

Although David Young's *Springs of Living Water* is subtitled "Christ-Centered Church Renewal," the book effectively addresses three different audiences.

First, this book is a valuable resource for individual Christians seeking to deepen their Christian life. Young has touched upon the essential dynamics of the Christian life. Having framed Christian living within the community of faith, it would be impossible for anyone to think that the Christian life was a privatized, individualistic endeavor. Life in Christ takes place in the varied relationships of the Body of Christ. As Young ably notes, there cannot be any renewal of the body of believers without a concomitant renewal in the lives of those who constitute the community of faith.

Second, *Springs of Living Water* is an essential guide for leaders of the community of faith. Young deals in a very holistic way with the dynamics of spiritual leadership, the kind of Christlike leadership necessary for renewal of the church. No church leader reading this book could ever again think of church renewal as simply a "program" to be organized and implemented; or a process to be imposed upon a community of faith. To the contrary, they will come to see renewal as an ongoing essential in a healthy church.

Third, Young does present an excellent, biblically sound, spiritually rich process for church renewal. As already noted, however, this process is inseparable from a spiritual renewal of the leaders and the members of the community of faith. Perhaps one of the strongest elements in this book is the analysis of the life cycle of a church. While illuminating and helpful in its own right, placing church renewal in this context provides a much more holistic understanding of renewal within the ongoing cycle of the church's life as well as relating various aspects of renewal to each stage of the cycle.

The questions for reflection and discussion at the end of each chapter not only draw together the main points of the chapter but provide effective probes into the life of the reader, leader, and/or community of faith. Helpful anecdotes scattered throughout the work are very helpful in keeping the book rooted in the reality of life in the Body of Christ and not merely another theoretical presentation. The appendices provide practical means for engendering renewal in individual believers, church leaders, and communities of faith.

Finally, *Springs of Living Water* is organized around four of the essential elements of a sound spiritual journey: the "Thirst" for something deeper in the spiritual life; the dynamics of "Encounter" with the living Christ, the consequent "Transformation" which emerges from that encounter, and the necessity of being God's people in the world ("Mission").

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