

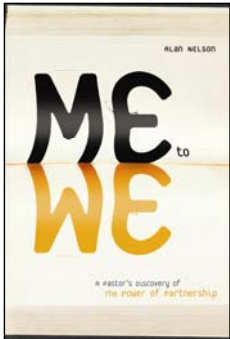
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Unlocking the Power of Partnership in Ministry

According to long-time pastor and *REV. Magazine* editor Alan Nelson, American churches with traditional pastoral models are rapidly losing impact

Denver, CO –**Alan Nelson** has interacted with hundreds of churches across the country, discovering “what it takes to catalyze spiritual growth and effective service beyond church walls.” The answer isn’t more programs or superstar pastors; it’s equipping people in the pews.



In *Me to We* (Group Publishing), Nelson points pastors and ministry leaders toward a new paradigm—instead of taking all the responsibility on their own shoulders, leaders need to equip others, unleashing the power of partnership.

“We’re driving a stake in the ground, believing there is a better way to ‘do’ church. The journey begins with the pastors changing the way they think about their role and how it is carried out,” writes Nelson, the executive director of *REV. Magazine*, dedicated to equipping today’s pastors and ministry leaders.

“In spite of better education, ministry resources, and as many books and conferences as a person can ingest, few churches significantly impact their surrounding communities,” Nelson writes. The content of *Me to We* isn’t solely theoretical—the book is “based on real people, whose churches have become bold, dynamic congregations,” he writes.

Nelson is no stranger to churches—he was a pastor for over twenty years and has planted two churches, as well as observing thousands of churches through his work over the years. Narrative and story-based, *Me to We* is full of direct principles for ministry leaders to implement, such as:

- People rarely change until there is significant pain or discomfort with the way things are. (24)
- Pastors desiring their church to reach its potential must be willing to pay the price of changing their own pastoral self-image and their approach to ministry. (43)
- The primary purpose of the pastor is to help people discover, develop and deploy their God-given gifts for serving others. (72)
- Every church needs a person besides the pastor who will champion the equipping value and develop a ministry team to implement this throughout the ministry areas. (116)
- A congregation needs a variety of systems to effectively implement the equipping value so that it becomes a part of the church culture. (158)
- The pastor who perseveres to become an equipping pastor will experience personal benefits and will unleash the potential of the church. (191)

At the end of *Me to We*, he includes over thirty-five practical next-steps for pastors to take action.

Alan Nelson is a 20-year pastor and church planting veteran, the author of a dozen books, and now the executive editor of *REV. Magazine*—the only pastoral magazine designed primarily to help pastors equip ministry leaders. (www.rev.org)

About *Me to We*:

Me to We: A Pastor's Discovery of the Power of Partnership by Alan Nelson. Published by Group Publishing. Paperback, 192 pages. \$19.99. ISBN: 978-0764434860.

Facts about Alan Nelson

Author of *Me to We*

- Has enjoyed over 20 years in pastoral ministry;
- Has planted 2 churches;
- Married to Nancy for 26 years;
- Enjoys writing books and reading them;
- Loves a game of tennis with his three sons: Jeff (20), Josh (18) and Jesse (14);
- Grew up on a farm in southern Iowa, but prefers Southern California and north Scottsdale, AZ;
- Little known fact: Alan worked his way through college as a ventriloquist. “People paid to have the dummy talk, and sometimes they'd let me preach, too.

Suggested Interview Questions

Me to We

1. What have pastors and ministry leaders believed the lie that they have to do everything themselves? How does the church often fuel this?
2. Do pastors suffer with “self-image” problems? Why will they have to be willing to give up their image in order to make positive changes within the church?
3. What advice would you give to pastors who are burned out? How can they regain the fire?
4. You write about pastors coming to a point of brokenness before they are ready to be fully used. Could you explain that concept?
5. How have churches adopted the “Western educational model”? What are the dangers of this type of model?
6. What is the ideal model and paradigm for churches in the 21st Century?
7. How would you define an “equipping pastor”? What are their defining characteristics?
8. You write that the primary purpose of the pastor is to help people use their gifts to serve others. How is this different from the other ways of thinking?
9. What are some of the benefits of becoming an “equipping pastor”?
10. How does the church and laypeople benefit from having an “equipping pastor”?
11. Does *Me to We* work in churches of different sizes?

For an interview or to discuss an excerpt, contact Ben Laurro at Pure Publicity at 818.753.4056 or Ben@purepublicity.com.

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