

## *Endorsements*

Church planting is vital kingdom work that requires divine blessing, dependence on the Holy Spirit, biblical clarity, pastoral faithfulness, practical wisdom, and evangelistic zeal. In this collection of letters, thirteen seasoned pastors with a proven track record exhort fledgling church planters on such crucial topics as mission, calling, pastoral gifts and graces, vigilance, discipleship, diligence, holiness, teaching, preaching, and prayer. May the Lord use this invaluable manual of warm, biblical, and experiential poimenics and ecclesiology to prepare and encourage many “Tituses” in our day!

—**Joel R. Beeke,**

Chancellor and Professor of Homiletics  
& Systematic Theology  
*Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary*

*Dear Titus* is a thoroughly pastoral treatment of what, in my personal opinion, is the most underappreciated and least-studied of all the Pauline epistles. Under the faithful stewardship of Nate Pickowicz, the contributors to *Dear Titus* have brought fresh light to the invaluable principles and precepts contained in the book of Titus, and have personalized them in such a practical way as to be of immense encouragement to those who are joyfully toiling to bring the Word of God to, as Dr. Carl Hargrove says in *Dear Titus*, “a people in dire need of the gospel to save and order their lives.”

—**Darrell B. Harrison,**

Teaching Pastor and Biblical Counselor,  
Redeemer Bible Church

If God is leading you to plant a church, this book is a must read. The combined wisdom of the contributors along with the pastoral heart expressed by each comes across on every page. They provide practical advice on a variety of subjects including managing your time, loving your family, leading God's flock, and guarding your ministry. I am also encouraged by how relevant the advice remains for me, even after almost two decades at the church where I pastor. There are nuggets of wisdom throughout the book that I have already begun to put into practice. This is no mere list of ministerial theories. This is a treasure of wisdom from men who have stood firm and continue to fight the good fight.

— **Dr. M. Keith Foskey, D.Min.**  
Sovereign Grace Family Church

We need more books like this! Dear Titus puts forth a high view of the local church and a high view of the office of elder. The wisdom shared in these pages is unashamedly rooted in the Scriptures while flowing from 300+ years of combined pastoral experience. Not only is every chapter robustly doctrinal and wonderfully practical but this work offers a refreshing encouragement for pastors everywhere. This is certainly related to the fact that each chapter highlights the wonderful grace of God in the gospel and the need for pastors to rest in it, preach it, and keep it as priority in the church, home, and personal life. Nate Pickowicz and the rest of the contributors are serious about the holy calling of men in ministry while writing in such a way that gave me a renewed zeal to faithfully shepherd the flock of God in my own town for Christ's glory. I heartily recommend this work not only to church

planters, but to both experienced and novice pastors, as well as all Christians who love the local church and want to see her leaders flourish.

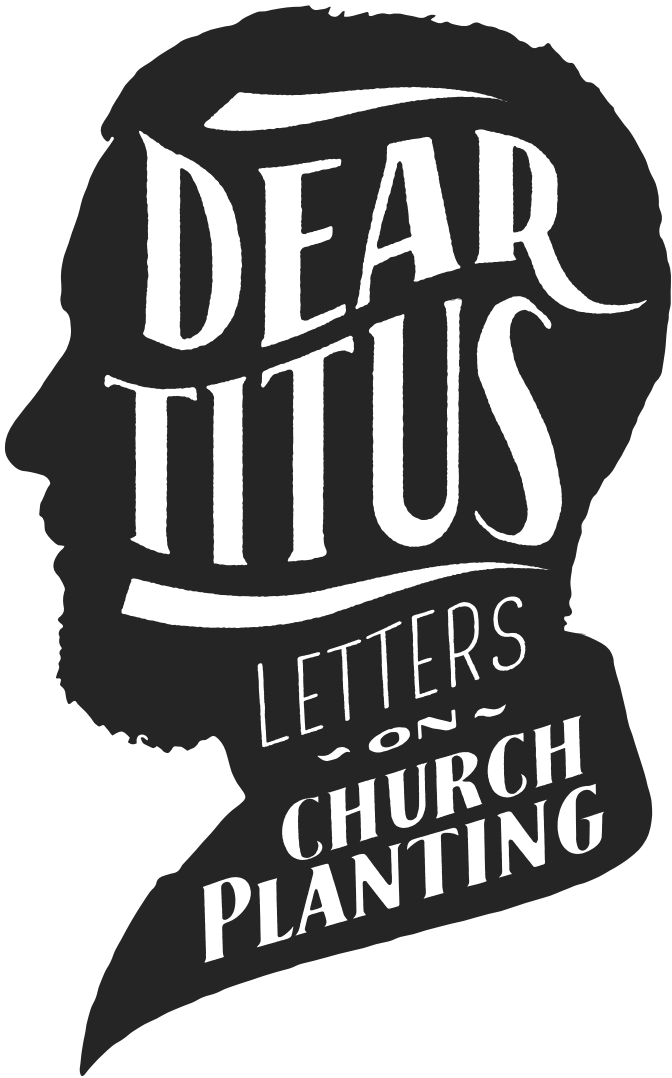
—**Allen S. Nelson IV**

Pastor, Providence Baptist Church,  
Author, *From Death to Life: How Salvation Works*,  
*Before the Throne: Reflections on God's Holiness*,  
and *A Change of Heart: Understanding  
Regeneration and Why it Matters*

I look up to pastors. They are my heroes. So many serve faithfully, quietly, and courageously, encouraging the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. And we need more men, well-trained in the historic Christian faith, who are raised up for this task. *Dear Titus* includes contributions from many seasoned pastors, offering biblical wisdom and practical guidance. It is a valuable resource for strengthening and reaffirming convictional Christian pastoral ministry. At a time when defection from the truth is rampant and many in ministry have lost their nerve, this book provides the needed encouragement and clarity to remain steadfast in gospel ministry. Additionally, as church planting efforts struggle to keep up with population growth in many places worldwide, this manuscript serves as a crucial tool to prepare and equip leaders for the task. Nate Pickowicz's labor to produce this volume will arrive right on time.

—**Chris Larson**

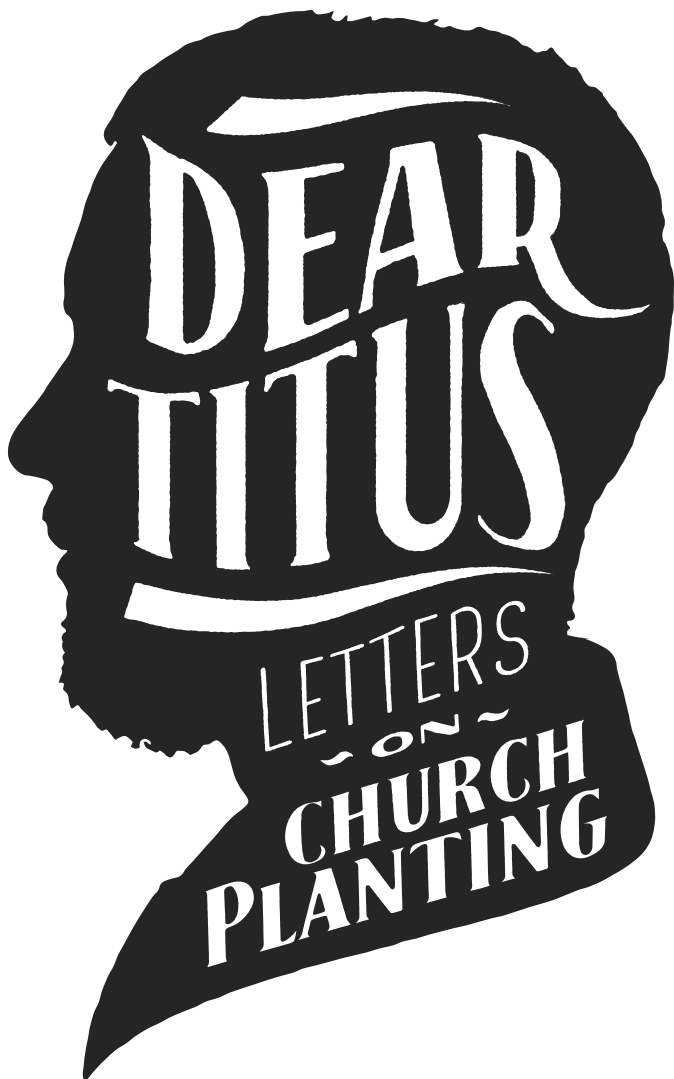




DEAR  
TITUS

LETTERS  
ON  
CHURCH  
PLANTING



A stylized black silhouette of a man's head in profile, facing left. The words "DEAR TITUS" are written in large, white, serif capital letters across the forehead and upper face. Below the forehead, the words "LETTERS ON CHURCH PLANTING" are written in white, sans-serif capital letters, following the curve of the neck and beard area.

DEAR  
TITUS

LETTERS  
ON  
CHURCH  
PLANTING

*Edited By*  
**NATE PICKOWICZ**



**FOUNDERS**  
MINISTRIES

## **Dear Titus**

### *Letters on Church Planting*

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## *Dedication*

*Pastor Harry Reeder was scheduled to contribute a chapter to this volume but was taken home to be with the Lord on May 18, 2023, before he could complete it.*

*He was a faithful shepherd, a passionate church revitalizer, and a stalwart defender of the faith.*

*This volume is dedicated to his memory.*



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## *Foreword*

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The gospel spread in the first century as believers were scattered across the Roman Empire “preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). When the church at Antioch was led by the Holy Spirit to send Paul and Barnabas into the region of Galatia they carried out their mission by proclaiming the word of God (Acts 13:5). As Jews and Gentiles came to faith in Jesus, they were gathered into churches so that they might fulfill their callings as disciples of Christ.

Most of the New Testament is written specifically to instruct and care for those churches. As Paul and Barnabas returned to their sending church, they made a point to revisit the places where they had preached “strengthening the souls of the disciples, encouraging them to continue in the faith, and saying that through many tribulations we must enter the kingdom of God. And when they had appointed elders for them in every church, with prayer and fasting they committed them to the Lord in whom they had believed” (Acts 14:22-23).

The work of evangelism and missions must always be done with a view to seeing healthy churches started and strengthened. That is the pattern that we find in the New Testament and it has remained the pattern for spreading the gospel in the 2000 years since.

Sometimes church planting is presented to evangelicals with an aura of mystique. The impression is given that it is such specialized and unusual work that only special ops forces should attempt it. This explains the plethora of church planting networks, organizations, manuals, conferences, and training that have emerged in the twenty-first century. On the one hand we should applaud this renewed interest in this New Testament emphasis. But on the other, we must recognize that much of what is being sold as necessary to the work of starting new churches is, shall we say, unhelpful.

Nate Pickowicz has done a great service to church planters everywhere by compiling the essays in this book. They are written by men who are fully committed to the authority and sufficiency of the Word of God and who have years of experience loving and serving local churches. The wisdom they share in these chapters will benefit those who are called to the front lines of church planting as well as those who support and encourage them in that work.

When Founders Press released *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry* in 2004, I wrote the following in the “Introduction.”

As I look back over my early pastoral mishaps, I realize that many of them could have been avoided had I received and heeded good counsel. While it is true that all the guidance a pastor needs in order to be equipped “for every good work” is sufficiently found in Scripture, there is no denying the value of godly, experienced counsel. God gives teachers to the church and even those who are called to shepherd His flock need them.

There is no substitute for the counsel of godly men of experience. Those who have walked the path you are pursuing can lend valuable advice about helpful steps to take as well as dangerous potholes to avoid. Proverbs says, “Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety” (11:14) and “by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory” (24:6).

To make disciples and then organize them into a church is spiritual warfare. The record of Paul’s church planting activities in Acts makes that clear. The devil and his minions hate the kingdom of Christ and oppose its advance at every step. That reality quickly shatters romanticized notions of church planting once the work begins. The good news is that our Lord has promised that He Himself will build His church “and the gates of hell will not prevail against it” (Matthew 16:18).

So, all who enter the work of seeing new churches established should be both sobered and hopeful. The counsel of experienced wisdom can help keep such sobriety from descending into despair and hope from becoming presumption. That is what the authors in this book provide. By way of a personal letter each contributor addresses a duty that is essential to effective pastor ministry. The letters are addressed to a hypothetical church planter named Titus. He and his wife, Elizabeth, have two small children and, with a couple of other families, are committed to starting a church in their town.

One of the remarkable features of this book is how unremarkable the counsel of each chapter is. Those looking for some secret formula for success will be severely disappointed with this book. None of the authors approaches his subject with a sense of providing a magic key that will make the work of starting a church easy or guarantee its success. Rather, what these letters show is that church planting requires a commitment to the ordinary means of grace (preaching, teaching, serving, praying, etc.) that arises from a life of faithful discipleship (pursuing holiness, making disciples, fulfilling your calling, working hard, etc.) in dependence on God with a view to His glory. In other words, church planters must be serious Christians who are fully resolved to follow the Scripture's guidance without compromise regardless of cost or consequences.

Such work is not glamorous, but it is unavoidable if the goal is to see a healthy church planted and sustained



for years of Christ-honoring fruitfulness. When such a church is in fact planted, all the glory goes to God because that result is all due to His grace and power. This is the point the Apostle Paul makes when he reminds the Corinthians of how their church came into existence. He writes, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth” (1 Corinthians 3:6–7).

I have deep respect for church planting pastors. Those who pursue this calling faithfully deserve the love and support of all God’s people. Yet, they, like all Christians, are merely servants in Christ’s kingdom. At the end of the day their work is not about them but about their Master. It is His name that inspires them and His fame that motivates them. They plant churches because the Jesus is worthy of having all peoples in all places worshiping Him as Lord and Savior. As the great nineteenth century pastor, Charles Spurgeon said,

When any of you remove into the country, as you do when you increase in wealth, should you not feel that you ought to seek the good of the people, and if there is no church of your own faith and order near, should you not commence one? Rest not till you see the gospel preached in the neighborhood, and that fully, that sinners may be converted to God.

May the burden of planting churches continue to spread throughout God’s people in our day. We can be

sure that, until Christ returns, the Lord will continue to call men and equip them for that purpose. Under the blessing of God may this book help such men to press on in this great work with joy, thankful that the Lord has seen fit to give to them such a noble calling.

**Tom Ascol**

Pastor, Grace Baptist Church  
Cape Coral, FL  
President, Founders Ministries &  
The Institute of Public Theology

## *Preface*

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For several years, I have wanted to publish a book on church planting. Being a church planter myself, I have often experienced the need for wisdom, instruction, and encouragement in my ministerial labors. Early on, there were many days when I longed to have a seasoned pastor come alongside me, throw his arm over my shoulder, and help me keep plodding. Thankfully, with the partnership of Founders Press, that dream has become a reality for the next generation of church planters.

This book is the culmination of several ideas working together. In the formative days of our church plant, I relied heavily on Paul's letter to Titus, embracing it more as a truncated manual for pastoral ministry, especially that of church planting ministry. Each of the forty-six verses could be expanded indefinitely to give us God's wisdom for how He desires the body of Christ to be cared for.

As for the delivery of pastoral wisdom, I remember reading the collection of “letters” from faithful pastors in the 2004 Founders Press book *Dear Timothy: Letters on Pastoral Ministry*. I cannot express how much that book has helped me over the last several years. While working through *Dear Timothy*, I came up with the idea of compiling a companion book specifically for church planters—*Dear Titus*. This volume, loosely built around the structure of Paul’s Letter to Titus, consists of a series of letters to a hypothetical church planter named “Titus,” who, along with his wife “Elizabeth” and their two young children, are setting out to begin a new work.

Bound together within these pages are thirteen letters from men who love the church. Eleven of those letters come from fellow pastors whom I greatly respect. These are men who are at the forefront of pastoral ministry, church planting, and revitalization. I firmly believe that the wisdom contained in their more than three hundred combined years of ministry will be a blessing to you. Additionally, by God’s grace, I hope my two letters will also serve to encourage and bless you.

I am grateful to the team at Founders Ministries, especially Tom Ascol, Chris Faro, Travis McSherley, and Randy Starkey, for making this book happen. I also owe an immense debt of gratitude to the men who carved out the time to write heartfelt and thought-provoking letters to be included. Although he was not ultimately able to make his own contribution to *Dear Titus*, I am also indebted to

Pastor Harry Reeder for his friendship, encouragement, and excitement for this project.

May the Lord bless many pastors and their churches with these humble efforts.

**Nate Pickowicz**  
Harvest Bible Church  
Gilmanton Iron Works, New Hampshire  
November 2023