

# Point of View



A LEADERSHIP COMMENTARY ON LIFE TODAY BY BOB SHANK

**July 26, 2010**



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Dear Marketplace Friend,

I've got a phenomenal book to tell you about... but it's going to have to wait until next Monday. In this week-end's edition of the **Wall Street Journal** are screaming issues concerning leadership (*my addiction*) that are too compelling to miss commentary.

On Friday evening, General Stanley McChrystal retired from the United States Army. His 38-year career ended before his retirement: he stepped down to the rumblings set-off by the article in **Rolling Stone** magazine, quoting his subordinates who disparaged civilian voices in the Administration. Rather than the more-traditional dress blues, McChrystal chose to retire in his front-line fatigues. This week, another style of leadership will be headlined, in Washington. Representative Charles Rangel (*D, NY*) is likely to face a public trial before the House Ethics Committee on charges that he calls "honest mistakes" (*unreported income, misuse of rent-controlled housing, interest-free mortgages, unpaid income tax liabilities, etc*). A 40-year veteran of Congress, some leaders in his party are calling for him to step down to avoid election year scandal. Rangel's defiance is indicative of his apparent sense of entitlement. At 80 years of age, his

response could be characterized as, "*Come and get me...*"

The exploration of Leadership in the **WSJ** touched on the military and political arenas, but hit its low point (*in my view*) under the headline, "Humbled Haggard Climbs Back in Pulpit."

Ted Haggard is no stranger to church planting. New Life Church started in his home in 1984; it grew to 14,000 members, placing Haggard among the "giants" in his field. In 2003, he was installed as the President of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) in parallel with his pastorate. Life was great for Ted... until a male prostitute's charges of illicit sex and drug use forced his resignation in November of 2006. He admitted to "sexual immorality" and that he was a "deceiver and a liar" in the letter he submitted to his church. In the process, he agreed to participate in an independent restoration process with a group of Christian leaders who were above-reproach senior statesmen.

That was November, 2006. In February, 2008 – 15 months later – Haggard announced that he was

ending – prematurely – the “spiritual restoration” process (*just weeks following the end of New Life’s prolonged pay-out of his separation agreement*). His agreement with his church included an agreement to leave ministry, and Colorado...

Haggard announced the formation of St. James Church – in his barn, in Colorado Springs – on June 3<sup>rd</sup> of this year. Last week, after six weeks of meetings, Haggard and his 230 weekly attendees are moving to the Pikes Peak Center for the Performing Arts. His self-description of his 44 month descent from greatness? *“Tiger Woods needs to golf. Michael Vick needs to be playing football. Ted Haggard needs to be leading a church... I over-repented.”* His recovery team’s statement: *“We cannot endorse his return to ministry.”* What would God say?

He already said it: *“If anyone sets his heart on being an overseer, he desires a noble task. Now the overseer must be above reproach, the husband of but one wife, temperate, self-controlled, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, not given to drunkenness, not violent but gentle, not quarrelsome, not a lover of money. He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect. (If anyone does not know how to manage his own family, how can he take care of God's church?) He must not be a recent convert, or he may become conceited and fall under the same judgment as the devil. He must also have a good reputation with outsiders, so that he will not fall into disgrace*

*and into the devil's trap.” (1 Timothy 3:1-7) **Come on, Ted: man up, and step down.***

Our world longs for leadership, but is fed-up with bogus leaders. *May God raise up leaders who deserve the respect of those they lead.*

For The Kingdom,

Bob Shank

*Bob Shank is Founder and Chief Mentoring Officer of The Master’s Program (TMP).*

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