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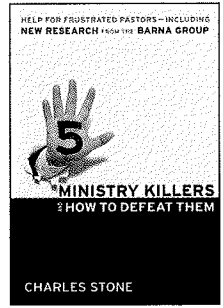
-Bonnie Bruner

Leadership

► *Five Ministry Killers and How to Defeat Them*

Charles Stone
Bethany House Publishers (Baker Publishing Group)
hardcover, 224 pages, \$19.99
978-0-764-20705-1

A pastor, Stone provides sustaining advice to his colleagues in *Five Ministry Killers and How to Defeat Them: Help for*



Frustrated Pastors. Using research from the Barna Group, Stone analyzes his profession almost as a business, with the congregation as the customers.

His five "killers" are denial, emotional investment in the wrong issues, unhealthy response to frustration, over-reliance on self (or self and God) and neglect of spouse and family. Rather than deal with each in turn, Stone acknowledges the inevitability of frustration in any church, then outlines four decisions a pastor should make: speak up with courage, own up with humility, show up with integrity and open up with vulnerability.

Stone hopes that by spelling out the challenges leaders face, it will help the lay community better understand and appreciate their pastor.

-John D. Leatherman

at Brook Hills in Birmingham, wonders if the "American Dream" is compatible with the Great Commission, in *Radical: Taking Back Your Faith From the American Dream.* The author contends that the American church has turned away from the message of Jesus and molded the Christian life into its own image—one that closely resembles materialism, excess and complacency.

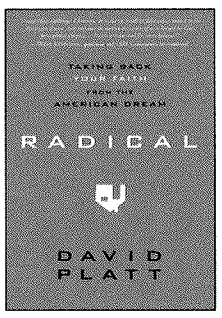
He encourages readers to re-visit the revolutionary message of Christianity. He draws inspiration from leaders such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who defied Hitler and urged believers to abandon attachments to this world. Ultimately, Platt challenges readers to partake in a *Radical* experiment. The book, in fact, includes a contract, an agreement to commit to five goals—praying for the entire world, reading through the entire Bible, sacrificing money for a specific purpose, spending time in another context and multiplying community.

Platt's work is, in a word, convicting. *Radical* will inspire Western readers to think beyond themselves and see through a global lens as well as spread the message of Christ.

-C. Brian Smith

Women's Issues

► *I Will Carry You* Angie Smith



► *When a Man You Love Was Abused*

Cecil Murphey
Kregel Publications
softcover, 256 pages, \$13.99
978-0-825-43353-5

Popular author Murphey tackles the taboo topic of sexual abuse in *When a Man You Love Was Abused: A Woman's Guide to Helping Him Overcome Childhood Sexual Molestation.* The book was spawned from a magazine article that generated significant response. Acknowledging that the problem is far too common, the author offers a sympathetic take on personal healing.

In addition to providing many personal stories of couples who have faced such challenges, Murphey offers his own advice to wives, including allowing a husband's inconsistencies and the need for honesty and not pushing him to forgive the abuser. Although men may glean insights that will help, Murphey's attention is consistently pointed toward women. He even relates stories of the prominent role wives have played in the healing of men he has counseled.

As an abuse survivor himself, Murphey, a *New York Times* best-selling author, combines balanced, heartfelt compassion and practical steps for healing.

-Hamby

