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THE LEADERSHIP CHALLENGE

THE MOST TRUSTED SOURCE FOR BECOMING A BETTER LEADER

February 2011 NEWSLETTER

Public Workshop. Dallas, TX
March 8-11

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“Leaders appeal to common ideals. They connect others to what is most meaningful. They lift people to higher levels of motivation and morality, and continuously reinforce that they can make a difference in the world.”

—from *The Leadership Challenge, 4th Edition* by Jim Kouzes & Barry Posner

Welcome to The Leadership Challenge Newsletter!

This monthly publication shares stories, examples, and information about the impact of The Leadership Challenge in all kinds of organizations. As always, [please let us know how we are doing](#), we may even contact you about featuring your ideas and stories in future editions of this newsletter.

Don't forget to register for The Leadership Challenge Forum!

[Join us at The Drake Hotel in Chicago, July 28-29th.](#)

Thoughts on the Model

Ever heard someone suggest that *The Leadership Challenge* is “overly simplistic”? Craig Haptonstall explores not only why ‘simple’ has its distinct advantages but goes further to offer fresh insight into why credible leadership is in the doing, not just the knowing. [» More](#)

Tips and Techniques

Effective communication, a hallmark of great leaders, is explored in this experiential learning activity from *The 2011 Pfeiffer Annual: Training*, edited by Elaine Biech. [» More](#)

Ask an Expert

No matter how physically remote aspiring leaders may be, *The Leadership Challenge* offers any number of programs and resources to introduce The Five Practices model consistently throughout the organization. Beth High offers advice on how to help others—across distance and time zones—learn effectively in the virtual environment. [» More](#)

Rants and Raves

The Truth About Leadership is heating up the blogosphere, landing in the #1 spot on [The Best Books for Church Leaders list](#) and earning rave reviews (11 posts in all!) on [Steve Gladis' blog](#). [» More](#)

What We're Reading

In the third practice, Challenge the Process, we explore the notion of oversight—where we search unfamiliar territory that is outside our normal routines and professions for innovative ways to improve. We are challenged to explore our “knowns” in order to gain perspective we might not otherwise possess. One application of oversight is in what we choose to read.

For me, I first noticed this with yoga magazines. There were many interesting articles such as Finding Space for Daily Practice and Compassion for Self When Building Your Practice. These were concepts that gave me fresh insight for coaching, working with groups of leaders, and becoming a better leader myself. So I've continued to include publications like this that

aren't exclusively focused on leadership development but do support my learning, when exercising oversight. Here are a few of my favorites:

Ode (for Intelligent Optimists) In a time of abundant pessimism, this interesting publication (and online community) helps focus on what is working and what is possible. It helps us think about things differently. Take, for example, the article, [Your Brain Is a Rainforest](#) that entertains the notion of neurodiversity. This publication also had a wonderful issue dedicated to 25 Intelligent Optimists, people who are creating a better tomorrow today. Isn't that what we want from our leaders?

Yes!: Powerful Ideas, Practical Actions The mission of this magazine is to "support you in building a just and sustainable world." Each issue focuses on a different theme in four categories: New Visions, World and Community, The Power of One, and Breaking Open. It's an easy step from all of these categories to leadership effectiveness.

Psychology Today To become more effective as leaders, we need to increase the frequency of certain behaviors. That change begins with our thinking. So it stands to reason that understanding how we think and what makes us think what we do will help us. Currently I am reading anything written about Positive Psychology. Great stuff!

These are my current favorites and what I'm reading that provides me "outsight". What have you read lately that made you truly curious, that made you go "hmmm"? My advice is to follow that trail.

Beth High is President of HighRoad Consulting, a leadership development company, where she focuses on the challenges of leading effectively in the virtual environment. She also is a Certified Master of *The Leadership Challenge*® and can be reached at highroadconsulting@gmail.com.

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