



## FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIR

*Duane Covrig, PhD*



### Prayer and Leadership

What I have learned so far about chairing is that one of the blessings of leadership is you have more things to pray to God about.

For most, prayer is a safe place to share our insufficiencies with One who can empathize with our weaknesses” (Hebrews 4:15, NIV). We can share how overwhelmed we feel with Someone who won’t be pulled down by our raging emotions or shocked by our deep anxieties.

In a true sense, leaders have more opportunities to feel their insufficiencies; and because of that, they have more reasons to pray.

Several years ago my wife bought me a painting by a local artist, Nathan Greene. He has a national reputation and has done paintings for many hospitals, universities, and corporations. He has several new paintings on Abraham Lincoln and the Civil War period. The one hanging in my office shows Lincoln kneeling for prayer inside a Union tent. The painting is titled, [Nowhere Else to Go](#). The title comes from Lincoln’s famous line about prayer: “I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go.”

As important as it is for leaders to read Harvard business reviews and watching TED Talks to get insights into managing their work, the ancient spiritual discipline of prayer remains one of the timeless resources we have available at all times.

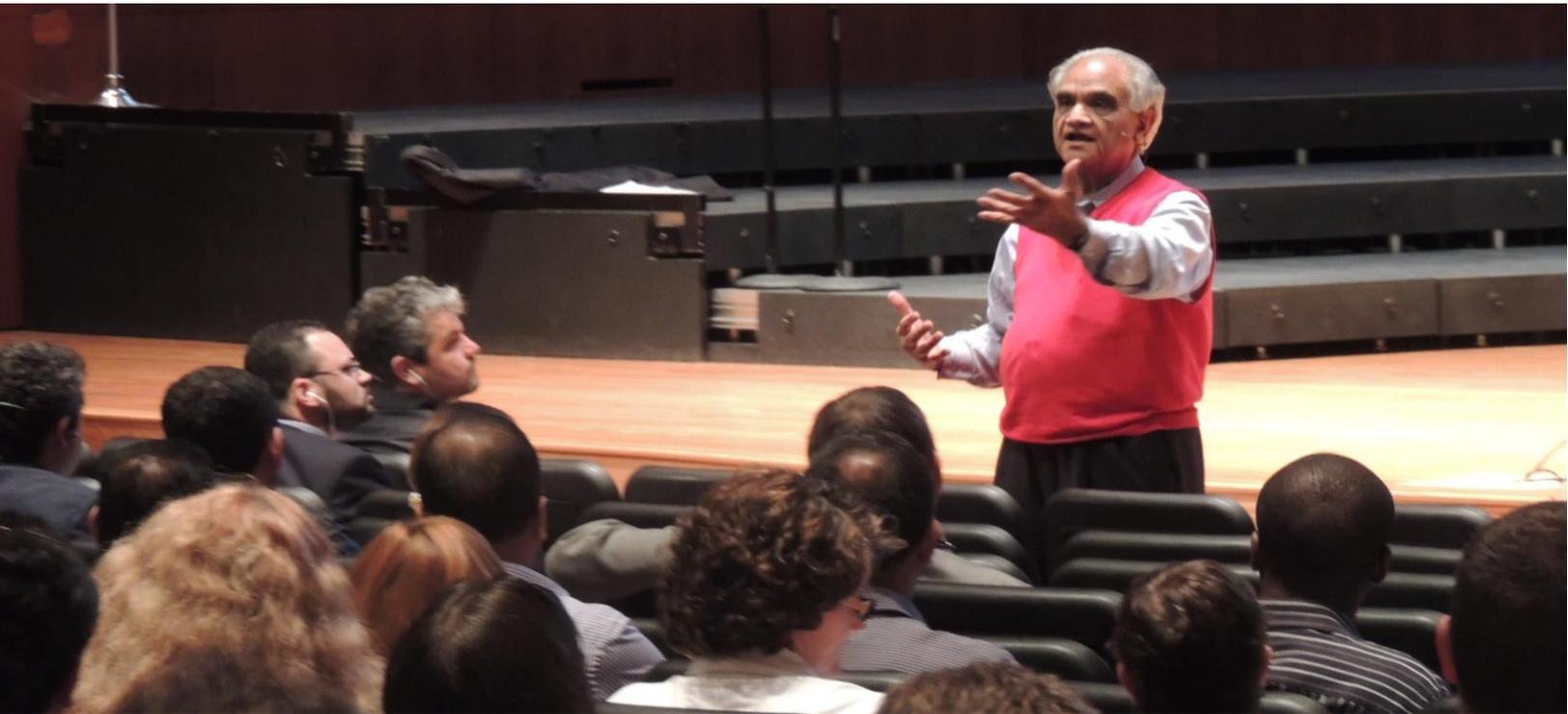
Recently, two resources have rekindled in me a passion to see prayer as essential in leadership. Max Lucado's [Before Amen](#) DVD and book helped me see the simplicity of prayer. And the classic titled simply [Prayer](#), by Norwegian Lutheran pastor and professor [Ole Hallesby](#), remains one of the deepest commentaries on the power of this leadership resource.

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As you see below, this newsletter is longer than most. We are catching up with our busy summer of orientation, annual conference, and roundtable events. I want to thank Sylvia Gonzalez for volunteering to write the first article in our new section, Readers as Leaders. We are soliciting others, too, to write a short explanation of what they are reading to help them as leaders. Please send us your news items as well!

## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### Annual Conference, Featuring Ram Charan



Florida Hospital Innovation Lab (FHIL) Roundtable



New Cohort Orientation 2015



## Brazil MA in Leadership Cohort



## Leadership Faculty North and South

**From Left to Right:** Elizeu Menegusso, Iran Miguel, Martin Kuhn, Francisca Costa, Eliel Unglaub, Afonso Cardoso, Josmar Arrais, Milton Torres, Robson Marinho, Sylvia Gonzalez, Duane Covrig, Jay Brand, Gus Gregorutti, and Erich Baumgartner

**Not Pictured:** Everson Muckenberger, Vandeni Kunz, Janet Ledesma, David Ferguson, and Shirley Freed

## NEWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Congratulations, Yami Bazan, PhD!**





Yamileth Bazan successfully defended both her dissertation and portfolio in July. Her dissertation focused on how universities respond effectively to the needs of racial/ethnic groups. She examined La Sierra University, in southern California, a campus with a multi-ethnic/racial student body. The study used secondary analysis of the 2013 National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), examining student engagement and its relationship with gender, class standing, ethnicity, and student satisfaction. The study advanced knowledge in the field of diversity issues and presented a unique contribution to help institutions understand and plan for effective ways of reaching minorities. Bazan's oral defense exceeded the expectations of a PhD defense, according to the evaluation of her doctoral committee. Her defense took place at Andrews University on July 2, 2015, and her committee was composed of Sylvia Gonzalez, PhD, as chair; Jimmy Kijai, PhD as methodologist, and Lawrence Geraty, PhD, as member.

Dr. Bazan's portfolio was guided by Robson Marinho as the advisor. Her second reader was Brenda Boyd, a leadership graduate who is a faculty member at Loma Linda University. Her third member was Jay Brand.

Congratulations, Debbie Weithers, MA!



Debbie Weithers successfully completed her portfolio and required research for her MA in our Leadership program. Her advisor was Duane Covrig and her second reader was Jay Brand. She had strong support from her Leadership and Learning Group (Erica Griessel and David Ferguson pictured here) and her office, the Office of Student Services at Andrews University. Her synthesis paper was organized around the metaphor of a beach, supported by a quotation from the Bible: "I made the sand a boundary for the sea, an everlasting barrier it cannot cross. The waves may roll, but they cannot prevail; they may roar, but they cannot cross it." (Jer 5:22). Of Debbie's several research projects, the most creative was on James Alexander Malcolm MacKenzie Fraser, the main character from the Outlander series of books written by Diana Gabaldon, which she has submitted for publication.

## Roundtable Schedule

Orientation will be held June 20-24, 2016

Roundtable will be held June 26-29, 2016

## ALUMNI NEWS

We are pleased to announce that a graduate of our Higher Education Program, Dr. Haldane Davies, has been named



Vice President for Business Development and Innovation at the University of the Virgin Islands. In addition, he has also been named to the Board of Examiners for the 2015 Malcolm Bridge National Quality Award. Congratulations, Dr. Davies, on such wonderful accomplishments!

Please click on the provided link for the full article featuring Dr. Davies.

<http://stcroixsource.com/content/community/people/2015/08/31/uvi-s-davies-named-baldrige-national-quality-award-board>

We are also pleased to announce that Dr. Rachel Miller, a graduate of the Leadership Program, came back to the department to receive the School of Education Dissertation Award. Her dissertation title is, *CRISIS COMMUNICATION AND UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP: A RHETORICAL ANALYSIS OF THREE CASE STUDIES*. This study creatively researched a "rhetorical analysis via a multiple case study approach. The case studies analyze the *apologia* (crisis communication) campaigns of 3 university leaders following a major crisis at their respective universities. The university leaders include the chancellor of the University of California at Davis following the 2011 pepper-spray incident, the president of Bluffton University (Ohio) following the 2007 baseball team bus accident, and the president of Virginia Tech following the 2007 on-campus mass shooting." We congratulate Dr. Miller on a job well done!



Finally, we are proud to note that William Beckford, a higher education MA student, has received high honors in the Bloomsbury Society. The “Bloomsbury Society is a student-run global social enterprise project founded in 2011. Bloomsbury Society opens pathways to leadership for high-achieving students from diverse backgrounds and equips them with the recognition, skills, knowledge, networks, confidence, and power to transform their communities and the world for the better.” Congratulations, Mr. Beckford!



## LEADERS ARE READERS

This new section of the newsletter will give faculty, staff, and participants a chance to share their reading lists and reading adventures. We can't think of a better person to get us started with this than Dr. Sylvia Gonzalez, one of our most avid readers. Thank you, Sylvia, for inaugurating this new section with such an interesting explanation of what you are reading to keep you sharp and attentive as a leader.

Sylvia writes:

I am reading books that span the years between 1900 and 1920's. This period fascinates me, for it meant a shift in social and economic beliefs and ways and living. The Great War of 1914 upended all the ideas of Victorian behavior and belief and introduced new ways, sometimes in a very drastic and harsh way. *The Great Gatsby*, *The Sun Also Rises*, and other novels depict the angst of what Gertrude Stein called “the lost generation”. The Great War was so horrendous that it took people years to come to terms to why people had to die for causes that were so away from their own interests. There is another reason for this period that fascinates me: my father was born in 1907 in Buenos Aires, son of immigrants from Europe; my paternal grandfather left Poland for “the Americas” in 1913 finding new hope and life in prosperous Uruguay; my maternal grandmother and my mother and her sister boarded a boat full of European immigrants in Amsterdam in 1918, at the end of the war and also found new life in America; a paternal uncle arrived in New York in 1913, passed through Ellis Island and commenced a new life in America.

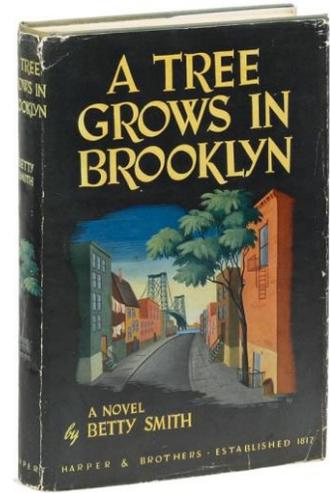
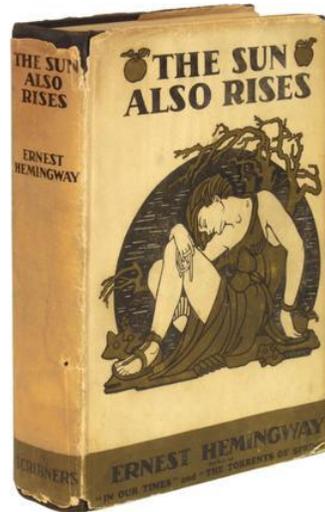
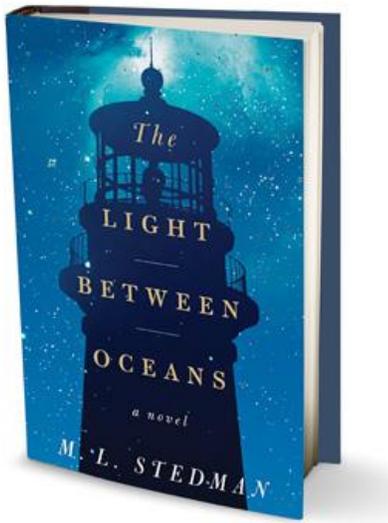
**What I have read this summer:**

**The Light Between Oceans** -- This was a gift from my cousin who is an avid reader. A light keeper and his wife in one of the islands off Western Australia in 1926. This is a fascinating book with lots of moral dilemmas. I learned what life was like on the “other side” of Australia, and what emotional toll the Great War took on the ones that were able to survive it.

**The Sun Also Rises** -- Hemingway. 1926, Pamplona, Spain. The book left me with no connection to the characters, which is part of what Hemingway intended. The reader is an observer and does not connect. I found this hard to understand because I also look for emotional connection. The location observations are superb, as I have travelled in that region of southwestern France and northwestern Spain. The emptiness of life without meaning, especially after the Great War, is palpable throughout the book.

**A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** -- Betty Smith. One of the books of the century. I read it in Spanish when I was 14, in 1965. Then I read it again this summer at 65. Brooklyn, immigrant life from 1909 to 1918. The main character, Francie Nolan, connects emotionally through the ages. Like me, when Francie in spite of life's difficulties learned

how to read and found books, she was never again lonely. Like me, Francie had a tree. This book is also about social issues, class struggles, union membership, public education -- issues that still surround us.



#### What I refused to read:

**Go Set a Watchman** -- It is the draft of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. I don't want anything to mar my connection to Scout and Atticus Finch. I read this book in 1965, then again last year, and it is incredibly good. *Go Set a Watchman* is part of marketing, "found" suddenly by Harper Lee's lawyer in a drawer! This one is a No for me.

#### Reading now:

**1491: New Revelations of the Americas Before Columbus** -- Charles Mann. Superb. Last year I finished **1493: Uncovering the New World Columbus Created**, which was so good I had to read it twice. It is not fiction. But it reads like fiction. The interconnectedness of the world, the globalization that we talk so much about right now, always existed in some form or other. Those who we treat like "heroes" are not necessarily so.

#### **LEAD Newsletter Editorial Team**

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