

Churches That Make A Difference Reaching Your Community With Good News And Good Works Paperback

Insights from Effective Churches on New Member Classes and Assimilation Findings from a national study to improve membership classes and to motivate current members into active ministry How do churches move members—both old and new—into ministry? Many church staff and lay leaders know they need to start new member classes as a point of entry into their churches but don't know how. This book is based on a national study of effective churches and shows how growing churches implement new member classes and motivate their members into ministry. *Membership Matters* is designed to be a guide for church leaders wanting to start or improve a membership class. It includes models for classes and examples of resources such as church covenants, class schedules, and lesson outlines. It also gives direction on motivating uninvolved members to participate in ministry. One chapter chronicles an ongoing discussion among pastors of growing churches that are effectively motivating members to do ministry.

The Church has lost its voice in America. It's time to get it back. Most people still believe in God. Many of them hold a negative view of church. Frankly, they've given up on it. And it's only getting worse as time goes on. Though some churches are growing, church attendance overall continues to shrink, while our culture sinks deeper into darkness. A world increasingly desperate for hope is begging us to do something right now to restore the voice of hope in the world. We must act now. In *Unmuted: Restoring Your Church's Voice*, you will find everything you need to do just that in your community, using the six primary dynamics established by the original Acts 2 church: - They were unified around a God-given vision - They were empowered by the Holy Spirit - They preached a relevant, simple truth - They were hungry to know God - They genuinely cared for one another - They unselfishly cared about the community around them Incorporate these six dynamics into the unique DNA of your church and you will raise a generation of mature, close-knit Christians, committed to defining their lives by the God-given vision of making disciples of everyone, everywhere. You will also see your church's influence grow. You can still make a difference in your world Jim Wall has dedicated his life to serving the local church, pastoring small-town churches, teaching pastoral university students and planting seventy-six churches in three countries—including the 4,000-soul Community Church in Hampton Roads, Virginia, USA (communitychurch.info). He currently serves as the founder and executive director of the Acts 2 Network or A2N (acts2network.org), coaching church leaders around the world. Jim holds a DMin in Christian Leadership from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

A groundbreaking guide for multiplying the impact of church plants Based on a study that was commissioned by the Leadership Network, this book reveals the best practices in church planting and uncovers the common threads among

them. A much-needed resource, this book will inform, guide, and even catalyze today's many church planting leaders. The authors clearly show leaders how to plant churches that create a multiplication movement and offer inspiration for them to do so. The book addresses their questions about what to do next in their church planting strategies, in light of research on what's actually working best. Author Ed Stetzer heads up LifeWay Research Provides reliable, credible information about what church planting strategies work best A volume in the Leadership Network Series Offers a definitive guide for church planting and the burgeoning movement it is part of.

The question of what makes life worth living is more vital now than ever. In today's pluralistic, postsecular world, universal values are dismissed as mere matters of private opinion, and the question of what constitutes flourishing life--for ourselves, our neighbors, and the planet as a whole--is neglected in our universities, our churches, and our culture at large. Although we increasingly have technology to do almost anything, we have little sense of what is truly worth accomplishing. In this provocative new contribution to public theology, world-renowned theologian Miroslav Volf (named "America's New Public Intellectual" by Scot McKnight on his Jesus Creed blog) and Matthew Croasmun explain that the intellectual tools needed to rescue us from our present malaise and meet our new cultural challenge are the tools of theology. A renewal of theology is crucial to help us articulate compelling visions of the good life, find our way through the maze of contested questions of value, and answer the fundamental question of what makes life worth living.

An antidote for our age of anxiety--thoughtful, moving prayers from Barbara Brown Taylor, Amena Brown, Nadia Bolz-Weber, and other artists, creatives, and thinkers, curated by the author Glennon Doyle calls "my favorite faith writer." It's no secret that we are overworked, overpressured, and edging burnout.

Unsurprisingly, this fact is as old as time--and that's why we see so many prayer circles within a multitude of church traditions. These gatherings are a trusted space where people seek help, hope, and peace, energized by God and one another. This book, curated by acclaimed author Sarah Bessey, celebrates and honors that prayerful tradition in a literary form. A companion for daily inspiration, this collection gives women permission to recognize the weight of all they carry, while also offering a broadened imagination of hope--of what can be restored and made new. Each prayer is an original piece of writing, with a short introduction from Bessey sharing exactly why she loves and looks up to the writer. This book is a literary hug, an invitation for respite, and a chance for readers to pause and celebrate who they are, beyond what they do.

iWatch: All Christians are called to make a difference. This book is for you because you will learn -

Every ministry needs capable and reliable volunteers, but so often it feels like no one is coming forward to fill your church's needs. In reality, the people around us do want to volunteer their time and talents, but we often fail to connect potential

volunteers to ministry opportunities or lose them somewhere along the way. The Volunteer Effect is your start-to-finish guide to recruiting, leading, and retaining volunteers for your ministry. Based on solid management theory delivered in an engaging narrative form, this book shows you how to - recruit people to a mission, not just a role - create low-risk entry points - build a team that evokes pride - train them for the bigger picture - and much more Your most effective volunteers are already in your church! Let this resource show you how to find--and keep--them.

If you're a leader in a church or business, and you want to improve your culture of hospitality, then you'll love Danny's new book. It's a must-read! -Dan T. Cathy, CEO, Chick-fil-A When it comes to interacting with guests, churches typically gravitate towards one of two camps: over-the-top, shock-and-awe, let-us-entertain-you or oh-man,-some-people-just-showed-up, underwhelming experience. Each extreme has drawbacks: on one end, people become the center of the universe. On the other, hospitality is effectively ignored in deference to the "serious business" of worship. People Are the Mission proposes a healthy middle, one where guests are esteemed but the gospel is the goal. Danny Franks, Connections Pastor at Summit Church, shows churches how to take a more balanced approach - a "third way" that is both guest-friendly and gospel-centric. He shows why honoring the stranger doesn't stand in opposition to honoring the Savior. People are the mission that Christ has called us to, and if we focus on people we can better assist people to focus on the gospel.

Jesus never intended the church to become an institution; he intended it to be a people of power, transforming the world. Power is the capacity, ability, and the willingness to act. Most people and systems use power to dominate and control, but others have used it relationally to liberate, transform, and even save. Built around a biblical exploration of shalom, Building a People of Power explains how local churches can use power to transform their communities and their cities. Detailed power strategies are presented enabling churches to build productive relationships, to address the primary issues of people they serve, and to develop strong leaders, faithful organizations, and redeemed neighborhoods that live out shalom.

Have you hit a wall with your church, ministry or non-profit organization? In spite of a genuine calling, an exceptional team and solid investment in the vision, have you noticed that the spark never catches fire? Media and marketing expert Phil Cooke wants every ministry to ask, Who are we? By identifying what makes your organization different from the thousands clamoring for attention, you can get your message heard. Cooke has consulted with many of the most recognized churches and non-profits in the world, and in Branding Faith: Why Some Ministries Impact Culture and Others Don't, he shares his road-tested strategies for using media and marketing to make your mark on people's minds and hearts. Whatever the size of your organization, his helpful hints and insider know-how will give you the tools to set your ministry's strategies ablaze.

Social justice is not just a matter of applying well-known 'first principles' shared by all Christian traditions. As these papers by representatives of seven Australian Churches show, Christian approaches to social justice are strikingly distinctive, both in their starting points and in the positions arrived at on urgent matters of human rights, sexual ethics and economic justice. Led off by the well-known Jesuit human rights advocate, Professor Frank Brennan, the book includes contributions by: Fr Max Vodola (Roman Catholic), Revd Gerard Rose (Churches of Christ), Revd Geoff Pound (Baptist), Revd Raymond Cleary (Anglican), Mark Zirnsak (Uniting Church), Major Jenny Begent (Salvation Army) and Fr Shenouda Boutros (Coptic Orthodox Church), with concluding reflections by Margaret Coffey (ABC Radio National). This book is the work of the Yarra Institute for Religion and Social Policy, an independent ecumenical organisation promoting scholarship and research on Christian social traditions as they bear on current concerns. Launched in 2009 by Professor Brian Howe, the Yarra Institute is committed to engaging with our broader culture collaboratively to promote human wellbeing. The authors of these chapters come from seven of the Christian traditions which have theological Colleges comprising the University of Divinity in Melbourne.

The Greening of Protestant Thought traces the increasing influence of environmentalism on American Protestantism since the first Earth Day, which took place in 1970. Robert Booth Fowler explores the extent to which ecological concerns permeate Protestant thought and examines contemporary controversies within and between mainline and fundamentalist Protestantism over the Bible's teachings about the environment. Fowler explores the historical roots of environmentalism in Protestant thought, including debates over God's relationship to nature and the significance of the current environmental crisis for the history of Christianity. Although he argues that mainline Protestantism is becoming increasingly 'green,' he also examines the theological basis for many fundamentalists' hostility toward the environmental movement. In addition, Fowler considers Protestantism's policy agendas for environmental change, as well as the impact on mainline Protestant thinking of modern eco-theologies, process and creation theologies, and ecofeminism.

Recent years have seen unprecedented attention to faith-based institutions as agents of social change, spurred in part by cuts in public funding for social services and accompanied by controversy about the separation of church and state. The debate over faith-based initiatives has highlighted a small but growing segment of churches committed to both saving souls and serving society. What distinguishes faith-based from secular activism? How do religious organizations express their religious identity in the context of social services? How do faith-based service providers interpret the connection between spiritual methodologies and socioeconomic outcomes? How does faith motivate and give meaning to social ministry? Drawing on case studies of fifteen Philadelphia-area Protestant churches with active outreach, *Saving Souls, Serving Society* seeks to answer

these and other pressing questions surrounding the religious dynamics of social ministry. While church-based programs often look similar to secular ones in terms of goods or services rendered, they may show significant differences in terms of motivations, desired outcomes, and interpretations of meaning. Church-based programs also differ from one another in terms of how they relate evangelism to their social outreach agenda. Heidi Rolland Unruh and Ronald J. Sider explore how churches navigate the tension between their spiritual mission and the constraints on evangelism in the context of social services. The authors examine the potential contribution of religious dynamics to social outcomes as well as the relationship between mission orientations and social capital. Unruh and Sider introduce a new vocabulary for describing the religious components and spiritual meanings embedded in social action, and provide a typology of faith-based organizations and programs. Their analysis yields a framework for Protestant mission orientations that makes room for the diverse ways that churches interrelate spiritual witness and social compassion. Based on their observations, the authors offer a constructive approach to church-state partnerships and provide a far more objective understanding of faith-based social services than previously available.

Dear Friend, May I share a story that is very dear to my heart? It's a story of hillbillies and simple folk, net casters and tax collectors. A story of a movement that exploded like a just-opened fire hydrant out of Jerusalem and spilled into the ends of the earth: into the streets of Paris, the districts of Rome, and the ports of Athens, Istanbul, Shanghai, and Buenos Aires. A story so mighty, controversial, head spinning, and life changing that two millennia later we wonder: Might it happen again? Heaven knows we hope so. These are devastating times: 1.75 billions people are desperately poor; one billion are hungry. Lonely hearts indwell our neighborhoods and attend our schools. In the midst of it all, here we stand: you, me, and our one-of-a-kind lives. We are given a choice ... an opportunity to make a big difference during a difficult time. What if we did? What if we rocked the world with hope? Worth a try, don't you think? - Max Lucado One hundred percent of the author's royalties from *Outlive Your Life* products will benefit children and families through World Vision and other ministries of faith-based compassion.

Breakout Churches Can Your Church Become One? This is the story of thirteen churches and the leaders who moved them from stagnancy to growth and from mediocrity to greatness. Drawing on one of the most comprehensive studies ever on the church, this book reveals the process of becoming a "breakout" church and the factors that lead to this spiritual metamorphosis. Eighty percent of the approximately 400,000 churches in the United States are either declining or at a plateau. Is there hope for the American church? *Breakout Churches* offers a resounding "yes!" and offers specific examples and principles to help you and your church become more effective.

Different churches grow in different ways. This book will help you figure out your

church's orientation and show the way to healthy growth.

Pastors around the country continue to look for the program, the book, or the sermon series that will turn their plateaued or declining churches around. But what if the answer to revitalizing the church was closer to home? According to trusted church leadership expert Aubrey Malphurs and veteran pastor Gordon E. Penfold, it is. They believe that pastors themselves are the key. In a time when many pastors are jumping from church to church every two or three years as they search for the "right fit" where they can "make a difference," churches are suffering from a lack of sustained leadership from pastors with a viable vision for ministry. In *Re:Vision*, Malphurs and Penfold take pastors through a process of discovery and self-evaluation designed to help them re-envision their role, create a culture for positive change, and recruit people to come alongside them as helpers and encouragers. Multiple appendices offer self-diagnostic tools and surveys to help pastors assess their strengths and weaknesses for more effective ministry.

Are you a follower of Jesus Christ? If so, then you have been commanded by your Lord and Savior to make disciples, which begins with telling people about your faith. How are you doing with that? Are you being obedient to this command? If not, this book can help. Don Sunshine has been teaching people all over the United States how to share their faith in Christ every day as a lifestyle without fear or embarrassment. Don has taught his Make a Difference (or MAD for short) Live Events in over 650 churches in twenty-seven states and Canada. Tens of thousands of people have been impacted by his simple teaching and have begun sharing their faith in Christ every day with a lost world. This book covers a lot of the material that he presents in his MAD live events. You'll learn the following: how to recognize the opportunities (divine appointments) that God gives you every day to tell someone about Jesus; what fears stop you from sharing your faith and how to defeat those fears and live in obedience; and what it looks like when a door opens for you to share your faith, and what to do and say when the door opens. Putting these truths into practice is so simple that Don teaches the same material in Christian middle and high schools. The book is full of real-life examples of Don's teaching that will help you apply the lessons as part of your daily life. And as you do, your life will become the great adventure that God intended it to be. Your faith and joy will grow as your obedience changes your Christian experience on planet Earth. 1

Part research project, part detective story, this book presents results from the most comprehensive study of successful churches in history. These 586 churches across America all excel in winning new souls for Christ, and have a remarkable range of things in common. Some stereotypes are shattered, some results are astonishing, and everything is written in a readable, non-technical style.-- Includes churches with at least one baptism per 19 members annually-- Churches range from 60 to 6,000 in membership; more than 2/3 claim 100-499 members-- Reveals the seven evangelism tools most important to successful

churches-- Discusses popular misconceptions about church location, size, event evangelism and more

In the powerful new book *World Impacting Churches*, author James Eby issues a challenge to churches around the world to regain their focus on the task of finishing The Great Commission in this generation. Drawing on more than 30 years of experience in national and international ministry, Eby shares ten thought-provoking characteristics of churches which make a difference in the world and help complete the mandate Jesus gave us. Eby's Biblical insight and practical application for implementing these characteristics will inspire and challenge church leaders on every level. The principles set forth in this book are applicable to churches of every size and culture.

Equips parents to inspire kids to take on social injustice--at any age With the constant barrage of difficult stories through news and social media, today's kids are increasingly aware of the real problems real people confront every day. And they're quicker than ever to come to parents and other trusted adults to ask how they can help--or why they're not already doing so. *And Social Justice for All* equips Christian families to tackle social justice issues together. It inspires them to bring light and love to a dark and scary world. Educator and mom Lisa Van Engen creates innovative resources to engage kids in understanding and responding to fourteen justice issues such as clean water, creation care, immigration and refugees, hunger, race, and poverty. After placing each issue in kid-friendly context, she offers interactive features: · High-interest conversation starters for each age group to challenge thinking and assumptions · A family devotional to anchor each social justice issue in God's Word · Engaging, age-tiered activities for reading, playing, observing, creating, connecting, and experimenting in God's world · Tips and internet links to extend awareness and invest resources in social justice. Throughout each chapter, children speak their own thoughts about injustice and what they think God is calling them to do. By looking at both the roots of injustice and what Christians can do right now to help, *And Social Justice for All* empowers both adults and children to encounter a broken world with insight and empathy. Simple yet powerful, it lights the path for families to make a real, God-directed difference together.

Churches over the past generations have been weakened by a failure to meet both the physical and spiritual needs of their communities. Many have adopted a narrow vision, focusing on only one aspect of ministry. But in today's environment of faith-based opportunities many Christians are eager to start reaching out to their world with both Good News and good works, and therefore they are searching for appropriate ways to integrate both into their ministry. In *Churches That Make a Difference*, best-selling author Ron Sider and his coauthors give those involved in community outreach a comprehensive resource for developing holistic ministry--a balance of evangelism and social outreach. Illustrations and helpful organizational tips detail the how-to's of an effective holistic ministry. Case studies that show how different churches across the United States reach out to

their communities provide a variety of ideas and practical applications. User-friendly tools are included as well for congregational studies, surveys, evaluations, and community assessments. The authors draw on extensive experience with church ministries and faith-based organizations as they share the life-changing vision and biblical mandate for living the whole gospel. Church leaders will be encouraged in their process of developing and maintaining a holistic ministry, and local churches will rediscover a passion for loving the whole person the way Jesus did.

Brief chapters provide an overview of Haddon Robinson's theory, method, and practice of biblical preaching which can make a difference in people's lives. Dudley's work in *Making the Small Church Effective* (1978) broke new ground in understanding the dynamics of life in the small congregation. In this revised edition, Dudley revisits the small church, posing new questions reflective of the considerable changes that have swept over small churches in the last two decades. Among the most significant recent developments are shifts in institutional loyalty and individual's sense of identity in relation to larger groups and organizations. Dudley explores the key components that contribute to a small congregation's sense of unity and that motivate its members to more faithfully live out their faith.

The various contributions in this informative and exciting volume explore the ambivalent and complex history of Reformed faith during the years 1960 to 1990 in apartheid South Africa. In the process light is shed on the role of Reformed churches in the struggle for justice, freedom and dignity. Parameters are simultaneously provided for defining the public role of Reformed faith in contemporary South Africa in the context of Africanisation and globalisation ...
Prof. Nico Koopman, Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University
Christians today are on a rescue mission. Each of us is called to get involved in God's plan to make disciples. A former California lifeguard, Neil Cole weaves together his personal experiences of saving lives with biblical principles for how to make and multiply disciples. Cole shows how to create Life Transformation Groups that can help a Christian grow in a safe and transparent relationship with one or two other spiritual pilgrims. Full of heroic and even humorous stories, *Ordinary Hero* captures readers' imaginations and hearts and doesn't let go until they want to make a difference and know how to go about doing it.

Jonathan Leeman addresses the commonly asked (and often unanswered) question of, "Why should I join a church?" in a time when many are shunning the practice of organized religion. By offering a brief, straightforward explanation of what church membership is and why it's important, Leeman gives the local church its proper due and builds a case for committing to the local body. *Church Membership* is a useful tool for churches to distribute en masse to new and potential members of their congregation. This volume is part of the 9Marks: *Building Healthy Churches* series. Look for upcoming, quick-read formats of the following marks of a healthy church: expositional preaching, biblical theology, the

gospel, conversion, evangelism, church discipline, discipleship and growth, and church leadership.

Concerned to promote an authentic, biblical faith, this book suggests ways to combine evangelism with social action for effective witness in today's world. There's a growing desire among believers to reach beyond the walls of their churches to impact communities for God. But when the average church size hovers around 150 members and the problems of even midsized cities seem insurmountable, how can we hope to make a difference? A New Kind of Big tells the inspiring story of how Perimeter Church in suburban Atlanta started a partnership called Unite! with other area churches in order to increase its reach in a community that desperately needed God's light and aid. This partnership has grown to a network of nearly 150 churches that are bringing kingdom transformation to Atlanta. For instance, on just one weekend in 2007, 6,000 volunteers from over 60 churches in metro Atlanta gathered to work on 250 service projects inside the ten-mile radius around Perimeter Church. Thirty welcome baskets were delivered to refugees, a dozen homes were repaired, a thousand Bibles were given away, 750 "encourage a teacher" gift bags were distributed. And that's not all: volunteers orchestrated 20 block parties in low-income apartment communities and 65 neighborhood food drives that collected 25,000 pounds of food. Chip Sweney shows Christian leaders how they too can discover the power of this "new kind of big" to pool their resources, energy, and time to minister to their communities, no matter how long or short their membership rolls.

Dealing with the 'Toronto Blessing' (TB) was one of the most traumatic periods of my life. It only lasted a few years, but its vileness still last 25 years later, because though the 'Blessing' left, it morphed into countless other movements and fake 'revivals' which continue even now. True charismaticism is ungodly and unbiblical, and damages thousands of souls a year. Wherever the TB came to town, it brought with it a circus of evil that destroyed huge numbers of churches. So, though this is an archive book, it is highly pertinent. Christians MUST know how the charismatic movement arose and what it did, because it is a fake movement claiming to be of God. It is not! It is a vile deception that ruins lives. Restoring the image of God -- Restoring dominion -- Social justice in the Old Testament, part 1 -- Social justice in the Old Testament, part 2 -- Jesus on community outreach -- Jesus mingled with people -- Jesus desired their good -- Jesus showed sympathy -- Jesus ministered to their needs -- Jesus won their confidence -- Jesus bade them follow me -- Urban ministry in the end time -- How shall we wait?

How many times have we heard these statements... "We can't compete with the megachurch in our town!" "A new church was started two blocks from us. We've got plenty of churches without them!" "The church brought another one of their campuses near us. It's totally unethical what they are doing." "We can't reach young families. They all go to the big church that has all the children's and

