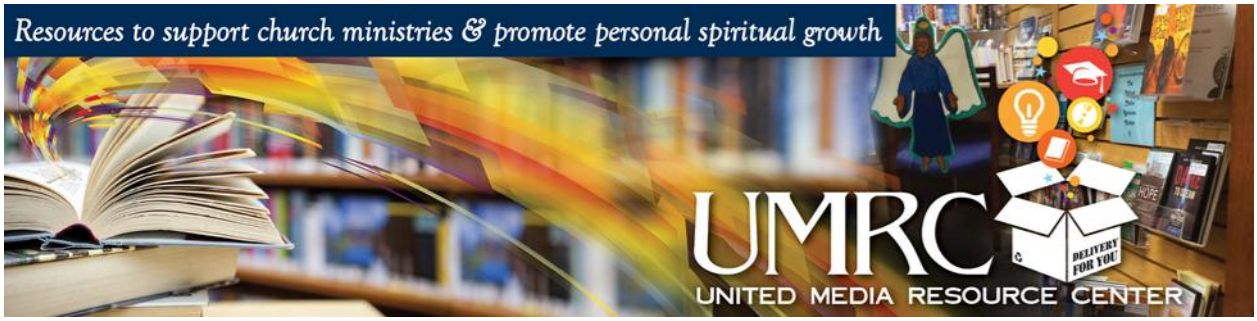

Service / community / welcoming / church growth

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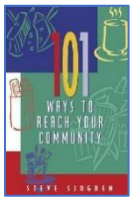
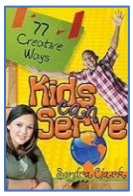


101 WAYS TO REACH YOUR COMMUNITY (811021) Author: Sjogren, Steve. 101 simple and effective ways your church or small group can demonstrate the love of God to those in your community. Level 1: The Blitz -- designed to touch a lot of people in a short time (39 ideas). Level 2: Connecting to the Community -- opportunities for greater interaction (45 ideas). Level 3: Investing in the City -- interacting with those in need (17 ideas). 112 Pages.

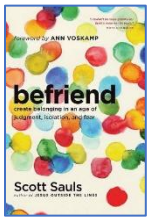


77 CREATIVE WAYS KIDS CAN SERVE (815104) Author: Clark, Sondra. Step-by-step directions on ways kids can serve in their home, school, and community -- service projects with animals, volunteer ideas for crafty kids, activities connected with recycling and the environment; collecting items for those in need. 175 Pages.

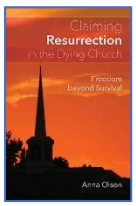


8 VIRTUES OF RAPIDLY GROWING CHURCHES (818173) Author: Miofsky, Matt and Byassee,Jason.

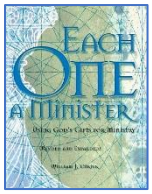
Chapters: Rapidly growing churches believe in miracles and act accordingly; Rapidly growing churches integrate new people quickly; Rapidly growing churches love the local; Rapidly growing churches exist to reach the next person; Rapidly growing churches elevate the practice of giving; Rapidly growing churches work in teams; Rapidly growing churches preach well to the skeptic; Rapidly growing churches make friends with the denominations. 110 Pages.



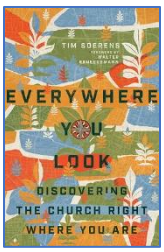
BEFRIEND: CREATE BELONGING IN AN AGE OF JUDGMENT, ISOLATION, AND FEAR (817082) Author: Sauls, Scott. In this book, Scott Sauls invites us to see the breadth of Christ's love. Chapters: A case for befriending; Befriend the one in the mirror; Befriend the 'other;' Befriend prodigals and Pharisees; Befriend the wrecked and the restless; Befriend the shamed and ashamed; Befriend the ones you can't control; Befriend true friends and significant others; Befriend sexual minorities; Befriend dysfunctional family members; Befriend the children; Befriend those grieving and dying; Befriend the poor and empty-handed; Befriend the other race; Befriend the rich and powerful; Befriend the bullies and perpetrators; Befriend vulnerable woman and humans not yet born; Befriend strangers and refugees; Befriend those who vote against you; Befriend people with disabilities and special needs; Befriend the God Who embraces you. Includes questions for reflection. 224 Pages.



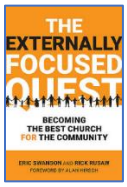
CLAIMING RESURRECTION IN THE DYING CHURCH: FREEDOM BEYOND SURVIVAL (816142) Author: Olson, Anna. Based on her experiences as a pastor, Anna Olson encourages us to measure the fruits of our ministry not by its longevity, affluence, and popularity but by the mark set by Jesus -- love of God and neighbor. Chapter titles: Make room; Map the terrain; Turn out your pockets; Make pilgrimage; Try things; Say yes; Look outside the tent; Expect trespasses; When faith and hope fail, try love. 124 Pages.



EACH ONE A MINISTER: USING GOD'S GIFTS FOR MINISTRY, REVISED AND EXPANDED (812043) Author: Carter, William. This book, written for either individual or group study, will encourage readers to discover God's call to ministry in their own lives and will assist congregations as they identify and deploy members for ministry. Part 1: The Church, Ministry, and Gifts (a study of Ephesians in six sessions). Part 2: Spirituality and Practicality (3 follow-up sessions to the study of Ephesians). Part 3: A Guide for Exploring Areas of Ministry (looks at 12 areas). Part 4: Recommended Resources for Your Exploration. 77 Pages.



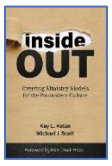
EVERYWHERE YOU LOOK: DISCOVERING THE CHURCH RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE (820137) Author: Soerens, Tim. What's the point of the church anyway? The emerging generation is opting out of the church in large numbers. They're embarrassed at how the church is portrayed in the media and dismayed at what appears to be their options for participation. Is church really necessary anymore in our day? Is it even possible? Tim Soerens sees this unsettled state of affairs as an extraordinary opportunity: the church, he says, is on the edge of a new possibility at the very moment so much of it feels like it's falling apart. In his extensive travels in all kinds of neighborhoods, he has seen the beginnings of this movement firsthand. In this book, he lays out practical, actionable steps for building collaborative communities in any neighborhood. Here is a vision of the church grounded in a grassroots movement of ordinary people living out what it means to be the church in their everyday lives. Chapters: The movement or the meltdown; The big Why; The magic of paying attention; The megachurch next door; The parish is the unit of change; The same team; Learning from local heroes; Already here. 134 Pages.



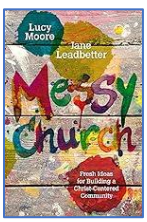
EXTERNALLY FOCUSED QUEST: BECOMING THE BEST CHURCH FOR THE COMMUNITY (821001) Author: Swanson, Eric and Rusaw, Rick. This book is designed for church leaders who want to transform their churches to become less internally focused and more oriented to the world around them. Authors Eric Swanson and Rick Rusaw include clear guidelines on the changes congregations must adopt to become truly outwardly focused. This book is not about getting all churches to have an annual day of community service as a tactic, but changing the core of who they are and how they see themselves as a part of their community. It outlines changes needed for church leaders to transform their churches and presents a highly practical approach that shows leaders how to become more externally focused without having to give up programs that serve members. This book reveals what it takes to make the major shift from internal to external focus and how that affects church leadership. 166 Pages.



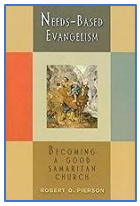
FAITHFUL IN SMALL THINGS: HOW TO SERVE THE NEEDY WHEN YOU'RE ONE OF THEM (821032) Author: Wiebe, Kevin. Pastor Kevin Wiebe grew up below the poverty line, with his mother hunting for change in the couch to buy food for the baby. He now pastors a "low-resource" church. In this book, he shows readers that writing big checks isn't the only--or even the best--way to alleviate poverty. Along the way, he shines a spotlight on the value of small acts of love as a means of changing the world, and as vitally important to following Jesus. Investigating scriptural definitions of poverty and God's heart for the poor throughout the Bible, Wiebe calls readers not only to "help the needy" but to acknowledge their own need and to work with God to serve others. By delving into concepts like brokenness, mutuality, dignity, and systemic injustice, Wiebe exposes gaps in the mainstream Christian understandings of economic inequality and explores holistic ways of reducing poverty. In doing so, he provides a better way forward for Christians committed to working for the flourishing of all. Chapters: The poverty in us all; The murdered homeless man; The revelation of your hidden beliefs; Broken; They have faces and names; The good news; Get off your high horse; Learning to receive; Mental illness, addictions, and self-care; The value of relationships; Holistic and sacrificial giving; Turn off the tap; Choice and consequence; When we harm; Falling forward; When small acts grow big; When small acts stay small; Conclusion – faithful in small thing; A note to rural readers. Includes bibliography. 222 Pages.



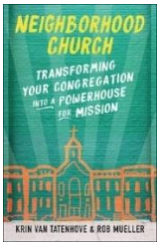
INSIDE OUT: EVERTING MINISTRY MODELS FOR THE POSTMODERN CULTURE (822015) Author: Kotan, Kay and Scott, Michael. As we evert the church model for the postmodern, post-Christian world, we need to evert, turn inside out, many of our thoughts and beliefs about how we go about “doing” church. This is NOT about changing our beliefs but about changing how we engage in ministry. There is urgent kingdom work that needs to be done. The postmodern, post-Christian world is suffering. People are more connected digitally than any prior generation but find themselves lonelier than ever before. Our neighbors seek hope, meaning, and a sense of community and belonging. Mental health is in crisis with staggering levels of depression and anxiety. While our neighbors struggle and need help, so many churches are ill-equipped for this work, the kind of work the church should be the very best at providing. After all, we have the Good News. Sadly, though, our methods of sharing this Good News and reaching others outside our congregations are no longer relevant, so it is as though the church is mute and the community culture is deaf or vice versa. In this book, authors Kay Kotan and Michael Scott unpack resources for the ever-emerging church in the American culture. If the church is to be relevant, compelling, and faithful in its commission to reach new people, we must embrace these trends and plot a new course to navigate them in our local contexts. The need for this navigation and course correction is critical, and the timing is urgent. We have no time to waste. The church has remained hesitant for too long as culture has charged forward by leaps and bounds. There is no more waiting; the time is now. The mission is too important to delay any longer. Chapters: Moving away from Sunday-centric; Moving away from building-centric; Moving away from offering-plate dependency; Becoming emotionally and culturally competent; Moving towards Christian social entrepreneurship. 150 Pages.



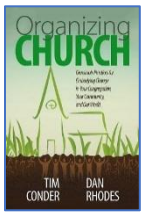
MESSY CHURCH: FRESH IDEAS FOR BUILDING A CHRIST-CENTERED COMMUNITY (817205) Author: Moore, Lucy. The Messy Church model offers your church a tool to bring people of all ages and stages of faith together for a unique come-as-you-are experience of creativity, celebration, and hospitality. With instructions for starting a program at your church, this book includes 15 sessions for use throughout the year. Session topics: Abraham and Sarah; Joseph; Moses; Joshua; I Am the True Vine; I Am the Light of the World; I Am the Good Shepherd; Messy Christmas; Creation; A new start (Noah and the flood); New life in Jesus (Easter); New life in the Spirit (Pentecost); Bible mountains; Bible roads; Bible seasides. 205 Pages.



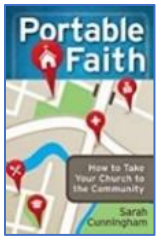
NEEDS-BASED EVANGELISM: BECOMING A GOOD SAMARITAN CHURCH (806163) Author: Pierson, Robert. Chapter titles: Do or die; Needs-based evangelism--an ancient answer for a real future; The power of belief; How to be a Good Samaritan church; Needs-based thinking; Needs-based organizational life; Niche marketing and needs; Singles ministry and evangelism; Our personal needs; How to witness, or personal evangelism; Events in needs-based evangelism; Quality indigenous worship meets needs; Marketing for dummies; The healthy church and growth; The pastor's leadership; Decide; The New Jerusalem. 112 Pages.



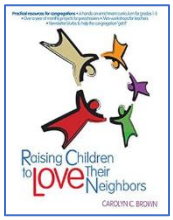
NEIGHBORHOOD CHURCH: TRANSFORMING YOUR CONGREGATION INTO A POWERHOUSE FOR MISSION (819058) Author: Van Tatenhove, Krin and Mueller, Rob. This book discusses ABCD - asset-based community development - and how churches can use it to cultivate connections within their communities, mobilizing the capacities of everyone involved to produce change from within and create partnerships that discover and stimulate benefits for everyone involved. Chapters: Communal conversion; The DNA of listening; Transforming partnership; Integrating our space; Sustaining the vision. Includes discussion questions, notes for an asset mapping workshop, suggestions for joint use agreements, six dimensions of a partnership, and a bibliography of asset mapping resources. 136 Pages.



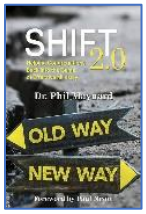
ORGANIZING CHURCH (817135) Author: Conder, Tim and Rhodes, Dan. Grassroots Practices for Embodying Change in Your Congregation, Your Community, and Our World. This book blends proven principles of community organizing and research on socially active congregations into an essential field guide that will revitalize and empower churches as change agents. Pastors and community activists Tim Conder and Dan Rhodes will help pastors and other church leaders build healthier congregations and create a deep culture of discipleship and engagement in their community. 125 Pages.



PORTABLE FAITH: HOW TO TAKE YOUR CHURCH TO THE COMMUNITY (814133) Author: Cunningham, Sarah. Sarah Cunningham presents the church as a way of living and being in your community. She presents 33 hands-on exercises that help recharge people's enthusiasm for the Great Commission and develop their sensitivity to their surrounding community. 172 Pages.



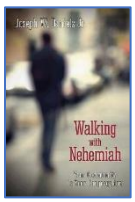
RAISING CHILDREN TO LOVE THEIR NEIGHBORS (808092) Author: Brown, Carolyn. Does your congregation want to raise more mission-minded children? Here are practical plans with reproducible activities and outlines for classroom and service experiences for children ages 3 to 12. Includes plans for a workshop with parents. 114 Pages.



SHIFT 2.0: HELPING CONGREGATIONS BACK INTO THE GAME OF EFFECTIVE MINISTRY (819080) Author: Maynard, Phil. Chapters: From fellowship to hospitality; From worship as an event to worship as a lifestyle; From membership to discipleship; From 'serve us' to service; From 'survival mentality' to generosity; Leading the charge without getting trampled. Larger than average print. 236 Pages.



THEY WILL KNOW US BY OUR LOVE: SERVICE IDEAS FOR SMALL GROUPS (807135) Author: Werle, Heather and Wieman, Roxanne, editors. Here are 101 practical ways for your small group to serve the community. Section titles: Serving your community; Serving your church; Serving your small group; Serving your friends and family; Serving those with specific needs. Includes topical, seasonal, and Scripture indexes. 128 Pages.



WALKING WITH NEHEMIAH: YOUR COMMUNITY IS YOUR CONGREGATION (815135) Author: Daniels, Joseph, Jr. This book gives inspiration and practical tools for engaging with your community in ways that help you, your congregation, and your community become whole. Chapters: Feel your heart break; Pray for next steps; Give it your all; Take the risk; Inspect your mission field; Gain commitment; Get to work; Expect opposition; Build momentum. 120 Pages.