included. Pastors will find the one-sided library limiting (e.g., leadership and
small-group resources are abundant, children and youth ministry resources
absent). Finally, lay members will be overwhelmed by a plethora of resources,
which are often hard to prioritize. In this case, less would be more.

The biggest advantage of the Logos software is the least known or
advertised: Logos hosts an impressive collection of books the user can purchase
beyond the base package. The possibility of purchasing prepublication books
is also appreciated. Nonetheless, in light of other Bible software programs,
the update, as well as the program itself, cannot be recommended to any
serious student of the Bible. Scholars should look to other software programs
as they offer more resources for less money.

Berrien Springs, Michigan

EIKE MÜLLER

MacDonald, Gordon. Building Below the Waterline. Peabody: Hendrickson,

Gordon MacDonald, who is the Chancellor at Denver Seminary and an editor
at large for Leadership Journal, has served as a pastor and author for more
than forty years. His books include, Going Deep (2011), Who Stole My Church?
(2010), A Resilient Life (2006), and Ordering Your Private World (2003). He has
also worked with ministries such as InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, serving
as president for three years, and World Relief, of which he currently serves
as chairperson.

MacDonald argues that the inner life of a leader determines the strength
of the leader’s service. He speaks to issues of character, integrity, attitude, and
spiritual practice in the first eleven chapters of the book. The second part
of the book addresses the public service of a Christian leader: how leaders
present and model Christ to those they serve. The book shares wisdom
accumulated from a life of service and a moving appeal for strong spiritual
foundations.

Building Below the Waterline is ambitious in its range of topics. The first
chapter attempts to form a theoretical foundation for leadership. MacDonald
misses the mark if one is expecting good research and sound theory in
regard to understanding leadership. His review of the traits of a leader in
the early pages could be wrongly interpreted as an argument for natural-born
leaders who possess certain qualities. It is the weakest part of the book, and
disappointing. He does not immediately make the case for life-long leadership
development; instead, his argument unfolds as the book progresses. Keep
reading! The brief foray into leadership theory is not the best part of
MacDonald’s book.

The author’s focus on spiritual development in the following chapters
of part 1 is an important message for leaders at every stage of ministry. The
personal style and vulnerability he demonstrates will be especially meaningful to mid- or late-life ministers; however, the message is most valuable for young leaders who are forming their ministry. The book is not a usual work on biblical spirituality. Anchored in biblical truth, the personal style, reflection, and biblical exploration are captivating and inspiring. MacDonald has a writing style that is organized, clearly practical, and deeply spiritual.

The pages of Building Below the Waterline are filled with deeply personal and meaningful reflection. MacDonald borrows from his lifetime of service and I found myself identifying with his reflections in my own experience. He does not compromise a clearly conservative biblical foundation as he examines the personal realities of Christian service. Instead, he reflects on the experience of biblical characters, the admonitions of Christ, and the exhortation of Christ interpreted in our experience.

The book articulates warnings for persons in ministry who may rely on charisma, talent, or competency. His description of the five stages of personal decline—arrogant conceit, undisciplined pursuit of more, denial of risk and peril, grasping for a silver-bullet solution, and becoming irrelevant—are examples of such caution.

Building Below the Waterline is ideal for discussion among a cohort of colleagues who have developed enough trust for honest dialogue. Each concise chapter concludes with three questions for reflection. The chapters are focused in their attention to specific matters of spiritual growth and thus provide opportunity for friends to inspire one another in forming solid foundations for life and ministry. The book is especially important for young pastors and other religious leaders who are beginning their leadership, as well as those who may find their enthusiasm for ministry plateauing after the first decade. The spiritual foundations proposed by MacDonald can transform ministry. As he asserts in his introduction, if church leaders tend to matters of spiritual maturity below the waterline, they can build above the waterline.

Andrews University

Skip Bell


Years ago I took a local university class on cultural anthropology. One evening the professor became aware of my missionary interests and immediately attacked me as representing a group of people who deliberately disrupted non-Christian cultures to convert and change these people groups, upsetting their supposedly pristine existence and probably thus destroying his opportunity for employment and possible tenure. I responded by asking him if he took pencil and paper with him into these societies or any other “Western” artifacts. I assured him that his very presence in those societies