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## Women in the Shadows: An Ethical View of Pastoral Wives Engaged in Ministry

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# Women in the Shadows: An Ethical View of Pastoral Wives Engaged in Ministry

## **Cover Page Footnote**

"the premise of this e-book appeared to be two-fold. first, it presented the value of pastors' wives regarding the roles they fulfill in the ministry of the church alongside their spouses. the author then addressed the issue of women's ordination in the SDa administrative hierarchy. Both of these issues are of vital importance, especially regarding the current battle to honor the importance of women in the SDa church. the book fairly presented the case that both of these issues appeared to be interconnected."

plined people. Leaders who convey a sense of intellectual or professional superiority deprive themselves of the benefit of those around them. He offers that reformers are courageous. He advocates for using a team of trustworthy, inner circle leaders committed to the change agenda.

Speaking from experience, Gates points out that leaders seldom get everything they want. Compromise comes with the territory. For him, good leadership calls for adjustments and flexibility. He admonishes reforming leaders to take their work seriously, but not themselves. He adds, a good leader knows when to leave.

A useful point that Gates addresses is the fact that financial challenges pose excellent opportunities for change and reform. Often, those are the best opportunities that a leader has to engage in real transformation. He warns, however, that when reducing staff is necessary, the manner in which it is done is important. Financial transparency is significant in maintaining trust. And, across the board cuts are seldom useful.

Gates reminds the reader that leaders power reforms. It's the leader's job to identify what's not working and initiate corrective steps. Leaders who properly identify and champion the core positive elements of organizational culture will experience less resistance when they tackle peripheral issues.

In closing he points out that, "The agent of change in bureaucracies should regard reform—institutional transformation—as a marathon, not a sprint" (p. 216).

Gates' solution for reforming bureaucracies is to have a good vision, formulate a strategy and implement the changes. He points out the need to be mindful of people, stakeholders, and one's own ego. He advises capitalizing on financial crisis as well as viewing reform as a never-ending process. In his final chapter, he appeals to the reader's passion for a better future.

Though Gates is an academic, this book is not. It is written for the general population in common terms. While he provides useful leadership principles, they are drowned with anecdotes from his work experience. This half biography, half leadership text makes for easy reading. However, it is not advisable for academic use as it lacks academic rigor and empirical data.

JOEL L. HONORÉ pastors the Stone Mountain Seventh-day Adventist Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia, and is a doctoral candidate at the Seventh-day Adventist Theological Seminary at Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, USA.

## **WOMEN IN THE SHADOWS: AN ETHICAL VIEW OF PASTORAL WIVES ENGAGED IN MINISTRY**

*By Renee McKey  
Berrien Springs, MI: Logos Library  
Seventh-day Adventist Theological  
Seminary (2015)  
E-book, 151 pages*

*Reviewed by RICHARD S. KURTZ*

The premise of this e-book appeared to be two-fold. First, it presented the value of pastors' wives regarding the roles they fulfill in the ministry of the church alongside their spouses. The author then addressed the issue of women's ordination in the SDA administrative hierarchy. Both of these issues are of vital importance, especially regarding the current battle to honor the importance of women in the SDA church. The book fairly presented the case that both of these issues appeared to be interconnected.

The author presented her own personal struggles regarding being a pastor's wife, and the importance of her role to the church, but not really hav-

ing her own identity. She was continually not recognized as being valued as a person but rather as an appendage to her spouse. She presented the various activities that a pastor's wife performs in the church which, if accepted by the church's governing body, would enhance and promote church growth. She gave succinct arguments why pastor's wives need to be recognized for their roles in promoting this growth.

The author also presented her internal struggles regarding feeling called to the ministry and the roadblocks she felt in responding to the calling. She pointed to the importance of women as pastors and their roles as women in ministry and that women need to be affirmed in their roles through ordination.

This book presented both logical and succinct arguments using biblical sources and the writings of church pioneers for the basis of not only the role of women in the church at the local level but also their roles in the church at large in the United States. The arguments were compelling and this reviewer found agreement on every point that was presented. If the SDA church is supposed to be mission-driven to share the gospel, then it seems an appropriate time for men and women to join hands and get the job done.

Due to the conflicted attitudes of the North American SDA church body regarding women in ministry, this book is a must read for all pastors, church board members, church administrators and anyone else who sees the value of women as being a vital force in propelling the mission of Christ at this hour of earth's history.

This reviewer gives this book an A+ rating and would recommend it to all those interested in issues related to the service of women in the church.

RICHARD S. KURTZ serves as a pastor for the Dakota Conference of Seventh-day Adventists assigned in the Pierre church district in South Dakota, and is

currently a Master in Pastoral Ministry candidate.

## **THE IDEAL TEAM PLAYER: HOW TO RECOGNIZE AND CULTIVATE THE THREE ESSENTIAL VIRTUES**

*By Patrick M. Lencioni*  
*Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass (2016)*  
*Kindle Edition, 219 pages*

*Reviewed by DAVID K. PENNO*

Those who are familiar with Patrick Lencioni's previous book, *The Five Dysfunctions of a Team* (2002), will notice a similar structure in his new book *The Ideal Team Player*. Both begin with a leadership fable that illustrates the model that is described and discussed in the latter part of the book. The main thesis in this latest book is that there are three virtues that characterize a strong and effective team player. A team member must have a significant degree of all three virtues in order to be a positive contributor, and not a detriment to the team.

According to Lencioni, the ideal team player is humble, hungry, and smart. Being humble involves a lack of ego-centrism, where the good of the team has priority over personal desire or ambition. Hungry means that the team member is self-motivated, eager to work, and passionate about the success of the team's mission. Being smart is not about intellectual capacity, but is about interpersonal competency. The author likens it to a simpler form of emotional intelligence. Smartness is about being appropriate and aware in social situations, and includes the ability to "ask good questions, listen to what others are saying, and stay engaged in conversations intently" (160).

Similar to Jim Collin's idea of getting the right people on the bus,