

## PRESS KIT:

### ***No Silver Bullets: Five Small Shifts that will Transform Your Ministry***

By Daniel Im | Release date: September 1, 2017



#### **About the book:**

What if I told you that you were only one step away from unlocking new levels of maturity and growth in your church? The myth of the silver bullet still exists because we desperately want it to. We all prefer quick fixes and bandage solutions to the long, hard, slow work that produces real change. So the moment we learn about a new ministry or strategy and see its effect in another church, we run to implement it in our own. Unfortunately, this impulse is usually met by opposition, skepticism, and ultimately, rejection.

What if the solution isn't a new model or a complicated strategy, but a shift in perspective? What if you could keep your church's current vision, values, and model, and simply make a few micro-shifts...leading to macro-changes?

This book explores five micro-shifts that have the potential to produce macro-changes in your church. As you read, you will discover how to integrate these micro-shifts into the life of your church, starting with the way you disciple. You will finish by developing a plan to structure, communicate, and evaluate these changes to insure that they take root and pave the way for lasting change and kingdom impact.



#### **About the author:**

**Daniel Im** is the Director of Church Multiplication for NewChurches.com and LifeWay Christian Resources. He serves as Teaching Pastor at The Fellowship, a multisite church in Nashville, TN. Daniel is also the co-author of *Planting Missional Churches: Your Guide to Starting Churches that Multiply* (2nd ed.) with Ed Stetzer. He has an M.A. in Global Leadership and has served and pastored in churches ranging from 100 to 50,000 people in Vancouver, Ottawa, Montreal, Korea, Edmonton, and Nashville. You

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### Sample Interview Questions:

- What inspired you to write *No Silver Bullets*?
- How have you seen these micro-shifts work in your own church and ministry?
- You call ministry leaders in this book to create intentional church cultures. What are some of the other cultures that we see in churches, and why might those models be unhelpful?
- If a team of pastors or ministry leaders implements the recommended shifts in this book, what do you expect to be different about their church in five years?
- How do you hope churches utilize *No Silver Bullets*?
- How do you hope readers are changed as a result of reading *No Silver Bullets*?

### Book information:

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### Key Endorsements

While discipling others who will then disciple others is Jesus' master plan, defining maturity is sometimes tricky. I'm grateful that Daniel outlines a research-based, yet practical way, to understand and move people toward Christlikeness. Don't miss this. - -

**-Robert E. Coleman**, distinguished senior professor of Evangelism and Discipleship, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

While God will complete in us the good work that He began, there are no silver bullets in our spiritual growth. And there are no silver bullets in discipling and shepherding a church. There are, however, important perspectives we may adopt that will greatly impact how we lead and the direction and development of those we lead. I am grateful for Daniel's work and believe this book will challenge and encourage you.

**Eric Geiger**, vice president of LifeWay Christian Resources



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If the central command of the Great Commission is to make disciples, and you have a plan for marketing, facilities, and organization, but not a plan for discipleship, you have missed the point. Don't miss this important work by my friend, Daniel. In it, he will help you develop a discipleship pathway for your church by leveraging research that I was a part of.

**Ed Stetzer**, Billy Graham Distinguished Chair of Church, Wheaton College

*No Silver Bullets* is a refreshing effort to help church leaders guide the local church to more effective ministry. Far too many books offer over-simplified solutions and over-reaching promises. In this incredible work, Daniel reveals the necessity for church leaders to focus their efforts to faithfulness to the timeless practices of healthy churches. Every leader church should read and reread this book!

**Kevin Peck**, lead pastor, The Austin Stone Community Church and coauthor of *Designed to Lead*

In our fast-food, instant download, immediate gratification, consumer driven culture, we often fall prey to copy-cat Christianity. And yet, no matter how much we try to force it, laboring for the harvest has never been about instant gratification. Daniel Im speaks powerfully to this truth, challenging us to change the way we think about our church so that we can ultimately shift our practices to better align with an eternal Kingdom mind-set. His work is timely, practical, and a powerful application of biblical principles for our time.

**Dhati Lewis**, lead pastor of Blueprint Church and director of BLVD

## Q&A with Daniel Im

### What inspired you to write this book?

I wrote *No Silver Bullets* to address a particular dilemma that I continue to observe regardless of the size, context, or culture of a church or ministry. After pastoring in three countries, six different cities, and helping thousands of pastors around the world, I noticed a pattern with the way churches were typically led and ministries were run.

We often lead the way we've been led, disciple the way we've been discipled, and teach the way we've been taught...unless we consciously decide to do otherwise.

And with the accelerated pace of life, the unceasing demands of ministry, and the relentless fact that Sunday is always around the corner, who has the luxury of time to stop, audit, and make systemic changes to the way we lead, disciple, and teach?



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This is why the myth of the silver bullet still exists today. The truth is, we want it, we need it, and we think we must have it NOW because we've been conditioned for the instant. It's our hidden addiction.

As a result, the five small shifts that I outline in this book are not silver bullets by any means. Nor are they mere theory or conjecture. They are simply micro-shifts that have the potential to produce macro-change in your church.

At the end of the day, I see it as my mission to be a guide on the side. As a number two guy, or second chair leader to you and your team, I want to help you unlock new levels of maturity and growth in your church. And the way to get there is by starting with the way you disciple.

### **Who is this book for?**

This book is for pastors and leaders who are looking to re-energize their ministry by implementing small shifts that will make a BIG difference. It's for leadership teams who are wanting to design and implement a discipleship pathway that works for their church. It's for disciple makers who are frustrated with a me-centered Christianity and want to learn how to develop other disciple makers. And, really, it's for anyone who realizes that there are no perfect models and no one right way of doing ministry or leading a church.

### **How have you seen these micro-shifts work in your own church and ministry?**

In order to develop a church culture where pastors aren't the only disciple-makers, I've had to learn how to lead up, across, and down. As a result, each of the micro-shifts outlined in this book are a result of personal trial and error in the trenches, conversations with people ranging from high capacity lay leaders to thought leaders, and a lot of study and reflection. By no means is this book a silver bullet that will solve all your woes, but I do believe (and have seen) these micro-shifts lead to macro-change in many churches, ministries, and lives.

For example, how often have you imported a model from another church, only to import another one a few months later because the first one didn't go as planned? I know what this feels like. There's always collateral damage, and a loss of trust and credibility. This is just one of the scenarios that the first micro-shift, from destination to direction, addresses.

Or what about thinking that an epic sermon series (or study) was going to open up the heavens, bring about revival, and double your ministry size? If I told you that I've never



thought this, I'd be a big fat liar. And that's why in the second micro-shift, from output to input, I share never before published research on a new metric for discipleship.

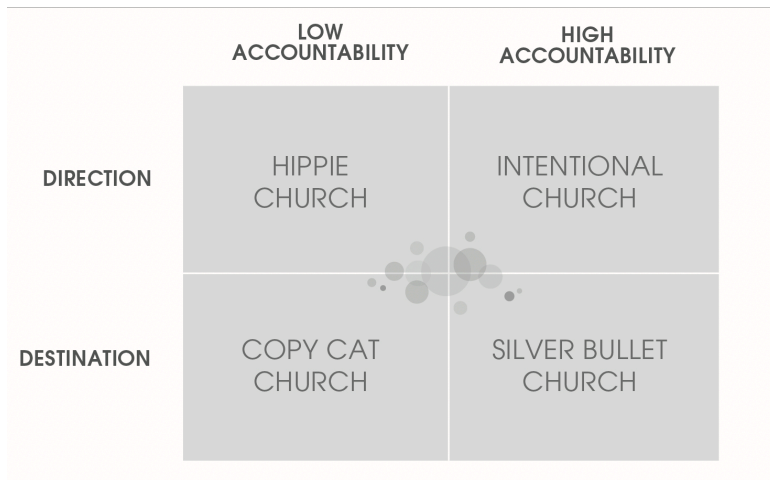
The fact is, if you've been around ministry long enough, you'll know that there are no perfect models, no one right way of doing ministry or leading a church (I'm talking about church practice, not theology). There are no silver bullets—one-decision solutions that will solve all your woes and unleash your church into a new season of fruitfulness. The only way change happens—significant, long-lasting, macro-level change—is through a series of small decisions, steps, or micro-shifts, that are put into action and completed one at a time.

**You call ministry leaders in this book to create intentional church cultures. What are some of the other cultures that we see in churches, and why might those models be unhelpful?**

I am convinced that ignorance is the main reason churches in North America, and in many parts of the world, are not experiencing growth—spiritual and numerical. No, I am not talking about pastors having low IQ levels. I'm referring to the type of ignorance where you don't know why you do ministry the way that you do. More than anything, it's a lack of self-awareness.

That's why I designed the Influences Matrix to help ministry leaders start with self-awareness so that they can pinpoint the way their church approaches discipleship from a systems perspective.

In the Influences Matrix, there are four different types of churches. Each of these churches approach discipleship from a different perspective. Here's a quick summary of each.





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### **1. Copy Cat Church**

The Copy Cat Church is convinced that they are only one model away from breakthrough. They believe that maturity and growth are a result of pushing the right buttons and offering the right classes in the right order. As a result, they focus on creating a singular defined environment for everyone in their church to take a formulaic set of steps or classes in. Unfortunately, to the church, the leadership seems scattered and indifferent since nothing lasts longer than a few months—or at most—a year.

### **2. Silver Bullet Church**

The Silver Bullet Church coordinates their ministries, implements a well-defined change management strategy, and contextualizes language so that their discipleship pathway makes sense to their people. While this model may seem slick and efficient, one of the glaring issues is that they see disciples as widgets. At the heart of this model is the belief that discipleship is programmatic, so maturity is a result of getting to the end of a set process.

### **3. Hippie Church**

The Hippie Church believes that discipleship can happen anywhere and anytime. This is because they see discipleship as being deeply personal and not formulaic in any way, shape, or form. However, they give way too much credit to the average church member. The church leadership assumes that as long as they teach the right things and have the right beliefs, people will just naturally grow and mature. As a result, there's a lack of measurement and intentionality—everything is good as long as it works for you.

### **4. Intentional Church**

The Intentional Church is organized and very involved in creating environments where church members can take their next step toward Christ. However, instead of leaving maturity totally up to the individual and hoping that sermons and programs will guide them in the right direction, the Intentional Church has guardrails and a moving sidewalk that their members can choose to use if they want.

### **If a team of pastors or ministry leaders implements the recommended shifts in this book, what do you expect to be different about their church in five years?**

If you're planting a church, replanting, or revitalizing it, you'll learn how to build a discipleship pathway from scratch. If, however, these systems are already set up in your church, but you aren't quite sure if they are the right ones or whether they're performing at full capacity, then you'll learn how to clarify and tweak them. In both instances, the goal of this book is to unleash your ministry toward greater Kingdom impact.



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### **How do you hope churches use *No Silver Bullets*?**

I'm humbled that you're reading this and considering picking up this book. The fact is, I see myself as a ligament in the body of Christ (Ephesians 4:16). For some reason, ever since I was a child, God has used me as a bridge and a connector between individuals, groups, ministries, churches, and cultures. And for that, I'm deeply grateful, because of the number of individuals and ministries that I've been blessed to work with.

As a result, if you take the time to pick up this book and work through it with your leadership team, I promise you that the path to achieving the God-given vision for your church or ministry will be clearer and more tangible than it's ever been. Even if you just leveraged the research on discipleship that I present in this book, you will have a clearer understanding as to what actually moves people towards maturity in Christ. Not conjecture, but actual results.