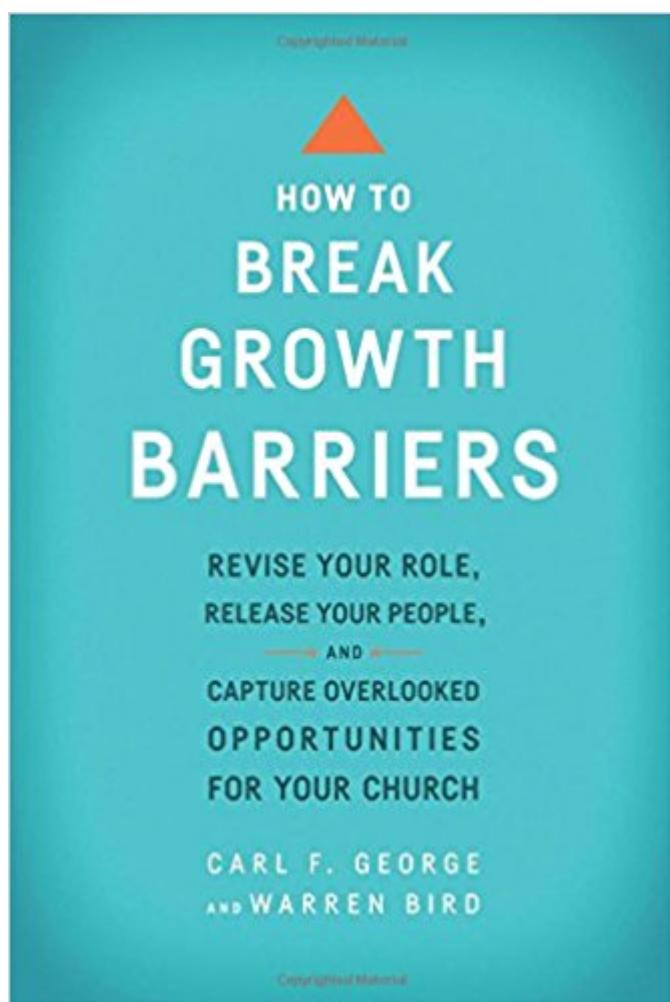


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# How To Break Growth Barriers: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, And Capture Overlooked Opportunities For Your Church



## **Synopsis**

Some churches grow rapidly, only to hit a ceiling. Other churches have experienced declining or static attendance--many of them for decades. Frustrated pastors and church leaders want growth methods that work, but without adding to pastoral fatigue. *How to Break Growth Barriers* argues that growth comes when effective leadership and lay-empowerment skills work hand in hand. This requires a shift of focus from the shepherd as the primary caregiver to shepherd as developer and coach of many caregivers. The authors show pastors how to communicate a vision for the future and then how to lead the congregation into the paradigms necessary for potentially limitless growth. The strategies found in this book are not only tried and true, and taken from a biblical perspective of a "harvest" vision. They're also newly updated to reflect our changing culture, including helpful charts and checklists for self-evaluation.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Carl F. George, one of North America's premier church growth consultants, has trained pastors, staff, and top executives from more than one hundred denominations. He is former director of the Charles E. Fuller Institute of Evangelism and Church Growth and former president of the American Society for Church Growth. His other books include *Nine Keys to Effective Small Group Leadership*. He and his wife, Grace, live near Greenville, South Carolina. Warren Bird is research director for Leadership Network, the nation's leading catalyst for helping innovative church leaders move from ideas to impact. An ordained minister, he teaches at Alliance Theological Seminary. He is also

author or coauthor of twenty-eight books, including *Next: Pastoral Succession That Works*. He and his wife, Michelle, live in a suburb of New York City.

Awesome book I would recommend any pastor to read this book no matter the size of your church it will be a blessing to read

Great content and input to challenge you to consider how to implement new processes in taking the next steps of growth.

Great book! I bought extra copies to share!

The authors report that eighty-five percent of churches in the U.S. have fewer than 200 members. There are some growing churches, some stable churches, and many dying churches. This book helps us understand why. George and Bird have updated the book that originally came out in 1993. The principles of church growth included are ones they have seen work for decades. Those core ideas remain the same. I like the book. I like the idea of a team approach, training leaders, empowering them, trusting the Holy Spirit to enable lay people to do the work of ministry. I like the emphasis on the necessity of prayer. I like their reminding us of the need for small groups or cells. I like that the authors say church growth is more a matter of the heart than a certain technique. It came as no surprise that the attitude of the pastor is the major determining factor for growth. The days of the pastor doing all the care should be long over. There should be a change of paradigm in church leadership. But it may be terrifying for a pastor to relinquish the ministry most pastors traditionally do themselves. Change first has to happen in ministers, the authors argue. They set the stage for permitting growth or hindering it. Ministry coaching, developing a team of care giving individuals is key. The authors have done a great job presenting a book containing many practical ideas. Church leaders can evaluate their church structure, vision and leadership style. They receive instruction on evaluating motives, developing a vision for growth, and training lay ministry leaders and workers. Questions for further thought have been included at the end of each chapter so this book could be used for study by a church board or other leadership group. I recommend this book to those who truly believe there is a potential spiritual harvest in store for their church. You'll find out what is hindering growth. You'll also find out how to implement the heart attitudes and behaviors necessary to break growth barriers. Ministers, you'll need to step aside and let lay people be used of God but the spiritual rewards will be worth it. I received a complimentary copy of this book from the

publisher. My comments are an independent and honest review.

"How To Break Growth Barriers" by Carl George and Warren Bird is a good read for anyone, pastor or layperson, who is interested in seeing their church grow numerically and spiritually. Around 225 pages, the title addresses such topics as:1. Effective ministers accomplish ministry through others.2. 15 things that limit vision.3. 3 ways to communicate vision and 3 ways to implement God's vision for a church.4. Being closely connected to Jesus will benefit others.5. 10 characteristics of a church solo caregiver.6. To be effective in ministry, there must be times when you cannot be both available and effective.7. While pastors do need to spend time in hands-on ministry, more time needs to be spent in leadership development.8. Ways to facilitate church past 200/400/800 members.9. Around 10-20 people is the ideal range for each lay pastor to minister to.10. Many churches grow larger by growing smaller (Sunday School, home groups, etc.).The book is very readable, transitions smoothly from chapter to chapter, and contains helpful suggestions for growing a church. Will be a good future reference. I was given a review copy by Baker Books in exchange for a fair and honest review.

How to Break Growth Barriers by Carl George and Warren Bird is a book about equipping church members to carry out ministry. Equipping and releasing church members is the key to church growth according to the authors. This book has been a helpful reminder of many things I learned in Intro to Evangelism and Church Growth. Like that class the authors argue for what could be called a shepherd-equiper model of ministry. This is crucial because if the members are not equipped to do the work of ministry the size of the church and the impact it has will be contingent upon the number of people the pastor is able to personally minister to. I believe many churches would push back against the recommendations made in this book as many have a mentality that they hire staff to do ministry rather than seeing a need for all members to be involved in ministry. I would recommend this book as I think it provides valuable insight in how to think about the important connection between facilitating ministry on the part of church members and church growth itself. Disclosure: I received a review copy of the book from the publisher for the purpose of reviewing it. The opinions I have expressed are my own, and I was not required to write a positive review

growth barriers How to Break Growth Barriers: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, and Capture Overlooked Opportunities for Your Church by Carl George is designed to help church leaders - pastors in particular - to move from the concept of sole or primary caregiver for the

congregation to the model of caregiver coach of the congregation. Through the reexamination of vision and leadership models, the author seeks to help the shepherd of the church develop many shepherds who share the vision of the church. Though the book is insightful and full of great ideas, the book is weak on helping the reader and their team break through the growth barriers once they have the suggested team-approach of caregiving in place. Disclosure: I received this book free from Baker Books through the Baker Books Bloggers program. The opinions I have expressed are my own, and I was not required to write a positive review. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255.

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