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7-14-2023

Flourishing with Friends: How Spiritual Classics Can Help Us Finish Well in Ministry

Hank Voss

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SACRED ROOTS
THRIVING
IN MINISTRY

FLOURISHING WITH FRIENDS

How Spiritual Classics Can Help Us Finish Well in Ministry

Workshop 1

Rev. Dr. Hank Voss
Friday, July 14, 2023

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Big Idea

Engaging Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics with friends can help pastors finish well in ministry.

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Flourishing with Friends Objectives



You will know how to answer the question, “Why spiritual classics?”



You will feel excited about using spiritual classics to form the hearts and minds of the next generation of missional leaders.



You will be ready to submit a Sacred Roots Study Group “Thrive Plan.”

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“Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.”

~ Hebrews 13:7

“What you wish to ignite in others must first burn inside your heart.”

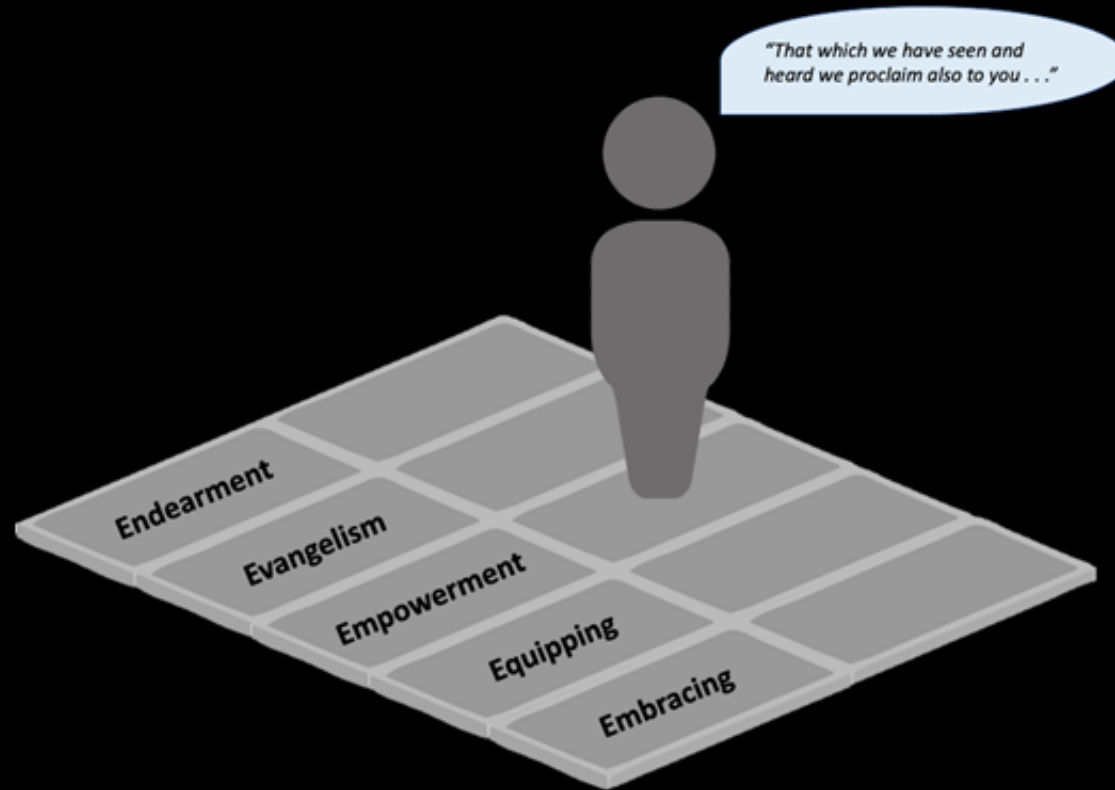
~ Augustine

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“Endearment” is where missions starts.



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- I. Story Time: The Voss Family Visits Italy
 - A. Augustine's Movement
 - B. The Catacombs of St. Callixtus
 - C. The Pantheon and Florence



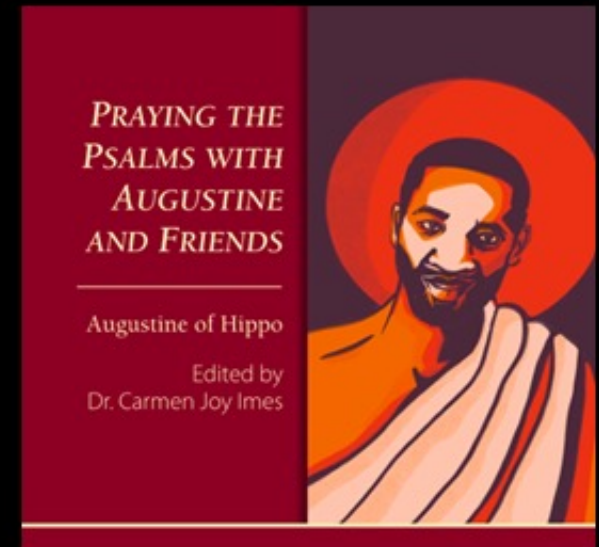
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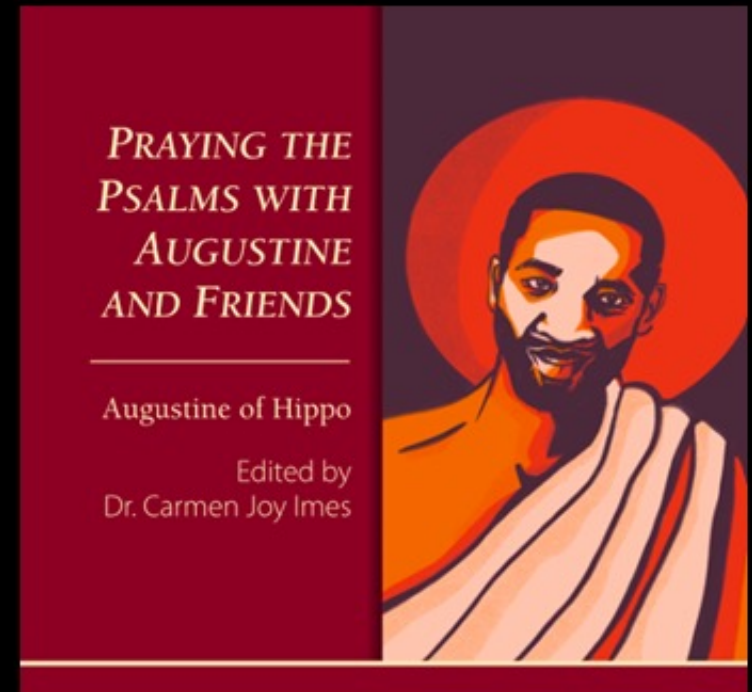
Novacella Monastery

- Augustine founded a movement of disciples in Africa around the year 430.
- 700 years later members of this movement founded a discipleship center in 1142.
- The center is still on mission today, 850 years later.



Apprenticing Ourselves to Augustine?

Will the movements we start still
be making disciples 1,500 years
after we are gone?



**WHAT YOU
WANT TO IGNITE
IN OTHERS
MUST FIRST
BURN INSIDE
YOURSELF.**

ST AUGUSTINE



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The Catacombs



The Catacombs of St. Callixtus



Official cemetery of the Church of Rome
in the 3rd century AD



About five hundred thousand Christians
were buried here

Our sister Cecilia

The Catacombs of St. Callixtus



The crypt of the Popes:
the heart of these catacombs

Of the first 31 “Senior Pastors” of Rome (“bishops”), 28 died as martyrs.

As many as 14 of these leaders were buried at the Callixtus catacombs.

The Catacombs of St. Callixtus

We are coming out of challenging times, but Christian leaders have often faced challenging times.



The crypt of the Popes:
the heart of these catacombs

Remembering their example and telling their stories can give us courage to remain faithful in our generation.

Questions from Rome?

Are we willing to suffer for Jesus like the Christians who have lived in previous generations?



The Pantheon



The Florence Cathedral



Questions from Rome?

1. Have we lost the recipe for “church concrete?”
2. “Are we willing to invest our lives in helping to build a church planting movement that might not be “done” for 500 years?”

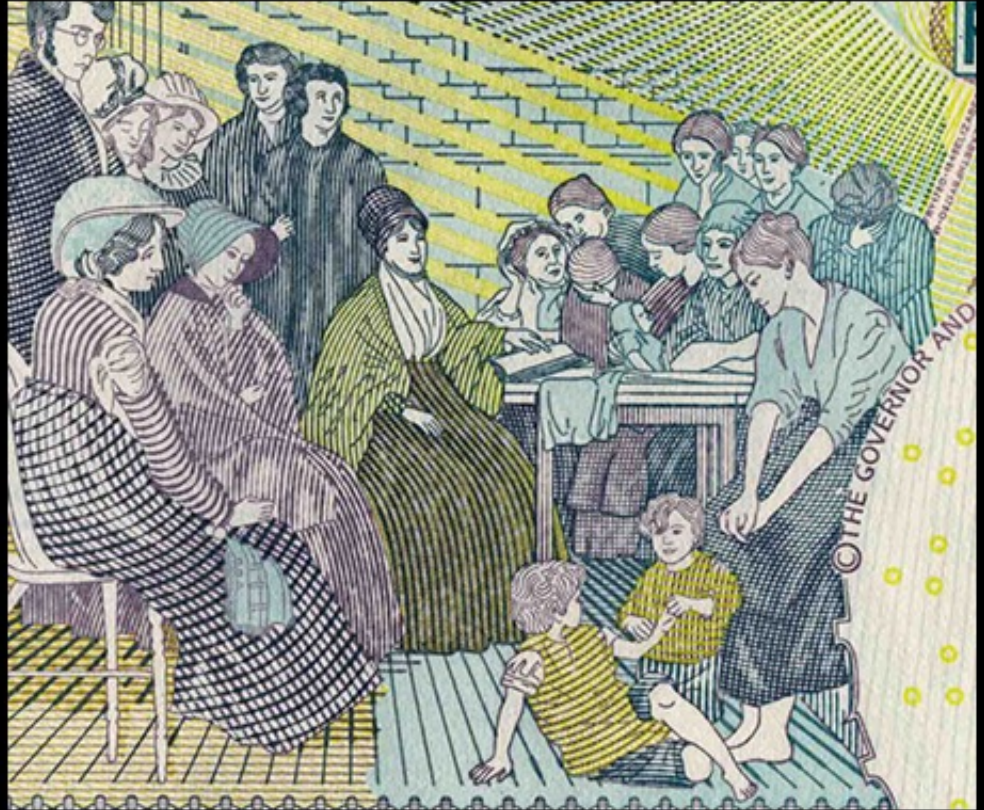


Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845)



**Elizabeth Fry: Second Woman to be printed
on a British bank note (2002-2016)**







Elizabeth Fry

- Mother of eleven children.
- Recorded as a Minister among the Quakers at age 31 (1811). Preached and evangelized around Europe.
- Began working in prison ministry in 1813.
- Changed the culture, laws, and attitude of the most powerful nation on earth towards prisons and the incarcerated.





Spiritual Classics placed in her libraries included:

- Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*
- Scougal's *Life of God in the Soul of Man*
- Howe's *On the Holy Spirit*
- Baxter's *Call to the Unconverted*
- Baxter's *Saint's Everlasting Rest*
- John Newton's *Spiritual Autobiography*



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II. Introducing Spiritual Classics: Three Definitions

A. Definition #1: Spiritual Classics Provide “Catholic” Perspective on Our Generation’s Blind Spots

1. We believe in “one, holy, catholic, and apostolic church”
2. Arthur Holder’s definition of spiritual classics emphasizes their **catholicity**
3. The catholicity of spiritual classics helps our own generation to recognize cultural blind spots
4. Western blind spots in 2022

A spiritual classic is “any text claiming a religious truth that has made a profound difference in the lives of *generations of readers across time and space.*”

— Arthur Holder, *Christian Spirituality: The Classics*

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II. Introducing Spiritual Classics: Three Definitions

B. Definition #2: Spiritual Classics Help Us Make Friends with Wise Christian Leaders from Other Centuries and Other Cultures

1. Friendships help identify cultural blind spots
2. Dana Roberts and *Faithful Friendships: Embracing Diversity in Christian Community*
3. A transforming relationship occurs between the reader and historical Christian leader (Bernhard Christensen)

Spiritual classics are books to be read more than once, over and over.

“They are not passing acquaintances but *abiding companions* on the way of life.”

— Bernhard Christensen, *The Inward Pilgrimage: An Introduction to Christian Spiritual Classics*

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II. Introducing Spiritual Classics: Three Definitions

C. Definition #3: The Sacred Roots Definition

1. Three important aspects of the Sacred Roots definition
2. The Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics (SRSC)

“A spiritual classic is a non-canonical text that has proven helpful in addressing perennial pastoral problems *across many cultures and centuries.*”

— Sacred Roots

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III. Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Reasons This Generation of Church Planters Need the Spiritual Classics

- A. **Biblical Reasons to Engage with Spiritual Classics**
 1. Hebrews exhorts us to remember and consider the lives of past Christians
 2. Remember God's work and His people is modeled for us in Scripture

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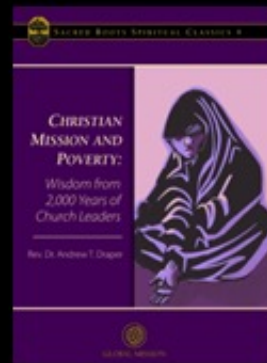
Hebrews 12:1a; 13:7-8 (ESV)

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses . . .

Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.

Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

Toward 10,000 Tozers!



Toward 10,000 Thurman's!



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III. Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Reasons This Generation of Church Planters Need the Spiritual Classics

B. Historical Reasons to Engage Spiritual Classics

1. Examples from Sacred Roots
2. Rebecca Proton and Moravian Movement
3. John Wesley and the Wesleyans
4. The Evangelical Missionary Movement

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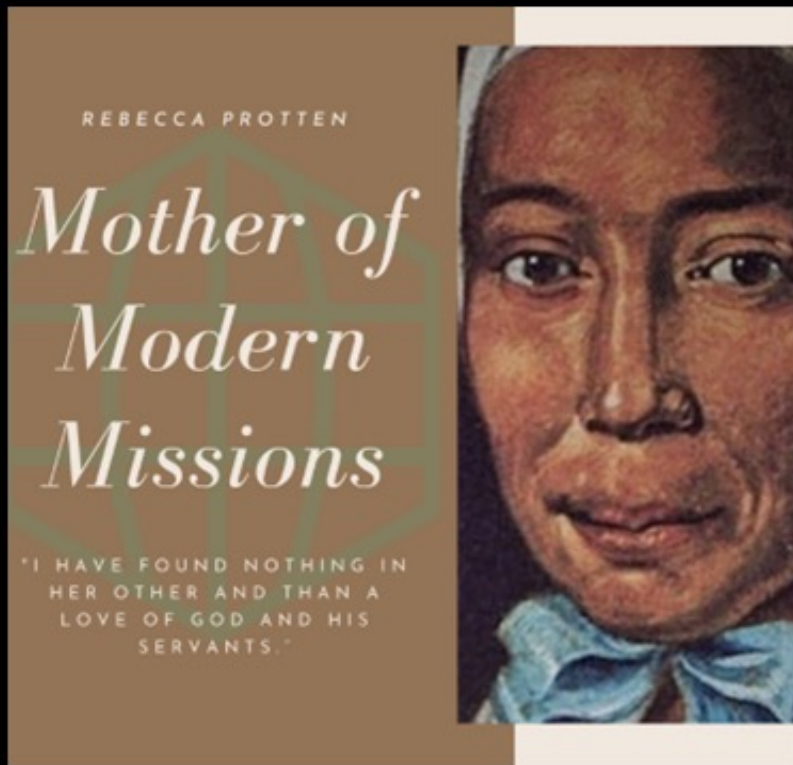
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3. John Wesley and the Wesleyans

i. The “Christian Library”

- a. John Wesley printed a collection of 50 Spiritual Classics which he called the “Christian Library”.
- b. “We must give special importance to supplying the poor with shorter, cheaper and simpler books than those that have existed up to now...” John Welsey



“We abundantly share with them [unreached people groups] the printed booklets which they *read* among themselves *and send* from one place to the other.”

— Moravian Missionaries

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III. Biblical, Historical, and Contemporary Reasons This Generation of Church Planters Need the Spiritual Classics

C. Contemporary Reasons to Engage the Spiritual Classics

1. Pastors in this generation are tired
2. The “Great Resignation” and pastoral burnout

“According to surveys conducted last summer by the Hartford Institute for Religion Research at Hartford International University, 37% of clergy had *“seriously considered leaving pastoral ministry”* at least once during the preceding year, and 67% had thought at least once during that time that it was the hardest year of their ministry experience.”

— Edie Gross, *“The Great Resignation: Are Pastors Resigning, Redefining or Reevaluating?”*

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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

A. Defining “Flourish” and “Apprenticeship”

1. What it means for leaders to “flourish” or “thrive” in ministry
2. Three kinds of apprenticeship in the Sacred Roots program

“Scripture is about a way of being in the world that *promises true human flourishing*, now partially and eschatologically fully, through believing in and aligning oneself with Jesus Christ, God’s authoritative Son.”

— Jonathan Pennington, *The Sermon on the Mount and Human Flourishing: A Theological Commentary*

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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

A. Defining “Flourish” and “Apprenticeship”: Three Kinds of Apprenticeship

1. Historical Mentors
2. Contemporary Mentors
3. Cohort Leaders

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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

B. Examples of how the Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics help Christian Leaders Flourish as God Intends

1. SRSC 1. *Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends*
2. SRSC 2. *Becoming a Community of Disciples*
3. SRSC 3. *Spiritual Friendship*

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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

C. Overview of the Other 16 Volumes

1. The four subject areas – TUMI's Capstone Curriculum
2. How the SRSCs can be read in a proactive way
3. How the SRSCs can be read pragmatically

Choose the
Spiritual Classic
right for your
Cohort.

SUMMARY  SACRED ROOTS SPIRITUAL CLASSICS			
 BIBLICAL STUDIES	 THEOLOGY & ETHICS	 CHRISTIAN MINISTRY	 GLOBAL MISSION
<p><i>Praying the Psalms with Augustine and Friends</i> By Augustine and Friends Edited by Carmen Joy Imes Available Now</p>	<p><i>Becoming a Community of Disciples: Guidelines from Abbot Benedict and Bishop Basil</i> By Benedict and Basil Edited by Greg Peters Available Now</p>	<p><i>Spiritual Friendship: Learning to be Friends with God and One Another</i> By Aelred and Rievaulx Edited by Hank Voss Available Now</p>	<p><i>Christian Mission and Poverty: Wisdom from 2,000 Years of Church History</i> By Howard Thurman and Friends Edited by Andrew T. Draper Available Now</p>
<p><i>Books Jesus Read: Learning from the Apocrypha</i> By Jewish Believers Edited by Robert F. Lay Available Now</p>	<p><i>Renewal in Christ: Athanasius on the Christian Life</i> By Athanasias Edited by Jeremy Treat Available Spring 2023</p>	<p><i>First Christian Voices: Learning from the Practices of the Ancient Church</i> By Clement and Friends Edited by Michael T. Cooper Available Spring 2023</p>	<p><i>Las Casas on Faithful Witness</i> By Las Casas Edited by Robert Romero and Marcos Canales Available Now</p>
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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

D. Speaking about Scripture, Spiritual Classics, and our Souls with Spiritual Friends

1. “Speaking” and research from Taylor University’s Center for Scripture Engagement
2. Speaking about SCs together show us how to speak about Scripture and our relationship with God
3. Speaking about SCs together provides a laboratory for “soul talk”

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IV. How SRSCs Help Leaders Flourish as Apprentices to Wise Historical Mentors

E. Five Kinds of Sacred Roots Questions

1. Habitat
2. Head
3. Heart
4. Hands
5. Habits

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

A. Definitions of “Sacred Roots Study Group” and “Thrive Plan”

1. A **Sacred Roots Study Group** consists of congregational leaders who are learning together under the guidance of a local mentor, a contemporary mentor, and an historical mentor.
2. A **Thrive Plan** is the specific, intentional strategy a Sacred Roots Study Group adopts to apprentice together under a master practitioner of life with God (e.g. Augustine, Athanasius, Benedict, Basil).

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

B. The Six Components of a Thrive Plan

1. Movement Name
2. Study Group Facilitator
3. Study Group Members
4. Model for Meeting

Cohort Meeting Schedule Options A, B

<i>SRSC</i> Section to Read	“Sunday School” Class	“Church-Based Seminary” Module
	Ten Week	Eight Week
<i>Introduction</i>	Week 1	Week 1
<i>Ch. 1</i>	Week 2	
<i>Ch. 2</i>	Week 3	Week 2
<i>Ch. 3</i>	Week 4	Week 3
<i>Ch. 4</i>	Week 5	Week 4
<i>Ch. 5</i>	Week 6	Week 5
<i>Ch. 6</i>	Week 7	Week 6
<i>Ch. 7</i>	Week 8	Week 7
<i>Ch. 8</i>	Week 9	Week 8
<i>Continuing the Conversation</i>	Week 10	

Cohort Meeting Schedule Options C, D

<i>SRSC</i> Section to Read	Monthly Pastor's Meeting
<i>Introduction</i>	Month 1
<i>Ch. 1</i>	
<i>Ch. 2</i>	
<i>Ch. 3</i>	Month 2
<i>Ch. 4</i>	
<i>Ch. 5</i>	
<i>Ch. 6</i>	
<i>Ch. 7</i>	Month 3
<i>Ch. 8</i>	
<i>Continuing the Conversation</i>	

<i>SRSC</i> Section to Read	Quarterly Retreat Discussion Group
	Quarterly
<i>Introduction</i>	Read text before retreat and then discuss.
<i>Ch. 1</i>	
<i>Ch. 2</i>	
<i>Ch. 3</i>	
<i>Ch. 4</i>	
<i>Ch. 5</i>	
<i>Ch. 6</i>	
<i>Ch. 7</i>	
<i>Ch. 8</i>	
<i>Continuing the Conversation</i>	

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

B. The Six Components of a Thrive Plan

5. Selection of Spiritual Classics and Order They Will Be Read in the Study Group.

Choose the
Spiritual Classic
right for your
Cohort.

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

B. The Six Components of a Thrive Plan

6. Decide if your Study Group would like Sacred Roots Certificates in Spiritual Formation after you complete your Thrive Plan.

Sacred Roots Certificate in Spiritual Formation

Taylor University

in partnership with

The Urban Ministry Institute

has conferred upon

Boaz Masinde

the

Sacred Roots Certificate in Spiritual Formation

*with all the rights, honors, and privileges pertaining thereto
this seventeenth day of August, two thousand and twenty-two at Wichita, Kansas*

National Director of Church Planting, TUMI

Executive Director, Sacred Roots



Vice President, Taylor University

Dean, Sacred Roots

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

C. Action item: Turning in your Thrive Plan

Submit your Thrive Plan using the QR codes in your conference packet, Workbook, and in the Sacred Roots Facilitator's Guide.

Physical copies are included in your conference packet and Workbook.

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V. Constructing a Sacred Roots Thrive Plan

C. Our Movement's Commitment to a Sacred Roots Cohort?

Level 1: Embrace a full study group.

Level 2: Engage with a pilot group.

Level 3: Experience personally.

Level 4: Explore in prayer.

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VI. Final Word: There are riches in our Sacred Roots that can help the leaders in our movements not just survive, but thrive in ministry!

The Fruit Tree Principle

A Dream

A Dream

*Praying the Psalms
with Augustine and
Friends, p. 7*



A drawing of my dream

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Take Away:

Engaging Sacred Roots Spiritual Classics with friends can help pastors finish well in ministry.

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