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The UCA Can Change the USA': Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Soul of Urban Church Planters

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“The UCA Can Change the USA” –Rev. Dr. Cecil Murray
Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Soul of Urban Church Planters
Los Angeles Urban Church Association, World Impact Teen Center
8/3/2019

“You should read twenty-five percent of your books from the first 1,500 years of church history, twenty-five percent from the last 500 years, twenty-five percent from the last 100 years, and twenty-five percent from recent years.” Rick Warren, 2010

“It is a good rule, after reading a new book, never to allow yourself another new one till you have read an old one in between. If that is too much for you, you should at least read one old one to every three new ones.” C. S. Lewis, 1944

I. Will we Finish Well or Fall Away?: A Key Question for Congregational Leaders Today

- A. Rev. A.W. Tozer is an example for urban leaders today.
- B. Dr. James Houston is an example of a Christian Leader finishing well today.
- C. Dr. Don Davis, of The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI), is a leader who is finishing well today.
- D. Finishing Well requires us to attend to our:
 - 1. Habitat.
 - 2. Head.
 - 3. Hands.
 - 4. Heart.
 - 5. Habits.

II. The Sacred Roots Project is Designed to Help Congregational Leaders Thrive in Ministry in Challenging Ministry Contexts

- A. The Vision is Planted in 2003. What Vision has God placed in your Heart?
- B. The Vision Waits (2003–2018). How long have you waited?
- C. The Opportunity Arrives 2019–2023). Will you be ready?

III. What is the Sacred Roots Project?

- A. Relationships. Resources. Research.
 - 1. Relationships means strengthening Friendships.
 - 2. Resources means providing tools.
 - 3. Research means telling stories and testing testimonies.

Appendix I: Comparison of A. W. Tozer’s and Elton Trueblood’s “Teachers” (43 Spiritual Classics in Total)

Both	Tozer (35 total)	Trueblood (25 total)
1. <i>The Dark Night of the Soul</i> , by John of the Cross	1. <i>Adornment of the Spiritual Marriage</i> , by Jan van Ruysbroeck	1. <i>A Serious Call to a Devout and Holy Life</i> , by William Law
2. <i>Practice of the Presence of God</i> , by Brother Lawrence	2. <i>Amendment of Life</i> , by Richard Rolle	2. <i>Meditations of the Heart</i> , by Howard Thurman
3. <i>A Testament of Devotion</i> , by Thomas Kelly	3. <i>The Ascent of Mt. Carmel</i> , by John of the Cross	3. <i>The Little Flowers of St. Francis</i>
4. <i>Introduction to the Devout Life</i> , by Francis of Sales	4. <i>The Ascent of Mt. Zion</i> , by Berdardeno de Laredo	4. <i>Pensées</i> , by Blaise Pascal
5. <i>The Imitation of Christ</i> , by Thomas a Kempis	5. <i>Book of Eternal Wisdom</i> , by Henry Suso	5. <i>The Journal of John Woolman</i>
6. <i>Confessions</i> , by Augustine	6. <i>Centuries of Meditations</i> , by Thomas Traherne	6. <i>A Diary of Private Prayer</i> , by John Baillie
7. <i>Private Devotions</i> , by Lancelot Andrewes	7. <i>Christian Perfection</i> , by Fenelon	7. <i>The Christian’s Secret to a Happy Life</i> , by Hannah Whitall Smith
	8. <i>The Cloud of Unknowing</i> , Anonymous	8. <i>Surprised by Joy</i> , by C.S. Lewis
	9. <i>The Goad of Love</i> , by Walter Hilton	9. <i>No Man Is an Island</i> , by Thomas Merton
	10. <i>A Guide to True Peace</i> , by Molinos and others	10. <i>Dr. Johnson’s Prayers</i> , edited by D. Elton Trueblood