


# Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field

*By Paul D. Borden*

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**Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field** By Paul D. Borden

This book is not an attempt to offer hope, help, or even advice on what denominations need to do. However, it is a book about a significant turn-around of a middle-level administration of justice in one Protestant denomination and it does offer hope that other like administrations might be able to experience a better and more effective existence. Everyone's experience is unique and therefore cannot be replicated. However, the implementation of foundational all-encompassing principles, the development of new strategies, and the performance of specific tactics that are successful in one situation does offer hope to others that their modeling of the principles, adapting the strategies, and creating specific tactics to fit their context can bring change.

*"This book is a gutsy look at denominational life, leadership and vision, and offers new paradigms for the local church, middle judicatories and national denominational life. A must-read for anyone interested in bringing renewal to the local church and our denomination. Clearly, Borden has hit the bull's-eye with regard not only to our denomination's needs but also how renewal begins in the local church."* - ABE News

## Foreword to *Hit the Bullseye*

**by**

**Leith Anderson**

July 2003

"Some look at things that are, and ask why. I dream of things that never were and ask why not?"

-- George Bernard Shaw

There are approximately 400,000 churches in the United States and the vast majority of them belong to denominations. Some are healthy, vibrant, and growing. Most are tired, struggling, not growing, and don’t know what to do.

Plenty of critics and cynics take surveys, analyze data, and write books about what is wrong with the churches of America. As if following the theology of Chicken Little they are convinced that the sky is falling and there is little we can do except seek cover. Proposals for renewal often are offered by theorists who tell practitioners what to do but have never actually done it themselves.

**What if?**

What if there was a way to help declining churches to grow? What if we could teach pastors how to lead their congregations to spiritual renewal? What if thousands of churches changed from maintenance to mission? What if a movement began with 200 churches that grew to 200,000 churches? What if millions of unchurched people came into lasting relationships with Jesus Christ and the church? What if the denominations of America with all of their people, property, and potential became the epicenter of this spiritual earthquake that became known as the Great Awakening of the 21st Century?

Maybe all this sounds too good to be true. Well, it has already begun. Centered in the earthquake zone of northern California, the American Baptist Churches of the West have demonstrated that a plateaued and declining region of mainline congregations can become a model of healthy and growing congregations. They have overcome the usual excuses that "our churches are too small," "we have too many older people and congregations," and "property here is too expensive." They followed a powerful formula of biblical strategies, courageous leadership, and much hard work. What is most amazing is that the turnaround took less than five years.

**Why not?**

Here is the dream. Denominational leaders, executive ministers, bishops, district superintendents, regional directors, seminary teachers, pastors, and lay leaders will discover what God has done in northern California and say, "Why not here?" "With a few creative adaptations we can do the same thing in our denomination and in our churches."

They will start small and multiply. They will risk their traditions, finances, staff, and jobs. They will respond to misunderstanding with teaching and take

criticism with grace.  Then there will be one successful church transformation?new vision, new faith, new people, and new excitement.  One will become ten and ten will become one hundred.  Church by church, region by region, denomination by denomination?a true reformation will bring a great new era to the people and churches of our generation.  It can be done.  It has been done.  This is a dream of the way things can be.  Be among those who say, “Why not?  Let’s do it!”

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**Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field By Paul D. Borden Bibliography**

- Rank: #1294599 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Abingdon Press
- Published on: 2003-07-01
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: .36" h x 5.60" w x 8.48" l, .45 pounds

- Binding: Paperback
- 144 pages

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## Editorial Review

About the Author

Asan international consultant, judicatory leader, former large church pastor, andprofessor of homiletics, Dr. Paul Borden knows both what is required totransform congregations and judicatories and how to do it. Borden is Executive Minister of Growing HealthyChurches. He is in demand nationally as a church consultant, who helpedinitiate the "teaching church" movement, in which congregations learnfrom other congregations about excellence. His book *Hit the Bullseye*(Abingdon, 2006) has been used by over 50 denominations in leading change.

Previousassignments include Director of Church Consulting for the Evangelical FreeChurch of America and Academic Dean of Western Bible College. Paul holds aPh.D. from the University of Denver, Th.M. from Dallas Theological Seminary andB.S. from Philadelphia College of Bible.

## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Bertha Costa:**

This book untitled Hit the Bullseye: How Denominations Can Aim Congregations at the Mission Field to be one of several books in which best seller in this year, this is because when you read this book you can get a lot of benefit in it. You will easily to buy this specific book in the book retailer or you can order it via online. The publisher of this book sells the e-book too. It makes you easier to read this book, as you can read this book in your Touch screen phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this publication from your list.

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