

The Life Giving Church **Rebuilding Your Church From The Inside Out**

By Ted Haggard

Chapter 1: My Foundation

- The principles for a life giving church are:
 - Rest.
 - Keep your word.
 - Don't think more highly of yourself than you ought.
 - Churches are to care for others.
 - Strong leadership combined with consistency, humility and honesty builds healthy churches.
 - Churches are best when not swayed by Christian movements.
 - No secrets.

Chapter 4: Our Mark: Innocence or Victimization

- The purpose of serving is to reflect the life of God.
- The purpose of Bible reading is to learn the personality of God so His life can freely flow through us.
- The purpose of prayer is fellowship, friendship and communion. In prayer we confront demonic schemes and commune with God. We engage darkness and grow in the Holy Spirit to become more effective vessels of His life.

Chapter 5: Our Power: Spirit or Flesh?

- Love is tested by our desire to take care of ourselves or those near to us in preference to those who are outside of our own circle of friends.
- Joy is tested when everything goes wrong.
- Peace is tested when we have too much to do.
- Patience is tested when we're in a hurry.
- Kindness is tested when someone needs a firm hand.
- Goodness is tested when we want attention ourselves.
- Faithfulness is tested when loyalty has run out.
- Gentleness is tested when we're feeling harried.
- Self-control is tested when no one is watching.

Chapter 6: Relationships That Empower

- The coalition of churches in Colorado Springs has three goals:
 - We pray for every person in our city by name at least once a year;

- We communicate the gospel, in an understandable way, to every person in our city at least once a year; and
- We want an additional 1 percent of our city's population attending church on an average weekend by the end of each year. For our city, that means an additional 3,500 people saved and disciplined in our churches city-wide every year.

Chapter 7: Characteristics That Protect

Truth:

- Be honourable and honest.
- Fast and pray.
- No secrets.
- Be purpose driven.
 - Successful leaders know why they do what they do.
- Financial integrity is a close friend.
- Honour the tithe and don't get greedy.
- Don't drain baby churches dry.
- Whatever you build it on, you'll have to maintain it on.

Humility:

- Foster freedom with simple structures.
- Promote membership in Christ's Body.
- Give others the freedom to choose.
- Develop and maintain the heart of a servant.
- Promote Jesus, not the church.
- Laugh more and enjoy people.
- Learn.

Righteousness:

- Establish efficient church governments.
- Structure and plan for the church to last longer than you do.
- Conservatively address the senior pastor's salary.
- Focus on the gospel.
- Fight the devil; serve people.
- Encourage free-market ministry:
 - This free-market ministry style is used to one degree or another through every super-megachurch in the world. Cell systems allow people to creatively minister to others without having to initiate a program within the church. Rather than having the church leadership team create a ministry and enlist people to participate in it, cell churches allow the needs of people to create the ministries.

Chapter 8: Etiquette That Sustains

Protocol For The Senior Pastor:

- Inter-Pastoral Friendships:
 - When arriving in a new city, I recommend locating the ministers' gatherings and attending them regularly for at least the first year.
- Resigning:
 - It takes four years to begin substantive ministry within a church. After the first four years of orientation, the church should begin growing steadily by at least 10 percent a year. If it does, stay. If it doesn't try to correct the problem within the next year. If the church still won't grow, move on.
 - Senior pastors should only leave when their hearts are clean.

Chapter 11: Integration of Life: Free Market Cells

Characteristics of a Free Market Cell:

1. All cells must engage in one or more of the following: prayer, worship, bible study, or testimonies.
2. All cells must welcome new people unless otherwise designated. For example, some of the marriage cells cannot be joined after they have begun.
3. All cells must have life coaches and assistant life coaches committed to providing pastoral-type support, equipping the cell members in spiritual growth, and intentionally empowering the people in their groups to be more successful in every area of their lives.
4. All cells are to develop members into future leaders.
5. All cell members are encouraged to bring unchurched people who have the same interest as the group within the first month of each new semester. The only exceptions are those groups that close to newcomers after the first week because of the nature of the cell.
6. All cells must have completed their study and be ready to either change subjects or receive additional people by the beginning of the next semester.
7. All cell leaders must communicate with their Section leaders weekly so the Section leaders can coach them for increasing effectiveness.
8. All cells must honourably reflect the ministry, spirit and theological position of New Life Church.

To be a cell leader, a person must commit to:

- Serve people;
- Meet weekly with friends;
- Receive initial training;
- Get leadership coaching with the senior pastor;
- Tithe.

Chapter 12: Demonstration of Life: Elders

Unique Roles Of The Elders:

1. Teach by Living a Godly, Christian Lifestyle.
 - Be responsible financially by living within their means.
 - Avoid the appearance of evil in every area of their lives.
 - Demonstrate personal discipline.
 - Show wisdom in their ability to bring others to maturity.
2. Provide a Prayer Shield for the Pastoral Team and the Local Church
 - Pastors have more responsibility and accountability.
 - Pastors are subjected to more temptation.
 - Pastors are strategic targets for spiritual warfare.
 - Pastors have more visibility.
3. Defend, Protect and Support the Integrity of the Pastoral Team and the Local Church.
4. Pray for the Sick.

Chapter 13: Church Planting: First Things First

Exodus provides an amazingly helpful series of events that directly parallels the process necessary for planting a strong local church.

1. Recognize an Area of Need: Exodus 1
2. Appropriate Spiritual Authority: Exodus 2
 - Being a well-trained, well-meaning Christian trying to do a church plant is not enough. We must be assured that God has appointed the timing, anointed the man and allocated a divine sense of spiritual strength for the task.
3. Receive a Divine Charge: Exodus 3
 - To do a church plant without a divine charge creates a soulless church that lacks spiritual strength.
4. Make Practical Preparations: Exodus 4
 - A tangible sign from God (vv. 2-7)
 - A friend (vv. 14-16) – Genuine friendships empower people.
 - Submission to God's delegated authorities (v. 18)
 - Obedience (vv.24-26)
 - Initial positive reception by the core of friends who shared his vision (vv. 29-31)
5. Boldly Confront Demonic Strongholds: Exodus 5-11
6. Publicly Emphasize Jesus' Victory – Celebrate!: Exodus 12-17
 - Confrontation with the demonic will always yield good fruit, tangible evidence.
7. Now, Establish a Functional Church Government: Exodus 18

- Now that the church has begun to experience numerical and spiritual growth, a system of governance should be put in place to serve the needs of the larger Body.