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Toward Ten Thousand Tozers: Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Souls of Congregational Leaders

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**Toward Ten Thousand Tozers:
Using Spiritual Classics to Strengthen the Souls of Congregational Leaders**
Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne
8/13/2019

“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 provides an example of finishing well for congregational leaders serving among the poor.
- B. Dr. James Houston, of Regent College, 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.
- 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
 - 1. Toward Ten Thousand Tozers on Track by 2025
- B. The Story
 - 1. The Vision is Planted in 2003. What Vision has God placed in your Heart?
 - 2. The Vision Waits (2003–2018). How long have you waited?
 - 3. The Vision Emerges (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.

- B. Conference. Cohorts. Classics.
 - 1. One Conference will take place in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 introducing the SRTM project to a new group of congregational leaders.
 - 2. Twenty Cohorts will meet as learning communities in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023.
 - 3. Each year four new spiritual classics will be provided to the cohorts free of charge along with training and other resources.

SRTM Series 1 Target Publication Dates				
	Biblical Studies	Theology and Ethics	Christian Ministry	Mission and Evangelism
2020	Vol. 1	Vol. 2	Vol. 3	Vol. 4
2021	Vol. 5	Vol. 6	Vol. 7	Vol. 8
2022	Vol. 9	Vol. 10	Vol. 11	Vol. 12
2023	Vol. 13	Vol. 14	Vol. 15	Vol. 16

- C. Relationships and Resources will continue to be developed via:
 - 1. Distribution of the SRTM Series 1 Spiritual Classics
 - a) Print copies available through Amazon print on demand.
 - b) Electronic Copies available through the Sacred Roots App
 - c) Electronic Copies available through the Taylor University [Pillars platform](#).

 - 2. Continued Conversations Related to Spiritual Classics via
 - a) The Urban Ministry Institute (TUMI) Networks
 - b) Urban Church Associations (UCA) and Rural Church Associations (RCA)
 - c) Ecclesial Partners (Denominations, Churches, etc.)

IV. What is a Spiritual Classic and How Does it Help Spiritual Leaders?

- A. A spiritual classic is a text that has helped thousands of leaders in many cultures and throughout many centuries with at least one perennial pastoral problem.
 - 1. Thousands of Leaders.
 - 2. Many Cultures and Many Centuries
 - 3. A Perennial Pastoral Problem

- B. How Does a Spiritual Classic Help a Pastor, Church Planter, or other Christian Leader?
 - 1. It deepens and develops our Friendships.
 - a) With a dead friend.
 - b) With others who share the same heart.

 - 2. Addresses specific felt needs in our community.
 - a) Depression, Anxiety, Anger, Lust, Sin
 - b) Love, Sex, God, Friends, Marriage, Singleness.

 - 3. Provides wisdom for specific challenges faced in our community.
 - a) The Best answers to difficult questions.
 - b) “Why do all the bad things happen in my community?” Teen from South Chicago, July 2019

 - 4. Helps identify where we belong (e.g. the Great Tradition).

V. So How Can I Be Involved in the Sacred Roots Project?

- A. Pray for us
- B. Lead a Learning Community (or Cohort) during 2020, 2021, 2022, or 2023.
- C. Participate in a Learning Community (or Cohort) during 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.
- D. Tell someone about the Sacred Roots project and encourage them to participate.

Appendix 1: 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

	11. <i>Hymns</i> , by Gerhard Tersteegen	11. <i>The Pilgrim's Progress</i> , by John Bunyan
	12. <i>Letters of Direction</i> , by de Tourville	12. <i>Creative Prayer</i> , by E. Herman
	13. <i>On the Incarnation</i> , by Athanasius	13. <i>Fruits of Solitude</i> , by William Penn
	14. <i>On the Love of God</i> , by Bernard of Clairvaux	14. <i>I and Thou</i> , by Martin Buber
	15. <i>Poems</i> , by Frederick Faber	15. <i>Devotions</i> , by John Donne
	16. <i>Poems</i> , by Isaac Watts	16. <i>Reality in Worship</i> , by Willard L. Sperry
	17. <i>Proslogium</i> , by Anselm	17. <i>The Journal of John Wesley</i>
	18. <i>The Quiet Way</i> , by Gerhard Tersteegen	18. <i>The Journal of George Fox</i>
	19. <i>Revelations of Divine Love</i> , by Julian of Norwich	
	20. <i>The Scale of Perfection</i> , by Walter Hilton	
	21. <i>Sermons</i> , by John Tauler	
	22. <i>Song of Songs</i> , by Bernard of Clairvaux	
	23. <i>The Spiritual Combat</i> , by Lorenzo Scupoli	
	24. <i>The Spiritual Guide</i> , by Michael Molinos	
	25. <i>Talks of Instruction</i> , by Meister Eckhart	
	26. <i>Theologia Germanica</i> (Winkworth translation), Anonymous	
	27. <i>The Vision of God</i> , by Nicholas of Cusa	
	28. <i>The Way of Christ</i> , by Jacob Boehme	