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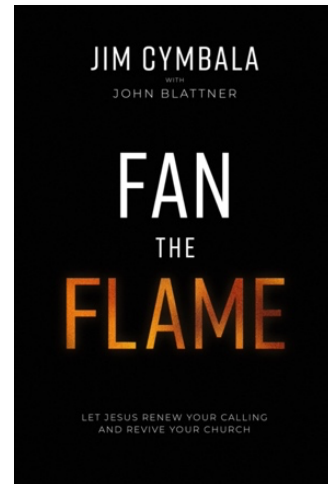
PASTOR JIM CYMBALA OF THE BROOKLYN TABERNACLE ENCOURAGES WEARY CHURCH LEADERS

***FAN THE FLAME* OFFERS EXPERIENCE & WISDOM FROM 50 YEARS OF MINISTRY**

“Christians are leaving the church in droves. Leaders are losing heart and leaving the ministry. Something is obviously wrong, and we must be open to changing course.” – Jim Cymbala

GRAND RAPIDS, MICHIGAN (July 1, 2022) – *Church attendance is down. U.S. churchgoers now make up just 28% of the population, down six points in two years.*¹ *Also down? The morale of Christian pastors. Two years of congregational feuding over COVID health precautions and political issues have taken a serious toll. Many pastors are considering departure from ministry, and some church experts predict a tidal wave of pastoral resignations in 2022.*²

Jim Cymbala, pastor of the Brooklyn Tabernacle for five decades, has observed this growing pastoral discouragement in real time. As the pandemic set in, Cymbala began reaching out to local pastors and listening to their stories, which often reflected this sentiment: *“Jim, I’m feeling defeated. I find myself in front of the church preaching, putting on a happy face, but inside I’m discouraged, worn down, wanting to walk away from it all.”*



Jim and his wife Carol began serving at the Brooklyn Tabernacle when just 20 people attended, and today thousands attend weekend services. The Cymbalas have seen seasons of discouragement become gateways to spiritual revival, and Jim longs to encourage weary and disheartened pastors to stay the course. Cymbala began working on his first new book in a decade, ***Fan the Flame: Let Jesus Renew Your Calling and Revive Your Church*** (Zondervan, September 2022), while counseling pastors during the COVID-19 pandemic. The book’s message is crafted for both pastors and church members.

“We Christians are all on the same team. If one hurts, we should all feel it; and if one is blessed, we should all rejoice,” writes Cymbala. “***Fan the Flame*** is my heartfelt endeavor to bring encouragement to the body of Christ and especially to church leaders. It has no magic formula or personal vision I wish to communicate. It’s just a sincere attempt to review what we’re doing and why we’re doing it, in light of God’s Word.”

Pastor Cymbala focuses on Acts 20 as he guides pastors and church leaders toward renewal and revival, including:

- How to improve **spiritual leadership**
- How to develop a deep and authentic **practice of prayer**
- How to **lead others** into the presence of God
- What pastors **should** and **shouldn’t** be doing as leaders of a church

¹ January 2022, IFS analysis using the [American Family Survey](#)

² “Our Pulpits are Full of Empty Preachers” by Kyle Rohane, *Christianity Today*, April 2022



Jim Cymbala has been a pastor for more than fifty years at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, where attendance has grown from 20 people to thousands each weekend. Pastor Cymbala has a strong burden for the local church and has been blessed with the opportunity to encourage thousands of pastors around the globe. Cymbala is the bestselling author of *Fresh Wind*, *Fresh Fire* and other titles. His next book, ***Fan the Flame***, will release September 2022. Jim lives in New York City with his wife, Carol Cymbala, who directs the Grammy Award-winning Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir.

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Fan the Flame: Let Jesus Renew Your Calling and Revive Your Church

By Jim Cymbala with John Blattner

ISBN 978-0310133766 | Hardcover | U.S. \$24.99 | 240 pages

Available September 6, 2022, from Zonderan

Review copies and interviews available: pamela@mmpublicrelations.com, 615-294-5073