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NEWS & NOTES FOR FAITH QUEST

Encouragement – A Key Attitude for Leaders

A message from Betsey Heavner, Director, FaithQuest

Consider the important role played by Barnabus in the early church. Originally known as Joseph, he sold his property to support the work of the disciples. So the early Christians nicknamed him *Barnabus*, "son of encouragement" (Acts 4:36, 37). When the disciples were afraid of the newly transformed Paul, Barnabus brought him to the disciples and encouraged them to hear his story (Acts 9:26, 27). Barnabus was on the mission team with Paul to Cyprus and Iconium (Acts 13, 14). He encouraged young John Mark when Paul gave up on him (Acts 15:36-41). Apparently Barnabus saw a growing faith in the young man and took him under his wing as he had done earlier with Paul. Many today consider John Mark the author of the first Gospel.

Encouragement inspires everyone to try new ideas and strengthens resolve to continue on an unfamiliar path. Today, we use the word support to describe the strength that comes from encouragement.

This newsletter comes to encourage you who are beginning the FaithQuest journey. We hope you find ideas and

started. A few congregations have completed the Bible study and are moving forward on the FaithQuest journey.

Another word of encouragement is that everywhere we go we find people seeking a deep relationship with God and with others in a faith community. People everywhere are seeking wholeness of body,

ENCOURAGE LITERALLY MEANS "WITH HEART," FROM THE FRENCH COEUR. OTHER DEFINITIONS ARE "TO INSPIRE WITH SPIRIT" AND "TO BUILD CONFIDENCE."

words to support congregational leaders as you introduce new ways of thinking about Jesus Christ, the church, the world, and the Christian life.

One word of encouragement to you who are FaithQuest pioneers is that our numbers are growing. As I write, over 400 leaders have begun the journey in more than 200 congregations. In some places, Faith-Quest leaders are planting seeds for a group; in other places, one or more FaithQuest Bible studies have

mind, and spirit. Deep yearning for God's healing and wholeness often means that we wrestle with God for a time to hear God's word to us more clearly. In the face of struggle, people everywhere are willing to begin and continue a journey to make Christian disciples for the transformation of the world.



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IN THIS ISSUE

Encouragement
Providing Spiritual Leadership
New FaithQuest Order Form
Everyday Change
The Bookshelf
News from the Net

Providing Spiritual Leadership for Your FaithQuest Team

When experiencing a time of disorientation and change, it is essential that we not neglect our spiritual journey. One important role for you as a FaithQuest leader is developing and nurturing the spiritual life of your study group. One way to do this is to include worship and prayer in the time your team spends together each week. FaithQuest teams have shared these additional ideas for nurturing your faith life together.

- Develop prayer partners within the study group and pray for each other daily.
- Ask members to begin their daily prayer time with a common devotion, e.g., *The Upper Room Devotional Guide*.
- Use your members' skills — music, poetry, or storytelling — to explore spirituality in various ways.
- One group asks each group member to write his/her name on a coffee mug, then to exchange those mugs each week. During their morning coffee the members pray for the person whose name is on the mug.

Remember the page of spiritual practices under "Tab L: Support" in your FaithQuest leader notebook.

THEME:
CHANGE

(add to Tab B in
your leader notebook)

Everyday Change

For many of us, change can be disruptive and uncomfortable. Yet it is inevitable and is becoming a constant in our lives. So, how can we learn to survive and thrive with these changes? As with most things, the more we understand, the less frightening, intimidating, and overwhelming it will be. Patricia Zigarmi, a founding consulting partner of The Ken Blanchard Companies, suggests that there are 6 levels of change. They are helpful to know, whether you are experiencing the change or initiating it.

1 Information. When there is impending change, it is important to get as much information as possible in order to alleviate your concerns and anxiety.

2 Personal. “How will this change affect me?” “Will I still have a job?” “Will I have to learn new skills?” “What will I have to give up?”

3 Implementation. “How will it happen?”

4 Impact, or possible benefits. People need to clearly understand that the impact will be worth the change. “How will we better accomplish our goals?” “How will this make our church stronger or healthier?” The more information we have, the less resistant we will be.

5 Collaboration. The greater involvement by those experiencing change, the less resistant we will be, and the more successful will be the implementation.

6 Refinement. Once a change is actually implemented, it must be regularly revisited, evaluated, and refined by all parties involved.

We do not resist change so much as we resist *being changed*. The best way to ensure a smooth, effective change is to include as many of the ideas and voices of those being impacted as possible. Matthew 18:3 reminds us that change is not only a part of the process of life; it is essential to our spiritual life. “Truly I say to you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.”



Steve Poole, editor of *FaithQuest Leaders* newsletter, is a FaithQuest trainer and church consultant in Seattle. You can email him at spooler2923@aol.com.

“WHAT LIES BEHIND US AND WHAT LIES BEFORE US ARE TINY MATTERS COMPARED TO WHAT LIES WITHIN US.”

RALPH WALDO EMERSON

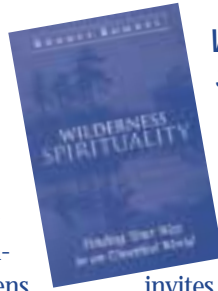
Bookshelf

The books in this list deal with the topic of change in a variety of ways. Since change is a constant element in the FaithQuest process, these books may help you and your FaithQuest team think in new ways about how we experience, survive, and thrive in the process of change. Go to www.gbod.org/quest/bookreviews/default.html for book reviews.



A Corner of the Veil
by Laurence Cossé
(New York: Scribner's, 1999)

This French theological thriller explores what might happen if the world were faced with the irrefutable proof of the existence of God. A simple priest produces a 6-page letter that threatens to throw humanity into utter chaos and undeniable change.



Wilderness Spirituality: Spiritual Exploration in an Unsettled World
by Rodney R. Romney (Element Press, 1999)

From the time of Moses and the Israelites, wandering in the wilderness has served as a metaphor for change and confusion, but also as a symbol of commitment and faith in the journey. Romney invites the reader to reconsider the wilderness as the place where we live, rather than as something we endure or overcome. This book serves both to provoke a new way of thinking about the wealth of possibility and wisdom in the wilderness, as well as an ongoing guide for the journey.

The Cathedral Within
by Bill Shore (New York: Random House, 1999)

For over 15 years, Bill Shore has directed Save Our Strength, a nonprofit organization devoted to fighting hunger and poverty. SOS has raised over \$85 million to support local grassroots attempts to create change that will help eliminate poverty and fight hunger. In this book, Shore shares his formula for creating long-lasting change for institutions and individuals. “Somehow, it had been both communicated and understood that it wasn’t just that building a truly great cathedral would require everyone to share their strength, but rather that everyone sharing their strength would result in a truly great cathedral.” (*The Cathedral Within*) Explore new ideas for creating concrete change in your life, your team, and your congregation.

Encouraging the Heart: A Leader's Guide to Rewarding and Recognizing Others
by James M. Kouzes and Barry Z. Posner
(Jossey-Bass Publishers, 1999)

The authors of *The Leadership Challenge* offer specific, practical wisdom and techniques for leaders who want to positively influence the lives of others. The possibilities that come from changes in our world can be overwhelming; a critical role of the leader is keeping hope alive by helping people see the promise for the future in changing times. This book is a thoughtful encouragement to leaders while offering examples of leadership in real situations.

Order Form

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		(*Does Not Include Shipping)
Student Bible Study (\$22 each)	_____	\$ _____
Leader's Guide (\$20 each)	_____	\$ _____
Video Set (\$98 each)	_____	\$ _____
DO NOT SEND PAYMENT WITH THIS ORDER	_____	\$ _____ *Subtotal

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News from the 'Net

Here are some helpful websites to check out:



The General Board of Discipleship, www.gbod.org

Click on the Quest icon for a wide variety of resources, including articles, bibliographies, and book and movie reviews. These resources support the journey concepts of FaithQuest. Click on the Upper Room icon for resources to support and nurture the spiritual life.

Discipleship Resources

www.discipleshipresources.org

Many leadership resources are available from Discipleship Resources on a variety of FaithQuest-related topics, such as leadership training and spiritual growth.

The Leadership Network

www.leadnet.org

Leadership Network is a private operating foundation created in 1984 by Bob Buford and Fred Smith, Jr., located in Tyler, TX. The primary focus is on emerging trends in U.S. churches. The Network provides one picture of the current Christian church in North America and offers tips and suggestions for moving into the future. The website offers a platform for churches to learn from each other.

How Can We Help?

As FaithQuest and this resource develop, we will depend on you, the local church leaders, to tell us your needs, ideas, successes, and challenges. If you have ideas for resources that would be of help, let us know!

Some ideas so far have included: finding ways for FaithQuest leaders to share their experiences, e.g., articles and interviews in this newsletter; an expanded FaithQuest web page; a listserv for FaithQuest leaders for online networking to share questions and experiences.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions of ways we can help you and your team become transformational leaders in your congregation.

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FaithQuest congregational leaders.*

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