



Ironwood
**YOUTH
LEADERS
RETREAT**

“Putting feet to the brain”

April 23-25, 2015

*Ideas shared by **Ryan Rench**,
youth director at Calvary
Baptist Church, Temecula, CA.*

*I'd love to connect with you—
tell/ask me anything! Contact
me at*

***ryanrench@gmail.com** or
on my cell: (951) 719-7191.*

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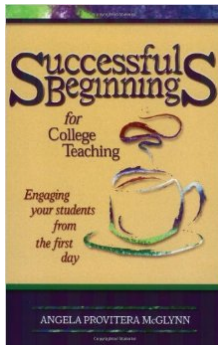
Books

Reading books has been one of the greatest benefits to my personal life as well as my ministry. Over the past two years, I have read more than ever before, mainly because I now listen to many audiobooks. We reviewed two websites (audible.com and audiobooks.com) at last year's retreat, and reported on several books from each. This year we have added several more books.

Please understand that these book reviews do NOT represent my endorsement of the author or content of each book. Here they are, grouped by topic but arranged in no particular order.

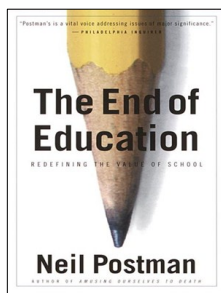
Teaching Books

Teaching in a school and preaching in a church are completely different exercises. I began teaching a daily (M, Tu, W, F) Bible class at a local Christian school, and quickly realized how inadequate a teacher I was/am. I am working through the following books to help me 1) Understand the philosophy of teaching and 2) Get ideas for *how* to teach (tactics, tricks, formulas, etc.)



Successful Beginnings for College Teaching. By Angela Provitera McGlynn. This book provides a balanced look at both philosophy and tactics. It is helping me understand teaching better and it includes several good suggestions for teaching tactics. It provides examples of each of the principles it teaches, although I have found that it is somewhat technical, obscure, or impractical at times. I haven't found it earth-shattering, but it has been helpful. 3/5*

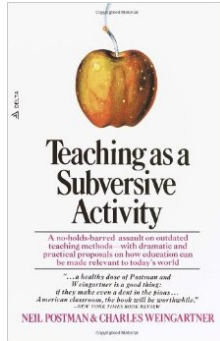
I have not completed the following, but they're on my reading list. Included are the original comments by my friend who recommended them:



The End of Education and/or ***Teaching as a Subversive Activity*** by Neil Postman – I include both titles in one heading because they will both make the same contribution to your development. I personally think they are both worthy uses of your time, but then again, it's not my time I'm spending :) The great thing about both of these books is that, upon

Postman's death, they have now become essentially public domain.

Here are the direct pdf links for each:

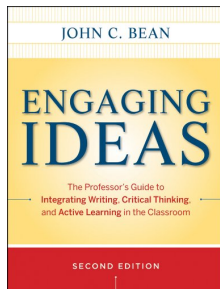


The End of Education -

<http://brilliant-learning.com/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/04/Neil-Postman-The-End-of-Education.pdf>

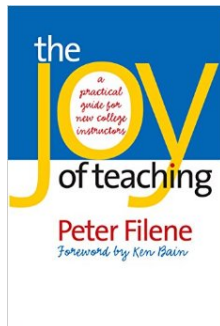
Teaching as a Subversive Activity -

<http://ir.nmu.org.ua/bitstream/handle/123456789/129284/2acc6cf8d29603bd81ba8253a752e03b.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>

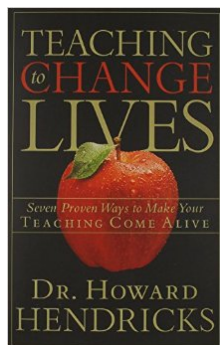


Engaging Ideas: The Professor's Guide to Integrating Writing, Critical Thinking, and Active Learning in the Classroom by John C. Bean - How's that for an engaging title? This book is both philosophical and practical and has been the book producing the most recent changes in both Gospels and Advanced Homiletics. The results have worked. Applying ideas here could help you better use your discussion times and class assignments. The really practical stuff comes in

later chapters.



The Joy of Teaching by Peter Filene - This one is practical and inspiring.



Teaching To Change Lives: Seven Proven Ways to Make Your Teaching Come Alive by Howard Hendricks - This is a great and simple read from a godly man (long-time education professor at Dallas Theological Seminary) and Christian perspective. It provides significant and obvious overlap for teaching in Sunday school environments. It's practical and inspirational, as well—and from a Bible-education perspective.

Preaching Books

A Man of God. I try to preach complete expository sermons each Sunday as if I were pastoring a church. As I give myself to the Word and faithfully feed “my” little flock (as I view my teens), I am helped and challenged, personally. I am convinced that the preached Word is God’s plan to communicate His truth to each generation, and I want my skill in the pulpit to constantly develop (and not just through experience!).

In the OT, Elijah was a man of God. He preached God’s truth to his generation in a confrontational manner. Not that his *spirit* was confrontational (which some people view preaching as anger, judging, or arrogance), but his *message* was contrary to the people’s lifestyle, and therefore confrontational. When the people were confronted with their sin, they either turned to or away from God.

In the NT, John the Baptist preached the same way. He, too, was a man of God, and preached God’s Word in a clear, confrontational way. When he came to prominence based on his preaching, people asked, “*What then? Art thou Elias? And he saith, I am not. Art thou that prophet? And he answered, No.*” (John 1:21) It was as if people were shocked to hear his message, and it reminded them of the Old Testament prophets—thundering out God’s Word to His people.

The culture of Elijah’s day was different than the culture of John the Baptist’s, but the Word never changed. Not coincidentally, the method of preaching did not change, either. The man of God took the Word of God and preached it to God’s people, confronting them with God’s truth, leaving them to decide what to do with the truth they had just received.

Today, we stand in similar roles—called to be men of God as youth directors, associate pastors, senior pastors, and Christian workers. We who are called to preach have the same obligation as John the Baptist, albeit to a whole new culture. While times and cultures might change, God’s method of preaching has not.

One of the core principles of the youth ministry at our church is that we are intentional about developing young people who are passionate about God’s Word. One way we try to accomplish this is to hold the ministry of preaching in very high regard—keeping the pulpit hot.

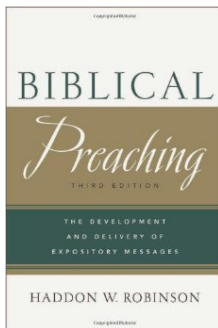
Is every Sunday school sermon confrontational? Of course not. At least, not in the way you might think when you hear the term *confrontational*.

Every sermon is biblical, though. Every sermon, to the best of our ability, is clear. Every sermon takes the timeless truth from thousands of years ago, spans the ages, bridges the culture and time gap and applies it to teens living in 2015. Every sermon clearly articulates God’s thoughts

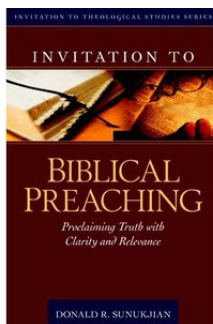
from the Word first, then takes those thoughts and makes them mean something to a homeschooled 7th grader and a graduate going to SDSU this Fall.

My main responsibility as a youth director is to lead the hearts of our church's teens to draw closer to God. My mission is accomplished when my teens are in love with God's Word—through preaching and their personal study. While I cannot control their personal devotional life, I can try to provide a youth environment where they are at least hearing God's voice a couple times a week through preaching.

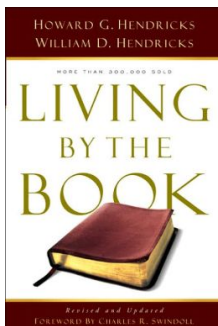
Because of this weighty responsibility to be accurate and clear, I want to constantly grow in my preaching ministry. So, periodically I will read new books and revisit old ones. The following is a short list of some of the books that have helped me.



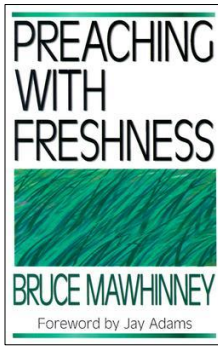
Biblical Preaching. By Haddon Robinson. This is the original book I studied when learning to preach. It follows the format of arriving at a “Big Idea” from each biblical text, then applying that to the hearers through preaching. It is strong on biblical content but weak on arranging the ideas into a certain structure. Reading this book changed my life and shaped my passion for preaching, and I have gone through it with a few of my young men who are called to preach. Because of its weakness on outlining, I give it a 4/5*, although it's my #1 recommendation.



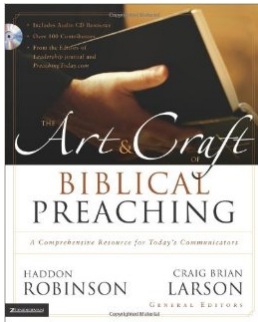
Invitation to Biblical Preaching. By Don Sunukjian. Every modern day sermon must follow the original author's thoughts in order to be accurate. Sunukjian does a masterful job of getting into the flow of the original author's thoughts and designing the entire structure of the sermon along this route. He provides several case study examples that build throughout the book, and his method is accurate and explained well. It can get technical, at times, but is a very good read. 4/5* (Although it's rated lower than some, I list it as one of the first books I'd recommend.)



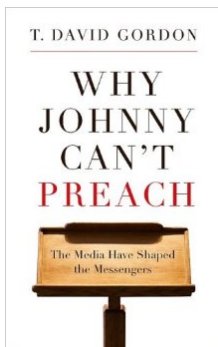
Living By the Book. By Howard Hendricks. This book has been referenced many times by others at Ironwood. I refer to it here as a masterful—albeit basic (in a good way!)—approach to hermeneutics. It is written to the student as a beginning manual, although the techniques are as deep as you can get in Bible study. 5/5*



Preaching With Freshness. By Bruce Mawhinney. This book provides just what the title promises—a freshness to the vital aspect of your youth ministry. The book is written in a story format, is easy to read, is inspiring and surprising instructional. It is a quick (2 hour) read, yet incredibly helpful. 5/5*

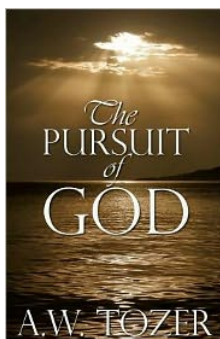


The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching. Compiled by Haddon Robinson and Craig Larson. This collection of articles provides quick insights by dozens of authors. Each article is categorized and indexed by topic, providing a quick reference for topics such as hermeneutics, application, delivery, structure and more. You can pick and choose your favorite topics, so I give it a 5/5*

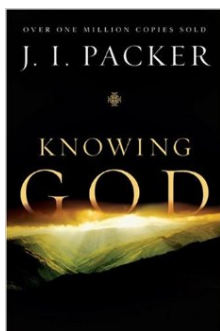


Why Johnny Can't Preach. By T. David Gordon. Dr. Gordon was diagnosed with cancer and was not expected to live. He wrote this book with a “What do I have to lose?” mentality. He bore his heart (and frustrations) to all who would read. In time, he was cured of the cancer, but the book was still published. It challenges some common errors in preaching (like ignoring the author’s intent) and is a helpful little book, packed with conversational topics. This book is a great read, with no down-sides. 5/5*

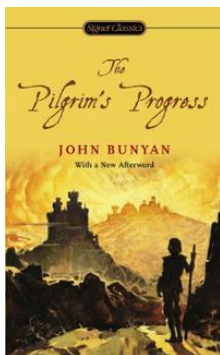
Christian/Ministry Books



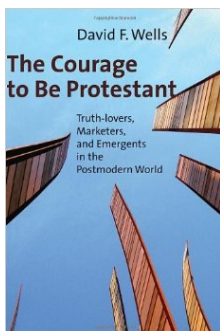
The Pursuit of God. By A. W. Tozer. This was one of those books I should have read a long time ago and never got around to. Finally, one day I read it and loved it. It is a delightful and insightful theological book packed with introspective questions. It probes deeper than any book I have read in a long time, and I needed its insight. 5/5*



Knowing God. By J. I. Packer. This is my new favorite theology book. Packer exposes personal faults by drawing the reader closer to God through common doctrines. Although it is a deeply doctrinal book (it works its way through several of the core doctrines of the Bible), it can be approached devotionally. Meaning, rather than being a dry systematic theology (i.e. Bancroft), it is a thought provoking and awe-inspiring read. I highly recommend this book. 5/5*



Pilgrims Progress. By John Bunyan. This book, too, can be devotional in its content as well as instructive in several different biblical doctrines. I have never read the unabridged version before, and I am about 1/4 through. Already it has been interesting to note the various struggles and tests we go through as Christians, and the allegorical format has been a nice change of pace from my personal reading habits (typically I only read non-fiction type books). This book is my in-between reading, but can be laborious, at times. I have to be in the right mood to read this book, as it takes a while to get into. 4/5*



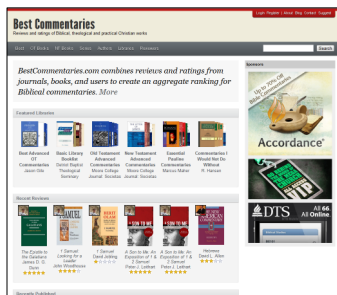
The Courage To Be Protestant. By David Wells. While *Knowing God* is my new favorite personal book, *Courage...* is my new favorite Ecclesiology book. If you care about truth and are concerned with the direction that modern churches are taking it, read this book. It is a bleak and somewhat hopeless task—humanly speaking—to contend for truth, but this book provides solid arguments that show the erosion of truth if we are not careful. *Courage* is a compilation of four of Mr. Wells' previous books. 5/5*



I Am a Church Member. By Thom Rainer. This practical and simple book has been the foundation of a simple series I am currently preaching to our church. In a day when church membership is somewhat looked down on, this book goes through several aspects of what church membership should look like. It is basic and, at times, weak on Scripture (using sparse one-verse proof-texts on some points), but I use the creeds and the structure of the book as the basis of my sermon series. 4/5*

Commentaries

I include commentaries as a subset of the “Christian Books” category. When I approach a new sermon series (usually through a book of the Bible), I browse for the best commentaries to help me study. Some of my processes and purchases have included the following:



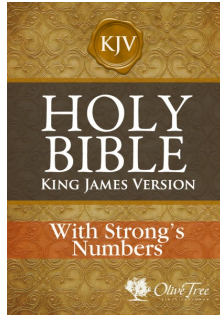
BestCommentaries.com. My first step in finding commentary reviews is to look up BestCommentaries.com and search for the book of the Bible I am interested in. This website rates each major commentary and applies various tags and scores including Devotional, Technical, Pastoral, and Special Studies. Each book includes Amazon reviews as well as other thorough reviews, and shows the various websites and software programs that sell the book (i.e. Amazon.com, Olive Tree App, Logos software, etc.)



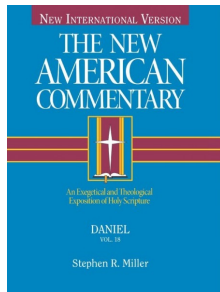
Olive Tree Bible App. With free apps for Mac, Windows, iOS and Android, the Olive Tree App is my go-to resource for all Bible study. I have spent WAY too much money on commentaries because, well, it’s so easy! I sign into my Olive Tree account on any device, browse for the book I want, and click download. It’s just about that easy!

With this app I can view Strong’s references by just tapping the word in the Bible, and I can view side-by-side comparison of the Scripture with the commentary that accompanies it. As I scroll in Scripture, the commentary scrolls too. In additional, all notes and highlights sync with all connected apps, so any work I do on my iPhone can update on my Mac, and vice versa.

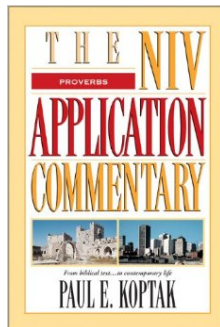
From my Olive Tree App I've purchased several books:



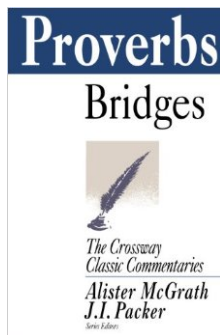
KJV With Strong's References. This is the tab that is always open on the left panel. It includes one-touch popup definitions of each word.



NAC Vol. 18 – Daniel. By Stephen Miller. This Daniel commentary is not overly technical, not too wordy, and very applicable. It blends devotional content with technical accuracy. In addition, it is theologically conservative and I agree with most of its teachings. I also have the Luke Volume in the NT set, and it is equally valuable.

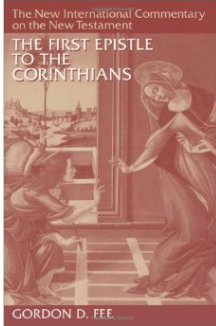


NIV Application Commentary Proverbs. By Paul Koptak. While I personally do not use the NIV Bible (I use the KJV exclusively in my personal study and church ministry), I have found this commentary set to be helpful. I have purchased the Proverbs and Ephesians Volumes from this set, and each have been well formatted. The Proverbs Volume is approached in three sections: Original Meaning, Bridging Contexts, and Contemporary Significance. Each chapter is divided into paragraph texts and then put through all three of these approaches. The Original Meaning section is helpful to understand the author's intent, and it is the most helpful section of the commentary, in my opinion.



Bridges Commentary On Proverbs. As part of the *Crossway Classic Commentaries* set, this book provides valuable insights into the book of Proverbs. It is not overly technical and reads similar to a Spurgeon or Matthew Henry book, although the content goes a bit deeper. It is a helpful

resource for a classic look at certain texts, although it may not answer some of the tougher questions you might have regarding a particular text.



New International Commentary On the New Testament: First Corinthians. By Gordon Fee. Considered a Bible expert, Dr. Fee is a renowned author known especially for this book and the college classes he taught around it. While I had to skip some of his sections on sign gifts, I found his overall approach masterful. He found Paul’s heart and mind as he wrote to the Corinthians, and uncovered Paul’s motives line by line through this commentary. I appreciated Dr. Fee’s approach throughout the book on always recounting *why* each text was originally written. What was God trying to fix in *them*; then, through them, fix in *us*?

Miscellaneous Books

Last year, God convicted me about my reading habits. For whatever reason, I had not read a Christian book in a long time (besides commentaries). I distinctly remember completing a certain book and searching for a new one when the thought struck me. *Hey... why am I not reading more Christian material?* That’s when I purchased and read *The Pursuit of God*.

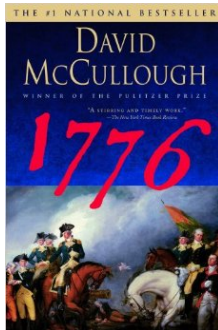
I now try to always be in a book that will deepen my walk with God. I plan on rereading old college books or leaning on recommended reading lists. One such list is included in each edition of the *Global Baptist Times* magazine, a bimonthly publication produced by my former pastor, Pastor Wayne Hardy. Each magazine includes three book reviews on various topics as well as a page full of “Stimulating Snippets,” or quotes from several different books.

Another reading tactic I have tried to incorporate this past year has been to vary my reading. I heard it recommended by several different people—authors, preachers, business men, secular and Christian leaders—I knew there must be something to it. So instead of my usual reading habits, I expanded to other types of reading.

I am glad I did. Very glad.

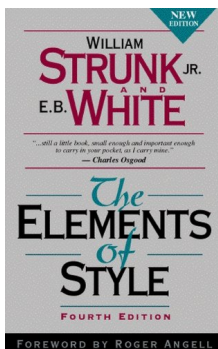
I wholly recommend varying your reading. It broadens your knowledge base and exposes you to new worlds you never knew existed. We can get locked in on one particular genre or style of reading, and we miss the variety of life. At least... that’s what I did!

Now I try to read several different types of books. The following are the most recent, in no particular order:

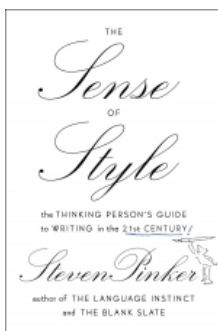


independence. 5/5*

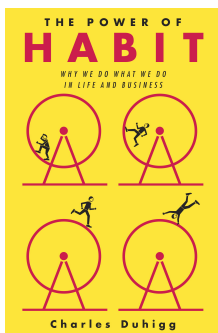
1776. By David McCullough. My wife and I bought this book for my dad back when it first got popular, but we never read it ourselves. Even if you are not into history, this book is so compelling and so insightful, you are sure to enjoy it. You are drawn into the story of the revolution as the author takes you through the worst year of the war for America's independence—1776. Although it was the year of our declaration of independence, it was a bleak time in America's history. This book gives renewed appreciation for our country's founders and struggle for



The Elements of Style. By William Strunk and E. B. White. Don't judge this book by its cover. As style manuals go, this one is a standard. While not everyone agrees with all the rules and exceptions of the English language, we can all appreciate this English professor's passion for words. After reading this book, I realized how horrible a writer I am (!). I personally loved the book and recommend to anyone who is interested in writing. 5/5*

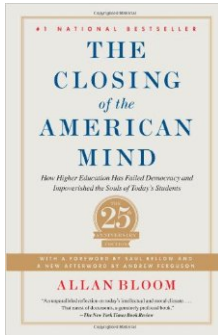


The Sense of Style. By Steven Pinker. I *should have* judged this book by its cover. Once I got into it, I could not finish, so I returned it. It was laced with edgy examples that were too inappropriate for my tastes. Although it promoted a more modern style of writing (especially when compared to Strunk's *Elements of Style*), it was not authoritative enough to merit completing. I learned a few things in the little I read, but not enough to make it worth my time. 2/5*



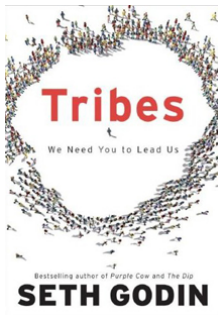
top of your next reading list, it's that good. 5/5*

The Power of Habit. By Charles Duhigg. Taking you through case study after example after story, Duhigg details the science behind our habits. In essence, *everything* we do is a result of some habit built up over time to relieve our minds from having to rethink life every day. I am still working on ways to make this practical to others, but personally, it has been absolutely eye-opening. I now (at least) notice what triggers my habits, and I am working to change some bad habits by changing my routines. This is an excellent book recommended everywhere. It should be right up at the



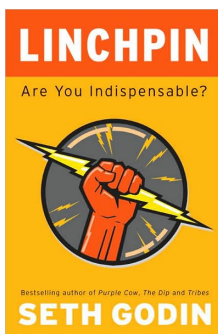
The Closing of the American Mind. By Allan Bloom. Written in the 1980's by an American university professor, this secular book frames some of America's moral problems in terms of bad education. To me, this book was good but not great. It was a boring read and carried little practical value to me. My favorite parts of the book were a couple fabulous chapters that articulated American problems with rock music, the decay of the family and other social issues. These chapters made the book worthwhile, to me, because they helped validate (from a secular educator's viewpoint)

what preachers have been saying for generations. 3/5*



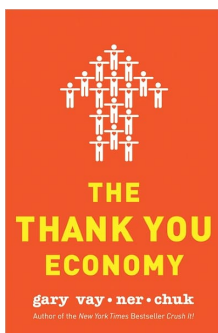
Tribes. By Seth Godin. I mentioned this last year but hadn't read it at the time. It was one of my first reads upon returning home, and it is a classic Seth Godin book—high on philosophy and intentionally low on practicality. I appreciate this style of writing and tend to think that way, so I enjoyed this book. It is motivational, spurring the reader to take action and do what he knows he should be doing. For us as Christians, this means doing what God has called us to do with all our might. This book easily translates to Christian ministry, but is far too self-centered to be

recommended as a ministry manual. 4/5*



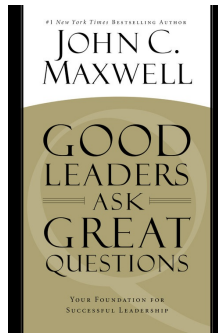
Linchpin. By Seth Godin. *Linchpin* is more practical than *Tribes*, but tends along the same path. It takes a high-view approach to life, encouraging the reader to be and do the best he can. In essence, this book tells the reader to constantly give himself to grow, stretch himself, and do what he does best rather than getting caught in the common everyday tasks of life. In Christian terms, this translates to excellence in ministry and personally developing and working within your strongest spiritual gifts. And, if you are so inclined, taking everything you do up a level, motivating

others around you to do the same. 4/5*

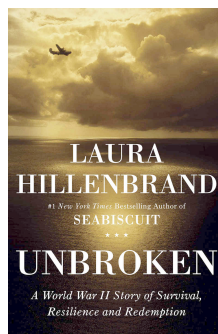


The Thank You Economy. By Gary Vaynerchuk. Yet another example of a secular book that preaches biblical principles. *The Thank You Economy* is a book about giving. Modern marketing strategies include giving of your expertise in any way that you can. It is said that the more you give, the more you are rewarded. As businesses and business leaders

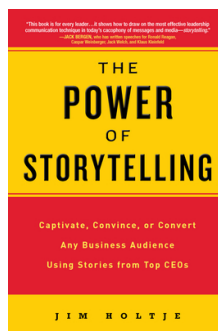
give of their time, their expertise and their knowledge, the market responds by rewarding them financially. This entire book is devoted to inserting yourself into circles in which you can contribute, resulting in financial gain. We can learn to give as Christian leaders, too. 4/5*



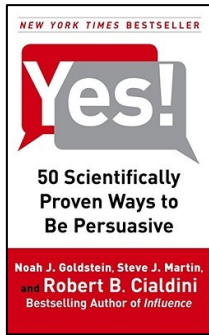
Good Leaders Ask Great Questions. By John C. Maxwell. This was the first and only full John Maxwell book I have ever read, but I like it so much, I immediately began reading it again. I became an immediate John Maxwell fan from this book because of his transparency, honesty, sincerity and experience. His writing is easy to read and packed with valuable statements. Although some of his quips might sound cliché, they are nonetheless profound, regardless of how often you have heard them stated elsewhere. In the past (before I had read a full book of his), I thought of Maxwell as shallow and self-centered, and I questioned how one man could write so much about one such narrow topic. I see, now. His personal stories, tactics, and helpful arguments were beneficial, to say nothing yet about the content of the book. I came across a podcast interview of him, heard him reference this book, purchased it and read it within a week. I learned much about questions, and thoroughly enjoyed this book. 5/5*



Unbroken. By Laura Hillenbrand. I'm realizing I have a lot of favorites. This book is my favorite, too. If you are into "thrillers," this one will blow the others away, because it is a true story. *Unbroken* chronicles the story of Louis Zamperini, an olympian on track to break the 4-minute mile before he was drafted in the war, stranded at sea under record circumstances, nearly killed in a POW camp and finally released from prison, sin and ultimate bitterness. *Unbroken* is by far **the most incredible, unbelievable story** I have ever read. 5/5*



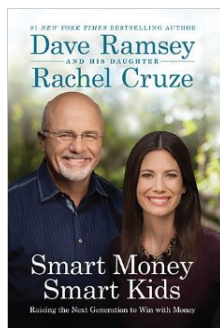
The Power of Storytelling. By Jim Holtje. What I thought was a "how-to" book on how to communicate through telling stories turned out to be a compilation book of stories. While I did not learn what I thought I would, I did enjoy the book. It is grouped by topic and is to be used similar to a *1001 Illustrations For Preaching* book, although written for a corporate business audience. The stories cover several prominent CEOs of the past several decades. While it was not what I expected, I can recommend it as a simple entertaining/informative read. 3/5*



Yes. By Robert Cialdini. When searching for another book (*Getting to Yes*), I came across *Yes* and mistakenly purchased it, thinking it was the original book I was after. I was disappointed upon completing the book, because it did not provide the punch I hoped it would. It was written well, but not overly so. I think I was jaded because my expectations were too high. *Yes* delivers just what it promises in the title: 50 tactics of persuasion. It is not a sleazy approach, but it is not intriguing, either. 3/5*



EntreLeadership. By Dave Ramsey. Last year, I presented this as a book I was halfway finished with. Once I finished it, it became one of my favorite business books of all. Dave Ramsey’s intentionally Christian approach to life and business is a refreshing new look at “success.” His book details a lot of their hiring process, their daily processes, and their core values. It was a challenge to me, personally, to be more intentional about my life and ministry. 5/5*

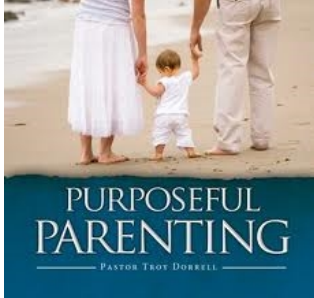


Smart Money, Smart Kids. By Dave Ramsey and Rachel Cruze. Dave Ramsey produced a book and series of church and home lessons on raising kids to be wise with their current and future finances. This book is full of stories, tips, tricks and ideas on how to raise money-smart kids who are dedicated to giving, saving and spending their money for the glory of God. 5/5*



Foundations in Personal Finance. By Dave Ramsey. The Dave Ramsey team has also created a high school and college finance program that I am currently working through at a Christian school I teach at. This curriculum is available for home study or in-school classrooms. It walks students through all the basics of finances and meets all national standards for education. Bible verses coincide with each chapter to show the biblical foundation on which these financial principles are built. Because it is not

distinctly Christian (as it is adapted for public schools), I give it a 4/5*, but the curriculum is a fabulous learning tool.



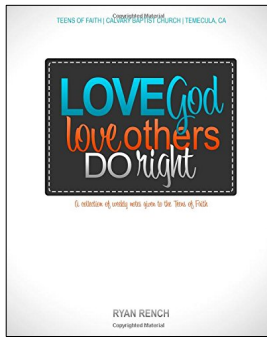
Purposeful Parenting. By Pastor Troy Dorrell. Pastor Dorrell has conducted family and parenting seminars all over America using his material called *Purposeful Parenting*. His 50-page workbook coincides with four MP3 lessons on raising children. I have been through the series twice, and each time has been a help to me as a father of 2 kids. The seminar is available by contacting Eastland Baptist Church, Tulsa, OK, or by visiting bookstore.heartlandbaptist.edu. 5/5*

Books Produced By CBC

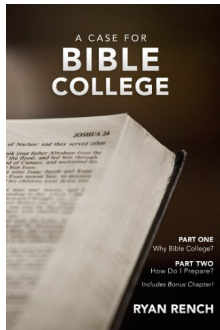
BIBS: Big Idea Bible Study. At this retreat (Youth Leaders Retreat) a couple years ago I presented the small spiral-bound BIBS devotionals that our youth group worked through. *BIBS* originally started as a weekly class teaching time and then a daily devotional. Last August I was approached about teaching a Bible class at a local Christian high school, so I worked my lesson notes into a book format and published the book to use as our class textbook. *BIBS* uses Howard Hendricks' "Observation, Interpretation, Application" method to interpret Scripture and arrive at a Big Idea, applying it to our everyday lives. It is written to help young people and seasoned Christians alike.

BIBS Devotional: One-Year. In conjunction with the *BIBS* release, we reworked our daily devotionals to a larger format better suited to the daily writing that goes with the devotional format. The *BIBS Devotional Book* is a daily Bible reading and study plan. It is designed to guide the reader in both an in-depth study of a certain short passage every day, as well as weekly overview readings of the surrounding chapters to provide context. The *BIBS Devotional: One-Year* edition covers the following books: 1 Thessalonians, Romans, Daniel, Philippians, James, Ruth and 1 Corinthians.

BIBS Devotional: Proverbs. This devotional is a 30-week study through highlights from each chapter of Proverbs.



Love God, Love Others, Do Right. The Teens of Faith have been my life and ministry since 2010. Since day one, in every class (Sundays and Wednesdays), the teens have received a note in their announcement sheets. This is a compilation of those notes. Enjoy!



A Case For Bible College. This book is a 2-part look at why our church encourages our teens to attend a year of Bible college. It originated as a simple course to help prepare students for Bible college and grew into a full book. Part One is written to the parents and shows WHY we encourage Bible college. Part Two is written to help the prospective student know how to prepare – financially, academically, spiritually, etc.

*(See NEXT PAGE for BIBS pricing and ordering info. Our church purchased several hundred to give to each attendee of our annual Preaching Rally, and we had leftovers. **Please see me if you want a FREE copy of BIBS.**)*



BIBS

A DEVOTIONAL SUITE

USING THE BIG IDEA BIBLE STUDY // AVAILABLE NOW

ONE BOOK	DEVO PACKET	BIBS +1	BIBS SUITE
<p>BIBS \$13⁹⁹ Step-by-step instruction book</p> <p>One-Year (Blue) \$10⁹⁹ One year through several books</p> <p>Proverbs (Red) \$8⁹⁹ 30 weeks through Proverbs</p>	<p>\$15⁹⁹</p> <p>Both Devotionals Includes almost 20 months of personal devotions.</p> <p>Covers the following books: 1 Thessalonians, Romans, Daniel, James, Ruth, Philippians, 1 Corinthians, and Proverbs</p>	<p>\$18⁹⁹</p> <p>Includes 2 Books</p> <p>BIBS Plus choose one</p> <p>One Year Devotional (Blue) or: Proverbs Devotional (Red)</p>	<p>\$25⁹⁹</p> <p>All 3 Books</p> <p>\$31 value Almost 20% off</p> <p>BIBS: Big Idea Bible Study One Year Devotional (Blue) Proverbs Devotional (Red)</p>

Misc. Ideas

Youth Ideas

Interns. Our two summer interns last year did everything for us. I mean everything! They ran the bus ministry, oversaw outreach, prepped for Sundays, ran fund-raisers, organized church functions, went to camp, made videos, renovated the youth room, organized youth activities... everything!

I start every morning with the interns, training and helping them. We look over what they accomplished since the last time we met and we plan out what they're going to do next. This fosters communication and friendship. They preached several times to the teens and gave announcements in church to help them gain valuable experience.

This year, I plan to take them through the "Personality Cards" activity we did at last year's Youth Leaders Retreat as well as get to know them through a free personality test on 16personalities.com. Over the past couple internships, I have been developing an intern manual for each new set of guys. This includes a lot of discussion on philosophy and thought processes, as well as things that are specific to our church. I try to expose them to as much ministry as possible during their short summer, and we try to structure their weeks to give them a broad experience of ministry. We love our interns, and we are looking forward to our next group. It takes a lot of training and oversight, but rewards are huge!

Youth nights. I mentioned youth nights last year, but here's an update. We've seen our monthly youth nights really help our young people. Whether they realize it or not, they are gaining valuable experience just in the public service that they are involved in. By ushering, praying in front of the church, leading the congregational singing, doing the special music and greeting people before services, they are stretching themselves beyond what a lot of adults are willing to do! I have loved our youth nights and we will continue doing them.

Game room. Last summer, our interns tore a wall down and opened up an unused classroom that we are now using as our game room. We also redecorated the room, repainting the walls and hanging several more 8x10, 10x14, and 11x17 frames (under \$5 ea. at walmart.com). We have a wall dedicated to our camp photos, a wall dedicated to our Preaching Rally posters, a wall dedicated to Bible college, a chalkboard wall and random photos from recent activities scattered everywhere else. The game room opened up a social area where we built a bar-height

counter on which we place our signup sheets, brochures, picture books (all the pictures we replace in the frames go in binders), pens and more. Our youth room is now less cramped and feels very welcoming with the new colors and pictures. Also, the pictures allow us as independent Baptists to show immediately that we are normal people with normal lives. Conservative churches do not have to portray “stuffiness” or somehow be “untouchable.” Pictures of teens having fun helps accomplish that goal.



Camp t-shirts. Each year for camp we unveil a new camp t-shirt. Our first full year as youth directors (2011), this idea helped build excitement and unity as it was new and exciting. We did a simple blue shirt with our logo and class verse.

The next year (2012), we reused the logo and stylized our little mantra: “Love God, love others, do right.” The maroon shirts were intentionally designed to not be too edgy so as to give a non-Christian impression, but still very cool (cool enough for our cool kids to wear to their public schools).



In 2013, our February Preaching Rally had an important theme, so we donated a yellow t-shirt to each of the 400 attendees. Our teens reused these for camp that summer, but we also added a new shirt. The 2-color “Clean Up” shirts were a reminder of our new sermon series through 1 Corinthians, how that

Paul was repeatedly telling the Corinthians to clean up their lives by fellowshipping with Jesus (1 Cor. 1:8-9).



Last summer, we went all out... we had so many good ideas for t-shirts (and some extra financial donations), that we gave each teen TWO shirts (see previous images). And, for the first time, we purchased **ladies fitted t-shirts** so that they didn't have to end up swimming in their unisex tees again. The ladies shirts were extremely modest and (equally important, in my opinion) looked feminine. Our ladies loved them, and we will continue to spend the extra money to get the ladies shirts. The designs were a simple palm tree design on one (grey/orange), and a humorous "Respect the Hairlines of your youth staff" (complete with our silhouettes) on the other (red heather/white). By the way, in the images above, we are playing that insane form of musical chairs that we learned last year (remove a chair, not a person). Thanks for the idea!

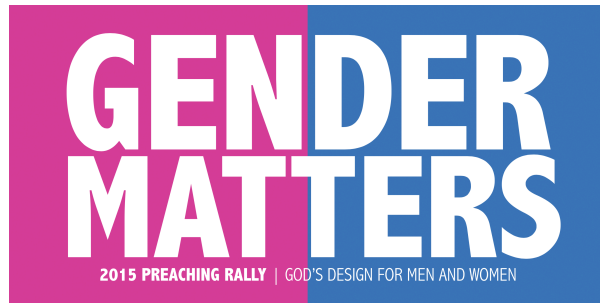
Each shirt was intentionally designed and has its own unique story.



Most of our teens wear their shirts proudly, portraying a Christian image and a good testimony of our church. This summer's t-shirts (2015) will be "IDIOtS UNITE," a play on the Greek word (idios) for unique (as in idiosyncrasy) taken from 1 Corinthians 12:11. As unique, individual members, we are called to be a part of the local body—God's church (hence, *unite*).

Proverbs series. Our newest Sunday series has been a look at this question, "What is the wise thing to do?" I was listening to a podcast recently that asked the same question, and I thought that question would be an easy way to describe Proverbs. Not surprisingly, each sermon has come back to the essential choice between wisdom or selfishness. Proverbs is simple to explain and easy to apply to teens. It was written to young people, so every warning in Proverbs is applicable to teens. It is a great book to preach from as I pull out standout texts from each chapter.





“Gender Matters” Theme for 2015 Preaching Rally. In the past year, the controversial California “restroom” law passed; Apple’s CEO, Tim Cook, came out as openly gay; and Facebook introduced scores of gender “options” to identify with. Now, more than ever before, Christian teens need to hear biblical truth about their gender. At this year’s Preaching Rally, our preacher laid out the distinctions very clearly, using a Play-Doh mold of a man (blue) and woman (pink) to show that when the stuff we’re made of is formed by God, the image is beautiful. But, when the world gets its hands on the stuff, it becomes a jumbled mess.

For the first time ever, the preacher spoke to the men while his wife spoke to the ladies in split sessions. Each session was tied to the theme, laying out God’s view of biblical manhood and womanhood. In essence, understanding what we are before God—sinners saved by grace with equal chance to be used by God—levels the playing field. One man is not “more manly” than the next because of what he can do, or else the *athlete* is only “manly” when he’s playing sports, the *mechanic* is only “manly” when he’s using his hands, the *outdoorsman* is only “manly” when he’s hunting, and the computer *geek* fits in... nowhere. Culture doesn’t determine “manliness,” because if you take an athlete and place him behind a computer or under a hood, he is suddenly inept. Is he therefore less “manly?” No. His manliness lies not in what he does—humanly speaking—but what he is and does—spiritually speaking. As a man, his greatest trait is being what God designed him to be by living within his strengths as a Christian. Hence, we have Christian athletes, Christian mechanics, and Christian computer specialists. They are disciples of Christ first. Discipleship is what makes a man manly (likewise, the principles are equally applied to ladies).

Tape measure questions. Lay out a 25’ tape measure on the floor and pose questions to small groups of teens (ideally less than 20). Have them rate themselves by standing on the tape measure as a scale from 1-25. Notice how peer pressure influences them to change their minds or wait for the crowd. Ask probing questions that cause them to think of their answers. For example, if they are standing on #1 and say they are *extremely against* homosexuality, ask them, “Why?” Do not let them answer just because they think it is what the church believes. If they are going to be *extremely for* or *extremely against* something, they ought to have good reasons for it! Use it as a teaching time to instill leadership, choosing friends wisely, understanding peer pressure, standing on what you believe in, courage and more. Some sample ideas might be

things like, “On a scale of 1-25, with 1 being extremely *against* it and 25 being extremely *for* it, how would you rate _____ (homosexuality, love of the Bible, divorce, etc. Or, start with silly things like Coke/Pepsi, bald youth pastors, etc.)

Skits. For another source of clean skits, consider adapting Studio C’s skits found on YouTube. I have scripts typed for several skits: Ann the Librarian, Radio Mystery Hour, Dana’s Dead, Diabetes Intervention, International Relations, Message from Above, National Relations, One Angry Man, and Spelling Bee.

Co-op “Catechism” Class. On Thursday mornings, a small group of homeschooled kids and teens meet at our church for classes and activities. Our chapel time consists of a recurring curriculum we are developing on our own each week, which will work through all the major Bible doctrines and add detail and memory verses through the years. We approach it similar to a catechism, using rote learning on past lessons and adding one new aspect each week. Since the students range from Kindergarten to high school, the lessons are basic yet theologically sound. Also, because we will repeat the content annually and build upon the past, we are not overly concerned about deep understanding at this time. Following, you will see our weekly handout which develops weekly as Pastor and I teach each doctrine. We ask the questions in bold and the students answer, then they quote their memory verses:

Doctrine

What is doctrine? The teachings of the Bible.

1 Timothy 4:16 Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.

Who/what is God? God is a spirit.

John 4:24 God is a spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

How do we know there’s a God? Through creation and His Word.

Psalm 19:1-6 The heavens declare the glory of God...

Romans 1:18-32

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

How can we know God? Know Jesus Christ.

John 4:6-7 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ⁷If ye had known me, ye should have

God’s Word

What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word.

1 Peter 1:21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

Theology (The Study of God)

known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him.

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and **so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:**

Pneumatology (The Study of the Holy Spirit)

Who/what is the Holy Spirit? The Holy Spirit is God.

1 John 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and **these three are one.**

Our Enemy (Satan)

Who/what is the Satan? Satan was an angel. He turned against God and is now the leader of God's enemies.

1 Peter 5:8 Be sober, be vigilant; because your **adversary the devil**, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour:

Our Beginnings

Where did we come from? Everything was created by God.

Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.

Our Problem (Hamartiology: the study of sin)

Is anyone good enough to get to heaven? No. We have sinned.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, **There is none righteous, no, not one:**

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Why are we sinners? We are born in sin.

Our Saviour (Christology)

Who is Jesus? Jesus is God's son, born of a virgin.

Isaiah 7:14 Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us...

Galatians 4:4 ...God sent forth his son, made of a woman...

Our Salvation (Soteriology)

What Did Jesus say? "...ye must be born again."

John 3:3, 7 Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God... Marvel not that I said unto thee, **Ye must be born again.**

What does born again mean? Being saved.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Who can be saved? Anyone who repents and places their faith in Jesus.

Romans 10:13 For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.

What is repentance? Turning from sin to Christ.

Acts 20:21 Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, **repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Our Church (Ecclesiology)

What is a church? A called-out assembly of Christians.

The Greek word "ecclesia" (translated as "church") is a 2-part word: *Ek* – "out of"; and *Klesis* – "a calling." The word "Church" means "a called out assembly," and is used by Christians primarily.

What does it mean to be Baptist?

Use this acrostic:

Biblical authority—we follow what the Bible says. 2 Tim. 3:16

Autonomy of the local church—no one rules us from outside. Mat. 18:17, Acts 1:15-26, 13:1-3

Priesthood of the believer—every Christian can talk straight to God. 1 Pet. 2:5

Two offices, Pastor and deacon—not cardinal, pope, priest or anything else. Eph. 4:11, 1 Tim. 3:1-13

Individual soul liberty—you choose your eternity. Gal. 5:1

Saved, baptized church membership—we want the church to stay pure. Acts 2:27-42

Two ordinances, baptism and the Lords Supper—not foot washing. These keep the church pure. 1 Cor. 11:2, Acts 2:41-42; 1 Cor. 11:23-34

Separation of church and state—neither controls the other. Mat. 22:15-22; 28:18-20; Rom. 13:1-7

Our Security

Can I lose my salvation? No. We are kept by God's power.

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Romans 8:38-39 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39. Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Salvation's Change in Christians

How many types of people are there? Two. The righteous and the wicked.

Rom. 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

How can I be righteous? By being saved.

Rom. 3:22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference:

The Government

What's the government's job? To serve and protect.

Rom. 13:4 For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

What's our duty to the government? To support and be subject to them.

Rom. 13: 5-6 Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. 6 For for this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God's ministers, attending continually upon this very thing.

End Times (Eschatology)

What's happens next in the world? The return of the resurrected Jesus Christ.

Acts 1:11 Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.

How will Jesus return? In the clouds.

1 Thes. 4:16-17 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

What will Jesus do? Rule and reign the earth for 1,000 years.

Rev. 20:1-10

Random Ideas



Medi-Share. A few Christian companies have emerged as healthcare alternatives.

This is NOT insurance, but it covers ALL medical bills. Here's how it works:

- 1) Christians sign up and pay monthly dues.
- 2) When a medical bill comes up, members submit their bill to the sharing company.
- 3) The sharing company publishes the bill to all members.
- 4) The medical bill is paid from the shared funds.

In essence, each member is paying their medical bills off with cash rather than billing an insurance company. Many doctors and hospitals charge less when a person is self-insured.

Medi-Share Program Options

Annual Household Portion	\$500	\$1,250	\$2,500	\$3,750	\$5,000	\$7,500	\$10,000
Standard Monthly Share	N/A	\$616.00	\$498.00	\$397.00	\$338.00	\$242.00	\$174.00
Healthy Monthly Share	N/A	\$492.00	\$398.00	\$318.00	\$271.00	\$195.00	\$139.00

[Conditions apply. Please read below for details.](#)

Each member is responsible for an “Annual Household Portion” (the MAX amount they will pay out in a year). After their AHP is paid, anything ABOVE that amount is paid in full by Medi-Share shared funds.

Members can agree to pay up to \$10,000 as their AHP, or as little as \$1,250. The table above shows the monthly rates for 3+ people, with the oldest member being 30 years old. Depending on the AHP (think of it as an annual out-of-pocket deductible), rates are extremely affordable compared to current healthcare prices (our church is paying around \$2500/mo. for 2 families—my parents and my family).

I have an HSA (Health Savings Account) at a bank, allowing me to save and spend money on health related purchases tax-free. The amount that the church WAS paying will now go into my HSA (max \$10k/yr. per family) to use as my AHP. That means, healthy people who never go to

the doctor can save up to \$10k/year in another tax sheltered account, which can later be rolled into an IRA if it is not used.

Medi-Share has great rates, great payouts and great customer service. They are professional and informational. We just switched this month, so we are very new at this, but have heard great things about them.

If you DO sign up, please mention my name (Ryan Rench) as the referral. It will give our church a small bonus. Other companies like Samaritans Purse are doing similar things. Do some research and you will be pleased!

FBA – Fulfillment By Amazon. Last year, I presented the idea of FBA, and have been working it since March, 2014. Since then, I have earned an extra \$10k income on just a few hours a week.



Garage Sales. Each Saturday, I scour garage sales for items. Last week I found a \$125 NEW digital photo frame that I bought for \$5. In the past month I sold a FoodVac that I bought for \$3 (profit over \$30), a Chia Zombie head I bought for \$.50 (profited \$12), a \$10 lure (profited \$25), and scores of board games.

Thrift Stores. Each Saturday after door-knocking and the kids' naps (around 3pm), our family goes to Savers. Abe plays with the toys and my wife and I scan the board game shelves. People's garage sales are done around noon, and they donate the leftovers to Savers. Savers processes them immediately and we swoop in right in time for first dibs. We usually come away with 15-30 board games, profiting no less than \$5 per game (in addition, I've found some sweet colored jeans, too!)

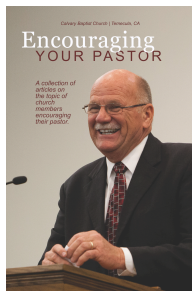
Liquidation Stores. Our town has a liquidation store that purchases truckload shipments (store returns, near expired foods, etc) and sells the items at discounted rates. Last month, I bought 22 breast pumps for \$10 each and I am profiting \$8 off each one sold (they sell for \$27, Amazon takes \$8 and I get \$18). I have sold cake mix, cake icing, water bottles, sports whistles, lotions and much more from this one store (in the past month alone). The benefit of these stores is that

you can buy multiple of each of the same item. This means you list it only *once* but add your number of inventory (don't have to list every individual item).

Dozens of websites can help get you started, and even full courses can be purchased to give you a jump-start. To get started, I would recommend the following:

1. Sign up for a free seller account at sellercentral.amazon.com (charges \$1 per item sold, or choose "pro" for \$40/month if you are selling more than 40 items.)
2. Download the Amazon Seller App.
3. Scan things in your house (board games, cans of food, *anything!*)

It's been a fun way to pay for our vacation, buy myself a little work truck and have a few extra bucks in our emergency fund.



Encourage Your Pastor. October is Pastor Appreciation month, but our church has rarely done many special things for our pastor. Since I am Pastor's son, I felt that it was out of line for me to head up any kind of special gift for him. Instead, I preached to the church on a topic that is sometimes neglected by our humble pastor—the church's role and the pastor's role.

I preached the morning and evening services on a Sunday in August, as well as the following Wednesday. My parents were out of town and I was filling the pulpit, so I used it as an opportunity to preach a topic that might be awkward if Pastor were present.

In addition, we compiled and printed hundreds of booklets to hand to each attendee. Each booklet contained several articles I had been collecting for months—articles about encouraging your pastor.

I have bundled these articles along with all three sermon notes into one PDF document (about 40 MB). If you would like these valuable articles, visit cbctemecula.org/share/encourage.zip and it will download automatically to your computer.

For direct access to the PDF, visit cbctemecula.org/share/Encourage-Your-Pastor.pdf

PDF includes:

- 1) Full booklet of encouraging articles
- 2) Sermon: 1 Thes. 5 – The church's duty to their pastor
- 3) Sermon: Luke 17:10 – The pastor's duty as a servant
- 4) Sermon: Various passages – The pastor's role in the church

Management Tools

Overseeing various ministries requires tools, communication, and constant refinement. The following list includes some of the tools I currently use or am testing for future use.

Communication



Slack. I am in unknown territory, here. I have not used Slack yet, but I plan on trying it out this summer with my new little staff—2 interns, 1 new church secretary and 1 secretary intern. It has been hailed by many online business leaders as a hub of communication, and I need something to help me track texts, Google Drive page updates, emails and everything else.



Trello. Again, I have NOT used Trello, but I have seen it in action and I can foresee it working for sequential projects. It has a simple drag/drop interface where you move “cards” between “lists.” I have my lists: “Ideas,” “Upcoming,” and “Current,” and my cards in my “Ideas” list: “Scan choir music” and “purchase more choir music.” When we decide to move on an idea, we drag its card to the “Upcoming” or the “Current” list.



IFTTT. If This Then That creates a set of online triggers with almost any online tool. Do you take iphone pictures? Do you use Gmail? Do you use Dropbox? Set up IFTTT to download your iOS pictures to dropbox automatically. Have IFTTT send you an email when your “Hue” lights turn on at home. I don’t know! You dream it, IFTTT can probably connect it. ifttt.com.



FaceTime (or Skype, or Google Hangout). Video messaging is good for anything you need to see to make a decision. Rather than text me a picture or try to describe it over the phone, just FaceTime me. Even if it's something that is within our church facilities, FaceTime rather than drag me across campus. Want to know if the chairs are set up correctly? Wondering where to hang that picture? Nervous about wiring the ballast correctly? Got a question about the copier? Use FaceTime (or Skype, or Google Hangouts, or any other video conferencing software).



Jing (Or QuickTime screencapture). Download Jing for quick and easily sharable screencasts. If you are training an intern or a secretary how to do one of your computer jobs, record and share a screencast of you talking your way through it. For example, if I design our outreach material but have the interns or secretary print them, I can create a screencast of how to change the printer settings to print on glossy, thick paper 16-up 2-sided and color. Or, I can walk the intern through where to find the schedule on the Google calendar, add it to the Word doc for printing and save it in Dropbox. Use screencasts for how to create a website update, how to lay out an invoice, or how to print a fax cover sheet. Although Jing is free, on a Mac you can use Quicktime screen-capture. (see techsmith.com/jing)

Capture/Organize



Evernote. Just this past year I took David Allen and Michael Hyatt's advice. David Allen is the author of *Getting Things Done*, which is a methodology that helps you get everything out of your head by writing it down. Michael Hyatt is a Christian leader who is a power user of Evernote. I was previously using Apple's Notes app to capture my thoughts on the go, but now I use Evernote to jot myself notes and store reference material. I have found that its tagging and categorizing features are the most convenient, so I'll write notes as I think of them, categorizing them in their particular notebooks. Example: In my "Secretary" notebook on Evernote, I have several different notes on training and using a secretary, job lists I'm planning on delegating, ideas for future projects,

lists of websites about secretaries and more. In my “Interns” notebook I store my interview notes, some SOPs, some ideas for a book, our church’s philosophies and more. I use Evernote first to CAPTURE the thought (into my general “Ryanrench” notebook) and then CATEGORIZE after that.



Inbox. David Allen’s *Getting Things Done (GTD)* methodology and book encourage the user to get everything out of their head and into a system that works for them and that they will regularly review. The first step is CAPTURING every thought that comes through the mind. Neurological studies show that the brain subconsciously exerts energy remembering “undone” things, and it brings those things to our conscious mind unless it trusts that we will be reminded of them some other way in the future. In essence, GTD teaches

you to clear your mind by capturing all those loose thoughts and organizing them into a system you trust. Your brain is NOT a good storage container, but it IS good at coming up with new ideas. Our systems should be our storage container, so we should capture everything that is in our mind and put it into our system.

Enter the inbox. David Allen uses the inbox for *everything*. Everything first goes into the inbox, and later gets processed into the system from there. Get to **inbox zero** daily by deciding what to do with every item in the inbox. Have a stack of business cards in your desk drawer? Put them in your inbox, and then force yourself to decide what the **next action** is on each card. Throw it away? Call that person back? Enter it into your rolodex or contact list? Decide! How about that note on the back of Sunday’s bulletin? Put it in the inbox. Capture EVERYTHING – every coat pocket, every desk drawer, every cabinet... everything. And then decide.

Once you’ve hit the first round, for the rest of your life, do that same process with everything. Use your inbox (digital inboxes like email, Facebook, etc.) to capture and then decide what to do with each piece of information.

File Sharing



Google Drive. In my perfect dream world, our entire church server is on Google Drive. We're not there yet, but we're getting there. Google Drive stores documents online, allows you to edit them online, saves them automatically, lets you share them with other users, and best of all—it's FREE. If you use Microsoft Word, Excel, or Powerpoint for basic documents, Google's versions of these programs are very similar. I primarily use Google Drive for any document I update regularly and collaborate on. Example: Our Preaching Rally spreadsheet is updated annually by several different secretaries, each doing their own jobs (some are doing mailing, some verifying addresses, some are calling, some are registering, etc.) This spreadsheet is shared with each one and I can see in real time on my screen what they are typing as they type it. Another shared document is my Music Spreadsheet to track all my congregational songs, special music, choir songs, choir books, dates, and much more. Several different people are shared on that document.

Since my internet browser is always open, Google Drive is much faster at creating a quick spreadsheet than opening Microsoft Excel. And, once I close the document in Drive, it is accessible from anywhere I have internet connection and on apps on my phone.

Google Drive's robust, free features are incredible. You can upload Word docs, Excel docs and PDFs, which it then scans and turns into text (OCR capabilities). And did I mention it's free? Love it.



Dropbox. Ok, I love Dropbox, too. I use Dropbox for basically ALL of my active files. Now that I've moved to a new house, I am commuting to church instead of living onsite (no more 24/7 server access). Because I am away from the files at the office when I am home, I now store almost everything I can on Dropbox. My weekly teen announcement sheets, my Bible class notes, my orders of service, my entire sermon archive, my church announcements, and even my iPhone photos and Mac's screenshots are stored in Dropbox. Dropbox uploads everything to the cloud and keeps every device that is signed into that account perfectly synced. It is free for an account, and additional space can be earned by sharing references. Go to dropbox.com to learn more, or visit cbctemecula.org/DropRR to sign up for a new account (it will help me earn more space).



Copy.com. Several Dropbox alternatives exist, but the only other one I use is Copy.com. It offers the same features as Dropbox but provides more free storage (15 GB for new accounts and an additional 5 GB for each referral). I use Copy for all my long-term storage that I might need on the fly, and I store larger graphics files because of the free storage space (I have about 35 GB free). Copy.com includes free mobile apps as well as Mac and Windows desktop clients, although the integration with other apps and the special features aren't as robust as Dropbox. To sign up, visit cbctemecula.org/CopyRR



Lastpass. Lastpass and 1Password (among others including Apple's Keychain) are password storing keys. You log into one account (remembering only ONE password), and inside that account you store all your other account passwords. I use lastpass to fill in all those online address forms, input my debit card information, create intense passwords for new sites I log into, store my wife and kids' Social Security information and more. Since it is secured online, I can access it from anywhere as long as I remember my one password. Lastpass also has browser extensions that can automatically log you into the websites that you have stored, or it can offer to generate or remember passwords for each website you visit. It is as secure as anything else online, so if you trust your banking online, you can trust Lastpass and others like it. It has made my life SO much simpler and keeps getting better as my wife and I share and grow our logins vault.



Scanner Pro (by Readdle). Scanner apps let you take a picture of a document and in a few seconds you have a PDF that you can then email or save to your computer. With Scanner Pro you can save the file to Dropbox. I use these scanner apps for all kinds of things now: getting sheet music onto my ipad, emailing registration forms others need to sign, scanning a page of text and using Google Drive's OCR function so I don't have to re-type the whole page, and more.



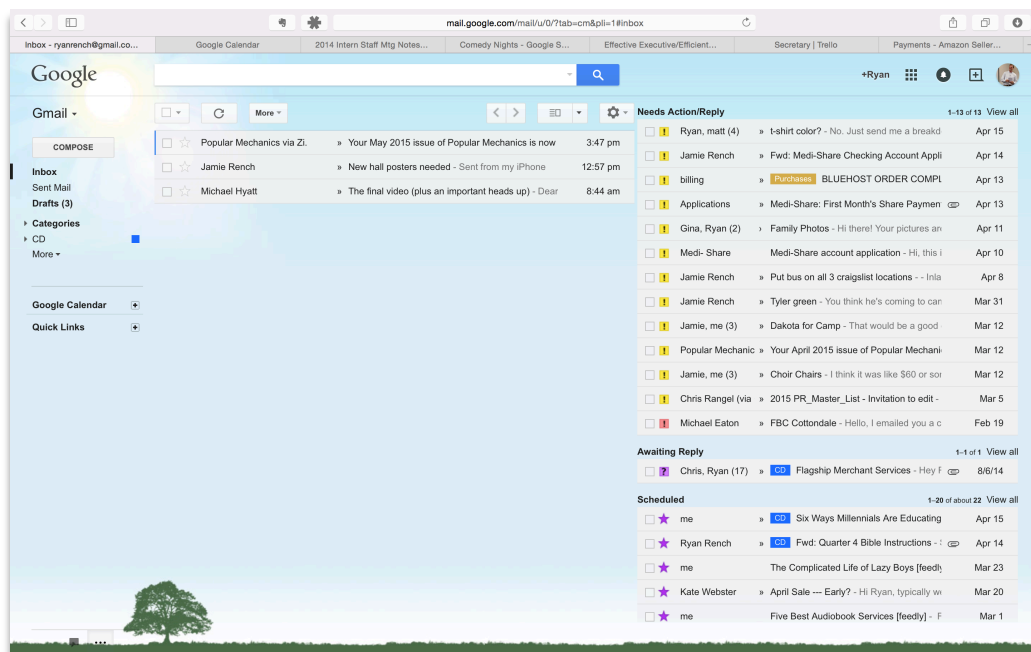
Genius Scan. This scanner app is similar to Scanner Pro, but the free version is more limited in its functionality. Both scanners work extremely well, though.

Email Management Ideas

Inbox Zero. Just Google search “Inbox Zero” and you’ll see apps, articles and ads for anything and everything to help you get your inbox under control. I try to practice “Inbox zero” a few different ways.

- *Two Minute Rule.* If it can be done in 2 minutes or less, do it.
- *If not, decide.* Is it an action? Put it on an action list somewhere. (i.e. @home, @office, @phone, or @computer)
- *If it is reference material, label and archive it.* Do not keep it in your inbox. Use Gmail (or any other email service) and archive your message rather than delete it.
- *If possible, delegate.* If you can’t DO it or DECIDE where to file it or when to do it, forward it to whomever can finish it.

Gmail. I love Gmail. I route ALL my email addresses through my Gmail account (I have about 15). Our shared docs are on Google Drive and our church calendar is on Google calendar. Gmail handles spam almost perfectly, and it learns as it goes, so it only gets better over time. In addition, you’re given 15GB of FREE storage! This includes every email ever sent with every attachment included. Remember that banner you sent to the guy 3 years ago for VBS? It’s in your archives. Just type one word from the email in your search bar and it will show up in date order, with the banner graphic still attached! (I don’t know HOW many times people email me for songs, announcement sheets, or graphics files. If only they used “archive” instead of “delete” on their email.)



Multiple Inboxes. If you have Gmail, one of the labs allows you to have multiple Gmail inboxes open at once (not the same as “Priority Inbox” tabs. Just search Google for how to set these up). I route ALL my mail into my one inbox, then label each email individually where I would like it to end up. I use the different color labels to indicate the following: Needs action, Awaiting Reply, Scheduled, Delegated.

Crazy Ideas

Here are some crazy ideas. Some are BHAGs, some are ain't-happenin's, but others I might actually do some day. We'll see...

Church Leadership Live. Use the church as the tool to train teens to work. Volunteer laborers can help accomplish projects, oversee areas of ministry and learn life principles by serving at church. Teens can serve in the office, on the church grounds, on indoor maintenance, on websites, on print/graphics and more. The youth pastor will oversee the whole work, and parents or interns will be the direct supervisors (a learning tool for *them*, too.) Ideas can be as simple as your own teens serving 2 days a week, or as elaborate as a full program including lodging, meals, teens from outside your church and more.

Podcasts galore. Since I follow several podcasts, I am interested in the art. Someone could start various youth-centered podcasts. Podcasts can be structured several different ways:

- **Host teens as guests.** Interview them so the listeners can get to know them. Use it as an outreach tool (focus on the gospel and salvation testimonies, market to lost teens), a getting-to-know-you time (use as an informal Q/A time with your own teens), a challenge to listeners (by teens' examples, for example), or an information time (interview teens with some kind of expertise or experience).
- **Host youth pastors and other ministry leaders.** Interview various youth pastors and gain ideas. Use an open mic fly-on-the-wall format or follow a set agenda with specific questions. Each podcast episode could focus on one theme (perhaps the guest is known for one particular thing), or it could just be to get to know the interviewee (testimony, advice, etc.)
- **Go solo!** Use the podcast to share what you are doing week by week. This could include updates on youth group alumni, past activity details, camp thoughts, philosophies of various aspects of youth ministry, game ideas and more.

iPad kiosks. Use iPad stands with integrated card readers to register guests, register and pay for events (like summer camp!), watch videos, view pictures and more.

Record and post Sunday School Sermon Audio. I have no sound system in my youth room, but I bought a little \$20 lavalier mic that plugs into a smartphone. Hit “record” right before preaching and you’re on!

Sermon Series Ideas. I never know what to do next. Here’s a short list of ideas.

- *Pictures in Leviticus.* The tagline is “It’s ALL about Christ.”
- *The Names of God*
- *2 Corinthians.* (I just completed 1 Cor.)
- *Stories in Joshua (or Exodus)*

Gender Separate School. Read Dr. Leonard Sax’s books and you will see the benefits. Less audacious ideas include a gender-specific co-op type setup of homeschooled families who meet together to allow their students to gain gender specific instruction in classroom settings. Could be a daily or weekly setup.

Commentary websites. Instead of writing a commentary book or printing study notes, create a commentary website. Each book of the Bible could have it’s own website, and access could be granted by subscription. Each text or chapter would be a separate post including links to other study materials, the biblical text, your commentary as well as any sermon audio, visuals or other notes.

Alumni follow-up. Designate one mom (or any volunteer) to keep up with all youth graduates. Track their college, keep up on social media, send care packages to those who care and update the youth pastor on each person’s latest news weekly and monthly.

Research Papers. Some of my most vivid memories from school are the research papers that I did. I still remember learning about C. S. Lewis in 5th Grade and studying the Great Awakening in 6th Grade. I studied compost (of all things!) in 7th grade and aerodynamics in 8th. How do I remember? By pouring a lot of time into them. It would be nice to somehow require that level of research to go into something that would benefit the teens spiritually.

Fiction short stories. Like Aesop's fables, I'd like to find a fiction resource for stories that teach a biblical truth. The popularity of the Hunger Games and Lord of the Rings series prove that reading is not dead, and I would love to capitalize on a well-written story that takes the reader through scriptural decision-making.

Mastermind Groups. Many online business leaders that I follow are major proponents of online mastermind groups. These small groups (around 5 people) meet regularly (usually via Google Hangouts) to discuss upcoming projects, keep each other motivated, challenge each other, bounce ideas around and get feedback from trusted sources. These mastermind groups are every bit as much of their businesses' routines and successes as the content that they produce and sell. While mastermind groups are a major time and schedule obligation, some people claim that they wouldn't be where they are in business without them.

Topics I'm Curious About

Some things I hope to learn this week through personal conversations or the round table discussions are:

Podcasting?

Working with a secretary?

Ideas to build the family?

People development - LL idea, staff, parents... (book suggestions, how to go over it with people...)

New *quick* game ideas. Similar to PSST, Head Moose, Signs, etc.

Focus... is it a dirty word in ministry?

For an associate pastor, focus might seem impossible.

If I learned anything last year, it was that I'm scatterbrained and can't focus. Thanks to that cards activity we did and Mr. Sam calling pity upon me (or, actually, "If anyone has a circle in every category, I feel bad for you...") Yep, that was me. Starting the round with high 70's of interest, and whittling down to 10... poor me.

It helped me, though. I WAS scatterbrained. I still am, but at least I know it, now. I used to think of myself as well-versed in many different things. I used to think I was superman! Now I realize I can do a lot of things, but can't do any of them well.

As an associate pastor, I am more than a youth pastor, though. I sincerely believe God has gifted me as He sees fit, and I'm doing my best to try to focus on the most important things in my life, rather than *all* the things in my life.

I am interested in several things: Bible study, technology, writing, teaching, preaching, graphics/web, people development, family, music, construction, business and much, much more. But I can't do all of my hobbies and passions every week. I need to learn to sprint. Meaning, I need to learn to focus on one thing for a short project, and then move on to the next sprint.

For me, it's a curse. I get bored with one task or project when I do it repeatedly, so I am always toying with new things that will push me further. The upside is that people like me are very driven. The downside is that things can tend to get neglected over time.

So, I am curious to learn more about focusing on ONE thing while at the same time being responsible (and interested in) for MANY things. How do we as associate pastors reconcile all the demands on our time without ALL the areas suffering for it?

Ryan Rench serves as the youth director and associate pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Temecula, CA, under his father's leadership, Pastor W. M. Rench. Ryan's family moved to Temecula in 1986 to plant the church where Ryan was reared and is now on staff. He earned his Master's Degree in Ministry from Heartland Baptist Bible College in 2010.

Ryan Rench married his wife, Jamie, in 2008. They have one son named Abe (July 2012) and one daughter named Charlotte (March 2014).

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