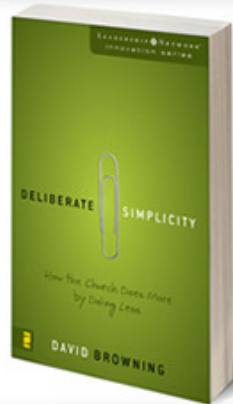


feature article

March 24, 2009 | Issue #92



Deliberate Simplicity
An Interview with Author
Dave Browning



Why did you write this book?

I initially wrote it as an orientation for leaders in the **Christ the King** network. I soon found that other church leaders--particularly those who are looking for a less complicated way of going about the church's mission--were benefitting from the concepts.

Which concepts?

In the deliberately simple church the rules are: "Less is More, and More is Better." Success within these lines boils down to six factors: minimality--keep it simple; intentionality--keep it missional; reality--keep it real; multility--keep it cellular; velocity--keep it moving; scalability--keep it expanding. The first three factors (minimality, intentionality, reality) explain how "less is more." The last three (multility, velocity, scalability) expand on how "more is better."

Tell us an example of how Christ the King effectively became "more" with "less"

One area in which this principle has served our movement well is in the area of music. Hundreds of musicians lead worship across the Christ the King network. Their musicianship ranges from average to extraordinary. Yet worship is consistently considered a strong suit for us. By keeping the expectations reasonable, we have been able to engage a large number of musicians, and keep the awe and wonder where it . . .

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Exponential '09 Exploring God's Work in the World
Organizers of this year's Exponential '09 National New Church Conference want every attendee to understand that God is moving and at work

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Life Stage Pastor Peer Groups Forming

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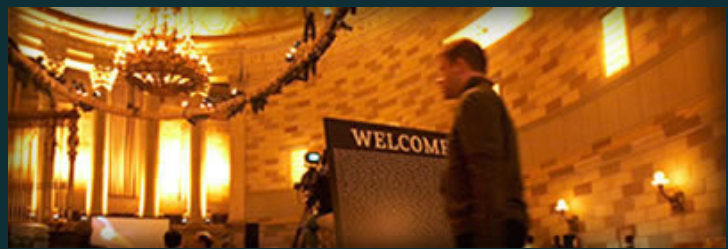
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Breaking Through Growth Barriers in New Churches
By Sherri Brown

around the world, and to actively look to join Him where He is moving and at work.

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Q is a gathering where church leaders and cultural influencers from the fields of business, politics, media, education, entertainment and the arts are exposed to the future of culture and the church's responsibility to advance the common good in society.

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1 in 31 U.S. Adults Incarcerated during 2007

The U.S. correctional population--those in jail, prison, on probation or on parole--totaled 7.3 million, or 1 in every 31 adults, during 2007. . .

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One of the most critical areas in church planting is leadership. A church planter must grow, change and develop his or her leadership style in order to take a church to the next level.

This concept paper outlines how successful church planters can develop as visionary leaders, work to bring others along with them and do everything they can to create disciples of Jesus.

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feature article



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What are one or two lessons you've learned along the way?

We are not in the church business, the church planting business, or the multi-site business. We are in the leader business. This is all really about identifying, deploying, training and supporting leaders. To do that, it's important to realize that relationships are the key. Since relationships cost you nothing but time, and they yield the greatest return on investment, taper programmatic ministry activities to accommodate more time in relationship building.

Where did your ideas come from?

The Christ the King story has been a journey for me and many others. We've done things differently and over the years we have accumulated language and stories to describe what we're doing.

We are applying classic small group theory to not only the cell, but the congregation. That is, when the group grows beyond its optimal size, it will multiply and start a new group with a new leader. This is often done at the small group level, but we have also done so with the larger body.

When did you start making the shift from complexity to simplicity?

Early pastorates in complicated traditional and megachurch contexts put me back in touch with childhood dreams of a church that met "house to house and in the temple courts." I was also on staff at a church (of a few hundred) that clustered in five services on two campuses, then consolidated on one larger campus as a megachurch (of thousands). It created a vivid "before and after" picture of the trade-offs that come with increased scale. The experience inspired me to explore ways to propagate clusters, instead of moving de facto toward the broadcast paradigm.

How are church leaders responding to your ideas?

Most say that simplicity resonates with them. Many leaders are feeling overwhelmed and burned out by the bigger-is-better attractational model. The book articulates what many leaders are already feeling but haven't put into words.

*Dave Browning is the founding pastor of **Christ the King Community Church, International**, a nondenominational multisite church with locations in 12 states and seven countries. Raised in what he describes as a very conservative, legalistic denomination, Dave has pastored in traditional and megachurch contexts. Dave lives in Burlington, WA, with his wife and three children.*

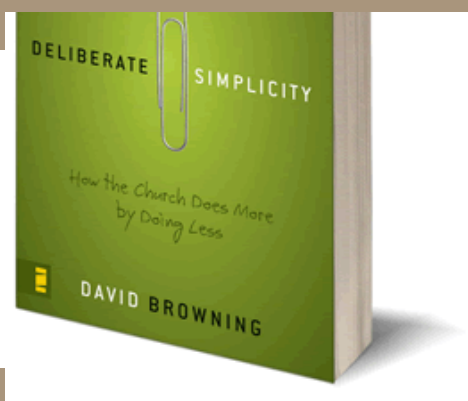
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Deliberate Simplicity

An Interview with Author Dave Browning

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leadership network news

Life Stage Pastor Peer Groups Forming

Next Generation Pastors Groups were the first in Leadership Network's vision for serving peers in a similar age and stage of ministry. Two new Life Stage Pastors Groups will launch in 2009: Senior Pastors II and Senior Pastors--Next Chapter.

Senior Pastors II will include senior pastors 41-49 years old serving churches with 2,500+ weekend worship attendance and with at least 10 years of experience serving in a senior pastor role. The first meeting will be in Dallas on October 28-30, 2009. If you would like to recommend a senior pastor for this group (including yourself), please contact the director, Richard Petty, at richard.petty@leadnet.org or 817-917-3358.



Senior Pastors--Next Chapter will include senior pastors 50-59 years old serving churches with 3,000+ weekend worship attendance and with at least 20 years of experience serving in a senior pastor role. The first meeting will be in Dallas on November 5-6, 2009. If you would like to recommend a senior pastor for this group (including yourself), please contact the director, Don Wilcox, at [303-522-6975](tel:303-522-6975).

Next Generation Pastors (Group 5) will include senior pastors under 40 years old serving churches with 800+ weekend worship attendance and with at least 5 years of experience serving in a senior pastor role. The first meeting will be in Dallas on January 19-21, 2010. If you would like to recommend a senior pastor for this group (including yourself), please contact the director, Linda Stanley, at linda.stanley@leadnet.org or 940-483-1787.

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in brief

Exponential '09 Exploring God's Work in the World

Organizers of this year's Exponential '09 National New Church Conference want every attendee to understand that God is moving and at work around the world, and to actively look to join Him where He is moving and at work.

The call for this year's event is to experience the stories of those who are in the middle of movements worldwide and discover what God is up to around the globe.

April 20-23, 2009
Orlando, FL

[▶ Information and Registration](#)



Q Conference

Q is a gathering where church leaders and cultural influencers from the fields of business, politics, media, education, entertainment and the arts are exposed to the future of culture and the church's responsibility to advance the common good in society.

Presentations include: The Irony of Church Marketing, Ensuring Social Entrepreneur Success, Justice in the Suburbs, What I Wish My Pastor Knew About Science and Scientists and The Future of Worship.

April 27-29, 2009
Austin, Texas

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What's your vision? How close are you to it? And where do you need to go next to realize it? Catalyst West is a place to hear the answers, and be the change you seek.

April 22-24, 2009
Mariners Church in Irvine, CA



1 in 31 U.S. Adults in Correctional System

The U.S. correctional population--those in jail, prison, on probation or on parole--totalled 7.3 million, or 1 in every 31 adults, during 2007.

America's prison population has skyrocketed over the past quarter century, according to The Pew Center on the States, which compiled the information from Justice Department and Census Bureau statistics.

The United States has 5 percent of the world's population, but 25 percent of the world's prison inmates, the center said.

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