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## Thriving in Leadership: Strategies for Making a Difference in Christian Higher Education. By Karen A. Longman

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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.

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## 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-

dent success are explored throughout the book's 14 chapters, which are arranged in three sections.

Section I, *The Interior Life of Thriving Leaders*, suggests that the journey of leadership is a like a call. Moreover, awareness of place and openness to other perspectives make a difference in the strength of a leader's influence; this is especially true in times of relational conflict, change, and crisis. Section II, *The Social Intelligence of Thriving Leaders*, is practical in focus, giving attention to specific strategies like storytelling, intentional listening, and mentorship, all of which result in an environment of mutual trust, shared values and covenants. This section also offers a chapter to help non-faculty administrators understand and effectively work with faculty culture. Section III, *How Leaders Can Shape a Thriving Organizational Culture*, broadens the scope of the book as it speaks to building a campus-wide culture that extends beyond hospitality and leading well in the face of seemingly insurmountable odds.

Overall, the topics addressed in *Thriving in Leadership* are relevant and packed with supporting citations from leading thinkers in leadership theory and research (there are over 60 in-text book references). Yet, "these authors can settle some of our most stubborn ideas about leadership" by the way they are approached in this work (p. 310). Their personal stories about challenge and triumph are candid yet hopeful. If one is searching only for "tips" on leadership, this book will seem a bit too long. However, its length is appropriate for encouraging the kind of reflection necessary for those who dare to lead and thrive, with Christ as center and guide. I highly recommend this book for both professional and personal growth.

DENICE ROSS HAYNES, Ph.D., currently serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor in the School of Education and Interim Director for Science Bound, a pre-college preparation program for STEM fields at Iowa State University. Denice teaches critical thinking, assessment, and evaluation. She also consults on organization identity, assessment, evaluation, retention, and student outcomes.

## **APOSTOLIC CHURCH PLANTING: BIRTHING NEW CHURCHES FROM NEW BELIEVERS**

By J. D. Payne  
Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press  
(2015)  
Softcover, 126 pages

Reviewed by ANDERLINE BREDY

The heart of *Apostolic Church Planting* is understanding and establishing how church planters define the local and universal church. In the words of the author, "ecclesiology is supremely important. It shapes everything" (p. 21). Over his years of training church planters, Dr. J. D. Payne encountered questions that were not addressed in his previous work *Discovering Church Planting*. Thus *Apostolic Church Planting*, in Payne's words, "is my attempt to respond to some of those questions and to connect the practical steps in a more developed manner" (p. 9).

The principles of *Apostolic Church Planting* are outlined in 12 chapters, which range from defining church planting to having ethical guidelines for a church plant. Each chapter discusses the content with the recent questions from various church planters in mind, and then offers a summary of practical steps and critical principles.

Throughout *Apostolic Church Planting*, the author discusses the importance of organic growth as mod-