



By Greg Wiens

Most books written today on the leadership in the church share how a leader theoretically or theologically should function in a church. Too few books give practical day-to-day exercises on what the leader can actually do to “be” the leader in the church that the Bible calls them to be. This surely is not the case with Paul Borden’s most recent book, *Make or Break Your Church in 365 Days*.

There is a need for practical hands on material on how to lead a church through a turnaround. Depending on what definition you use, between 85-95 percent of American churches are plateaued or declining. We are a more unchurched nation than we have ever been. There has been much written on the need to turn churches toward mission, and just as much has been written on what principles need to be applied to bring about church turnarounds.

However, these books can inoculate churches to attempting to turn toward mission. This is because leaders become motivated for change and may attempt to apply several of the principles only to loose energy or see little change. This has caused the need for coaches to spring up in an attempt to help guide churches through this difficult and arduous journey of reviving a stalled church.

This is where Borden’s new book stands alone: It gives pastors a road map to follow during the first year of turning a church toward mission. The book spends the first 50 pages reviewing the theological necessity for a church to be outward focused in order to build disciples of lost people. But from that point on, the book turns a fine focus toward what a pastor would need to do every day of the week to ensure missional focus is lived out in the life of the pastor *and* the church.

The book looks very practically at each day of a week and outlines the outcomes that need to be accomplished during each of these days. Borden gives great insight in how to maximize the appointments of the pastor with various people in the congregation. He gives examples of what each appointment should ideally accomplish and how to attain it. He even deals with such practical issues as how can you have many meal appointments without breaking the bank or putting on 20 pounds a year!

Ideally the book would best be applied during the first year of a pastor's tenure. However, there is nothing inherent in the approach that could not be applied at any point of a pastoral career. Obviously, the longer the prior tenure of the pastor, the more difficult it would be to change some of the ministry habits already established by the pastor through his or her use of time and priorities.

This book springs out of the coaching experience of Paul's ministry. He asked many of the effective pastors that he has coached or worked with to give the one or two things they did their first year that made the most difference in the church. Through their input and Paul's experience comes this book that nullifies most excuses pastors use to justify a lack of missional impact.

One of the organizations I work with, Healthy Growing Churches, is leading churches through turnaround in more than 25 states and over 100 congregations. This book will expedite our coaching process dramatically. Every pastor and every church cannot blindly follow this book. However, it is a blue print that can lead pastors through a process that will make church renewal possible. To most pastors without a coach, turning a church around is a lot like eating an elephant: an overwhelming task. Incredibly, this book walks you through it one bite (or day) at a time.

How to Make or Break Your Church in 365 Days

By Paul Borden

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT GREG WIENS, PLEASE VISIT WWW.LEADERSTHATLAST.ORG