

## 2008 LLC Book List

- January                    *Leveraging Your Leadership Style*, by John Jackson
- February                 *Simple Church*, by Thom Rainer
- March & April         *Breaking the Missional Code*, by Ed Stetzer & David Putman

NOTE: If you have to skip a book try not to skip *Breaking the Missional Code* by Ed Stetzer and David Putman. This is on the schedule for the two months of March & April to give more time to read it and discuss it in detail. With Easter falling in March pastors will feel the time crunch, and stretching one book over two months will help alleviate some of the pressure. We did a similar thing last year with Ed Stetzer's book on church planting.

We have secured David Putman as the main speaker for the All Region Ministers Conference, September 29-30, 2008. In May his second book, *Breaking the Discipleship Code*, will be published. It is an attempt to address the failing of the church to reproduce disciples. It should be especially good in light of Willow Creeks admitted failures in this arena. David is one of the pastors of a very successful church plant in Mountain Lake Church in Atlanta, GA. Although not as high profile as Reggie McNeal or Rick Rusaw, he is an excellent teacher and has a wealth of information to share.

- May                         *Church Is a Team Sport*, by Jim Putman

This is an excellent book, although simple and direct, which will help people realize that church members/attenders must be engaged in ministry together, not simply showing up at the church building on Sunday morning. Putman also tells the story of Real Life Ministries' origins and almost miraculous growth.

- June                        (Catch Up Month) (On schedule LLCs may pick a book from the list below.)
- July                         (Break)
- August                     (Break)
- September                *The Emotionally Healthy Church*, Peter Scazzero

NOTE: This was one of several possibilities for helping pastors develop their internal spiritual lives. You may want to supplement this one with *In the Name of Jesus*, by Nouwen. To add more emphasis on personal and spiritual credibility try the book *Why Should I Believe You?* by Thom Bandy.

October                      *Made to Stick*, by Chip Heath and Dan Heath

NOTE: This is a book about communication, very thought provoking and concrete. Will help improvement as to how ideas are conveyed, whether through preaching, writing, or in casting vision, etc. Although not exactly a preaching book it should impact preaching. Comes as a recommendation from Bill McCready and Corey Laughary. Question: Which is the more DANGEROUS animal? Sharks or Deer?\*\*\*

November                    *Fragile Hope*, by Tom Bandy

NOTE: Tom Bandy is almost prophetic in his ability to identify the challenges that hold back older, declining churches. If your church is growing, and has jettisoned some of the traditional modes that kept it in “stuck mode”, the book *Fragile Hope* may not speak to your church’s situation, per se. BUT, it will speak to the many plateaued or declining, tradition bound, ABC churches that are struggling to get unstuck and back on mission. It also serves as great affirmation for the church that has moved out of the box and is engaged in life-changing, world-engaging missions right outside the front door.

December                    (Catch Up Month) (If on schedule, pick a book from list below...)

NOTE: There are two catch up months for particular LLCs who may be running behind the schedule. For LLCs that stay right on schedule the group will want to add from the additional reading list below. However, be forewarned, the books with an asterisk may be selected in 2009. If your group chooses one of these and it ends up on the list for 2009, you will simply be ahead of the game, and you can choose something to replace it during that month of next year.

### **Spiritual Life & Health of the Pastor**

*In the Name of Jesus*, by Henri Nouwen\*  
*Spiritual Leadership*, by J. Oswald Sanders  
*I Should Be Burnt Out By Now*, by Neuhauser, Bender, Stromberg  
*Confessions of a Pastor*, by Craig Groeschel

### **Pastoral Integrity**

*Why Should I Believe You?* by Tom Bandy\*  
*True North*, Bill George\*

### **Missional & Externally Focused Church**

*No Perfect People Allowed*, by John Burke  
*Church Next*, by Eddie Gibbs

## **Leadership Skill Development**

*LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*, by Eddie Gibbs\*  
*The Missional Leader*, by Roxburgh & Romanuk

## **Evangelism**

*Just Walk Across the Room*, by Bill Hybels  
*Unbinding the Gospel*, by Martha Grace Reese\*

## **Small Group Ministry**

*Building a Church of Small Groups*, by Bill Donahue & Russ Robinson  
*Community That Is Christian: A Handbook of Small Groups*, by Julie Gorman  
*The Big Book of Small Groups*, by Jeffrey Arnold  
*Cultivating a Life for God*, by Neil Cole

## **Church Transformation & Change**

*Comeback Churches*, Ed Stetzer & Mike Dodson\*  
*Unfreezing Moves*, by William Easum  
*Surfing the Edge of Chaos*, by Pascale, Milleman, & Gioja\* (This is truly a great book, but not sure if the pastors will read it, take it to heart, and apply it to their setting.)

## **Conflict**

*Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When the Stakes Are High*, by Patterson, Grenny, McMillan Switzler\*

## **Preaching**

*360-Degree Preaching*, by Michael Quicke

**\*\*Answer:** Deer, 300 times more dangerous than sharks. You are 300 times more likely to be killed by a deer than a shark, e.g. when the deer jumps in front of your car when you are doing 75mph on a Montana interstate highway. Ask Patti D. for verification.