

Church Leader, allow me to share my heart on Bob and his impact.

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



## Bob Buford and His Impact: Adding to the Book of Days

*By Dave Travis, CEO*

Last week, in a special email, we shared the news that Bob Buford had died and now is safe in the arms of Jesus. That content and the accompanying blog article were written by Dr. Warren Bird, our highly competent research director.

In case you missed it, or haven't seen some of the updates, please see the post on our blog here:

[\*\*Bob Buford Dies, Leaving a Legacy of Leadership Network, Halftime Institute, Drucker Institute and Bestselling Books\*\*](#)

Allow me to share my own heart on Bob and his impact:

### **Bob believed in investing in Leaders.**

Bob was a believer in Jesus, trusting him as a child, without hesitation for salvation. But Bob's heart was a big belief in the power of leaders to activate others. His heart for leaders included his investment in pastors, business leaders in the Halftime transition, and other social sector leaders. He just felt leaders matter. They help shape culture, organizations and RESULTS that come from the work of their hands and mind. As such Bob invested himself, his time, his energy and his financial resources into gathering and helping leaders.

I think his favorite saying was: "My fruit grows on other people's trees."

### **Bob was proud of your work.**

Bob enjoyed great satisfaction in past years in going to experiences we hosted with pastors and churches. He loved to hear their stories and what was going on back "on the ground" in communities. When we shifted our model in the early part of the century, Bob made it a point to get out of the office and go see what was happening in our programs and on the ground in churches. When I could not go with him, he would call and give me a

report on what he saw in the churches that was working.

In his later years, when he refrained from traveling too much, he would come to those experiences held near our offices. He wanted to hear the report times when churches were reporting on their work. Many times, he would pull up a chair and patiently listen to each report.

Often our director or facilitator would ask him: "Bob is there anything you want to say?"

Bob's universal answer would be short: "Yay God!"

Walking out the door he would say to me: "Isn't it great what those folks are doing?"

It sure was. It still is.

Bob was proud of the work God is doing through you.

### **The Book of Days.**

Psalms 90:12 says "Teach us to number our days so we may get a heart to wisdom."

Bob kept a series of notebooks he called his "Book of Days." He was a lifelong learner and spent much time writing down things he was learning.

When he got a meaningful note, letter or even email from a participant in one of our programs, in a Halftime program, or some other involvement, he would have it cut, sized and placed into those books.

In recent days, even as letters kept coming to him, he would still peruse those books to stay encouraged.

Based on my email since the announcement, many readers sent me their own stories of Bob's impact in their life.

If you have a story of that impact, would you do me the great favor of sending a copy to:

**Book of Days**  
**c/o Leadership Network**  
**12700 Park Central Dr, STE 500**  
**Dallas, TX 75251**

We will share all these with Linda Buford, his wife and partner in this work for so long.

Last week, B.J. Engle, Bob's assistant, sent me this:

### **Bob Buford's Six Priorities**

In 1978, at age 34, Bob wrote these words to Linda and Ross. All these years it has stayed unopened in a file labeled "What If." This week, Linda opened the files, and this is part of what she read:

"In overall life satisfaction, I consider myself in the very upper tier. I am ready to go on living and looking forward to many exciting things, but I also feel that I have had a more than adequate life if it were to end today. Remember that I have just gone on to the next phase--like graduating from college. It has been fun, but what is ahead will be even better.

"If I die, my wish for you is to mourn, grieve, experience the loss fully—not repressing it—so you can be done with it. Recall the absolute confidence I have that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. And think how happy I will be, face to face with Christ, and to know everything not through glasses darkly.

"Remember that I have succeeded in my six life goals:

1. My relationship with God
2. My relationship with you, Linda
3. My role as a father with you, Ross—as a son and as a fine person
4. My role as president of a company, its success and the money
5. The things I have done, which have given me much more actualization, achievement and pleasure
6. My cultural and intellectual progress."

**Bob finished his race last week. May we all press on in ours.**

Let us not grow weary,

Dave Travis

P.S.

Bob Buford was buried in a graveside service in Tyler, Texas.

A public service will be announced at a future date.

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## Our Research: Pastors and Financial Planning

*By Dave Travis, CEO, with research by Warren Bird, Ph.D., Director of Research*

Last year our Director of Research, Warren Bird, conducted a wide ranging poll of pastors. LOTS of pastors.

Every week we are examining the results to:

1. Get better insights.
2. Share them widely so others can know. And finally...
3. To find ways to help serve church leaders better.

While we are working on compiling them into more formal reports, I want to share a few of them to get your feedback.

In the last issue we shared about pastor's views on their retirement plan: [14 Things that Kill Once-Great Churches.](#)

For this week, we asked pastors if they met with a financial planner.  
 (1 = never, 5 = annually or more than annually)

Some results are below:

### Specific Roles

**Senior or Lead Pastor - 3.0**

Executive Pastor - 2.9

Campus Pastor - 2.5

### Specific Church Size (Average Weekend Worship Attendance)

10,000+ - 2.6

5,000 - 9,999 - 2.9

2,000 - 4,999 - 2.8

800 - 1,999 - 2.7

### Person's Age

Millennials (15-33) - 2.1

Gen. X (34-52) - 2.5

**Boomers (53-71) - 3.1**

## Builders (72+) - 2.4

A few observations:

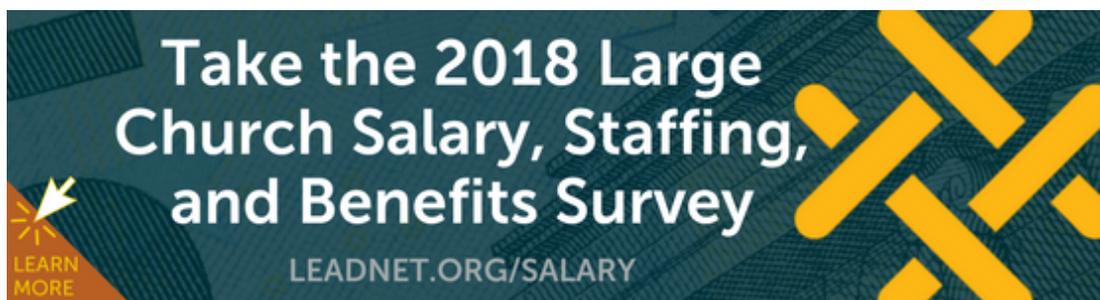
*Church size doesn't make a lot of difference, but age does. A big jump for boomers!*

*I often comment that issues around personal stewardship of finances is a silent killer in the ministry. This is rarely a course in college, seminary or other ministry preparation paths. There is nothing wrong with having a financial coach or advisor.*

*Serving in ministry is not a high paying job, so having competent counsel is important to manage all that we have well. We should encourage and incentivize our church servants to get this help.*

**What do you think?**

**How do you read these numbers?**



## Things You Want to Know About

*Opportunities and resources for you and your team*

### ***Executive Pastor Leader Groups***

The Executive Pastor role is an immensely challenging one. You carry responsibilities that most people can't understand. You need a tribe, a network of peers and mentors to encourage you, challenge you, to help you grow and thrive.

Our Leader Group consists of a relational peer network of 12-15 Executive Pastors who carry monumental responsibility in multiplying the vision of the church. They help give executive leadership to churches with 1,000 or more on a weekend. They lead ministry teams, operations and campus networks. These individuals are focused on their next steps in helping lead forward the increasingly complex organization known as the church.

Each Leader Group experience includes:

- Three, 3-day sessions hosted by leading churches across North America
- Online "sprint sessions" between the live gatherings for further development and interaction with mentoring pastors

- Unlimited access to seasoned mentor pastors including one-on-one coaching and follow up communication throughout the year via phone, text and email
- Life-long connections to peers who understand you and your journey

Our next group is forming now. For more information, click or tap on the button below:



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