

feature article

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Servolution: Starting a Church Revolution through Serving

An interview with Dino Rizzo

Why did you write *Servolution*?

It was my hope to offer a fresh perspective on the ancient truth that it is more blessed to give than to receive, and that if someone wants to live a full, blessed life, they should understand that they are blessed to be a blessing to others.

Where did the ideas come from?

It has been a 16-year journey as a church, and for me it started even before that. After I gave my life to Jesus, I was a part of a church that believed the only way to accomplish anything in the Kingdom of God was to serve others.

Serving isn't a new idea. All we are doing is trying to encourage people that they can and should engage the needs of hurting people around them. That may bring a new passion to people -- I sure hope it does.

What have you learned on your journey?

I think the biggest lesson is that *anyone* can serve. Everyone can do something. And right along with that is the lesson that there are needy people all around us -- all the time, every day we cross paths with people who are hurting, in need, and looking for answers. We all have someone in need around us, and we all have the ability to do something to serve them.

What are the big surprises?

Maybe it is less of a surprise and more of an amazement, but I am continually blown away by how much people have stepped up and owned this culture at Healing Place Church. They aren't serving for recognition, or for a thank you from anyone. They serve just because they love to. The real surprise in servolution is the people -- and that's not just true for Healing Place Church -- it's true in tons of other churches that are engaging the needs in their. . .

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Leadership Network's Innovation Exchange

To help diffuse innovation rapidly among church leaders, Leadership Network is setting up a series of one-day forums across the country to help spur innovation and collaborative learning. In this episode of Audio Advance, Don Wilcox shares about Leadership Network's Innovation Exchange and how your church can participate.




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The charge to the Internet for senior citizens is being led by those in the 70-75 year-old age group, according to a new report from the Pew. . .

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Between 2006 and 2007, 38.7 million people moved in the United States: 25.2 million stayed in the same county, 7.4 million moved to a different county within the same state, 4.9 million moved to a different state and 1.2 million moved to the U.S. from abroad.

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featured resource

Missional Households: Externally Focused Churches Discover the Value of Families that Serve

From parent-child mission trips to preschoolers packing lunches for the homeless, externally focused churches are designing service projects that focus on family participation. Making a difference and influencing the next generation toward compassion are just two of the many reasons churches are engaging in family service projects. A recent study reveals that kind of focus is what families want from their church: more ways to serve!

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advance archives



You can peruse nearly 100 past issues of Leadership Network *Advance* and get valuable information on a variety of ministry topics in our Archives. Select [VIEW FULL ARCHIVES LIST](#) to see what's there.

Here are a few topics of interest we covered recently:

[Families Serving Together in Externally Focused Churches](#)

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[Missional Renaissance: An Interview with Reggie McNeal](#)

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Who is the book for?

It's for anyone who wants to make a difference with their life. Pastors should read it, but we really encourage them to provide the book to their staff and leadership because it will give them a clear picture of the strategy of serving the community God has called us to reach. It means being willing to do whatever it takes, whenever it is needed -- for the cause of the Gospel.

What's the biggest challenge for leaders in starting their own servolution?

There is no substitute for servant leadership in this. As a leader, you *have* to do it yourself -- to fully grab it -- to touch it yourself. You have to dance with it for yourself. And *then* you'll be able to say with conviction and confidence, "We can do it. We can change our community by serving others with the love of Jesus."

What do you hope the reader takes away from the book?

I hope everyone who reads it comes away from the book convinced that if someone puts it into practice, *Servolution* can truly revolutionize their community through Jesus-style reaching out and serving the poor and hurting.

What's one thing leaders can do today to start a servolution?

I would love to see us all open our eyes and look around us. The need is there. We just need to begin to see what others don't see, and feel what others don't feel, and hear what others don't hear about our world.

servolution [surv-uh-loo-shunn]

- 1:** a culture that will change your view of the world and your perspective of the needs of those around you
- 2:** actively pursuing the lost, the forgotten, and the poor to show them a God who is passionately in love with them
- 3:** standing ready with one heart, saying, "I will serve others and show them the hope they can have in Jesus."

Dino Rizzo is the founding pastor of [Healing Place Church](#) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana -- a church with over 7,000 people on 11 campuses and 18 weekend services. Healing Place Church has been named one of America's Top 25 Most Innovative Churches. Dino and his wife, DeLynn, have three children. Dino also co-founded the [Association of Related Churches](#), which has

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planted 63 churches across the country, and [Go Global Missions](#), a group designed to develop missionaries and connect and support missions organizations. Visit his blog at <http://www.dinorizzo.com> to learn more.

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New Study on People Who Go to Megachurches

What kind of person attends a very large church -- and what does that mean for you? *Not Who You Think They Are: The Real Story of People Who Attend America's Megachurches*, a new report from Leadership Network and the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, gives the answers.

With details on demographics, the factors that attract people to megachurches and the benefits they realize from attending, the survey helps you understand why people come to church, why they stay, how they get involved, and how they grow spiritually. [Click here](#) for press release overview. [Click here](#) to download the full report.



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in brief

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These children and youth exhibit the fewest behavior problems, are more likely to have a high-quality relationship with their parents, and are more likely to exhibit positive social behavior, including showing respect for teachers and neighbors, getting along with other children, understanding other people's feelings, and trying to resolve conflicts with classmates, family or friends. In addition, parents of children who worship at least weekly have the lowest parenting stress levels.

The highest-ranked states according to percent of children attending religious services regularly:

Mississippi (92%)
Louisiana (90%)
Alabama (90%)
South Carolina (88%)
Arkansas (87%)

The lowest-ranked states:

Vermont (45%)
New Hampshire (51%)
Maine (51%)
Massachusetts (59%)
Nevada (60%)

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The charge to the Internet for senior citizens is being led by those in the 70-75 year-old age group, according to a new report from the Pew Internet & American Life Project. The report says this age group has increased Internet use more than any other since 2005. Instant messaging, social networking, and blogging have gained ground as communications tools, according to Pew, but email remains the most popular online activity, particularly among older Internet users.

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The Northeast had the lowest moving rate (9%), followed by the Midwest (13%), the South (14%) and the West (15%). The moving rates for the South and the West were not significantly different. In 2008 the percentage of the American population moving reached its lowest point at 12%.

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