

Small Church Essentials Field Tested Principles For Leading A Healthy Congregation Of Under 250

A trustworthy and respected guide for pastors and church leadership in the post-quarantine world, providing hope and vision for the future of your congregation. From thousands of surveys of church leaders and in-person consultations, Thom Rainer and his Church Answers team have gathered the essential wisdom you will need to face the challenges and opportunities that the quarantine crisis creates for the local church, including: New and better ways to lead the gathered church A wide-open door for growing the digital church A moment to rethink the facilities New strategies for church growth . . . and much more! This book is, in effect, your personal church consultant, helping you plan and prepare for the future. In the midst of heartbreak, tragedy, and struggle due to Covid-19, here's hope, wisdom, encouragement and vision. This book is valuable for those looking for local church and pastor resources to enhance church leadership, grow your church, and serve digital and online church communities in the post-quarantine world. As a former pastor and founder of Church Answers, Thom S. Rainer is intimately familiar with the present demands that pastors face. He has spent a lifetime committed to the growth and health of the local church. Do you lead a small church? Big churches get all the love. Articles, books, conferences—they mostly feature leaders of large congregations. Yet big churches are a small part of the ecclesial landscape. In fact, more than 90 percent of churches have fewer than 200 people. That means small churches play a big part in what God is doing. Small Church Essentials is for leaders of these smaller congregations. It encourages them to steward their role well, debunking myths about small churches while offering principles for leading a dynamic, healthy small church. Based on the popular six-hour lecture that Karl Vaters delivers to church leaders across the country, Small Church Essentials will affirm small church leaders and show them how to identify what they do well, and how to do it even better. Readers will: Be assured that leading a small congregation does not make them ministry failures Come away inspired to lead with passion, regardless the size of their church Have field-tested principles for leading a church in their context Possess new metrics for biblically measuring vitality in small churches Have a toolkit of resources to use in their everyday ministry Karl Vaters has been a small church pastor for 30 years, is the author of The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches, and the Small Thinking that Divides Us (2013), and travels extensively to churches and conferences to speak about leading a small church well. If you are pastoring a small church, this book will be a breath of fresh air. It will affirm your calling while giving you fresh tools to help you lead. It will help you: Stop believing lies about small churches Lead your church to fulfill the role only small churches can Understand your congregation's strengths and weaknesses Turn around a dying or unhealthy church Identify good trends and bad in church and culture The earliest of the four Gospels, the book portrays Jesus as an enigmatic figure, struggling with enemies, his inner and external demons, and with his devoted but disconcerted disciples. Unlike other gospels, his parables are obscure, to be explained secretly by his followers. With an introduction by Nick Cave You Don't Have to Dread Conflict Every church will experience conflict at some point. But it doesn't have to destroy you. In fact, conflict can be an incredible opportunity, if you know how to seize it. Unfortunately, very few churches use the opportunity well, but your church can. Michael Hare, PhD, has been helping churches recover (and even grow) from conflict for over 20 years, and now he can help you too. Learn how to recognize healthy and unhealthy conflicts what the five levels of conflict are and why they matter how to design an action plan that will succeed how to prevent unhealthy conflict before it begins With copious case studies and practical tools, you'll find it's surprisingly manageable to develop these new skills. Learn to lead confidently in the face of conflict and invest in your church's future today. PLUS! Additional Resources in the back include: Conflict management Style Survey Conflict Assessment Tools Interview Questions for Assessing Conflict and more! "I enthusiastically endorse this book and welcome it as a valuable addition to the growing stable of peacemaking resources!" KEN SANDE Author of the Peacemaker and Founder of Peacemaker Ministries and Relational Wisdom 360 "Few things break God's heart more, and cause the hosts of hell to rejoice more, than conflict among His followers. My friend Mike Hare is well-qualified to prepare church leaders with practical intervention strategies (brought to life by case stories) that enable us to anticipate, analyze, and resolve conflict—moving step-by-step through processes that result in unity and blessing." DR. WESS STAFFORD President Emeritus, Compassion International Author of Too Small to Ignore and Just a Minute

Evangelii Gaudium

The Church Recovery Guide

The Grasshopper Myth Consider Your Calling

A Personal and Practical Guide to Starting Right

Growing A Healthy Church

The Post-Quarantine Church

Big Churches, Small Churches and the Small Thinking That Divides Us

What if I told you that you were only one step away from unlocking new levels of maturity and growth in your church? The myth of the silver bullet still exists because we desperately want it to. We all prefer quick fixes and bandage solutions to the long, hard, slow work that produces real change. So the moment we learn about a new ministry or strategy and see its effect in another church, we run to implement it in our own. Unfortunately, this impulse is usually met by opposition, skepticism, and ultimately, rejection. What if the solution isn't a new model or a complicated strategy, but a shift in perspective? What if you could keep your church's current vision, values, and model, and simply make a few micro-shifts...leading to macro-changes? This book explores five micro-shifts that have the potential to produce macro-changes in your church. As you read, you will discover how to integrate these micro-shifts into the life of your church, starting with the way you disciple. You will finish by developing a plan to structure, communicate, and evaluate these changes to ensure that they take root and pave the way for lasting change and kingdom impact.

Another landmark book by Rick Warren. You are not an accident. Even before the universe was created, God had you in mind, and he planned you for his purposes. These purposes will extend far beyond the few years you will spend on earth. You were made to last forever! Self-help books often suggest that you try to discover the meaning and purpose of your life by looking within yourself, but Rick Warren says that is the wrong place to start. You must begin with God, your Creator, and his reasons for creating you. You were made by God and for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense. This book will help you understand why you are alive and God's amazing plan for you—both here and now, and for eternity. Rick Warren will guide you through a personal 40-day spiritual journey that will transform your answer to life's most important question: What on earth am I here for? Knowing God's purpose for creating you will reduce your stress, focus your energy, simplify your decisions, give meaning to your life, and, most importantly, prepare you for eternity. The Purpose Driven Life is a blueprint for Christian living in the 21st century---a lifestyle based on God's eternal purposes, not cultural values. Using over 1,200 scriptural quotes and references, it challenges the conventional definitions of worship, fellowship, discipleship, ministry, and evangelism. In the tradition of Oswald Chambers, Rick Warren offers distilled wisdom on the essence of what life is all about. This is a book of hope and challenge that you will read and re-read, and it will be a classic treasured by generations to come.

Outlines ways in which couples can effectively renegotiate their marriage contracts, providing case examples of partners who improved their relationships and identifying the stressors that contribute to marital imbalances. Reprint.

Will you collaborate on God's kingdom work in your community? If you're ready to see God move in all areas—business, education, media, arts, healthcare, spiritual growth, and more—this is the book for you. Leadership expert Reggie McNeal offers eight signature practices for leaders who want to

partner with God and others for kingdom growth.

Scrappy Church

Stalled

On Pastoring

Paths to Power

A Short Guide to Living, Leading, and Ministering as a Pastor

Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples

A Leadership Guide for the Majority of Today's Churches

God's Not Done Yet

Pastors of churches with fewer than 150 people will find insight, encouragement, and guidance to deal with the unique strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities of small churches.

Your church has the opportunity of a lifetime. The world has shifted, and a new, brighter tomorrow awaits. The church revitalization Checklist is a tool to help you start fresh, leverage your strengths, and discover hidden opportunities for church growth. God has placed you exactly where He wants you. But let's be honest, if you're leading a church, it isn't easy. Maybe your church has been in the doldrums for years. Maybe you're hearing a lot of complaints, and you're simply tired and disheartened. Maybe you've been hurt. But you are not alone. Many church leaders have sore backs from carrying a heavy load. This book will lighten that load. The Church Revitalization Checklist provides a step-by-step path to a hope-filled future for both you and your church. Popular church expert Sam Rainer will walk you and your leadership team through a seven-point checklist—everything from reconsidering your priorities to evaluating your location and facilities. It is an extremely practical tool to unleash your congregation and help them step into God's unique purpose for them. Your brighter future starts now.

Churches in America are closing at an alarming rate. Dale Sellers of 95Network believes this trend is largely due to discouragement among small-church pastors. Many church leaders begin ministry with dreams of making an eternal impact. But years of striving, stress, and strain have left them feeling defeated, disillusioned, and stalled. Thankfully, there is hope that ministry can turn around for the discouraged pastor. As a former minister who's been in the trenches, Sellers reveals that ... God is not keeping score, it's impossible for a pastor to let God down, and doing ministry from Jesus, not for Him, is a pastor's key to a thriving church.

Small Church EssentialsField-tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250

Naked Man Running

The First 100 Days

Eight Signature Practices of Leaders Who Turn the World Upside Down

A Spiritual Clinic

Shepherding the Small Church

A Guidebook for Pastors

Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry

When Church Conflict Happens

This is not a how-to manual... (It's a field guide) **We all want to know, "How can I help without hurting in this specific situation?"** But there's no one answer, and there's definitely no short cuts, but there are key principles—or ministry design principles. Think of these like the rules an improvising actor learns—the principles are crucial—but the actor must decide how to put them into practice based on the complexities of the situation. This book contains and explicates 20 ministry design principles developed over decades of observing, studying, and experimenting. They're in no way perfect, but they represent the very best ideas we have to date for how to do effective poverty alleviation in the kingdom of God.

90% of the churches in the world have less than 200 people. What if that's not a bad thing? What if smallness is an advantage God wants us to use, not a problem to fix?

This follow-up to Shepherding the Small Church exhorts pastors to take their leadership to a different level, one that is rooted in spiritual activities like preaching and discipleship instead of professional leadership strategies.

The perfect gift! A specially priced, beautifully designed hardcover edition of *The Joy of the Gospel* with a foreword by Robert Barron and an afterword by James Martin, SJ. "The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus... In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come." – Pope Francis This special edition of Pope Francis's popular message of hope explores themes that are important for believers in the 21st century. Examining the many obstacles to faith and what can be done to overcome those hurdles, he emphasizes the importance of service to God and all his creation. Advocating for "the homeless, the addicted, refugees, indigenous peoples, the elderly who are increasingly isolated and abandoned," the Holy Father shows us how to respond to poverty and current economic challenges that affect us locally and globally.

Ultimately, Pope Francis demonstrates how to develop a more personal relationship with Jesus Christ, "to recognize the traces of God's Spirit in events great and small." Profound in its insight, yet warm and accessible in its tone, *The Joy of the Gospel* is a call to action to live a life motivated by divine love and, in turn, to experience heaven on earth. Includes a foreword by Robert Barron, author of *Catholicism: A Journey to the Heart of the Faith* and James Martin, SJ, author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage*

The Gospel According to Mark

Healing Thoughts

No Silver Bullets

A Guide to Spiritual and Emotional Well-Being

Small Church Essentials

100 Days to a Healthier Church

How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor

How Your Congregation Can Adapt and Thrive after a Crisis

Small Church Essentials: How to change our approach to church. It challenges leaders to see the church as God sees it - in terms of fruitfulness and discipleship - not according to size. Church ministry is not a marketing or consumer challenge but a spiritual one. Contentment, obedience and faithfulness must be the benchmarks of fruitful ministry.

What's Next for Your Church? In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, church leaders are facing challenges they've never encountered. As you scramble to adapt to this fast-changing situation, you must also begin thinking through the months ahead to consider: how will my church recover? The Church Recovery Guide outlines the practical steps you can take to help your church not only survive but also thrive in the aftermath of the coronavirus crisis. Pastor Karl Vaters offers insights from his extensive experience in church ministry to help you think through: - Reconnecting with your congregation - Dealing with the financial repercussions - Encouraging and supporting your staff - Clearly communicating a fresh vision for the future - Reworking your church's technology and online strategy

- Ministering to people feeling isolated and fearful *The Church Recovery Guide will provide the direction you need to help your church bounce back to full health and chart a path forward to even greater vitality.*

The high-level language of *R* is recognized as one of the most powerful and flexible statistical software environments, and is rapidly becoming the standard setting for quantitative analysis, statistics and graphics. *R* provides free access to unrivalled coverage and cutting-edge applications, enabling the user to apply numerous statistical methods ranging from simple regression to time series or multivariate analysis. **Building on the success of the author's bestselling Statistics: An Introduction using R, The R Book is packed with worked examples, providing an all inclusive guide to R, ideal for novice and more accomplished users alike. The book assumes no background in statistics or computing and introduces the advantages of the R environment, detailing its applications in a wide range of fields. It provides a complete reference manual for the R language, including practical guidance and full coverage of the graphics facilities. Introduces all the statistical models covered by R, beginning with simple classical tests such as chi-square and t-test. Proceeds to examine more advance methods, from regression and analysis of variance, through to generalized linear models, generalized mixed models, time series, spatial statistics, multivariate statistics and much more. The R Book is aimed at undergraduates, postgraduates and professionals in science, engineering and medicine. It is also ideal for students and professionals in statistics, economics, geography and the social sciences.**

A Lost Book from J. Oswald Sanders *Now Re-Released with a Beautiful New Cover "The complex strains and problems which the Christian encounters in the contemporary world find their answer, not in tranquilizers or stimulants, but in a correct understanding and application of scriptural principles."* -J. Oswald Sanders, from the introduction *J. Oswald Sanders* (best known for his book *Spiritual Leadership*, which has sold over a million copies), touched hundreds of thousands of lives in his lifetime and continues to inspire Christians today. His books *Spiritual Leadership, Spiritual Maturity, and The Incomparable Christ* are beloved and well-read to this day. But there are two of his books that readers haven't had access to in over 30 years. *A Spiritual Clinic* is one of them. *Life wears on us, we go through seasons of fatigue, strain and tension that take their toll, and we can easily fall into apathy. Sanders prescribes a powerful tonic of scriptural principles that lead to recovery and growth. For anyone who feels worn out from their Christian life and could use a little spiritual doctoring, *A Spiritual Clinic* is for you.*

7 Laws of Real Church Growth

Dirr Matters

Leadership Based on a Passion for People

Six Urgent Challenges and Opportunities That Will Determine the Future of Your Congregation

Small Church, Excellent Ministry

100 IDEAS That Work in a Small Church

Field-Tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250

Every church has a unique culture that serves as the soil where its ministry occurs. A church's culture is the somewhat nebulous and complex blend of norms, beliefs, attitudes, traditions, and practices that define the congregation. The culture establishes the environment that often predetermines the effectiveness or ineffectiveness of God's Word within that body of believers. It influences a congregation's potential impact more than techniques, programs, or pragmatic changes. Dirr Matters explains and illustrates the importance of church culture, connecting it to a simple analogy that anyone can understand. It also shares how it's possible to cultivate and nurture a healthier church environment that can put you and your congregation in a better position to bear fruit for God's glory. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BXPTUQjRI0>

Church growth models have often been long on promises and short on disciple-making. We continue to watch consistent church attendance shrink, and our desire to reach the lost is infected with a need for self-validation by growing our numbers at any cost. If we believe that God wants his church to grow, where do we go from here? What is the future of the church? Drawing from his 20 years and 15,000 hours of consulting, author Will Mancini shares with pastors and ministry leaders the single most important insight he has learned about church growth. With plenty of salient stories and based solidly on the disciple-making methods found in Scripture, Future Church exposes the church's greatest challenge today, and offers 7 transforming laws of real church growth so that we can faithfully and joyfully fulfill Jesus's Great Commission.

It's Monday morning and you have a knot in your stomach as you think of going to work. You recently started a new job as a team leader. You were very excited in the beginning, but it has been a tough week. Your team members don't seem too happy with you, people have been skipping meetings, you're drowning in emails and requests, two of your team members are not even talking to each other and your new boss wants you to present your team's plans for the year when you have barely a plan for next week. You are realizing you actually have no clue how to be a team leader. Sure, you're great at what you do and you've been a great team player. But nothing in your professional training taught you how to do this. "This" being putting together a team. Actually, putting together an amazing team. How do you bring together disparate characters and create something bigger and better than the sum of the parts? How do you achieve the goals you've promised to the organization and to yourself, goals which can only be accomplished through teamwork? What do you do when conflict explodes? How do you ensure that managing your team's request doesn't eat up all your time? Unless you actually studied for a career in management or business administration, chances are you were never taught anything about team leadership and managing people. This book is for you, if a) You have just started as a team leader (at work, in a sport or a hobby, or when volunteering) but have never learned about leadership and management in your career. b) You have been a leader for a while but are currently facing a crisis period and feel you don't have the tools to resolve it or if you want to learn new ways to strengthen your team, get better results, and build a better work environment. This book is a practical guide to accompany you through the process of becoming a great leader and putting together a dream team. It will show you how to: -Identify the leadership skills you already possess and build on them. -Successfully transition from team member to team leader. -Get rid of overwhelm and learn to manage your time. -Achieve your team goals through smart planning and follow-up strategies. -Manage the team formation process to create a strong, cohesive team. -Maintain smooth communication by establishing solid systems. -Help your team members avoid or overcome demotivation and burnout. -Resolve conflict constructively. This book focuses both on developing the mindset that can help you become a great team leader, and on building the strategies that will help you reach your goals, maintain team spirit and communication, and prevent conflict. This is the book I wish I had when I started as a team leader years ago. I've put together all the best strategies I researched and tested through my own journey as a leader. After reading this book and testing the practical ideas in it, within weeks you'll see positive changes in how your team relates to you and to each other. You'll feel empowered. You'll have a clear vision of who you want to be as a leader and what you want your dream team to look like, and most importantly, the tools and the plan that will make that vision a reality. My goal with this book is to provide simple, easily-implementable solutions to the problems that now seem insurmountable. That tomorrow, instead of dreading your team meetings, you'll start looking forward to interacting with your team. That in a few weeks from now, the grey cloud of dread, boredom, and stress hanging over you every Monday morning when you have to hit the office will disappear and the sky will look bright blue as you go re-join that dream team of astounding successes. The journey starts here. It's a fun ride.

For the past ten years I have been coaching pastors of smaller churches. These leaders are always searching for answers and ideas that will relate to the unique challenges of pastoring a small church. Often times frustrated, they return from conferences led by pastors of larger churches telling them how to grow their church or offering them solutions that simply won't work in a small church. A few years ago I realized that I had been accumulating ideas for the everyday problems pastors face. I've gathered all these ideas into one volume and categorized them so that a pastor can easily find answers to their specific problems. Enjoy.

Simple Church

Principles for Poverty Alleviation Ministries

How to Rethink Size, Success and Significance in Ministry

A Step-By-Step Guide for Pastors and Leadership Teams

A Field Guide to Becoming Whole

The Church Revitalization Checklist

Future Church

Unlocking the Potential of Your Congregation

A 100-Day Plan That's Practical, Realistic, and Actually Works You see the problems in your church, and you truly believe it could be better. Not perfect, but healthier. If you want more for your church but aren't quite sure how to get there, 100 Days to a Healthier Church was written for you. It teaches you how to: Identify your church's current level of health using the "Church Health Continuum" Make big changes through small nudges rather than giant leaps Grow your strengths and tackle your weaknesses one at a time After years of trial and error, pastor and author Karl Vaters developed a tested and proven 15-week process that's manageable, adaptable, and effective. It won't fix everything overnight, but it will help you figure out what to do next. Great for individual pastors, perfect for church leadership teams!

Every time a pastor goes to a new church, they form hopes, dreams, and expectations - without necessarily realizing it - for the progress and growth of their new ministry. Not only do these pastors have to transition into a new congregation and community, but they also have to think about building strong relationships with other influential people in the area. Almost every day, pastors of new churches face unexpected hardships and challenges. Some of the issues are financial mismanagement from their predecessor, moral or ethical misbehavior, or unresolved conflict that has just been suppressed long enough to find a new pastor. The fact is, pastors of new churches need guidance. The First 100 Days is for these pastors who need some guidance and insight to help them lead with godly wisdom and purpose during the first few months.

Parting with a small church is not small job. It can be physically, emotionally, and spiritually exhausting. Read this book for a relief... . And a turning point. Steve R. Birely offers the seasoned reassurance of one who has been in the trenches of small-church pastoring. He understands your unique needs and problems not just as a pastor, but as a person. And he shows that, by God's grace, you can fulfill your calling and thrive in the face of its challenges. With humor and fatherly wisdom, Birely helps you redefine your perspectives on - God - Your ministry - Your relationships - Your personal needs . . . And more. Drawing on years of experience, he offers assurance that you're not alone; a fresh outlook on the successes of your ministry, and an upbeat, practical approach to spiritual, emotional, and physical well-being. How to Thrive as a Small-Church Pastor will help you face realistically the rigors of your vocation . . . and reclaim your first love of ministry.

Scores of talented and dedicated people serve the forensic science community, performing vitally important work. However, they are often constrained by lack of adequate resources, sound policies, and national support. It is clear that change and advancements, both systematic and scientific, are needed in a number of forensic science disciplines to ensure the reliability of work, establish enforceable standards, and promote best practices with consistent application. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States: A Path Forward provides a detailed plan for addressing these needs and suggests the creation of a new government entity, the National Institute of Forensic Science, to establish and enforce standards within the forensic science community. The benefits of improving and regulating the forensic science disciplines are clear: assisiting law enforcement of felcians, enhancing homeland security, and reducing the risk of wrongful conviction and exoneraction. Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States gives a full account of what is needed to advance the forensic science disciplines, including upgrading of systems and organizational structures, better training, widespread adoption of uniform and enforceable best practices, and mandatory certification and accreditation programs. While this book provides an essential call-to-action for congress and policy makers, it also serves as a vital tool for law enforcement agencies, criminal prosecutors and attorneys, and forensic science educators.

Field-tested Principles for Leading a Healthy Congregation of Under 250

Love Honor and Negotiate

Build Your Dream Team

What on Earth Am I Here For?

Building Partnerships that Last a Lifetime

A Proven Process for Resolving Unhealthy Disagreements and Embracing Healthy Ones

The R Book

A Hopeful and Practical Guide for Leading Your Congregation to a Brighter Tomorrow

Now in paperback, multi-awarded national hit Simple Church shares a clear message from case studies of 400 North American congregations: Church is done best when it's kept simple.

New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier offers pastors and church leaders insight and strategies that will help their church move beyond the average and into the extraordinary. Based on current church trends and new research, seasoned speaker and strategist, Dr. Bill Sullivan, author of Ten Steps to Breaking the 200 Barrier - 1988, revisits the need for churches to strive to grow beyond a membership of 200. Discussing this time on the congregation and their decisions that effect the church as a whole, Sullivan stresses the need for church leaders to understand the value of training the people, not just the pastors, to understand and accept the changes that come with the growth's desire to expand their kingdom. See www.200barrier.org for Free Choice Points' Leader's Guide and Free Teaching Power Point Presentation.

This second edition is an indispensable source of advice and encouragement for the small church pastor, including how to formulate a mission while understanding the cultures of the community and the church. Chapter-by-chapter suggestions and several appendixes of helpful assessment tools help pastors and lay leadership work through the book together.

"Sheep swapping", "shuffling of the saints". Whatever you call it, many churches are growing only because Christians transfer from one church to another. What's more, many churches aren't growing at all. The problem, according to authors, Dann Spader and Gary Mayes, is that too many church calendars are filled with outdated, mediocre programs that have become more of a burden than a blessing. That, coupled with the fact that these programs minister almost exclusively to Christians, leaves little for the non-Christian "seeker" to get excited about. Growing a Healthy Church is not a list of trendy new programs for your church agenda. It is a journey of rethinking. Spader and Mayes look closely at the four stages of spiritual growth in relation to outreach. Using the innovative "M-level" system, these gifted men show how a church can minister to all individuals regardless of their levels of maturity in potential service. This helps eliminate the mistakes of forcing new Christians into service that overwhelms them or may leave the mature Christian unchallenged. Proven successful through SonLife and churches who have used this system, this resource will help you focus on the simplicity of Christ's ministry, enabling you to build an effective discipling strategy for your church.

A Pastor's Guide

New Perspectives on Breaking the 200 Barrier

Hope and Help for Pastors Who Thought They'd Be There by Now

Leading the Small Church

Six Questions for Discerning Your Vocation

Strengthening Forensic Science in the United States

How to Develop a Transformational Ministry

Kingdom Collaborators

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 student stuff." "We don't have the money or the people the other churches have." Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer (I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church) has heard comments like these hundreds, if not thousands, of times. They are statements of hopelessness. They are statements of despair. They are statements of defeat. Church leaders don't want to feel this way. They desire to break out of the mediocrity of the same, lame, and tame existence of their churches. They want their churches to make a difference. There is hope. God's hope. God's possibilities. What does a scrappy church look like? Let's take a look to see.

Do you lead a small church? Big churches get all the love. Articles, books, conferences—they mostly feature leaders of large congregations. Yet big churches are a small part of the ecclesial landscape. In fact, more than 90 percent of churches have fewer than 200 people. That means small churches play a big part in what God is doing. Small Church Essentials is for leaders of these smaller congregations. It encourages them to steward their role well, debunking myths about small churches while offering principles for leading a dynamic, healthy small church. Based on the popular six-hour lecture that Karl Vaters delivers to church leaders across the country, Small Church Essentials will affirm small church leaders and show them how to identify what they do well, and how to do it even better. Readers will: Be assured that leading a small congregation does not make them ministry failures Come away inspired to lead with passion, regardless the size of their church Have field-tested principles for leading a church in their context Possess new metrics for biblically measuring vitality in small churches Have a toolkit of resources to use in their everyday ministry Karl Vaters has been a small church pastor for 30 years, is the author of The Grasshopper Myth: Big Churches, Small Churches, and the Small Thinking that Divides Us (2013), and travels extensively to churches and conferences to speak about leading a small church well. If you are pastoring a small church, this book will be a breath of fresh air. It will help you: Stop believing lies about small churches Lead your church to fulfill the role only small churches can Understand your congregation's strengths and weaknesses Turn around a dying or unhealthy church Identify good trends and bad in church and culture

The church that lacks power first lacks obedience. Speaking of apathy toward obedience, A. W. Tozer says, "Until this is corrected, we can hope for very little power in our churches..." Obedience is what no revival, no reformation, and no Spirit-filled people has ever been without. It separates true faith from dead faith. It bears fruit and is followed by power. It is costly, but we cannot afford to withhold it. Paths to Power points Christians and churches to the age-old way of obedience, the only road to revival.Delivering a charge to weak churches, A. W. Tozer calls us to rise up, gather the wood, and ascend the mountain. Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness. But His belief cost him something. Does ours?

When in Christ we seek him together, Jesus' own pattern of disciple-making was to be intimately involved with others. This expanded 25-session workbook by Greg Ogden, perfect for small groups or individuals, helps us influence others as Jesus did—by investing in a few. Working through it will deepen your knowledge of essential Christian teaching and strengthen your faith.

A Path Forward

Small Church BIG Deal

The Purpose Driven Life

Five Small Shifts that will Transform Your Ministry

The Joy of the Gospel

A Guide to Building Your Life in Christ

Help for the Small-church Pastor

Living in the Spirit's Fullness

What is the good work to which I am called? Gordon T. Smith acknowledges that this is not a simple question to answer in the midst of our very complicated lives. That's why he has written this brief and accessible book: to help us explore six core questions in community with God and others in order to discover our calling.

From one pastor to another... No one is ever fully prepared for the ministry. For pastors just starting out, those needing a little rebalancing, or those growing tired in the trenches, a short guide to the basics is a welcome relief. In *On Pastoring*, H. B. Charles gives 30 instructive reflections on the pastor's heart, leadership, and public ministry, covering topics like: Cultivating personal godliness Prioritizing your family Guarding your ministry effectiveness Planning, preparing, and preaching sermons Balancing pastoral roles and duties Being a pastor means bearing many hats; weathering lots of pressure, and bearing great responsibility. Let H. B. Charles be a trusted advisor as you do the serious work of shepherding a flock of God.

Since forever altering the course of the youth ministry world with his best-selling, groundbreaking book, *Purpose-Driven* Youth Ministry, Doug Fields' mind—but especially his heart—has been focused on the many unique needs of new youth workers.Doug translated his passion, insight, and vision for his beloved "rookies" into what you're now reading, *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*—hands-down the most comprehensive companion to not only surviving, but also thriving, during the most crucial phase of youth ministry. Employing his renowned wisdom and humor—as if you and Doug were chatting over a long, relaxing meal—the author disarmingly relates stories and principles from his own successes and failures over 20-plus years in youth ministry. In the end, he offers treasure troves of practical advice, all in the hope that new youth workers can travel a smoother path and achieve real longevity in a church culture that all too often chews them and spits them out.Doug covers all-important issues such as: Dealing with discouragement Establishing a solid spiritual foundation Building effective relationships with students Resolving conflict Ministering to parents and families Trailblazing change Working with volunteers Defining a realistic job description And many others! In addition, a chorus of insightful sidebar voices joins your conversation with Doug, among them ministry veterans Jim Burns, Steve Gerall, Mike Yaconelli, Helen Musick, Chap Clark, Marv Penner, Rick Warren, Jana L. Sundene, Jo Boshers, Duffy Robbins, Tony Campolo, and Richard Ross, all who've composed extensive, topical essays for each of the dozen chapters.Your First Two Years of Youth Ministry is a must-have tool for new youth workers, volunteers, seminary professors and students, senior pastors, elders, church boards—even veteran youth workers who've been ministering in unstructured environments and are now asking, "What did I miss? What can I still learn?"The first two years of youth ministry are never easy. But never fear. Doug fervently assures us: "Hang on. Hope's coming!"

More than 100 million Christians are now reading, *Your First Two Years in Youth Ministry*—hands-down the most comprehensive companion to not only surviving, but also thriving, during the most crucial phase of youth ministry. Rather than look at the small number of members in their congregations as a limitation, pastors should view their congregations as an elite force, able to impact their communities for the Kingdom of God. Small Church, Excellent Ministry is a handbook designed for pastors serving in smaller membership churches. This book will help you to conduct your ministry with excellence. Written by practitioners and professors, the information provided in this book is on the vanguard of pastoral ministry and is useful for training pastors to be leaders of their churches.

Discipleship Essentials

A Collection of Quotations from the Sermons of William Marrison Branham