



Claybury International

# Project Management For Christian Leaders

Mike Waddell



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Mike Waddell is married with a son and a daughter who have both graduated. He has spent most of his working life either working in project teams or planning and managing projects. Graduating with a Bachelors degree in Electrical and Electronic engineering in 1976 he worked for major vendors in the international telecommunications industry for 30 years. Mike was cofounder of Cerebrus Solutions which provided advanced anti-fraud software solutions for telephone companies around the world. After leaving the telecommunications industry he joined Claybury International as Director for Ministry Development.

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# Introduction

## The Christian Project Manager

The project is a concept with which we are all familiar, or at least we think we are. Therein lies a problem, especially when projects get big in terms of importance, costs, impact or goals. This familiarity may lead us into launching projects without the proper preparation, planning and skills. Most times the result is high levels of pain in terms of stress, waste of money and resources, and frequently failure.

In the Christian sphere, where many enterprises are funded by donation, money and resources are in scarce supply. More than that, the necessary skills to run a project are also in scarce supply; leading to ill equipped people finding themselves in the pressure cooker of project management.

The aim of this book is to provide some means of redressing that balance by setting out a simple guide to equip the Christian project manager with some of the basic tools necessary to run a project successfully.

## Project Management: A Practical Guide for Christian Leaders

The first edition of the booklet “Project Management: A Practical Guide for Christian Leaders” simply highlighted ten crucial issues to which the project manager must attend in order to lay the foundations of a successful project. These have been included in the second part of this book. The intent behind the new material in this book is to provide a set of practical tools and techniques which allow the project manager to achieve these ten steps. Dependent upon the size and scope of the project, not all of these tools may need to be used to their full extent.

## **The Project Canvas**

The content of this book is borne out of many years in the global telecoms industry defining and managing projects of different natures and varying complexity, and running multiple project teams around the world. The idea of the Project Canvas is inspired by Alexander Osterwalder and Yves Pigneur who, with the aid of many others, found a new way of mapping and working on business plans in their brilliant book “Business Model Generation” (Wiley).

The idea of the Canvas is to visually present the key factors of a project in a single view that allows the essence of the project to be more easily grasped and enable a group to work it collectively. From the project manager’s perspective it sets the top level agenda. Beneath that, dependent upon the actual project, there will be varying levels of essential detail. This book also covers some of the key aspects of that detail and the necessary processes in order to better equip you to be a project manager.

## **Man’s Methods v God’s Plans**

In God’s kingdom service we need to be wary of over reliance upon method so that we avoid the trap of replacing His plans and purposes with our own. Method is important and it helps us achieve, however, we need to be careful not to displace God with that method because often God’s blessing falls not simply on doing his work but doing it his way. There are ample Biblical lessons that highlight this, not least Joshua, whom we discuss in Part 2. So even as we set out the Project Canvas keep in mind that our purpose is Kingdom service and with that, doing things in a way that brings glory and honour to God.

## **Projects are about People**

When it comes to planning and implementing a project it is too easy, by being focused on the outcome, to lose sight of the fact that a project is about people. It is people that make it happen and no project manager, let alone the Christian project manager, should simplistically make his project plan the Holy Grail. The project manager is first the leader of people in his project team and modelling that leadership upon Christ’s servant leadership style, as made visible in the Bible, is of first importance. His goal is to enable his people to achieve their full Kingdom potential as they serve the Kingdom through the delivery of the project. Part 3 introduces some basic servant leadership concepts.

The role of the project manager can be challenging but it is one with a sense of achievement when the project concludes successfully. Even more so for the Christian who, in his service of God, understands that this achievement is first and foremost for the Kingdom.



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