



HOW TO DO IT AND WHY IT MATTERS

## DINO RIZZO

FOREWORD BY TOMMY BARNETT

# **Arc** RESOURCES

HOW-TO SERIES

# SERVE YOUR CITY

HOW TO DO IT AND WHY IT MATTERS

DINO RIZZO Foreword by tommy barnett

#### Copyright © 2018 by Dino Rizzo

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means—electronic, mechanical, photocopy, recording, or otherwise—except for brief quotations in printed reviews, without the prior written permission of the publisher.

Unless otherwise noted the version of the Bible used in this book is the NIV. THE HOLY BIBLE, NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.® Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide.

Scripture marked NKJV is taken from the New King James Version®. Copyright © 1982 by Thomas Nelson. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN: 978-1-64296-000-6 Published by ARC, The Association of Related Churches First printing 2018 Printed in the United States

### 100% OF THE PROFITS FROM THIS BOOK GO TOWARD PLANTING CHURCHES THROUGH THE ASSOCIATION OF RELATED CHURCHES.



17	FOREWORD
21	INTRODUCTION
43	CHAPTER 1 Connecting with the Heart of God
65	CHAPTER 2 Cracking the Code
87	CHAPTER 3 Stage 1: All Call
111	CHAPTER 4 Stage 2: Consistent Connections
133	CHAPTER 5 Stage 3: A Sustained Serve
155	CHAPTER 6 Next Steps
169	CHAPTER 7 Beating Compassion Fatigue
191	CHAPTER 8 Shaping and Sharpening
215	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
219	ABOUT THE AUTHOR
221	ABOUT ARC
222	ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

L

# FOREWORD

### BY TOMMY BARNETT

I met Pastor Dino more than 20 years ago, and from our first conversation, I knew God had His hand on this remarkable man. We had a number of opportunities to minister together. One of the first trips was to Bangalore, India, for a Joyce Meyer Crusade in the city. Dino and I taught the pastors how to follow up with the people from their communities who were coming to the evening outreaches. One night in that crowded and beautiful city, we stayed up until 2:00 in the morning eating French fries and talking about God's heart for those the world has passed by. He was hungry to hear how our church back in Phoenix was providing tangible resources for the least and the gospel of grace for the lost. We were in the first stages of creating a Dream Center, and Dino wanted to know all about it. He asked how a pastor could carry the heavy weight of loving people who are struggling with addiction, poverty, homelessness, and violence.

I treasure the memory of that conversation, but it was only one of many. We've laughed and cried together, and we've talked about our families. We've waded into passages of Scripture that shape our ministries, and we've discussed the details of strategy. From the day we met, my relationship with Dino has been a treasure to me. Serve Your City is Dino's life story, and I can honestly say it's also mine. He and Delynn are incredibly generous with their time and all the resources God has put in their hands, and they keep their hands open to share with others. Dino has partnered with us to establish and extend the ministry of our Dream Center. We couldn't have accomplished as much without his support and involvement. For over a decade, he has sent teams from his church to serve at our Dream Center, but his influence isn't limited to Baton Rouge, Birmingham, Phoenix, or Los Angeles. He is a champion of compassion. He has significantly shaped the conversation for church planters and pastors of established churches to make outreach in their communities an integral part of their mission and strategy.

Today, we face unprecedented challenges in our culture: more people than ever before need our help. We need to put aside our petty prejudices and reach out to love people. We can't wait for people to come to our churches. We must go to them, to meet them where they are, with hearts full of love and open hands of generosity, all directed by the wisdom God's Spirit provides. The truths and strategies in this book give us hope that we can make a difference. We can go outside our walls to love people the way Jesus loved people in His day... by *showing* them compassion while *telling* them about God's great grace.

Don't miss Dino's heart, and don't miss the clear strategy in this book. The world is waiting for us to love them.

TOMMY BARNETT SENIOR PASTOR OF DREAM CITY CHURCH Phoenix, Arizona

# THE WORLD IS WAITING FOR US TO LOVE THEM.

- TOMMY BARNETT -





You are unique! Don't live in self-doubt. Realize that whatever you see as a flaw or a lack is an opportunity for God to use that beautiful place of vulnerability for His glory. We are all out of our element in some way. We are all in need of God's grace and His miracles.

> MATTHEW BARNETT Misfits Welcome

# INTRODUCTION

WHEN I WAS A BOY ...

When I was a boy, I struggled with delayed speech, and I had difficulty pronouncing certain consonants. In the first grade, I was put in a special class called "resource." This was before there was much sensitivity to these kinds of problems, so every day after home room, I got up and went to the class that carried plenty of emotional and relational baggage. There, I received speech therapy for half of each school day. I couldn't pronounce certain sounds, and I stuttered badly. Over the years, my speech patterns didn't improve very much, so I stayed in this class until I was in the eighth grade. At lunchtime each day, I left resource and went to the regular classes for the afternoon. As you might imagine, I wasn't exactly an exemplary student, but in the regular classes, I excelled in two subjects: honors recess and show and tell. I killed it in both of those.

At the end of the fifth grade, our teacher scheduled a Show and Tell Grand Finale, a Super Bowl of show and tell. She told us to bring something from our homes to present and tell everyone about it. To keep things fairly under control, so nobody brought snakes or too many Barbie dolls, our teacher asked us to write down what we planned to bring. She didn't want any HE EXPLAINED THAT HE KEPT IT IN A BOX Under Lock and Key...and he was The only person Who had a key. duplications. By the time the paper got to me, almost everybody else had signed it. Only two of us were left—Johnny and me. After I'd written what I planned to bring, I handed the paper to Johnny. To my dismay, he wrote the same thing: a GI Joe Action Figure. I was so upset.

For the next couple of days, kids in our class brought their treasured items to class and told us all about them. I don't want to say these kids were competitive, but everybody was trying to

one-up the others. Finally, Johnny had his turn. He smirked at me as he walked to the front of the class, and he proudly showed his GI Joe . . . in its original box! Oh, come on. What red-blooded boy still has the box his action figure came in? He described it as "a Special Edition GI Joe." He explained that he kept it in a box under lock and key . . . and he was the only person who had a key.

The teacher asked him, "Johnny, would you like to pass it around so everybody can see it up close?"

He exploded, "NO! I'm not letting anyone touch it! I keep it locked in my closet . . . with all my other collector GI Joes!"

Johnny sat down. The teacher turned to me and asked, "Dino, are you ready to show and tell?"

I nodded, "You bet I am!"

I guess I broke the rules because even though I knew Johnny was bringing his GI Joe, I brought mine anyway. I didn't care who else brought one—it was my pride and joy. When I walked to the front, I told the class, "This is my GI Joe, but it doesn't live in a box in the closet. It lives in the mud in my backyard . . . next to our dog that's on a chain!"

I wasn't through. I pointed to a black place on its head and told them, "I lit his hair on fire." I then



turned it over and showed them a gash on its back. "This is where I taped an M-80 to it and blew it up. And one of the legs came off, so I duct taped it back on. I've thrown it, run over it, and stomped on it, and it keeps coming back for more." I grabbed my GI Joe by the head and threw it. I yelled, "Catch, Johnny!"

I hadn't kept my GI Joe in its original box locked in a closet. It had been to war, and it had more than its share of bumps and bruises. The other kids in the class gave me a standing ovation.

This may seem like an odd story to introduce the subject of serving our communities, but actually, it fits perfectly. The Christian life isn't meant to be lived carefully protected in a box, and certainly not in a box on a shelf in a locked closet. It's meant to be lived in the real world, in the mud with real people, giving them real hope.

Far too often, people come to church, sing a little and hear a message, all within the walls of the church building, but their lives remain protected and

secure, almost like they live in a box. We wonder why our people aren't more passionate, more committed to reach people with the gospel, and more willing to sacrifice to care for the disadvantaged. Don't get me wrong. I'm all for wonderful music and terrific teaching. That's important, but if we thumb through the pages of the Gospels, we see a very different model of leadership. Jesus' life and ministry are the ultimate example of show and tell. His followers saw Him heal the sick, feed the hungry, and care for the poor—and while He was doing those things, He taught them. That's His model: He showed them, and He told them. Sometimes, the model in our churches is limited to telling, with very little showing. I'm not criticizing or condemning. I'm just pointing to a different model, one that I stumbled on and found incredibly effective, one that I now see on every page of the accounts of the life of Jesus. I've learned that "show and tell" is the most powerful way to supercharge the hearts and release the energy of people in our churches. That's what this book is about.

### "THE CHURCH CAME TO ME"

### WHEN I WAS GROWING UP ...

When I was growing up, I helped my parents in our family business in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. We sold tourists lots of flip-flops, airbrushed shirts, shark teeth, and cotton candy, so we worked every weekend. It wasn't that we were against God or the church, but we were really busy every Saturday and Sunday. In fact, Sunday was our biggest day, and we couldn't afford to miss any potential customers. My dad was a "lapsed Catholic," but he was very generous, and my mom was a Baptist, but she didn't go to church regularly at all. Our family life revolved around selling candy apples, rabbits' feet, and mood rings. It was our livelihood, our reason for existence. My older sister found Christ through a Billy Graham Crusade, but by my late teenage years, she was out of the house. There were a few passing moments when God surfaced in our lives, but going to church was literally the last thing on my mind.

By the time I was 17 years old, I had seen street preachers who yelled at people as they walked by, and I'd seen busloads of church people file onto the beach to pass out tracts that warned people they were going to some form of eternal condemnation. One day, a man came by our stand as I was putting out a display of shark teeth, and he struck up a conversation with me. He let me know pretty soon that he was a Christian, but he didn't yell, he didn't push, and he didn't pass out any literature that threatened me with gruesome, everlasting torment. He asked if I'd like a snowball from a vendor nearby. He wasn't in a hurry, and he didn't appear to have a pressing need to convert me. From the look in his eyes, the tone of his voice, and his genuine kindness, I felt something I hadn't felt from other Christians who had come to convert me: I felt seen ... I felt noticed ... and I felt loved.

I realized he actually had a specific agenda. Purely and simply, it was to love me. He didn't see me as a potential notch in his evangelism belt. He was genuinely interested in me, and he wanted to show God's love for me by lis-

tening to my story. After about half an hour of relaxed interaction, he asked if he could tell me how to know God. He explained the gospel in a simple message: accept, believe, confess. He asked, "Do you want me to pray with you to receive Christ?"

I said, "No, not really. Not right now."

I FELT SEEN... I FELT NOTICED... AND I FELT LOVED.

#### SERVE YOUR CITY

He wasn't offended, and he didn't threaten me. He smiled and said, "That's fine. Let me give you this piece of paper so in case you think of our conversation again, it will remind you what we talked about." He paused a second, and then he smiled again: "There may be a moment when you want to say 'yes' to the love of God. This piece of paper has all you need to know. When that moment comes, read the prayer on the back."

Two weeks later, I came home after being out late . . . at a place where I never should have gone. I had left the paper near my bed. At that moment, my heart felt drawn to Christ. I read the sheet again and decided to pray the prayer on the back. Immediately I sensed the love of God, the same love that man had displayed in our talk near the beach. He was a man I'd never met before, sent by a church I'd never visited (or heard of), trained by leaders who understood the power of kindness, and resourced by faithful people who tithed to God's kingdom. From the moment we met, I could tell I wasn't just a project to him. He genuinely loved me with the wonderful love of God.

I would never have gone to that church or any other one, but through him,

I COULD TELL I WASN'T JUST A PROJECT TO HIM. HE GENUINELY LOVED ME WITH THE WONDERFUL LOVE OF GOD. the church came to me. I didn't take the initiative to reach out. This man and the people of this church didn't wait for me. He looked for a lost sheep, and he found one.

Today, many churches are incredibly attractive places. They have coffee bars, outstanding childcare, theatre seating, fantastic music, movie nights, family activities, and every other conceivable convenience. I'm not knocking those perks. As a matter of fact, I love all those features, and I'm a part of great churches that offer amazing things to people who arrive at their doors. I'm only observing there are plenty of people who will never make the first move to go to church to experience all the great things they have to offer. A lot of people are just like me: they need the church to come to them before they're willing to go to church.

ff A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE JUST LIKE ME: THEY NEED THE CHURCH TO COME TO THEM. 33

The question isn't "Will we go to them?" If we understand the gospel and look at the

life of Jesus, of course we'll go. The real question is how we'll go to them. In this book (and in everything I do), I want to help church leaders engage more effectively with people in their communities—especially those people who aren't going to take the first step toward the church.

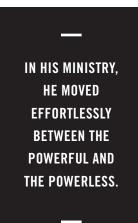
### TWO ASSUMPTIONS

I KNOW TWO IMPORTANT THINGS

I know two important things about pastors and other church leaders: First, they genuinely care about the people in their communities, and second, they're already incredibly busy. If they perceive the calling to reach out to the lost and the least as "one more thing on the to-do list," it won't happen. Already, far too many people and issues are demanding their time and attention. They need to rethink, redefine, and relocate their sense of calling. Reaching out to the poor, the disadvantaged, the disenfranchised, and the despised is central to the heart of God. It's not an addendum to the gospel of grace; it is the gospel of grace because all of us were alienated from God and needed Jesus to reach out to us with His sacrificial love.

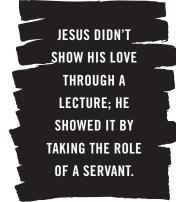
As leaders, we may have many different motivations for being in the ministry, but they all revolve around reaching people with the love of Jesus Christ to impact their eternity. We have different gifts and we serve in different situations, but this is our common calling.

Jesus didn't wait for us to come to Him. He left the comfort and glory of heaven to come into our neighborhood. The incarnation is the greatest act of community engagement in the history of the world! He came as the King, but not like any king the planet had ever known. He was born in obscurity, and His parents were so poor they could afford only doves for an offering when He was presented at the temple. In His ministry, He moved effortlessly between the powerful and the powerless. But in fact, He demonstrated God's preference for the poor as He reached out to the



sick, lepers, the lame, those who were demonpossessed, foreigners, children, women, and others who were overlooked or despised by society. These people weren't projects to Jesus. He genuinely loved them, and they knew it.

To me, one of the most powerful and touching moments in the Gospels is John's short introduction to the scene when Jesus gathered the disciples for the Last Supper. John tells us, "It was just before the Passover Feast. Jesus knew that the time had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he now showed them the full extent of his love" (John 13:1). Jesus didn't show His love through a lecture; He showed it by taking the role of a servant, the lowest servant, and washing their dusty feet. The disciples (like us) were slow to get the point. They were soon bickering about which of them would occupy the highest positions when Jesus was crowned king. Things didn't turn out exactly like they planned!



The next day, Jesus went to the ultimate lengths to show His love: He gave himself in our place on the cross. Jesus served the lost, the poor, the disenfranchised, and the forgotten. He didn't just tell us about "the full extent of his love"; He demonstrated it. From the beginning of the church, caring for the lost and the least has been central to our calling. To lead is to serve, and in fact, to believe is to serve.

For pastors and other church leaders, an act of compassion for those who feel overlooked isn't just one more priority to add to our to-do list. Caring for "the least of these" is the culture of the gospel, something we can't afford to miss if we're to be who God wants us to be. But we need to be observant. The strategies we use should be tailored to the needs we uncover wherever we live—in rural areas, small towns, suburbs, and cities. We need to move our focus outside the walls of our buildings. The church isn't a place, and it isn't restricted to a time on Sunday or any other time of the week. We are people who have been chosen, forgiven, loved, and adopted by God. We belong to Him all day every day, and we have the unspeakable privilege of being channels of His grace, wisdom, and strength to people who never expected to receive God's amazing love. We're on a

#### SERVE YOUR CITY

rescue mission to reach people who are stranded. Some know how desperate their situations are, but some are completely unaware. Like Jesus, we wade into their lives with tangible help—food, shelter, clothing, and safety—and the incomparable message of grace. As they see love in action and hear the good news, we let them choose to accept His gracious offer.

The benefits of making this ministry central to the calling of your church are deep and wide. You and your people will be more in touch with the heart of God, you'll see specific results in the lives of those in need, your people will grow in their love for God and for people as they see God use them, and people in your community will be drawn to the love and joy they've experienced. In other words, your church will grow as people in your community feel loved. Those results are worth the effort.

How does all this happen? We need to hold two truths in our hands: First, God is already using your people to care for the people around them. The gospel has changed them from selfish to generous, and they're responding to the needs they see every day. You don't have to drum up their enthusiasm. Your job is to celebrate their compassion, provide resources, and empower them to lead. Second, you need the Spirit's power working through a God-inspired plan to create a culture of generosity in your

WE'RE ON A RESCUE MISSION TO REACH PEOPLE WHO ARE STRANDED. church. When the church began, virtually all believers were Jews; Gentiles were considered outsiders, unclean and despicable. God used a vision and a visitor to prompt Peter to travel to the home of Cornelius, a Roman soldier, to share the gospel of grace. Peter explained how remarkable it was that God was now inviting Gentiles to be His children.

SERVE YOUR CITY

He began by telling Cornelius about the life and purpose of Jesus: "You know the message God sent to the people of Israel, announcing the good news of peace through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of all. You know what has happened throughout the province of Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him" (Acts 10:36–38).

But Peter wasn't finished with his explanation. Yes, Jesus came first to the Jews, but His love extends to all people. In fact, the wide scope of God's grace shouldn't have been a surprise to anyone. Peter continued, "He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one whom God appointed as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name" (Acts 10:42-43).

The church began with a heart for diversity. Then and now, no one is beyond the grace of God, and no one is beyond the reach of God's people. Some of our acts of compassion are stirred spontaneously as the love we experience flows through us and from us into the lives of others, but churches need a plan. Through Isaiah, God connected the dots: "But a generous man devises generous things, and by generosity he shall stand" (Isaiah 32:8, NKJV). Pastors and church leaders, it's our job to "devise generous things" our people can be involved in. LET ME ASK A FEW QUESTIONS:

- As we look at the priorities Jesus Demonstrated, How well Do ours match his?
- IS OUR CHURCH KNOWN IN THE COMMUNITY FOR ITS COMPASSION TOWARD DISADVANTAGED PEOPLE?
- HOW WOULD WE EXPLAIN THE HEART OF GOD FOR OUR COMMUNITIES?
- How MANY OF OUR RESOURCES ARE WE ALLOCATING TO CARE FOR THE POOR AND THE DISADVANTAGED?
- ARE THE RESOURCES AND TIME WE INVEST IN PEOPLE HELPING THEM TAKE THE NEXT STEP OUT OF THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES AND INTO A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN CONNECT WITH THE BODY OF CHRIST?

You already care for people outside the walls of your church, or you wouldn't have picked up this book. I simply want to share some stories and lessons I've learned as we've taken the initiative to reach out to the people in our community. We've done some pretty cool things, but we've made plenty of mistakes. I want to help you avoid some of our mistakes. (Don't worry, you'll make enough of your own!) I'll give you a glimpse of where we've found some valuable resources that have enabled us to care for more people. And finally, I want to encourage you to stay on task through the inevitable ups and downs as you reach out to hurting, displaced, overlooked people.

# HELPFUL TOOLSS

### This book is one of several tools we are providing for you and your people:



We're recommending my book, *Servolution*, for every person in your church to be inspired to joyfully and effectively serve others.

# 2

The book you hold in your hands is for pastors and leaders—probably the staff team, key volunteers, and small group leaders. A serving culture starts with leadership. This book is designed to help leaders understand the heart of serving and provide a strategy for community outreach.

# 3

In addition, we are also providing an extensive and expanding array of online resources that can help you with planning and implementation (e.g., small group curriculum, podcasts, and webinars).

For more information about resources, go to the Appendix, Additional Resources.

### AS YOU READ *SERVE YOUR CITY* AND GO THROUGH IT WITH OTHER LEADERS, YOU CAN RESHAPE YOUR PRIORITIES TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE IN LINE WITH GOD'S HEART AND HIS PURPOSES.



### MY HOPE FOR YOU

### AS YOU READ THIS BOOK

As you read this book and take steps to reach out more effectively to your community, I hope the stories inspire you and the ideas propel your planning. You can do this. You can have an effective presence in your community. You can see God use your people to transform lives and bring hope to the hopeless. You'll learn to go with full hearts and open hands. The people you serve may never darken the door of your church, but that's just fine. Only one of the lepers Jesus healed turned around to thank Him, but He kept reaching out, offering himself, healing bodies, and changing lives.

Actually, this ministry is easier than you can imagine. In fact, it's already happening as your people care for their neighbors and strangers. Your task isn't to make people care; it's only to develop the people God has given you so they will in turn develop others. You'll provide "gospel logistics" for the "points of compassion" that already exist in your people, and you'll inspire small groups and teams to find creative, effective ways to make a difference in the community. You'll give your people focus, supplies, encouragement, and connections to even more people. As this ministry unfolds, you'll uncover more gifts, talents, and resources than you ever imagined.

YOU CAN SEE GOD USE YOUR PEOPLE TO TRANSFORM Lives and Bring hope to The hopeless. People who have very practical skills—carpentry, sewing, money management, auto repair, computer repair, etc., etc.—will come out of the woodwork to use them to help people.

Those who attend your church already love God and the people around them, but you can help them have a far greater impact . . . on the people next door to them and the people they would have never met without the church's community involvement. As we dive deeper into the love of God, His love flows out in bigger, deeper, wider, and more specific ways. Our task—and our privilege—is to point our people to the grace Jesus pours out on us who are so undeserving so that our hearts melt with love for others who have royally messed up their lives. When we're in touch with the heart of God, we see poor people differently, we see addicts and alcoholics through changed eyes, our hearts break for those who are heartbroken, and we want them



to experience the wonder of God's kindness and compassion.

Our lives move at the speed of the pain we perceive in those around us. If we're unaware or uncaring, we fly past them, but if we notice and care, we slow down to provide love and resources for them. On a larger scale, I believe the church moves at the speed of the pain we perceive in our communities. Jesus was never in a hurry. He stopped to listen, to touch, to care, and His love changed people. It still does. The pain of people outside the church is hard to notice if our attention is fixed on what happens inside the church. One of our main tasks as leaders, then, is to give people permission to take God's love and power outside the building.

What kind of difference do you want to make? What legacy are you crafting and leaving behind? If it's only excellence and size, you're missing the heart of God. But if you have the unmitigated thrill of seeing your people step into the lives of the lost and the least in your community, you'll leave a powerful legacy of compassion and strength to your leaders, your people, and everyone they touch. Jesus used "show and tell" to move people to action, and we can use the same communication strategy. Telling our people to be compassionate isn't enough. Like Jesus with His disciples, we need to take our people with us to touch the lives of those who are often overlooked. When we do this, amazing things happen. I know. I've seen it.

Don't miss the power of show and tell. It matters.

The principles and applications in this book were shaped by many years of trial and error as I've tried to take the love, power, and grace of God to people who often feel forgotten. But these ideas aren't unique to me. ARC churches are doing amazing, creative, and powerful outreaches. In these chapters, you'll find stories from other ARC churches mobilizing their people to take the love of God to people in their communities.

At the end of this introduction and each chapter, you'll find some questions. I encourage you to use these as you consider the what, why, and how of your church's strategy to serve your community. You can also use the questions to promote discussions among your leadership team. You'll get a lot more out of this book if you take time to think, pray, and talk about the stories and principles.



#### **ISAIAH 58:6-9**

- -----

"Is not this the kind of fasting I have chosen: to loose the chains of injustice and untie the cords of the yoke, to set the oppressed free and break every yoke? Is it not to share your food with the hungry and to provide the poor wanderer with shelter when you see the naked, to clothe them, and not to turn away from your own flesh and blood? Then your light will break forth like the dawn, and your healing will quickly appear; then your righteousness will go before you, and the glory of the LORD will be your rear guard. Then you will call, and the LORD will answer; you will cry for help, and he will say: Here am I." What are some reasons it's easy for church leaders to invest a disproportionate amount of time, energy, and money on what happens within the walls of the church instead of what happens beyond them?

### 2

1

A lot of people never show up at church because they have a negative perception of what goes on in the building. What are some ways we can give people a positive perception of Jesus and the church before they walk through our doors?

THINK ABOUT IT

### 3

Who are some people in your church who are already involved in compassionate care for others? What impact are they having?

•••••	 •••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••••
••••••	 
••••••	 

### 4

What do you hope to		
get out of this book —		
for you and for your		
leadership team?		

### 5

If you're leading a	
discussion with your	
team, write the answers	
to these questions on a	
whiteboard:	
Why was our church	
started in the first place?	
What are your dreams to	
reach our city?	
When you think of	
making a difference in	
the town or city, what	
faces come to mind?	
Who are some people	
in your church who see	
the church's mission	
as a powerful blend of	
compassion for the poor and the gospel for all?	

# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

TO ORDER COPIES OF SERVE YOUR CITY, SERVE YOUR CITY SMALL GROUP LEADER'S GUIDE AND PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE, AND SERVOLUTION, GO TO ARCCHURCHES.COM







For over two decades, I've watched my friend Dino Rizzo model the love of Jesus by what he says as well as what he does. Both challenging and encouraging, this book reminds us that compassion isn't secondary to our mission—it's essential.

#### CHRIS HODGES

Senior Pastor, Church of the Highlands Birmingham, Alabama This book will open your eyes and give you a clear strategy. Pastor Dino activates the church to not just tell of the Good News of Jesus, but to show it tangibly to those in our spheres of life and influence.

#### ANDI ANDREW

Author of She Is Free; Learning the Truth About the Lies That Hold You Captive Co-Pastor of Liberty Church, New York, New York If I want my church to see what loving a city and loving individuals looks like, I can point them to Dino. In this book, he has given us some keys on how to mobilize love. Our cities need it, and this book is timely. Get it, and better yet, live it. That will be my goal!

#### CARL LENTZ

Senior Pastor, Hillsong Church New York, New York

### SERVE YOUR CITY

Through the pages of the Gospels, we see Jesus model a "show and tell" life and ministry to His followers— He "showed" them how to serve by healing the sick, feeding the hungry, and caring for the poor—and while He was demonstrating compassion, He taught them, "telling" them of God's immense love. This is the way to show God's heart of compassion for the people in our cities and towns, and this is the way to break down barriers so people will listen to the life-changing message of the gospel of grace.

In this book, you'll sense Dino's heart, be inspired by his stories and learn from his experiences, as well as many ARC churches that are serving their cities with a Jesus-style no-strings-attached kind of love. This is at the core of who ARC is - a deep passion to see churches thrive as part of the cities they serve.

Since 2001, ARC has trained, resourced, and coached the launching of hundreds of churches, some of which are now the largest churches in the USA. ARC's goal is to see a life-giving church planted in every community. It is a family of churches, pastors and leaders built on healthy relationships and shared resources — focused on making each other better. Pastors and leaders of existing churches as well as future churches are all welcome in this family.



**DINO RIZZO** serves as the Executive Director of ARC (Association of Related Churches), an organization he co-founded which has planted hundreds of churches across the country. He is also the author of the book Servolution. In 1992, Dino and his wife DeLynn founded Healing Place Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, a church they pastored for twenty years. Today, Dino also serves as an Associate Pastor at Church of the Highlands in Birmingham. Dino and DeLynn have three incredible children.

#### **arc** RESOURCES

ARCCHURCHES.COM

