

*Organizational Leadership:  
Foundations & Practices for  
Christians*  
June 2014  
\$25, 288 pages, paperback  
978-0-8308-4050-2

*"What I love most about this book is its weaving of Scripture, devotion to Jesus Christ, leadership history and theory, and grounded experience. Its authors provide a marvelous resource that can be read both as a primer and as an advanced study in leadership that is biblically responsible, developmentally accessible, academically engaging and practically valuable."*

— Mark Labberton, president,  
Fuller Theological Seminary

## A Practical, Grounded Approach to Organizational Leadership

*In their new book Organizational Leadership, editors John S. Burns, John R. Shoup and Donald C. Simmons Jr. provide a practical theology of leadership from a Christian worldview for emerging and established leaders. These three experienced and knowledgeable editors lead a robust discussion of five essential challenges and practices – communication, negotiation, decision-making, financial stewardship and personal development. They then lay the foundation needed for those who want to conduct leadership in a manner consistent with their faith in both religious and nonreligious organizational contexts.*

*Organizational Leadership will unpack the idea that kingdom leadership does not begin and end at the church door. Christians are called to conduct leadership in government, commerce, schools, neighborhoods, families, parachurch ministries and myriad other contexts. God has given us many gifts; our responsibility is to be stewards of those gifts and use them to do the King's work.*

**What made you want to write a book on leadership? What makes your take on the subject stand out?**

**Simmons:** I felt like this area of the literature was a void. I know that when I started looking for books to use in my class, the theoretical writings about Christian leadership just did not suit my needs. I wanted real world examples that anyone could relate to and feel a sense of connectedness.

**Shoup:** In addition to what Don stated above, it seemed a practical theology on leadership was warranted after observing Christians leaders who compartmentalize their faith when conducting leadership.

**How does this book connect with the work you are currently doing?**

**Burns:** My published contributions in the literature have focused on the pedagogy of leadership, especially with regard to teaching historic and emerging theories. In this book we have been able to take a theory base that is indifferent to the Christian worldview and construct a theory of leadership that is planted firmly on a Christian theological foundation. I plan to use the material from this book in my consulting with Christian NGO's in the developing world. I am interested to see how the things we have developed here translate in different Christian cultural contexts.

**Simmons:** My earliest books were on historic events that dealt with human tragedy, primarily in Latin America. As I matured academically and spiritually, I felt a need to delve more into the failures of leadership that led to past and continued human suffering. This

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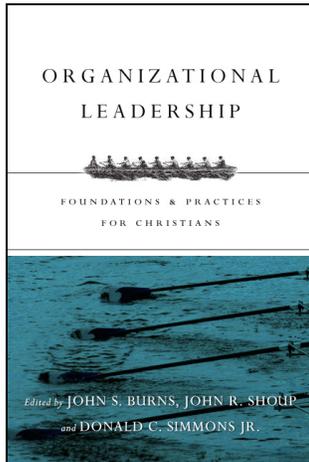
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coincided with active mission work in Kenya with hospice care for victims of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in East Africa. In 2010, I took my interest in Christian leadership to the next level by enrolling in the certificate of ministry program at Truett Theological Seminary at Baylor University. The work on this book has paralleled and complimented my research/studies on Christian leadership while at Baylor. I am now working full-time as a speaker and consultant in the ministry, while helping with church plants in the Midwest and the South. I see the book as the next step in God's plan for my work.

**Why do you think your book is so needed today?**

**Simmons:** We are living in a world of unparalleled corporate greed, where CEOs leave companies bankrupt while departing with multimillion-dollar golden parachutes. Sometimes megachurches and Washington, DC don't perform any better. Our world is in desperate need of a new leadership model, one inspired by the message Christ shared with the world.



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**John S. (Jack) Burns** is professor of leadership studies at Whitworth University in Spokane, Washington, where he coordinates the Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies Program. He has been teaching leadership studies since 1985 and has developed leadership studies programs at two universities. He has been director of an Eisenhower Leadership Program Grant, and has published several articles and book chapters on leadership pedagogy, organizational theory and leadership theory. He received his PhD in higher education administration and his MA in counseling from Washington State University.



**John R. Shoup** serves as the dean of the School of Education at California Baptist University in Riverside, California. He teaches leadership and educational history and policy at the graduate level, and has presented and conducted research and workshops on leadership development, best practices and educational policy. Shoup has also served as a school principal and in various social service settings. He has a PhD in education with an emphasis in institutional leadership and policy studies from the University of California, Riverside. He also has a Master of Divinity and a Master of Arts in counseling psychology from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.



**Donald C. Simmons Jr.** is president and founder of the Obion Group, a leadership consulting firm. His best-known popular work, *Confederate Settlements in British Honduras*, resulted in an appearance on C-SPAN Book TV, but he is most recognized in academic circles as producer of the public television documentary *Hungry for Green: Feeding the World Sustainably*, which premiered at Harvard University Medical School's Center for Health and the Global Environment in 2009 and aired nationally. Simmons also edited and coauthored the textbook *Leadership and Service: An Introduction*, with Senator George McGovern and Dan Gaken. He attended Sioux Falls Seminary and holds a certificate of ministry from Truett Theological Seminary, Baylor University. Simmons remains actively involved in church planting and prison ministry, as well as international mission programs in Kenya and Belize.

