

FEATURE ARTICLE

SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE | FORWARD TO A FRIEND

LEADERSHIP NETWORK NEWS

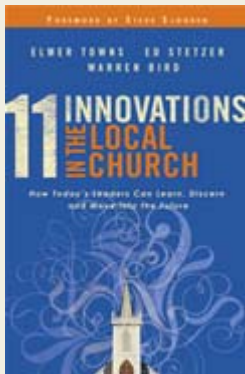


What Are We Reading?

A Dozen New Books Worth Your Time
by Warren Bird

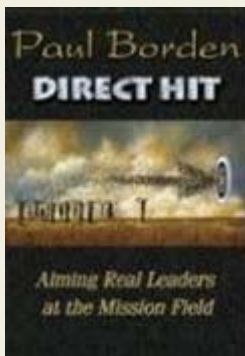
The typical Protestant pastor spends an average of four hours a week reading, outside of sermon preparation, according to a recent survey. How do you compare?

Here is a sampling of current titles that Leadership Network's directors are reading to round out your library. The topics range from leadership to culture to devotional. Most but not all are religious in topic. They make for good reading not just on the beach or vacation, but anytime.



Eleven Innovations in the Local Church by Elmer Towns, Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird

This easy-reading book walks church leaders through eleven emphases seen in today's churches, offering pros and cons to each. The recovery ministry chapter looks at churches that place heavy emphasis on Christ-centered recovery. The house church chapter explores the different ways churches approach home-based groups. The multi-site chapter reviews the movement of becoming one church in many locations.



Direct Hit by Paul Borden

Paul Borden is a consultant with an amazing record of helping churches turn around from maintenance to mission and ministry. He writes as someone who understands long-term, deep set problems in churches, but also offers hope: "Healthy congregations are defined by sacrifice," he says. "They exist more for those who are currently not part of the group than for those who comprise the current congregation."

A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God



Talk with *The Big Idea* Authors

Join other church leaders on Tuesday, June 26 at 10 a.m. (CDT) for an online experience where you'll have the opportunity to interact with the authors of *The BIG IDEA*, Dave Ferguson, Jon Ferguson and Eric Bramlett.

[MORE]



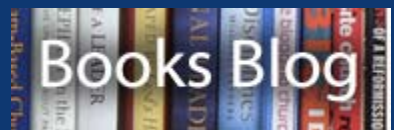
Chris Willard Joins Leadership Network Staff

Chris Willard, former executive pastor of Discovery Church in Orlando--named in 2006 as one of the 100 fastest-growing churches in the U.S.--has joined the Leadership Network team as director of the Generous Churches Leadership Community.

[MORE]

LEADERSHIP NETWORK

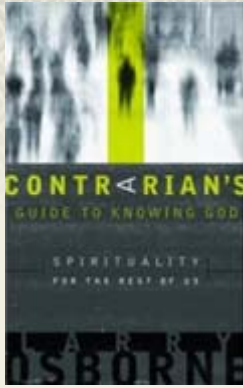
Blogs



Connecting People and Churches on the Web



How to Balance a Busy Schedule in Ministry



by Larry Osborne

Osborne, veteran pastor of North Coast Church, is a pioneer in such movements as multi-site and sermon-based small groups. He is a contrarian because he is good at asking, "Is it really true?" He challenges a one-size-fits-all spirituality, asking what actually produces spirituality. He appeals to those whose deepest desire is to know God more and to avoid cookie-cutter answers.

[Click here to review the full list of book titles.](#)

[MORE](#)

IN BRIEF



Study Shows American Muslims Assimilate Well

A Pew study finds that an estimated 2.35 million Muslims living in the United States are largely assimilated into the country, and hold similar views to other Americans. Findings include . . .

[\[MORE\]](#)



North America Church Planting Seminar

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis is hosting a North America Church Planting Seminar, July 23-27, 2007, with 20 veteran church planters including Steve Childers, Ed Stetzer, Steve Ogne, Randy Pope and Tom Nebel.

[\[MORE\]](#)



Traffic Down at Online Religious Sites

Despite the fact that religion is always in the news, visits to religious websites in the U.S. have declined recently. They dropped more than 30% within the past year and are down 35% over the last two years. Meanwhile, visits to online entertainment sites and social networks such as MySpace and Facebook continue to soar.

[\[MORE\]](#)

HOT LINK

Source Publications

Source Publications, a Leadership Network alliance partner, provides marketing strategy, interactive solutions, graphic design and communication services for leading non-profit, ministry and corporate clients. Establishing long-standing ties with clients since 1989, Source's dedicated team can design and execute a complete marketing and communications program from start to finish.

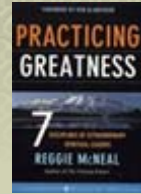


[The Buzz Film Festival](#)

FEATURED RESOURCE

***Practicing Greatness*
by Reggie McNeal**

Based on his extensive experience as a coach and mentor to thousands of



Christian leaders across a wide variety of settings, denominations, and ministries, Leadership Network team member Reggie McNeal helps his readers understand that greatness is indeed their birthright--if they will claim it by living the 7 personal disciplines that help leaders grow from good to great.

ADVANCE ARCHIVES



Visit Leadership Network *Advance Archives* for valuable information on these and other topics:

- [What's The Big Idea?](#)
- [Off-Road Disciplines: Spiritual Adventures of Missional Leaders](#)
- [Missional Skills for Missional Thinkers](#)
- [LN Recommends...What We're Reading and Hearing](#)

[more info](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK HOME • LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES • RESOURCES

© Copyright 2007 - Leadership Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Subscribe to Receive](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK **FEATURE**

What Are We Reading?

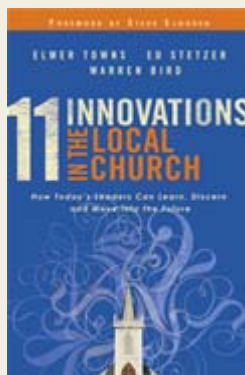
A Dozen New Books Worth Your Time

by Warren Bird



The typical Protestant pastor spends an average of four hours a week reading, outside of sermon preparation, according to a recent survey. How do you compare?

Here is a sampling of current titles that Leadership Network's [directors](#) are reading to round out your library. The topics range from leadership to culture to devotional. Most but not all are religious in topic. They make for good reading not just on the beach or vacation, but anytime.



Eleven Innovations in the Local Church
by Elmer Towns, Ed Stetzer and Warren Bird

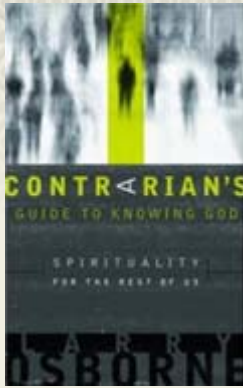
This easy-reading book walks church leaders through eleven emphases seen in today's churches, offering pros and cons to each. The recovery ministry chapter looks at churches that place heavy emphasis on Christ-centered recovery. The house church chapter explores the different ways churches approach home-based groups. The multi-site chapter reviews the movement of becoming one church in many locations.



Direct Hit
by Paul Borden

Paul Borden is a consultant with an amazing record of helping churches turn around from maintenance to mission and ministry. He writes as someone who understands long-term, deep set problems in churches, but also offers hope: "Healthy congregations are defined by sacrifice," he says. "They exist more for those who are currently not part of the group than for those who comprise the current congregation."

A Contrarian's Guide to Knowing God
by Larry Osborne

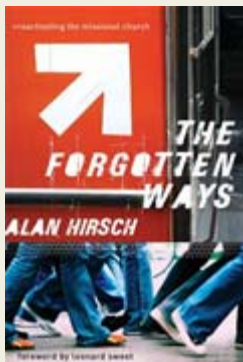


Osborne, veteran pastor of North Coast Church, is a pioneer in such movements as multi-site and sermon-based small groups. He is a contrarian because he is good at asking, "Is it really true?" He challenges a one-size-fits-all spirituality, asking what actually produces spirituality. He appeals to those whose deepest desire is to know God more and to avoid cookie-cutter answers.



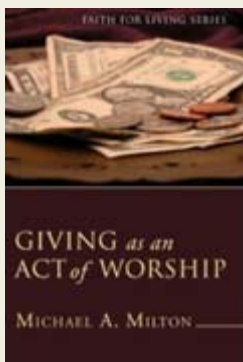
God's Continent: Christianity, Islam, and Europe's Religious Crisis
by Philip Jenkins

Will Islam dominate Europe in the coming years? Jenkins offers a qualified "no." He observes that independent congregations are mushrooming and a sizable proportion of new immigrants are Christian. He is a readable scholar whose two previous books (*New Faces of Global Christianity*, 2006, and *The Next Christendom*, 2002) present the idea that Christianity is growing today on every continent except North America.



The Forgotten Ways
by Alan Hirsch

Alan Hirsch is convinced that the inherited formulas for growing the Body of Christ do not work anymore. Rather than relying on slightly revised solutions from the past, he sees a vision of the future growth of the church coming about by harnessing the power of the early church--the forgotten, apostolic-era ways of passion, prayer, and incarnational practice.



Giving as an Act of Worship
by Michael Milton

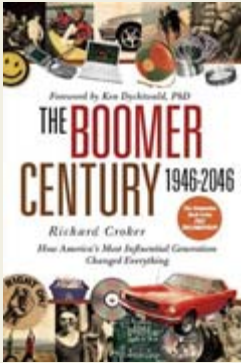
The author, a U.S. Army reserve chaplain and pastor of First Presbyterian Church in Chattanooga, TN, makes the case that God doesn't need our money, but rather we should give because it is an act of worship. It is both practical and biblical. As we respond gratefully to His provision in our lives, God chooses to use our gifts to advance His kingdom so that we may know more deeply his gracious gift of salvation in Christ.

Velvet Elvis
by Rob Bell

The author pastors one of the fast-growing churches in America. He is a strong communicator to post-modern people, with a major emphasis on Bible teaching, and

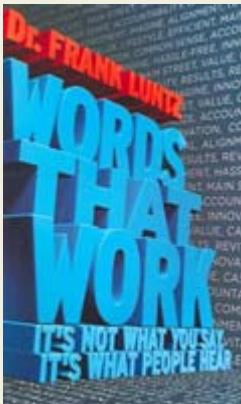


this creative book offers a fresh look at how the gospel can be best communicated today. He begins with the assertion that Jesus wanted to "call people to live in tune with reality" and that he "had no use for religion."



The Boomer Century
by Richard Croker

This research-rich book can inspire Baby Boomer-aged Americans to think more positively about aging. In the third of three sections, Croker's experts speculate about how boomers will change our notions of retirement and old age. They show how Boomers have lots of capacity to make a difference with their lives, and often have an untapped desire to give back to their communities.



Words That Work
Frank Luntz

With a subtitle of *It's Not What You Say It's What People Hear*, the business consultant author has much to say that's directly relevant to pastors and teachers in the church. He shows the power of the words chosen for vision casting and interpersonal communication. He also shows what we do that backfires without our awareness.

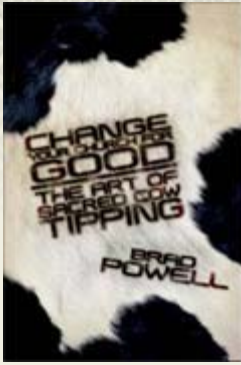


The Culturally Savvy Christian
by Dick Staub

Cultural commentator and radio personality Staub asks how the culture of the church should influence popular culture. His answer is that followers of Christ should not cocoon, combat or conform in relation to popular culture, but transform it. His model of what a culturally savvy Christian should be is C.S. Lewis, who "enriched culture by countering culture, communicating within it, and also creating it."

Change Your Church for Good: the Art of Sacred Cow Tipping
by Brad Powell

The author is pastor of Northridge Church, and he argues that it is possible for a church to transition from non-relevant to culturally relevant without compromising



Scripture. Because every church struggles with transition, every church leader can learn something from Powell's hope-filled insight on how all churches can and should be transitioned to a new life.



Facing Your Giants
by Max Lucado

What reading list today would be complete without a title by America's best-selling pastor? The idea here is simple: When David focused on God instead of the "giants," he won. But when he fixed on the "giant," he fell. Lucado's words, written to all followers of Christ, encourage us to focus on God. He is the victor!

Warren Bird is Director of Research and Intellectual Capital for Leadership Network and the collaborative author of 18 books. He was the principal writer for Leadership Network's "Innovation 2007."



[BACK](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK HOME • LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES • RESOURCES

© Copyright 2007 - Leadership Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Subscribe to Receive](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK NEWS

Talk with *The Big Idea* Authors

Join other church leaders on Tuesday, June 26 at 10 a.m. (CDT) for an online experience where you'll have the opportunity to interact with the authors of *The BIG IDEA*, Dave Ferguson, Jon Ferguson and Eric Bramlett. Listen in and log on as they discuss the "Genius of the AND" and discover the benefits of creating *The BIG IDEA* in your own context. Also, receive a \$20 registration discount on the new BIG IDEA Practicum at Community Christian Church on September 17-18, 2007.

[REGISTER NOW](#)**Chris Willard Joins Leadership Network Staff**

Chris Willard, former executive pastor of Discovery Church in Orlando--named in 2006 as one of the 100 fastest-growing churches in the U.S.--has joined the Leadership Network team as director of the [Generous Churches Leadership Community](#). In his new role, Chris will be working with innovative churches that are intent on creating cultures of generosity.



Earlier in his career, Chris served with Campus Crusade for Christ as Regional Director for New England and New York, and later as the National Director of Student LINC. Chris lives in Orlando with his wife Susan and their three children. He can be contacted at christopher.willard@leadnet.org.

[◀ BACK](#)[LEADERSHIP NETWORK HOME](#) · [LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES](#) · [RESOURCES](#)

© Copyright 2007 - Leadership Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Subscribe to Receive](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)

LEADERSHIP NETWORK *IN BRIEF***Study Shows American Muslims Assimilate Well**

A Pew study finds that an estimated 2.35 million Muslims living in the United States are largely assimilated into the country, and hold similar views to other Americans. Findings include:

- 78 percent say suicide bombings of civilians is never justified to defend Islam.
- 65 percent of American Muslims are foreign born.
- They believe that Muslims coming to the United States should adopt American customs, rather than trying to remain distinct.
- Socioeconomically, they are on par with average Americans.
- U.S. Muslims oppose the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

[READ MORE](#)
**North America Church Planting Seminar**

Bethlehem Baptist Church in Minneapolis is hosting a North America Church Planting Seminar, July 23-27, 2007, with 20 veteran church planters including Steve Childers, Ed Stetzer, Steve Ogne, Randy Pope and Tom Nebel.

The conference will feature 17 Basic Training Sessions covering the Seven Seasons of Church Planting, 15 Advanced Workshops, a Women's Forum, Concert of Prayer and the "Peculiar People" drama team.

[Information & Registration](#)
**Traffic Down at Online Religious Sites**

Despite the fact that religion is always in the news, visits to religious websites in the U.S. have declined recently. They dropped more than 30% within the past year and are down 35% over the last two years. Meanwhile, visits to online entertainment sites and social networks such as MySpace and Facebook continue to soar.

In a study conducted by Gallup in 2005, 65.8% of those surveyed stated that they "had no doubts that God exists," but Internet behavior and search patterns may reveal more about the impact of that belief. Visits to the top 1,200 religious sites in the U.S. accounted for only 0.18% of all Internet visits for the week ending March 10, 2007. *Time* magazine puts that in perspective by observing that there were more than 60 visits to adult sites for every one religious website visit.

[READ MORE](#)
[BACK](#)
[LEADERSHIP NETWORK HOME](#) | [LEADERSHIP COMMUNITIES](#) | [RESOURCES](#)

© Copyright 2007 - Leadership Network - All Rights Reserved.

[Subscribe to Receive](#) | [Forward to a Friend](#)