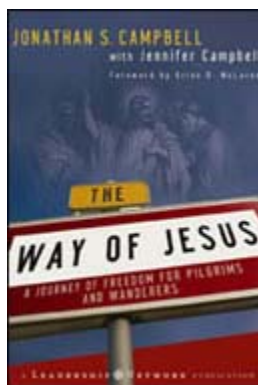


FEATURE

The Way of Jesus

A Journey of Freedom for Pilgrims and Wanderers

In the following Advance interview, co-authors Jonathan and Jennifer Campbell take us inside *The Way of Jesus*, one of the newest books in the Leadership Network Publications series, produced with Jossey-Bass. The Series delivers innovative concepts from today's preeminent thinkers, practitioners and pioneering churches.



ADVANCE: Simply put, how do you define *The Way of Jesus*?

AUTHORS: The life of Jesus. Living out of my identity in Christ. To live in communion with Christ and in community with others who simply desire to listen and follow Jesus as his Spirit leads.

ADVANCE: What new ideas regarding religion and spirituality will we find in the book?

AUTHORS: Most who write about the church today are writing from within Christendom. They are quick to point out the faults and failings of the religious system, and then leave it at that. They do not show another way. We have sought to offer hope and a pathway toward embodying new wineskins for the new wine of this generation.



ADVANCE: Publishers always ask, "What is the market for this book?" What's your answer?

AUTHORS: This book is for spiritual seekers--both East and West, church and de-church--who long to experience community and a holistic spirituality. We write for those who are moved by their spiritual longings and intuitively know there has to be another way of growing spiritually.

ADVANCE: What are some of the groundbreaking ideas that may surprise readers?

AUTHORS: Hope lies in going deeper than what most religions offer. We have seen the gospel embodied in a variety of ways. The more we experience the power of God at work in Western and non-Western contexts, the more we appreciate the power and simplicity of the gospel to take root in any culture or among any people.

The gospel of Jesus answers the spiritual and relational longings of all cultures (specifically the needs for identity, love, community, truth, and power). Only as the church dies to itself and lays down the image it thought it was to be or has become will it have the opportunity to be organically reborn as the Body of Christ in new and different cultural realities.

[MORE](#)

IN BRIEF



The Aging of America

According to statistics published in the July/August issue of Rev magazine:

- The number of Americans aged 65 and older climbed to more than 34.9 million in 2000, compared with 3.1 million in 1900.
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LEADERSHIP NETWORK NEWS

Wanted: Healthcare and Wellness Ministries

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CCN Special Event: "Becoming a Contagious Christian"

As part of its "Reaching the Unchurched" series, the CCN satellite broadcast network is presenting a special one-day evangelism course created especially for non-evangelists.

[\[Read more\]](#)

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LEADERSHIP NETWORK RESOURCES

Ideas for Externally Focused Service

Could you use a jump-start for your community service ministry, or some fresh ideas to add variety to existing work outside the walls? Volunteers from one congregation created handmade teddy bears to cheer up cancer patients. The youth group from another church collected 1,200 winter coats for the needy.



In her just-released concept paper, *99 Innovations: Creative Ideas and Resources to Engage 100 Percent of Your Church in Externally Focused Service*, Alexandra McNabb taps into 18 churches that offer insight into their extraordinary methods of serving. You can get all 99 ideas for \$19.95 by downloading the paper at www.leadnet.org.

LEADERSHIP NETWORK FRIENDS

I want to personally thank you for the investment you've made in my life over the past 15 years. I was first introduced to Leadership Network

from 1 in 25 to 1 in 8.

[\[Read more\]](#)



Friends and Food Fuel Spiritual Growth

A survey of churchgoers shows that people who report having strong friendships at church are 26 percent more likely to describe themselves as having an active faith and a close relationship to God, according to a Gallup study reported by D. Michael Lindsay in *Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church* (Group Publishing, 2005).

[\[Read more\]](#)



Most Influential Churches: Saddleback, Willow, North Point

The nation's most influential churches are Saddleback, pastored by Rick Warren, Willow Creek, pastored by Bill Hybels and North Point, pastored by Andy Stanley...

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through the Large Church Pastors Forums in Glen Eyrie. We were averaging



about 800 Sunday worshippers when I first attended, and Leadership Network taught me the "how" of the large church. The Nappanee Missionary Church is a strange deal. Nappanee, Indiana is a town of just over 6,000. Our average Sunday morning attendance is now more than 2,600, and we have opened our second video venue in the midst of Amish country.

I want you to know how much you have contributed to my life. I'm one of the "hidden" stories! You'll hear a bunch more in heaven!

Dave Engbrecht

Senior Pastor
Nappanee Missionary Church
Nappanee, IN
www.nmc1.org

LEADERSHIP NETWORK ARCHIVES

In Case You Missed It...



Check the Leadership Network Advance archives for these and other feature articles on church innovation:

- [The Engagement Matrix: Enlarging the Heart, Expanding the Kingdom](#)
- [High Yield Church Planting Begins with Radical Shifts](#)
- [Transforming Your Church from the Inside Out](#)

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FEATURE

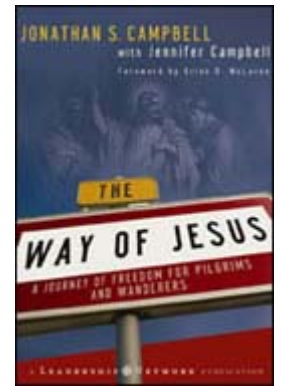
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The gospel of Jesus answers the spiritual and relational longings of all cultures (specifically the needs for identity, love, community, truth, and power). Only as the church dies to itself and lays down the image it thought it was to be or has become will it have the opportunity to be organically reborn as the Body of Christ in new and different cultural realities.

ADVANCE: What do you hope the reader takes away from your book?

AUTHORS: We hope people will see that Jesus is enough, and take courage to gather a group of fellow pilgrims and continue the journey along the way of Jesus. As Philippians 3:16-17 says in *The Message*, "Now that we're on the right track, let's stay on it. Stick with me, friends. Keep track of those you see running this same course, headed for this same goal."

ADVANCE: The subtitle suggests "the way of Jesus" may forge a new path for some Christians.

AUTHORS: The book is our "travelogue" of what we have experienced and discovered in our journey of learning to live outside the "system" of organized religion. We realized we were not alone and were encouraged to share our story, especially after meeting so many other spiritual pilgrims along the way. We wanted to offer hope for those who were searching for a deep and meaningful spirituality; those who had become disenfranchised with what religion offered them but couldn't and didn't want to quiet the voice within them that longed for a relationship with God.

ADVANCE: How did the book come about?

AUTHORS: We've been amazed at the number of people we have met around the world who are on their own journey of deconstruction and discovery, breaking out of the complexities of religion to get back to the powerful simplicity of life in Jesus. They likewise have seen the widening gap between *talking about Jesus* and *walking with Jesus*. It's not that they are against church; they are just making more room in their lives to experience the living reality of Jesus in community with their family and friends.

Jonathan and Jennifer Campbell have been pioneering spiritual communities together for more than twenty years. Jonathan has served as a pastor and church planter, and has consulted with hundreds of churches as a strategist, trainer and professor. Jonathan, a Ph.D. from Fuller School of Intercultural Studies, draws much from what he and Jennifer have experienced with spiritual sojourners from both Western and non-Western cultures.

IN BRIEF

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- The ratio of elderly Americans to the total population jumped from 1 in 25 to 1 in 8.
- Between 1990 and 2020, the population aged 65 to 74 is projected to grow 74 percent.

Cited source: www.infoplease.com

**Friends and Food Fuel Spiritual Growth**

A survey of churchgoers shows that people who report having strong friendships at church are 26 percent more likely to describe themselves as having an active faith and a close relationship to God, according to a Gallup study reported by D. Michael Lindsay in *Friendship: Creating a Culture of Connectivity in Your Church* (Group Publishing, 2005).

74 percent of church members who worship with a best friend say their faith impacts every aspect of their life, while only 54 percent of members without a best friend at church say the same thing.

Food also was a key factor, the survey said, with 77 percent of respondents who had eaten a meal with their congregation at least once in the past year reporting they were highly satisfied with their church. By contrast, only 27 percent of church members who have not eaten a meal with people in their congregation report high satisfaction with their church.

**Most Influential Churches: Saddleback, Willow, North Point**

The nation's most influential churches are Saddleback, pastored by Rick Warren, Willow Creek, pastored by Bill Hybels and North Point, pastored by Andy Stanley, according to a recent survey that drew responses from 1,875 Christian leaders. See the full list of "Top 50 Most Influential Churches," plus commentary in *The Church Report*, published by Christy Media LLC, Jason T. Christy, Publisher/Editor in Chief.

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LEADERSHIP NETWORK NEWS

Wanted: Healthcare and Wellness Ministries

Leadership Network is launching a research project to discover the ways churches are addressing healthcare and wellness issues. If your church has ministries in these areas--especially serving local communities--we want to hear your story. Tim Dammon, formerly of Bible translation ministry The Seed Company, joins the Leadership Network team as an associate to lead this initiative. Prior to his work with The Seed Company, Tim was in the information technology industry. To contact Tim directly, email him at Tim.dammon@leadnet.org or call him at (817) 882-5920.

CCN Special Event: "Becoming a Contagious Christian"

As part of its "Reaching the Unchurched" series, the CCN satellite broadcast network is presenting a special one-day evangelism course created especially for non-evangelists. You and members of your church can spend a Saturday with course developers and authors Mark Mittelberg and Lee Strobel learning how to build relationships, start spiritual conversations, and share the Gospel in your own God-given style.

**2005 Megachurch Research**

A new research project is underway to gather information on U.S. megachurches. This cooperative project to the 1,200 known megachurches in the United States is being conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research and Leadership Network. Any church with weekly worship attendance of more than 2,000 is invited to [complete the online survey](#).

**Maybe You Missed These. . .**

Check the Leadership Network Advance archives for these and other feature articles on church innovation:

- [Discovering and Deploying Leaders](#)
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