

ten a decade ago when smart phones and social networking like Twitter or Facebook were yet to be developed, Stetzer's book on church planting is still the most recommendable book on church planting to date.

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DeVine, Mark, and Darrin Patrick. *Replant: How a Dying Church Can Grow Again*. Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2014. 176 pp.

Reviewed by Garrett R. Eaglin. Eaglin is an undergraduate student at Biola University. He has served as a student leader in various student ministries. He is currently working on a B.A. in Biblical and Theological Studies and a minor in Great Books from the Torrey Honors Institute.

Recent trends of urbanization have caused a substantial need for church planting in urban areas. It is no longer sufficient for the church to exist in the cultural stasis of a suburb; we are in continual need of church plants in our nation's urban cultural centers. However, this can be difficult for church planters or replanters as they enter into new territories that are often in need of strong leaders committed to the biblical foundations of a church.

In *Replant: How a Dying Church Can Grow Again*, Mark DeVine and Darrin Patrick recount the enticing true tale of Journey, a church replant of First Calvary Baptist Church—a dying church in need of strong pastoral leadership. The text traces the efforts of DeVine and Patrick while providing several invaluable tips and principles concerning church planting and growth. Both DeVine and Patrick are part of the recent resurgence movement—a movement committed to establishing and enabling missional churches. This commitment is evident in the authors' stories of leadership through trial and opposition.

The majority of the book consists of DeVine's experiences as an interim pastor at First Calvary, while Patrick includes invaluable principles and ideas for application in boxes set apart from the rest of the text. This is quite helpful, as it reminds the readers of the core principles for strong pastoral leadership and church growth.

The authors also include a map with recent statistics illustrating church growth from 2000–2007 by percent in each state across the United States. These statistics display shockingly low percentages, which illuminate the need for strong pastoral leadership and church replants in urban settings.

DeVine and Patrick primarily advance the value of these principles by demonstrating their effects in their story. This demonstrative method is unique among books in this field; much like a novel or collection of short stories written to advance an idea, this work advances the value of these principles with plot and character development. This is an exceptionally effective way of emphasizing the practical importance of these principles, since DeVine and Patrick locate these principles in the true story of First

Calvary's revivification. Therefore, it is almost impossible to disagree with the principles' effectiveness, since the entire church replant depended on the validity and practicality of these principles.

This technique avoids a rigid, linear structure, and instead appeals to the emotions of the reader. *Replant* employs this emotional appeal, not as a means of argumentation, but as an indication of the true value and importance that these principles of pastoral leadership and church planting can have on a church replant project. All of these principles find their grounding in Scripture, which is perhaps the most refreshing aspect of this book. There is neither one principle nor exhortation that does not find its foundation or content explicitly in Scripture.

Although the peculiar literary form of *Replant* establishes it as unique among other works in the field, I see it as a potential weakness. The form seems to find itself in between pure praxis and empty theory. The content of Patrick's principles is perhaps crucial for strong pastoral leadership and effective church planting; however, *Replant* lacks a rigorous practicality that I was expecting in how these principles should apply in a church.

The subtitle, *How a Dying Church Can Grow Again*, suggests a step-by-step process one can use to make a dying church grow again. If I were a pastor of a dying church, I would find this book useful for ensuring that my leadership is biblically grounded and for encouraging me to look for ways to replant. However, its lack of praxis would be simply unsatisfying. The subtitle implies a sense of urgency and praxis that is just not present in the text.

Given that the authors purposefully wanted to avoid a book of pure praxis, it would have been helpful to include ways to implement the principles in examples other than those concerning First Baptist and Journey. This is more like a case study in church planting rather than a practical guide. *Replant* is working on the assumption that if it worked for First Calvary, it can work for you. However, DeVine and Patrick simply do not argue this in the text.

Despite the lack of praxis in the main narrative, *Replant* offers a practical guide to the open business meeting in the appendix. This short section encapsulates the political problems of the open business meeting and offers practical solutions to those problems. Also included in the appendix is a section entitled, "Rocks that Cry Out, or Bodies and Buildings." This is a discussion on the theology of church buildings in response to the somewhat pervasive apathy expressed toward church attendance since the popularization of live streaming sermons. This section is polemical, making for an enjoyable and convicting read.

*Replant* stands out as a book with overtones of profound hope and passion that made me wish every church leader had this book on his shelf. Mark DeVine and Darrin Patrick drew me into their journey and led me through the trials and perils of urban church replanting, while developing within me

a sense of awe and wonder at God's marvelous hand over the course of history. I know *Replant* is definitely a book that I will not regret having on my shelf.

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Parr, Steve. *The Coffee Shop That Changed a Church: Discovering the Net Effect*. Sisters, OR: Deep River Books, 2014. 234 pages.

Reviewed by Peter Vavrosky. Peter earned a B.A. in Business Administration at Briercrest College, Saskatchewan, Canada; a B.S. in Computer Information Systems at Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences; and both a M.A. in Islamic Studies and a M.Div. at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas. He is the lead church planter and pastor of International Baptist Church of Arlington, Texas.

Parr's intriguing title provides the reader with a satisfactory hook that draws attention to a system he developed called "The Net Effect." Unbeknownst to the reader at the outset, however, this book is not about the implementation of a coffee shop ministry within a church. It is much more than a series of collected success stories and growth strategies. Parr set out to provide his readers with a down-to-earth, homegrown book written in a style that everyone can enjoy. It is far from an ivory tower tome. In its most simple definition, it can be defined as a book on evangelism. That is the heart of the matter that Parr wants to convey to his readers, and he does so using narrative. He states, "As I prepared to write, I was reminded of the books I had read that were written in narrative form... I wondered if I might take that approach for this book" (14).

Through Parr's use of narrative, we are introduced to the fictional character of Mitch Walker, a twenty-nine-year-old pastor who is serving in his first congregation. We learn about his incredible journey at Stanton Community Church and the trials he goes through as he works to implement a change in the structure, thought, and DNA of the church. Stanton Community Church is what many churches have become today—focused inward. As a result, ministry is dry, people bicker, and the church community seems to fixate on minor internal issues. These issues continually beleaguer the young pastor, and much of his time is spent either putting out fires or caring for minor issues. Mitch realizes that there is a problem, but he does not immediately see the solution. The Lord has mercy on him and provides him with an incredible mentor—the senior pastor of a larger church in the next community. Pastor Marc Benton helps Mitch prioritize his time and initiate the changes that are desperately needed within the church. Initially, Mitch faces major opposition as he tries to direct his congregation's priorities from its inwardly focused mentality to one that is focused on the community. Through the help of Pastor Benton, Mitch learns how to effectively change the priorities of Stanton Community Church.