

PastorPreneur  
by Ken Behnken

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I recently picked up a book by Dr. John Jackson entitled *PastorPreneur* (Friendswood, TX: Baxter Press, 2003). The book calls pastors and mission planters to action. The following quotes are from the chapter “God’s Call to Bold Action” (pp 17-26).

“Today the church is standing on the edge of irrelevance. We need a fresh, bold, articulate vision for ministry.

“In his insightful book, *Dancing with Dinosaurs*, William Easum wrote, ‘If churches only improve what they have been doing, they will die.’

“George Barna goes one step further when he says, ‘Let’s cut to the chase. After nearly two decades of studying Christian churches in America, I’m convinced that the typical church as we know it today has a rapidly expiring shelf life.’

“Seeing the success of other’s bold strategies, we are left with the question: Are we content to remain comfortable doing ministry the way we have always done it, with some positive but limited results, knowing in our hearts that we aren’t making much of a dent in our culture; or will we take the risk of boldly trusting God for a fresh vision, powerful strategies, and incredible results?

“As church leaders today, what are the promises and expectations that drive us? ...God’s promise to us is ... compelling. It is the promise of being used by the God of the universe in his holy cause to rescue men and women from darkness so that they can be transferred into his kingdom.

“Those who are gripped by big goals understand that when God is the source of those goals, he provides wisdom and strength to fulfill them. And those who are motivated by seeing people’s hearts changed realize that we have the unspeakable privilege of being partners in touching others’ lives. Our dream of being used by God comes from Him.”

Our Lord has given us a big goal to fulfill in his name, “Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe everything that I have commanded you.” (Matt. 28:19-20)

The call is not to change our doctrine or biblical teaching. The call is to follow the example of Christ with the woman at the well, or Philip with the African eunuch, to make the Gospel relevant to the people with whom we share it. To let our lives and words,

guided by the Holy Spirit, speak to the cultures and lives of the people we seek to reach.

Here are the words that drive the entrepreneurial spirit of God's people in mission: "And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Matthew 28:20)