

Inheritance Transfer

In 1993, Pete Myers faced one of the toughest challenges in sports history. To that point, the 6-foot-6-inch journeyman had played sparingly for seven NBA teams in seven years. But prior to joining the Chicago Bulls that year, Myers was asked to do the impossible: Fill in for Michael Jordan after the greatest basketball player of all time abruptly decided to retire (for the first time).

I'm thankful I don't face as daunting a task as Myers did—not because the person I'm replacing isn't as extraordinary, but because of the remarkable inheritance he's left behind and the way it's being transferred. Lee Grady is one of the most distinct and respected voices in Christian journalism today. After serving *Charisma* for 17 years, he's made my task of following in his footsteps extremely challenging. Yet one thing I love about Lee is that he's never wanted me to trace his trail, but instead to blaze one for myself. As anyone close to him knows, Lee leads by empowering. He believes in handing over the necessary tools to let people run their own course, all while he offers them his unconditional support.

The church desperately needs more Lee Gradys right now. We need battle-proven generals who are

willing to
make way for and empower a new generation of passionate,
Spirit-filled
leaders. We need veterans with proven wisdom to help guide
those eager
to venture further.

But let me remind my fellow emergents of
this two-sided coin: We may be blazing new trails, but we must
not
neglect the wisdom of the pioneers who came before us. Our
success will
be directly proportional to how well we listened to the voice
of God
speaking through our predecessors. If the church is to truly
flourish
in the next season, young and old must understand the need for
intergenerational conversation, not monogenerational
monologues.

This month *Charisma* highlights
the Spirit-prompted generational transfer already in
process—and shown
in places such as Tulsa, Oklahoma, where the ongoing
Empowered21
conversations will be celebrated April 8-10. We believe these
pivotal
multigenerational gatherings offer hope for all ages. Because
as in
this magazine's transfer from one editor to the next, those
involved
understand that the state of the generational inheritance
usually
matters more than the individual inheritors.

Marcus Yoars is *Charisma's* new editor.