



Lewis Center  
for Church Leadership

# Leading Ideas

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## VIGNETTE

### **Reflections on Fruitful Leadership**

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I like words. I think of them and our ability to communicate as a gift from God. They are like little gifts that are a source of strength.

I like the expression “fruitful leadership.” It still has an edge of accomplishment about it, but the notion of bearing fruit adds God’s mystery to it. I can plant and I can till, but the growth and the bearing of fruit is God’s work.

I have been searching for a metaphor to carry in my heart about my church -- something to replace an ungracious stress-driven image of it as “that place of frustration where we don’t get done what we should get done.” Thinking of it as a garden is obviously much healthier.

I like gardening. Gardens can be neglected. They need tending. They can surprise us with what they produce. Much of what happens occurs beneath the ground, out of sight of human eyes. Time spent in the garden can be transformative.

I am grateful for these gifts of words.