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## ReBuild: Reset Your Life, Renew Your Church, Reshape Your World. By Tommy “Urban D.” Kyllonen

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closely and interdependently, share responsibility, and engage frequently in formal and informal communication (loc 1807). This model epitomizes relational leadership and should be distinguished from the less relational concept of a group.

The definition of relational leadership, given far into the book, might have served better as a guide to understanding if it had been stated earlier in the volume: “In this book, we understand relational leadership as a coordination of understandings, expectations, emotions, and actions in constant interaction and dialogue with the organization’s many internal and external stakeholders for the purpose of helping the organization achieve its goals” (loc 1061).

This book has immediate application possibilities to the free-associated organization—churches and volunteer models. Since it is written primarily for the managed organization, it will require some translation by the reader/leader, but the concepts are wholly compatible. I give this book a “thumbs up” of approval for the serious leader who is seeking a better understanding and a more effective model of leading in a period when authority-based approaches are becoming less effective and the expectations of those led demand a higher degree of relational competency.

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## **REBUILD: RESET YOUR LIFE. RENEW YOUR CHURCH. RESHAPE YOUR WORLD**

*By Tommy “Urban D.” Kyllonen  
Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press  
(2015)  
Paperback, 176 pages*

*Reviewed by SHAWNA HENRY*

Tommy “Urban D.” Kyllonen is a hip hop artist who is also the lead pastor of the Crossover Church in Tampa, Florida. The missional purpose of this church is urban ministry. Kyllonen led this church in a massive rebuilding campaign as they not only worked against tremendous odds to rebuild the facilities at their location, but also to rebuild the ministry and purpose required to meet the needs of the changing community in which the church was planted. ReBuild was birthed out of this experience with the goal to empower leaders that they too, with the help of an all-powerful God, might successfully rebuild ministries, churches, lives, and people.

*ReBuild* parallels the experience of Nehemiah’s rebuilding of ancient Jerusalem’s walls with the modern-day experience of the Crossover Church, which rebuilt their church building, goals, organizational structure, and mission. Kyllonen shows that with God-ordained tasks come not only joys but struggles and challenges. However, when leaders surrender their plans and dreams, God is bigger than all the challenges and will see the project to completion.

*ReBuild* offers a step-by-step approach to the massive undertaking of rebuilding. These steps are applicable to most any undertaking, whether the goal is to rebuild interpersonal relationships, churches, or missions. The steps range from confronting pain to dealing with

opposition and maintaining momentum. It is refreshing to see how the steps Nehemiah employed so long ago are still relevant today. The reader can easily relate to the struggles that Kyllonen and his team faced during this massive project.

It was interesting to note the approach that the book took in helping leaders identify common pitfalls and obstacles to completing a rebuilding project. For example, some of these pitfalls attack not only the project but also the leader and his or her family personally. The leader, if not careful to maintain a close connection with Christ, will not be able to anticipate these attacks and can fall victim to such sabotage.

*ReBuild* offers not only guidance but encouragement for leaders who feel impressed to step out and be a change catalyst for God. Though the vision God sets before us often can seem overwhelming, we are reminded that if we persist, resist opposition and distraction, and persevere, God will see us through to the completion of the “wall.”

The scriptural foundation in this book, combined with current real-life examples and practical suggestions, make this a compelling read for leaders who are ready to rebuild lives and ministries and to pursue visions. If you have a vision to reset your life, renew your church, or reshape your world, then this book is for you. I recommend *ReBuild* for anyone who wrestles with a God-given vision that seems bigger than life. This book will provide the necessary fortifications the leader needs to embrace the mission and move forward in faith.

SHAWNA HENRY is a native of the United States Virgin Islands, but resided in Texas for many years before recently moving to Berrien Springs, Michigan. She is currently a graduate student at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary, where she is pursuing a Master of Divinity degree.

## **THRIVING IN LEADERSHIP: STRATEGIES FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN CHRISTIAN HIGHER EDUCATION**

*By Karen A. Longman (Ed.)  
Abilene, TX: Abilene Christian  
University Press (2012)  
Paperback, 336 pages*

*Reviewed by DENICE ROSS HAYNES*

Editor Karen Longman, together with “seventeen seasoned senior-level college and university administrators,” offers “fresh perspectives on what is required to thrive in leadership and to shape institutions where both employees and students flourish” (p. 25). Besides being practical, resourceful, and relevant, this work has a next-level profundity in the way it invites the reader into a personal dialogue about her personal leadership calling. While most of the current literature discusses leadership primarily as something one does and how to do it better, this book connects effective leadership to the degree of mindfulness in which the leader engages and the intentional cultivation of her own character and identity. These authors, sharing from different perspectives and successes, make a coherent case that exceptional Christian college leadership happens as leaders tread into deeper waters of the heart. For example, love for God, respect for calling, and honoring the gifting in others are highlighted as critical practices.

Starting with an introduction that features a concise overview of current leadership literature and practice, topics like team building, mission-centered strategic planning, financial accountability, cultivating culture and community, and impacting stu-