

# [Books] Autopsy Of A Deceased Church 12 Ways To Keep Yours Alive Thom S Rainer

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Autopsy of a Deceased Church-Thom S. Rainer 2014 Presents twelve lessons on keeping a church alive, discussing the consistent themes the author found in dying churches.

Autopsy of a Deceased Church-Thom S. Rainer 2014-05-01 No one wants to see a church die. And yet, far too many churches are dying. For more than twenty-five years, Dr. Thom Rainer has helped churches grow, reverse the trends of decline, and has autopsied those that have died. From this experience, he has discovered twelve consistent themes among those churches that have died. Yet, it's not gloom and doom

because from those twelve themes, lessons on how to keep your church alive have emerged. Whether your church is vibrant or dying, whether you are a pastor or a church member, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church* will walk you through the radical paths necessary to keep your church alive to the glory of God and advancement of Christ's Kingdom!

*Autopsy of a Dead Church*-Lou Mancari 2006-03-01 Autopsy means to "look for yourself within" or "to see with your own eyes." We will open the spiritual body with the scalpel of God's two-edged sword, the Word of God. As we begin the autopsy of the dead church we immediately find that DNA evidence links every person in the church with an infamous and ancient crime scene--the Garden of Eden. As we continue the autopsy of this dead church we find the fingerprints of a noted murderer and thief all over the body. Like all of us, Satan has certain traits that identify his prints. The dead church has had major brain damage. In some cases there is an enchanting or forceful preacher that has performed a spiritual lobotomy hindering any deep or independent biblical thinking of the people of the church.

*I Am a Church Member*-Thom S. Rainer 2013-05 Best-selling author Thom S. Rainer (*Simple Church*) shows how being an effective church member has more to do with maintaining a healthy biblical attitude than it does worrying over functional issues.

*Scrappy Church*-Thom S. Rainer 2018-09-25 How many times have we heard these statements... "We can't compete with the megachurch in our town!" "A new church was started two blocks from us. We've got plenty of churches without them!" "The church brought another one of their campuses near us. It's totally unethical what they are doing." "We can't reach young families. They all go to the big church that has all the children's and student stuff." "We don't have the money or the people the other churches have."

Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer (*I Am a Church Member*, *Autopsy of a Deceased Church*) has heard comments like these hundreds, if not thousands, of times. They are statements of hopelessness. They are statements of despair. They are statements of defeat. Church leaders don't want to feel this way. They desire to break out of the mediocrity of the same, lame, and tame existence of their churches. They want

their churches to make a difference. There is hope. God's hope. God's possibilities. What does a scrappy church look like? Let's take a look together.

Essential Church?-Thom S. Rainer 2010-10-01 Why do so many young adults (18 to 22) leave the church, and what will it take to bring them back? This important question is examined and duly answered in Essential Church?, a follow-up to Thom S. Rainer's best-selling Simple Church cowritten this time with his son, research expert Sam Rainer. The book is based on a study of one-thousand so-called "church dropouts" who were interviewed about why they left. Their answers are quite surprising, having less to do with "losing their religion" and more about the desire for a community that isn't made stale by simply maintaining the status quo. In turn, the Rainers offer churches four concrete solutions toward making their worship community an essential part these young people's lives again: Simplify - develop a clear structure and process for making disciples. Deepen - provide strong biblical teaching and preaching. Expect - let members know the need for commitment to the congregation. Multiply - emphasize evangelism, outward focus, and starting new churches.

Becoming a Welcoming Church-Thom S. Rainer 2018-03-01 Most church members don't see their churches clearly. In almost all of Thom S. Rainer's consultations, church members perceive their church to be friendly. But as he surveyed guests, he found that the guests typically saw church members as unfriendly. The perception chasm existed because the members were indeed friendly . . . to one another. The guests felt like they crashed a private party. Bestselling author Thom Rainer (I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church) has a game plan for churches to become more hospitable. In a format that is suitable for church members to read individually or study together, Rainer guides readers toward a practical framework for making a difference for those who visit their church. Churches may use Becoming a Welcoming Church to assess and audit where they are on a spectrum between welcoming and wanting. Additionally, churches can use the companion book We Want You Here to send guests home with a compelling vision for what pastors want every guest to know when they visit.

Death of the Church-Mike Regele 1995 This is a research-based analysis of forces that are changing culture and how the church must change as well to fulfill its mission.

I Refuse to Lead a Dying Church!-Paul Nixon 2007-03-01 God has called all of us to lead healthy, growing, spiritual churches. For this very reason, Paul Nixon refused to lead a dying church. Paul invites you to join his commitment in refusing, ever again, to lead a dying church. This commitment entails six choices: choosing life over death; choosing community over isolation; choosing fun over drudgery; choosing bold over mild; choosing frontier over fortress; and choosing now rather than later.

Who Moved My Pulpit?-Thom S. Rainer 2016-06-01 Who Moved My Pulpit? may not be the exact question you're asking. But you're certainly asking questions about change in the church—where it's coming from, why it's happening, and how you're supposed to hang on and follow God through it—even get out ahead of it so your church is faithfully meeting its timeless calling and serving the new opportunities of this age. Based on conversations with thousands of pastors, combined with on-the-ground research from more than 50,000 churches, best-selling author Thom S. Rainer shares an eight-stage roadmap to leading change in your church. Not by changing doctrine. Not by changing biblical foundations. But by changing methodologies and approaches for reaching a rapidly changing culture. You are the pastor. You are the church staff person. You are an elder. You are a deacon. You are a key lay leader in the church. This is the book that will equip you to celebrate and lead change no matter the cost. The time is now.

We Want You Here-Thom S. Rainer 2018-03-01 The message is basic but profound. We want guests to know they are welcome to the church. This book is a gift to guests to communicate that very message. Bestselling author Thom S. Rainer (I Am a Church Member, Autopsy of a Deceased Church) has created a tool for churches to become more hospitable through a brief, welcoming book that introduces the ministry of the local church to guests. We Want You Here is a clear and instructive message to be given to church guests. Rainer facilitates the follow up conversation that every pastor would have, if they had the opportunity. By giving away the book to guests, they are encouraged, in a non-intrusive manner, to

continue to reflect on the decision to visit their church. Those churches who share We Want You Here will be able to tell their guests: • We Really Want You Here • This is Not a Place for Perfect People • We Would Like to Get to Know You • This is Where Families Grow Strong • Getting to Know the One Who Made Us • Come Make a Difference with Us • Thank You for Being Here  
Simple Church-Thom S. Rainer 2011-06 Now in paperback, multi-awarded national hit Simple Church shares a clear message from case studies of 400 North American congregations: Church is done best when it's kept simple.

I Will-Thom S. Rainer 2015-07-15 Now is the time to stand up and say, "I Will!"

1x Evangelism-John L. Rothra 2015-11-17 LifeWay Research shows that up to 78 percent of Christians do not regularly evangelize. This can change. This will change. 1X Evangelism introduces a church-wide strategy designed to help Christians reengage in personal evangelism. Most Christians believe evangelism should increase, yet more and more believers are disengaging from evangelism. Traditional church evangelism methods are no longer as effective. 1X Evangelism introduces a new approach: church-wide personal evangelism strategy. Unlike a program, 1X is a highly flexible strategy designed for small churches, yet adaptable to churches of any size. In 1X Evangelism, Dr. John Rothra uniquely combines church invitations, personal evangelism, and small groups into a church-wide personal evangelism strategy inspired by previous visionaries.

Sticky Church-Larry Osborne 2008-12-30 In Sticky Church, author and pastor Larry Osborne makes the case that closing the back door of your church is even more important than opening the front door wider. He offers a time-tested strategy for doing so: sermon-based small groups that dig deeper into the weekend message and tightly velcro members to the ministry. It's a strategy that enabled Osborne's congregation to grow from a handful of people to one of the larger churches in the nation—without any marketing or special programming. Sticky Church tells the inspiring story of North Coast Church's phenomenal growth and offers practical tips for launching your own sermon-based small group ministry. Topics include: Why

stickiness is so important Why most of our discipleship models don't work very well Why small groups always make a church more honest and transparent What makes groups grow deeper and stickier over time Sticky Church is an ideal book for church leaders who want to start or retool their small group ministry—and velcro their congregation to the Bible and each other.

Simple Life-Thom S. Rainer 2009 This text extends the teachings of bestseller "Simple Church," guiding readers to joyfully balance God, time, relationships, and money through clarity, movement, focus, and alignment.

Re:Vision-Aubrey Malphurs 2014-10-14 Pastors around the country continue to look for the program, the book, or the sermon series that will turn their plateaued or declining churches around. But what if the answer to revitalizing the church was closer to home? According to trusted church leadership expert Aubrey Malphurs and veteran pastor Gordon E. Penfold, it is. They believe that pastors themselves are the key. In a time when many pastors are jumping from church to church every two or three years as they search for the "right fit" where they can "make a difference," churches are suffering from a lack of sustained leadership from pastors with a viable vision for ministry. In Re:Vision, Malphurs and Penfold take pastors through a process of discovery and self-evaluation designed to help them re-envision their role, create a culture for positive change, and recruit people to come alongside them as helpers and encouragers. Multiple appendices offer self-diagnostic tools and surveys to help pastors assess their strengths and weaknesses for more effective ministry.

The Book of Church Growth-Thom S. Rainer 1998-09-01 The Church Growth Movement has divided devout Christians. Even though Rainer is an advocate, his aim here is to present an objective view of the movement--its history, the theology associated with it, and the principles which seem to separate churches that grow from those that don't.

Church Is a Team Sport-Jim Putman 2009-08-01 Now available in trade paper, Church Is a Team Sport shows proven ways to push believers, new and mature, toward growth as both Christians--and leaders.

Through this powerful, thought-provoking volume, ministers both in the congregation and on staff will discover how to expand the church one soul at a time. Making disciples is the crux of pastor Jim Putman's message. The plan works. Caring for people, following up on stray sheep, and teaching what it means to love God and obey him. That's how Church Is a Team Sport transforms Christians from Monday-morning quarterbacks into dynamic players.

Transformational Church-Ed Stetzer 2010 Churches committed to following Christ's example want to see this world changed for the sake of eternity. While the supernatural component of making that happen goes without saying, how does a body of believers do its part to be in that "sweet spot" where true spiritual transformation can occur? In Transformational Church, bestselling research authors Thom S. Rainer and Ed Stetzer have surveyed fifty thousand down to five hundred congregations in search of the qualitative answer. Their book contains a wealth of indispensable new data, nuanced insights, and clear how-to guidance, all centered on this key finding: Transformational churches make disciples whose lives are being transformed by the gospel so that people engage the culture around them for its ultimate transformation. Deeply committed to the essential foundations of discipleship (worship, community, and mission), transformational churches practice their faith and make disciples through vibrant leadership, prayerful dependence upon God, and relational intentionality. And they do so paying mind to their unique context and with a missionary mindset. The most comprehensive study of the American church to date.

The Multi-Site Church Revolution-Geoff Surratt 2009-08-30 Fueled by a desire to reach people for Christ, a revolution is underway. Churches are growing beyond the limitations of a single service in one building. Expanding the traditional model, they are embracing the concept of one church with more than one site: multiple congregations sharing a common vision, budget, leadership, and board. Drawing from the examples of churches nationwide, The Multi-Site Church Revolution shows what healthy multi-site churches look like and what motivates congregations to make the change. Discover how your church can:

- cast a vision for change
- ensure a successful DNA transfer (vision and core values) to its new site
-

develop new leaders • fund new sites • adapt to structure and staffing change • use technology to support your worship services you'll identify the reasons churches succeed and how they overcome common snags. The Multi-Site Church Revolution offers guidance, insights, and specific action steps as well as appendixes with practical leadership resources and self-diagnostic tools. "I wholeheartedly recommend this book for any pastor or church leader who needs to know the pertinent issues, tested solutions, and real examples of multi-site strategies that are currently being deployed around the world." —Ed Young, senior pastor, Fellowship Church "The authors have done their homework. They have firsthand knowledge of the successes and failures of this movement, having been networking with and facilitating dialogue among churches across the country for years." —Max Lucado, senior minister, Oak Hills Church "Look no further than this book to propel your ministry to Ephesians 3:20 proportions: exceeding abundantly above all that you could ever ask or think!" —Randy and Paula White, senior pastors, Without Walls International Church This book is part of the Leadership Network Innovation Series.

There's Hope for Your Church-Gary L. McIntosh 2012-05-01 A startling 85% of churches in the US are plateaued or declining, a trend that has been building for the past fifty years. In the face of shrinking attendance and lagging spiritual growth, pastors and church leaders are understandably discouraged and demoralized. But the first step to turning things around is hope. Church health expert Gary McIntosh offers this hope by showing church leaders the first things they need to do to make a new start for their church. God can and does restore churches to new life, even as he restores individuals. The street-smart ideas and step-by-step instructions found in this book are ones that pastors and church leaders can put to use immediately in their churches to bring about solid growth and renewed hope for the future.

Renovate Or Die-Bob Farr 2011 Bob Farr asserts that to change the world, we must first change the Church. Rearranging the pews, painting the fellowship hall, or paving the parking lot are just not enough. With clear language and practical tips, this book will inspire and help you organize your church for new life. Learn how to grow your church and discover the commitments that leaders must make to guarantee

the fruitfulness of local congregations.

Awe-Paul David Tripp 2015-10-14 Humans are hardwired for awe. Our hearts are always captured by something—that's how God made us. But sin threatens to distract us from the glory of our Creator. All too often, we stand in awe of everything but God. Uncovering the lies we believe about all the earthly things that promise us peace, life, and contentment, Paul Tripp redirects our gaze to God's awe-inducing glory—showing how such a vision has the potential to impact our every thought, word, and deed.

Breakout Churches-Thom S. Rainer 2010-01-01 In Thom Rainer's latest book, *Breakout Churches*, he shows you how churches that were once healthy but had stagnated in growth have broken out to become great churches impacting lives and entire communities. *Breakout Churches* tells the story of these churches and their pastors. And, using a statistical approach, it identifies key patterns and characteristics common to churches that experienced turnarounds.

Pastoral Record-Abingdon Press 1984-08 History of pastor's ministry in one place.

Church Member's Handbook-Joe T. Odle 1992-03-01 "This is a book on church membership to place in the hands of members to help them know the meaning of their membership and understand the doctrines and polity of Baptists. Chapters include The Meaning of Church Membership, The Church covenant, Christian Growth, Baptist History, Baptist Doctrine, Baptists and Other Denominations, God's Plan of Church Finance, and Baptist Churches at Work."

The Triune Identity-Robert W. Jenson 2002-05-10 This book presents a bold venture in theology, combining a presentation, explanation, analysis, and reinterpretation of trinitarian language. Rejecting the assumption that traditional trinitarian discourse is useless in an age of cults and sects, Jenson points to a profound and provocative renewal of trinitarian piety and reflection understood as a remedy for spiritual desolation and powerlessness. Proceeding on the premise that any radical analysis of the formula "Father, Son, and Holy Spirit" must work from biblical statements, Jenson investigates the significance of two biblical identifications of God: "God is whoever freed us from Egypt" and "God is whoever raised Jesus

from the dead. In opposition to the notion that God is to be understood simply as timeless being, Jenson shows how the memory of God's acts and the presence of God in Christ leads to a hope for the future based on the promise of the spirit.

The Power of Christian Contentment-Andrew M. Davis 2019-03-19 It may surprise modern Christians that our current problems with discontentedness are anything but new. In 1643, Puritan pastor Jeremiah Burroughs wrote a work titled "The Rare Jewel of Christian Contentment" that has as much resonance in our day as it did in his. Now pastor and author Andrew M. Davis helps contemporary Christians rediscover the remarkable truths found in this largely forgotten work. With powerful new illustrations and a keen sense of all that makes modern Christians restless, Davis challenges readers to confront the sources of discontent in their lives and embrace Paul's teaching on contentment in all circumstances. He gives special attention to maintaining contentment through poverty and prosperity, as well as in our marriages, and offers tips on teaching children how to be content in an age of smartphones and social media.

Distinctive Discipleship Bible Study-Travis Agnew 2019-08-23 Generalized approaches can never fully address distinct disciples. If every Christian is in a unique place surrounded by specific challenges, why do we think that a widespread approach will work for every single one of us? In the Distinctive Discipleship Bible Study, learn how to design a specific plan for Christian maturity.

Biblical Church Revitalization-Brian Croft 2016-05-20 There is a unique and special power and testimony in not just a vibrant local church full of life, but an old historic one that had lost its way, was on life support, and into which God saw fit to breathe life once again. Biblical Church Revitalization calls us to an intentional commitment to church revitalization in the face of dying and divided churches.

To Dream Again-Robert Dale 2004-12-27 There are four ways to revitalize a church, organizationally speaking. The easiest change is policy change. You simply adjust the way you do things. A second strategy is to change personnel. Firing the minister or electing new lay leaders is a common approach. Another change tactic is to create new program structures. Reorganization plans are familiar in institutions of all

kinds. Change policy. Change people. Change programs. Each of these approaches has its advocates. But the approach I suggest is the most basic of all--clarify purpose. The fourth way to revitalize a church is to define and act on its fundamental purpose. A new dream awakes a congregation. A poster motto challenges: "Aim for the sun. You may not reach it, but you will fly higher than if you never aimed at all." --from the Foreword

The Faith@home Focused Church-Mark A. Holmen 2020-01-28 Have you ever wondered why Christianity is declining in America? Since the 1980's, many American congregations have been very focused on "doing church" better. A lot of effort and resources have been poured into worship and ministry programs, and they have significantly improved yet Christianity has been steadily declining. Could it be that "doing church better" is not the answer to stop the decline of Christianity in America? Could it be that we have paid too much attention to what's happening at church and not enough attention to what's happening at home? Do we care that many churchgoers are living, acting, dressing, behaving one way at church and a completely different way at home and as a result, children raised in those environments are later leaving the church at an all-time high rate? In The Faith@Home Focused Church Pastor Holmen is going to challenge church leaders to consider three very important questions; Do we want the home to be the primary place where faith is lived and nurtured?

Comeback Churches-Ed Stetzer 2007 Leading church growth expert Ed Stetzer extends his missional writings with Comeback Churches, studying 300 once-declining congregations to determine what it takes to revive a dying body of believers.

Surprising Insights from the Unchurched and Proven Ways to Reach Them-Thom S. Rainer 2009-08-08 We've read all the hot books on evangelism, we've attended scores of seminars—and still we're not reaching the unchurched. Eighty to ninety percent of churchless Americans will never darken our culturally relevant, seeker-sensitive doors. What are we missing? Maybe we've been asking the wrong people. Instead of consulting the unchurched masses, it's time we heard what the small but important

minority who have recently begun attending a church have to say. What made the difference for them? What critical factors helped spark their faith in Jesus and drew them into the community of believers? Thom S. Rainer, dean of the Billy Graham School of Missions, Evangelism and Church Growth, shares the results and conclusions of his school's groundbreaking survey of the formerly unchurched. At last, here are proven insights into what evangelistically effective churches are doing right. Flying in the face of much contemporary wisdom, the answers will surprise you. This is truly one of the most valuable resources you can own as a church leader. Filled with charts, graphs, and other visual aids, plus an abundance of true-life accounts, this book explodes common myths about the unchurched. You'll discover why pastors and doctrinal preaching are critical. The enormous influence of family and relationships which things matter more than we'd thought, and which matter less. What causes visitors to return? The traits of unchurched-reaching leaders. How to preach effectively to the unchurched. How to become a church for the unchurched. And much, much more. This eye-opening compendium of information includes reproducible appendices that can help you fine-tune or even restructure your church. From one of the nation's foremost authorities on evangelism and church growth, here are insights and tools that will change the way you think of and deal with--and win--unchurched men and women who long to connect with God. Photocopyable material includes Unchurched-Reaching Readiness Inventory Church Health Survey

What Is a Healthy Church Member? - Thabiti M. Anyabwile 2008-06-09 Biblically and practically instructs church members in ways they can labor for the health of their church. What Is a Healthy Church Member? takes its cue from Mark Dever's book What Is a Healthy Church?, which offered one definition of what a healthy church looks like biblically and historically. In this new work, pastor Thabiti Anyabwile attempts to answer the natural next question: "What does a healthy church member look like in the light of Scripture?" God intends for us to play an active and vital part in the body of Christ, the local church. He wants us to experience the local church as a home more profoundly wonderful and meaningful than any

other place on earth. He intends for his churches to be healthy places and for the members of those churches to be healthy as well. This book explains how membership in the local church can produce spiritual growth in its members and how each member can contribute to the growth and health of the whole.

Pastoral Helmsmanship-Jeffrey Klick 2014-08-02 Pastoral Helmsmanship is a tool that every pastor needs. Pastors carry a huge administrative load and often are ill equipped to manage it. This book will assist any pastor in every size church with the insights needed to succeed. From budgeting, working with staff, boards and volunteers, leading meetings, and taking care of the family, Pastoral Helmsmanship covers it all in practical, understandable language. Seminary presidents, denomination and church leaders, and pastors are giving this tool rave reviews -you will too after you read it.

A God-Centered Church-Henry Blackaby 2007-06-01 An award-winning book from a multimillion selling author, now available in paperback for the first time!Henry Blackaby says, "As important as Experiencing God has been to many people, A God Centered Church is a necessary sequel. Christians must make the transition from knowing and doing the will of God as individuals to knowing and doing the will of God within a corporate body of believers."Indeed, there is a corporate nature to salvation. God saves individuals but places them in community with one another—a community of believers. God is creating for Himself a people through whom He can accomplish His purposes in our world. Experiencing God Together help churches experience the fullness of life as a congregation, a manifest presence of God in their midst, and a love that could only come from above.

The Red Sea Rules-Robert Morgan 2014-05-13 Just as Moses and the Israelites found themselves caught between "the devil and the deep Red Sea," so are we sometimes overwhelmed by life's problems. The Red Sea Rules reveals that even in the midst of seemingly impossible situations God promises to make a way for us. His loving guidance will protect us through danger, illness, marital strife, financial problems, or whatever challenges Satan places in our path. Using the Israelites' story in Exodus 14 as an example,

Robert Morgan offers ten sound strategies for moving from fear to faith. Life is hard, especially for Christians. It is certain that we will face difficulties, and that God will allow them, as He allowed the Israelites to become trapped between Pharaoh's rushing armies and the uncrossable Red Sea. But just as certain is the fact that the same God who led us in will lead us out. As *The Red Sea Rules* makes comfortingly clear, He is in control.

Replant-Darrin Patrick 2014-05-01 Grow Where You're Replanted Today's spiritual landscape is littered with churches on their last legs, forcing us to reconsider how we keep the Body of Christ alive and strong. The solution, according to visionary pastors Darrin Patrick and Mark DeVine, is to infuse new blood into the body and by seeking God's presence and guidance. Avoiding cookie-cutter steps or how-to formulas, Replant describes the story of a church resurrection, a story that offers a multitude of divinely inspired, and practical possibilities for church planters. The result is a harvest of inspiring ideas on how to inspire new church growth. Discover a new openness to churches merging with other congregations, changing leadership, and harvesting fresh spiritual fruit—inviting us all to re-think how churches not only survive, but thrive.

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