

Church Leader, we asked four well-known pastors questions about their holiday plans and preaching habits.

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Leadership  Network *Advance*



A Few of Our Pastor Friends Answer Some Random Questions

By Ron Edmondson , CEO

After 16 years as a pastor, I know there are “top of the mind” questions pastors have from other pastors they respect. With this in mind, I decided to ask a few of them from some of our Leadership Network pastors. I thought these might be interesting and, hopefully, even helpful.

Thanks to Matt Chandler, Steve Stroope, Carey Nieuwof, and Craig Groeschel for taking time to answer these questions.

What are the times of your Christmas services this year?

Craig: 4 days of services—263 services.

Carey: 4 cities, 11 services: December 23rd 5 & 7 pm in 3 cities. December 24th broadcast location: 11, 1, 3, 5 and 7

Steve: Dec 22 6pm. Dec23 4&6 December 24 12,2,4,&6

Matt: 1 PM, 3 PM 5 PM and 7 PM Christmas Eve, Regular services on the weekend before and after

What is your first series about in the new year?

Craig: Habits

Carey: The sovereignty of God. It's called "It's the End of the World As We Know It (And I Feel Fine)". Tackling global chaos, the end times, the rise of AI and a dystopian future. Tag line: "How to keep it together in a world that's falling apart."

Steve: Schemes

Matt: Prayer, we do a yearly month on prayer in January.

What are you most excited about for your church in 2019?

Craig: Working with people I love and experimenting on a couple of new ideas.

Carey: I know it sounds cliché, but seriously, continuing to reach new people for Jesus. 2018 has been a year of big momentum and growth for our church, and we hope that escalates in 2019.

Steve: New Co-Pastor

Matt: We have a Multiply Campaign we've been in for the past year and will continue to be in for the next 5 years. It's exciting for all the campuses and the church body.

Tell us one book you read last year you would recommend pastors read.

Craig: Atomic Habits, Power of Moments, Never Split Difference

Carey: Totally off many church leader's radar, but 10% Happier by Dan Harris will give you some great insight into the post-Christian, post-modern mind.

Steve: Scary Close by Donald Miller

Matt: Emotionally Healthy Spirituality by Pete Scazzero

If you had to encourage pastors to be intentional in one area next year, what would it be?

Craig: Don't just respond to those who want to meet with you. Intentionally seek out those you want to meet.

Carey: Self-care. Too many leaders are dropping out or fading out. Learn how to live today in a way that can help you thrive tomorrow.

Steve: Small groups

Matt: Racial Harmony

How many weeks a year do you currently teach?

Craig: Last year 39 weekends. Plan to do one or two fewer this year.

Carey: I taught 28 Sundays in 2018. I anticipate a similar teaching schedule for 2019.

Steve: 26

Matt: I try to teach at least 40 weeks out of the year or more if I can

How many hours per week do you spend in sermon preparation?

Craig: 15 give or take.

Carey: These days that's really hard to measure. I usually start working on my ideas months (and sometimes years) in advance and often very randomly. I'm looking for insights and fresh angles, not so much detail. I never just sit down on a Monday and see

what comes out. I'm totally guessing, but adding up all the time over days/months etc likely 10-15 hours per message like most other preachers.

Steve: 12

Matt: Around 5-8 hours

What are the three most important metrics you are using to measure the health of your church?

Carey: I would say the number of first time guests, the number of people serving, and the number of people in groups. For us, those are the key metrics around who we reach and how we engage them in the mission. Obviously, attendance and giving still matter, but if those first three numbers are strong, attendance and giving will be growing healthily too.

Steve: Baptisms, Small groups, and number serving in and outside the church

Matt: Baptisms, Serving and Giving

Name one thing you are intrigued about or watching as a future opportunity for your church or for the greater Church.

Craig: How people engage in content, how they relate to each other, and how we get people engaged in church as the church.

Carey: The interplay between digital and analogue. We are in a very encouraging position at Connexus of seeing both in person attendance and online numbers grow healthily. As long as we keep our online strategy focused on making online a front door and side door for our church (reaching people and supplementing in-person attendance), rather than a back door (watching people disengage), I think great things can happen.

Steve: Technology

Matt: The Multiply Campaign

If you weren't called to ministry and were doing something other than ministry, what would it likely be?

Craig: Probably teaching leadership.

Carey: I think I'd detail cars, mow lawns and cook brisket. Or maybe podcast or write books or something like that. Oh wait....

Steve: Consulting

Matt: At this point, I would likely own a farm and raise cattle or something totally different, I don't have many skills outside of preaching.

I thank these pastor friends for taking time to answer my questions.

Thank you for the positive feedback I've received on these LN Advances over the last few months. I hope you are enjoying the Christmas season. Please let us know how I may serve you.

On behalf of Leadership Network, I hope you have a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

God bless you!

Ron Edmondson

Interview with Kadi Cole about her new book, *Developing Female Leaders*

(Navigate the Minefields and Release the Potential of Women in Your Church)

By Kadi Cole

What makes developing female leaders different?

Contrary to popular belief, all leaders develop in similar ways, regardless of gender. However, women tend to run into gender-specific barriers. We need to be aware of those barriers, and help women overcome them, if we are to access her greatest contributions in our churches. Women make up 61% of our church population, yet they represent less than 10% of our ministry leadership roles. It's easy to dismiss this as a theological issue about women in ministry. But my personal experience as a church leader, and the research, reveals the problem is less about theology and more about our leadership practices and church cultures. This book is focused on helping churches who want to maximize the contribution women can make in their ministries, yet in a way that honors every theological perspective.

Why is it important for churches pay attention to this topic?

The conversation about women in ministry leadership has shifted significantly in the last year. With the #MeToo and #ChurchToo movements, many of us are more sensitive to gender issues and the challenges of this potentially difficult topic. My goal is to provide research-based tools to help church leaders better navigate the difficult minefields we often find ourselves in, and offer practical steps to move our churches forward in a healthy and more productive way.

How is your book helping churches and leaders?

The research for the book includes interviews with over 30 high-level female and male church leaders, and surveys from over 1200 female ministry leader. The book highlights The Eight Best Practices for developing female leaders and recommended steps that are eye-opening, encouraging and practical to implement. For instance, one simple step that

everyone can take is to ask, “What is your experience as a female leader in our church? What do you see that I don’t see?”

Whether you are a senior leader, a pastor, a volunteer, or a woman looking to grow, this book will educate and inspire you to better maximize the leadership potential of the women in your church.

Kadi’s book is **available** on Amazon **now for a pre-sale discount**. The book will be released on March 5, 2019.

Order the book:

http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2PzTTA8/36kpb2/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tIPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

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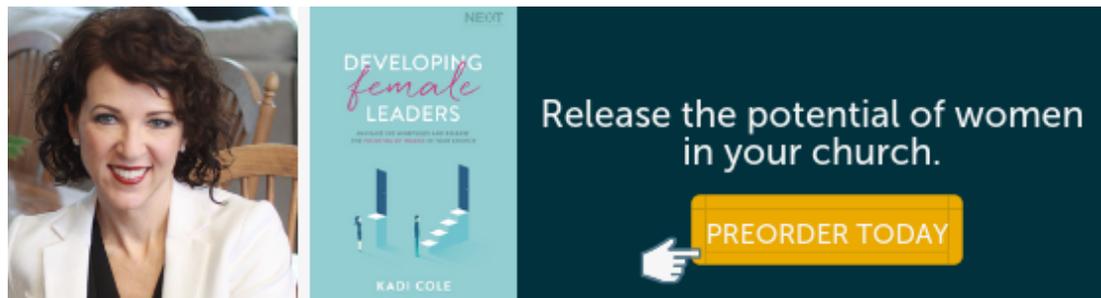
Learn more about the book:

developingfemaleleadersbook.com

Learn more about the author, Kadi Cole.

Kadicole.com

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Things You Want to Know About

Opportunities and resources for you and your team

Our 2018 Top Resources For Church Leaders

By: Tim Nations

As 2018 comes to a close, we want to take a moment to highlight the resources that you and thousands of leaders like you found most valuable for your ministries. We’re running this post a little early this year as some of these resources will be important to you as you make plans and set budgets for the coming year. The best part for you: 5 out of the 6 top resources for 2018 are FREE.

Without further ado, here are our Top 6 Resources for 2018!

[#1 – 2018 Large Church Compensation Report Executive Summary \(Free Download\)](#)

It should come as no surprise that our bi-annual report on large church salary, staffing and benefits was the most downloaded resource we published in 2018. As of this writing, this report was downloaded by almost 3000 leaders across North America. Click or tap here to grab your copy: http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2PdGoG9/36kpbj/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

[#2 – Multisite Latest Trends 2018 \(Free Download\)](#)

Our most recent multisite report, titled Latest Multisite Trends: How a New Generation of Pastors Is Shifting to Strategies that Reproduce and Multiply (we love long titles!) illustrates the various ways younger leaders are envisioning, planning and multiplying leaders and congregations throughout North America. To get some insight into the thinking of the next generation of multisite leaders, click or tap here: http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2KQ3jaa/36kpbn/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

[#3 – 2018 Large Church Compensation Tables \(Premium Product\)](#)

Due to the popularity of our large church compensation research, our third most popular resource for 2018 is a premium product for executive level leaders: our Large Church Compensation Tables. Each compensation table package is based on an attendance range selected, covering up to 30 top roles through three different lenses.

To learn more about our compensation tables, click or tap here:

http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2FXx8a1/36kpbs/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc .

[#4 – Senior Pastor Role in Discipling High Capacity Givers \(Free Download\)](#)

This eBook, sponsored by Empower Generosity, shows leaders 3 critical areas of focus for the senior pastor in moving high-capacity givers in your church from potential donors to fully-devoted disciples. Download this free resource:

http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2PgX0By/36kpbv/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

[#5 – 10 Truths of Churches that Do a Great Job at Leadership Development \(Free Download\)](#)

When we talk with or survey church leaders, leadership development is consistently one of their top concerns, regardless of the size of the church. This free resource, which began as a short series of blogs by our Director of Leadership Development, Brent Dolfo, is based on insights from helping more than 100 large churches develop a strategic framework for leadership development. Download this resource by clicking or tapping this

link: http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2E1HEds/36kpbz/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

#6 – [Big Data Helps Churches Do 5 Things Amazingly Well \(Blog Post\)](#)

In the past year we've witnessed how information, particularly big data, can amplify a church's ability to do five crucial things amazingly well. In this article and its related posts (below the article), Eric Swanson and Matt Engel outline these five things and briefly describe how leveraging the right information at the right time can help churches thrive. Click or tap the link below to catch up on this crucial conversation for the 21st Century church. http://go.leadnet.org/e/95302/2KQ3SAD/36kpc4/288340757?h=SOMugecaPDBa_twMzzfd-tlPYh8DBQGyOvAZTesWPHc

We hope these resources help you multiply your church's impact in the coming year. If there is anything we can do to serve you, please let us know!



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