



weLEAD Book Review

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Growing @ the Speed of Change: Your Inspir-actional How-To Guide For Leading Yourself and Others through Constant Change

The CLEMMER Group - 2009 (228 pages paperback)

Author Jim Clemmer

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I want to prepare you when you read this book for the mind-blowing experience you will encounter. Not in the sense that this reading will confuse you, but how practical and very useful the information is contained within the pages. This is not a “how to” book about leadership regarding the running a business per se, it is a “how to” manual for growing yourself through an ever changing fast paced world...Personal Leadership. In the introduction, Mr. Clemmer explains how to read this book and why he doesn't write it in the traditional way, such as chapter by chapter with different headings, but cleverly writes it as main parts with sub-topic stories and articles. These are related to the main parts for the purpose of reading only what interests you or referring back again and again to particular topics of interest.

What I particularly enjoyed the most is how he categorizes three areas that we “choose” to live and practice in our life... *Wallowing, Following and Leading*. Clemmer gives an example of a simple model called WFL in a sloping manner with leading at the top and wallowing at the bottom. *Wallowing* people are the pessimistic kind who complain, criticize, make excuses and blame others for their misfortune. *Followers* are waiting for others to lead them; they are comfortable and willing to let others make the tough decisions. *Leaders* are action oriented and risk takers who take charge, facing changes and challenges “head on” and viewing everything from an optimistic perspective. From this point on, Clemmer references all three categories throughout the book and gives examples of how a person can fall in any category, but more importantly how one can leave the wallowing and following behind to gain personal leadership, which in turn helps us to lead others.

Beware, this author writes in a bold and frank manner and he will give it to you straight... identifying who and what you are. If you are a very pessimistic person who is not interested in changing your views and thoughts, this book is not for you! Clemmer reminds us that *followers* are the fence sitters who could either stay on the fence or jump ship to either side.

Finally, do not try to read this book in one sitting. At the end of each main topic Jim Clemmer gives references to follow-up websites and other books to read, including his own. The main purpose of this is to direct the reader toward more information on the topics he writes about in this book. I checked on many of the suggested sites and found many interesting follow-up references. His website www.JimClemmer.com is packed full of information and it's free to subscribe. Check it out and see all the useful information that can be obtained to help you grow, and to help others grow as well.

Reviewed by Ken Altenbach

weLEAD Rating – highly recommended

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