If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success. Ecclesiastes 10:10

Gary Rohrmayer
Converge MidAmerica
www.convergemidamerica.org

The FirstSteps Network includes...
- Step-by-step approach to church planting
- Principle based content
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- Free weekly newsletters
- Coaching Insights
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"Forged from the crucible of experience, I highly recommend the FirstSteps Network to church planters and coaches."
- Dr. Bob Logan

GARY ROHRMAYER
- Gary is the President of Converge MidAmerica overseeing its business and ministry interests that support regional church planting and ongoing care of its partner churches.
- Gary has a unique focus in mobilizing and mentoring leaders into the harvest field. He specializes in coaching and equipping leaders in areas of spiritual formation, church multiplication and church health.
- Gary has authored several books and seminary courses. His most recent book, Spiritual Conversations, describes the evangelistic philosophy of his bestselling spiritual conversation tool, The Spiritual Journey Guide, that has sold 1.5 million.

Spiri...
SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

Spiritual Conversations is a book about evangelism. You will hold in your hand a practical tool. Plenty of good books will impress you and inspire you. God can use this book to empower you. Your greatest days engaging the harvest and raising leaders for the harvest are in the future.

Dr. Ed Stetzer
President of Life Way Research

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1. Sharpening the Axe - Personal Development
2. Capturing a Harvest-size Vision - Listening to God
3. Casting the Vision Effectively - Vision Casting

SHARPENING THE AXE

“Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.”

- Abraham Lincoln

The Leader's Edge
1. Sharpening the Axe - Personal Development
2. Capturing a Harvest-size Vision - Listening to God
3. Casting the Vision Effectively - Vision Casting

The Team's Edge
1. Cultivating Vision Ownership - Strategic Planning
2. Preparing Leaders to do the Vision - Equipping
3. Letting Leaders do the Vision - Delegation
4. Supporting Leaders in Achieving the Vision - Coaching
5. Building a Team Around the Vision - Team Building

The Organization’s Edge
1. Raising Resources to Fund the Vision - Fund Raising
2. Hiring Staff to Further the Vision - Recruiting & Interviewing
3. Managing Staff to Expand the Vision - Motivation & Supervision
4. Reinforcing the Vision through Worship Planning - Preaching & Worship Planning
5. Measuring the Effectiveness of the Vision - Church Health
6. Broadcasting the Vision to your Community - Sowing Seeds of Awareness

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Sharpening the Axe/

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ROADBLOCKS TO PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT
HOW ONE LOSES THEIR EDGE

• Spiritual Apathy
• Emotional Fatigue
• Relational Clutter
• Leadership Plateauing

SHARPPENING THE AXE
THE G.R.O.W.T.H. STRATEGY

G - GOD CENTERED & GOSPEL DRIVEN

So he said to me, “This is the word of the LORD
to Zerubbabel: ‘Not by might nor by power, but
by my Spirit,’ says the LORD Almighty.”
Zechariah 4:6

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but
we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”
Psalm 20:7

BLUES BROTHERS THEOLOGY

Jake and Elwood said,
“We are on a mission from God.”

Have you ever said, “I am doing this for God”? 
BIBLICAL THEOLOGY

Jesus said, “We are on mission with God”

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.”

John 15:5

WORKING THE WHEEL OF RELATIONSHIPS

“Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with him, and he with me.” Revelation 3:20

GOSPEL DRIVEN LIFE

• What does that mean?
• It means that the gospel of Jesus Christ is not only the means of our salvation (Romans 1:16-17) .... but that it is the fuel of our Christian life (Titus 2:11-14) .... and the focus of our mission (Titus 3:4-7)

Are you experiencing a growing awareness and dependence of the Gospel in your Life?

R - RESULTS ORIENTED

What does Jesus want us to aim at?
WHAT DOES JESUS WANT US TO AIM AT?

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:16-20

IT IS NOT EITHER/OR!
IT IS BOTH/AND!

MORE & BETTER DISCIPLES

- Where are your visitors coming from?
- What is a healthy annual baptism rate?
- Where are your people serving?
- Who are your people mentoring?
- Is there evidence of a spirit of generosity?
- Is there a deepening dependence of the gospel?
- Where are your leaders coming from?

O - OUTREACH FOCUSED

“...I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest.”

John 4:34-38
HARVEST EXERCISE

In your target area

• Compare worship attendance to the population.

• Compare worship capacity to the population.

• What is the maximum capacity of your facility?

• What is the maximum capacity of your missionary force?

THREE QUESTIONS TO ASK

• Who are you trying to impress?

• What will impress these people?

• How are you leading your church to open their eyes to the harvest?

PUT YOURSELF ON THE PATH OF MISSION

Community Leaders

Civic clubs & groups

Receptive God Fearers

Three Outreach Spheres

WORK ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS

“If the ax is dull and its edge unsharpened, more strength is needed but skill will bring success.” Ecclesiastes 10:10

“It is the capacity to develop and improve their skills that distinguishes leaders from their followers.” Warren Bennis and Burt Nanus
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SHARPENING...

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ATTRACTION PRINCIPLE

A Person in a leadership position who is a '5' on a scale of 1 to 10 will not attract a leader who is a '9'. Why? Because leaders naturally size up any crowd and migrate to other leaders who are at the same level or higher.

John Maxwell
Developing Leaders Around You

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TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

“We have different gifts, according to the grace given us...if it is leadership, let him govern diligently...” Romans 12:6,8

“The price of greatness is responsibility.” Winston Churchill

“The first rule of leadership is...Everything is your fault!” Hopper the Grasshopper From the movie a ‘Bugs Life’

THREE REASONS WHY LEADERS SHY AWAY FROM TAKING RESPONSIBILITY

1. Fear of Failure
2. Inadequately Trained
3. Unsure of the Call of God

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H - HAVING A CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

“...be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 5:18-20

Enthusiasm – being possessed by God, having God within, inspired by God

KEEPING YOUR HEAD IN THE GAME

- Realize that there is a real enemy seeking to devour you and your church – I Peter 5:8
- Play out the gospel in your life – Titus 2:11-14; 3:5-8
- Trust God’s sovereignty in your circumstances – Romans 8:28
- Live by faith not by sight – Romans 1:17
- Remember the mission – Acts 9:15; Acts 20:24; II Timothy 4:17

“Enthusiasm - it is to have a quality of life that causes people to sparkle in their eyes with interest to what you are all about.” - Carl George

LETS PUT IT ALL TOGETHER

G - GOD CENTERED GOSPEL DRIVEN
R - RESULTS ORIENTED
O - OUTREACH FOCUSED
W - WORK ON LEADERSHIP SKILLS
T - TAKE RESPONSIBILITY
H - HAVE CONTAGIOUS ENTHUSIASM

“THERE ARE NO VICTORIES AT BARGAIN PRICES.” - DWIGHT EISENHOWER

Q & A

Gary Rohrmayer
Jonathan Reitz

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SPIRITUAL CONVERSATIONS

"The great Apostle asked, "How are they going to hear without someone preaching?"
The reality is that the eternal gospel goes forth to people from people. And, by experience, most people 'hear' the gospel through a spiritual conversation not a sermon. This book empowers normal people to share the gospel through intentional conversations."

Darrin Patrick
Lead Pastor of The Journey, St. Louis, Mo
Vice President of Acts 29 Network

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