the last few weeks. We are putting the finishing touches on new Leadership Communities and other events, as well as preparing for next year's activities.

I am writing today so that you may help us celebrate the publication of another book from our Leadership Network Team. *From Success to Significance: When the Pursuit of Success Isn't Enough*, written by Lloyd Reeb, the director of our Halftime National Ministries Leadership Community, has just been released from Zondervan.

Lloyd's book was born out of his own experience as a successful business person, pastor and team member at Leadership Network. Lloyd was and still is a real estate developer. However, in 1993, he reflected on his life and decided that God wanted him to reorient his life for greater significance.

From Success to Significance: When the Pursuit of Success Isn't Enough describes Lloyd's journey through "Halftime." Along the way he read Bob Buford's book, *Halftime* (Bob is the founding chair of Leadership Network. *Halftime*, a best seller, is now available in a promotional edition - see below for details). Bob's book helped Lloyd gain a language for understanding his journey.

To devote himself more fully to God's work through the church, Lloyd later became one of the pastors at Mecklenburg Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. As he walked with others through their pilgrimage, he saw the need to write a book that would help others not only gain a map for moving through the process, but to also describe how churches can help their members through the process of engaging leaders for service to God in a variety of ways.

From Success to Significance is filled with real stories of real individuals that are making the transition. In addition, it contains exercises that can walk men and women through the journey themselves. A "must" for pastors, Lloyd's book describes how churches can both assist these leaders both to help enlarge their local ministry as well as engage these men and women in kingdom causes outside the church. As you may know, the Halftime Group, a division of Leadership Network, is devoted to these causes. Some past readers of Bob's book, *Halftime*, will love the new stories and practicality of Lloyd's book. But even more new readers will find *From Success to Significance* an answer to prayers to help them discern God's direction for them as they move through midlife.

Lloyd is an outstanding resource from Leadership Network to help your church launch an innovative initiative designed to find, equip and engage marketplace leaders in your church.

To help promote the book, Lloyd is speaking to various groups around the country. Additionally, if a church buys 150 of the books through Leadership Network, Lloyd will travel to that church and speak to that group free of charge. This is a simple, no risk, first step to get your church ahead in reaching these leaders you already have in your church. And with that volume, the church also receives a good discount on the single copy price as well. If you would like to know more about this special program, please email Greg Murtha at greg.murtha@leadnet.org.

As I mentioned above, we also have a promotional price for churches that want to give away Bob Buford's book, *Halftime*. A few months ago a pastor called us and said he was using some material from *Halftime* and wanted to know how he could have a few to pass out after the service. We helped him order some of the promotional books, and all 2000 of them were snapped up after the first service! They had to come back and order more.

I have placed the ad for this special *Halftime* book promotion on the left side of this newsletter so you can consider doing the same for your church.

Below my signature are some links to Lloyd's book as well as information about it. It is well worth your time to read through his book and pass it along to others. Once you have read *From Success to Significance*, I am sure that you will want to order this book to share with friends.

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – October 2004

Dear Friends,

I recently met in New York City with a group of church leaders that Leadership Network has been working with for the past few years.

This group was comprised of leaders from churches that are rapidly "multiplying leaders," either through planting and starting new churches at a very high rate or by teaching other church leaders through multifaceted programs such as conferences, practicums, internships and residencies.

Serving as a prototype for our current Leadership Communities, this group clearly illustrates the benefits of keeping like-minded leaders together over an extended period of time. The practices and ideas that these leaders "borrow" from each other have dramatically increased results. Consider the following results as one metric of measurement to illustrate this concept: in 2000, the first year of the group, the churches represented collectively planted 52 new churches. However, by utilizing the learnings from the group, in 2003, the ten primary planting churches planted over 300 new churches. Additionally, the "teaching churches" saw large increases.

I am sharing this for two important reasons:

First of all, if you are intrigued by what these churches are doing to yield such great results, you will want to attend the briefing to be presented by Leadership Network in January of 2005 in Las Vegas, Nevada. This will be a great opportunity to hear an elite line up of presenters and to consider the ways your church can benefit from their learnings. We are limited to 200 attendees for this Las Vegas experience, and registration will be closed when we reach that number. (Please see the details on the left hand side of this email.)

Secondly, we are also exploring the opportunity to start a new Leadership Community in the Church Multiplication-Starting-Planting arena. We are looking for churches and groups that are already starting new congregations at a rate of at least one per year and have a desire to increase their results over the next three years. At this stage, we are researching the project and want to explore some ideas with such churches and leaders.

If your church or group fits this description, please drop me an email at dave.travis@leadnet.org. I will be interested in hearing about the work being done. I appreciate your help with this, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Las Vegas in January.

On another note, in a previous issue of Journey I wrote about our "Innovation Updates" that we are holding across the country. These sessions are mostly "listening posts" for us to talk with innovative leaders around the country. In glancing at my calendar I see that I will be in the following locations during the next few months for these structured conversations: Fort Worth, Texas; Chicago, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Baton Rouge, LA; Dallas, Texas, and coastal South Carolina. If you would like to receive an invitation to any of these, please drop me a line to the email above, and I will send you more details.

Thanks for all your help and for your Kingdom work across America.

Shoulder to Shoulder,

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – November 2004

Dear Friends,

As you know, the purpose of Journey is to help provide loyal Leadership Network friends with a behind-the-scenes look at what's happening through our work. With a mission such as ours, which is to identify, connect and help high capacity Christian leaders to multiply their impact, we have many areas in which to keep active. I wanted to use this opportunity to fill you in on some of the latest changes and news items that we are working on to help our friends multiply their work. Most of our work can't be seen above the surface, and even to our friends can go unnoticed, but they are the sorts of things that ultimately add value to our ministry in a deep way.

One change that is noticeable is our reformatted web site found at www.leadnet.org. We believe it explains our mission better to those who don't know us and are curious about our work. Compared to our "old" site, the look is different, and the navigation is simpler. Also, each of our Leadership Communities has its own section that explains the latest in their work. We still have the archives of some beloved past publications for your reference, and you can still visit our on-line store and download the latest papers. As with all good websites, ours is continually changing, adding more information that we hope benefits our clients, so I urge you to visit our site often.

Another aspect of our work that has changed is the growth of our Board of Trustees. Our board has always given strong direction and support to our mission, especially since we headed in a new direction two years ago. The addition of two members in September gives new strength and vitality to that group. Each of our board members makes a substantial contribution of their time and money to help us accomplish our mission, and that in turn gets passed on to you. You can get to know our board members better by visiting our web site, where you can view their photos and bio sketches. As I write this, two more individuals are being considered for nomination to the board. I'm looking forward to seeing the new ideas and experiences being put to work this coming year to help us further meet our goals.

Finally, I want to write a little about our expansion plans for next year and beyond. Long time friends know that our program has changed over the last two years to focus more on the innovations that lead to measurable results in the lives of the leaders we serve. We changed our primary venue to capture the best results to our Leadership Communities. These topical areas have multiple groups of churches and organizations that work toward similar goals. We are approaching the end of the first cycles of our first groups, and we are able to see dramatic improvements in the results from these clients. Needless to say, we are pleased with the direction these Leadership Communities have taken.

These results have led us to start exploring the formation of new Leadership Communities in different topical areas. Each of these new communities will be similar to our existing ones. Clients will gather over a two-year period to challenge each other and improve their results in a given focus area of ministry. The groups will also help produce concept papers and tools (like those found on our web site now) that will help others to explore and test these new innovations for their own context. Through client feedback in the form of face to face meetings and phone conversations with innovative leaders across the country, we have six or seven potential areas we believe would be good opportunities for new Leadership Communities. As we dialogue further with more clients, we are exploring the potential of funding these new LC's through partnerships, either with individuals, foundations and other organizations. I expect to have some announcements in the coming months about a few of these that we will take from our research phase into our active phase.

All of this is to say that we covet your prayers in these matters. We cannot survive without your encouragement in many ways, including your prayers. Please pray that our board and staff would be encouraged, that God would lead us to the right partners spiritually and financially for our ministry, and that our mutual work together would have great kingdom impact.

Shoulder to Shoulder,
Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network

Leadership Network Journey – December 2004

Dear Friends,

Are you an eternal optimist or the opposite? Do you see the glass as half full or half empty? I myself feel that I am, by nature, an eternal optimist. I tend to see the positive instead of the negative. However, that said, I am also rarely content in letting things stay as they are. It is often hard for me to distinguish between sinful discontent and holy discontent, but I feel that the work that Leadership Network does falls fully within the realm of holy discontent. Constantly striving to improve communications and further the work of the Kingdom can only be viewed as a positive form of discontent!

Recently I had an opportunity to visit with over 75 church leaders in two cities from various churches. I write this to you with excitement about the positive interaction those in attendance experienced as a result of these meetings. This meeting is only one of many structured visits we have named Innovation Update Roundtables (IUR's) that Leadership Network is conducting in an effort to listen to leaders around the country about what God is doing in their midst.

I always learn new things from these pastors, and I want to take this opportunity to share some of their thoughts with you now.

I learned from a pastor of an African Church comprised primarily of Kenyan immigrants that Christmas Day is their biggest worship day of the year. They estimate that they will have around 40% more on Christmas Day worship than their peak attendance during the rest of the year. I also learned that because of the relational ties in their church, well over half the attendees would say they are not yet followers of Christ, even though they attend regularly. In fact, this pastor suspects that that number could actually reach as high as 80%. Of course I know some pastors that have long suspected similar ratios in their own congregations, but rarely have I heard of attendees clearly identifying themselves in this manner.

I also heard from an Asian Pastor that feels his church is entering a time of great revival due to the great sacrifices that are being made by its church members, and seen by others in their midst. Their church was seeking to raise a large amount of cash quickly in order to purchase their first property. During this fundraising initiative, a young single mom brought her life's savings to the church and gave it to the pastor, saying, "This is what God would have of me." Inspired by her sacrificial gift, a revival of generosity broke out among the congregation.

Later I met a pastor from Brazil and heard his testimony regarding the use of lay pastors to rapidly multiply ministry in their city and region. I also met with Mexican, Salvadoran, and Korean pastors, as well as Anglo and African American pastors, and I learned many other things. As we continue to hold more IUR's in the next several months, I look forward to sharing more information gleaned from these gatherings with you.

One of Leadership Network's core beliefs is that leaders learn best from other leaders. Even in the short meeting we had last week, those leaders learned new solutions to their current challenges and opportunities by listening to their peers around the room. That same principle applies throughout all our Leadership Communities, Halftime Summits and other programs. It is what drives us to do the work that we do. After all, our mission is "connecting innovators to multiply."

But despite the many positive feelings I came away with from the meeting, I have that "holy discontent" within me that calls for improvement. Even though we had some diversity in the rooms those days, we are still not satisfied. Leadership Network's desire is to see and help pastors learn from all kinds of other pastors, regardless of location, race, experience, or any other issue that might otherwise be a roadblock. Although we were greatly encouraged by the attendance of pastors of other racial and language groups at the recent meeting, we desire to see more diversity in the future so that we can all learn as much as possible from each other.

We share a Revelation 7 vision where a great multitude which no one can number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, stands before the throne and the lamb and cries out in united praise. I think the way to see an even greater

multitude gathered before the lamb on that great day is to start sharing together and working together now in an effort to exemplify the Kingdom on earth.

We at Leadership Network always count our blessings this time of year, and among those many blessings are all of you. It is such a great privilege to serve Christian leaders such as yourselves, and we value your work in your part of the Kingdom cause. Our wish is that God may bless and strengthen you during this Christmas season, just as you have blessed and strengthened us.

Happy Holidays and warmest regards,

Dave Travis
Senior Vice President
Leadership Network