

NOT NORMAL

7 QUIRKS OF INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS



FREE SAMPLER

SUE MILLER & ADAM DUCKWORTH
FOREWORD BY REGGIE JOINER

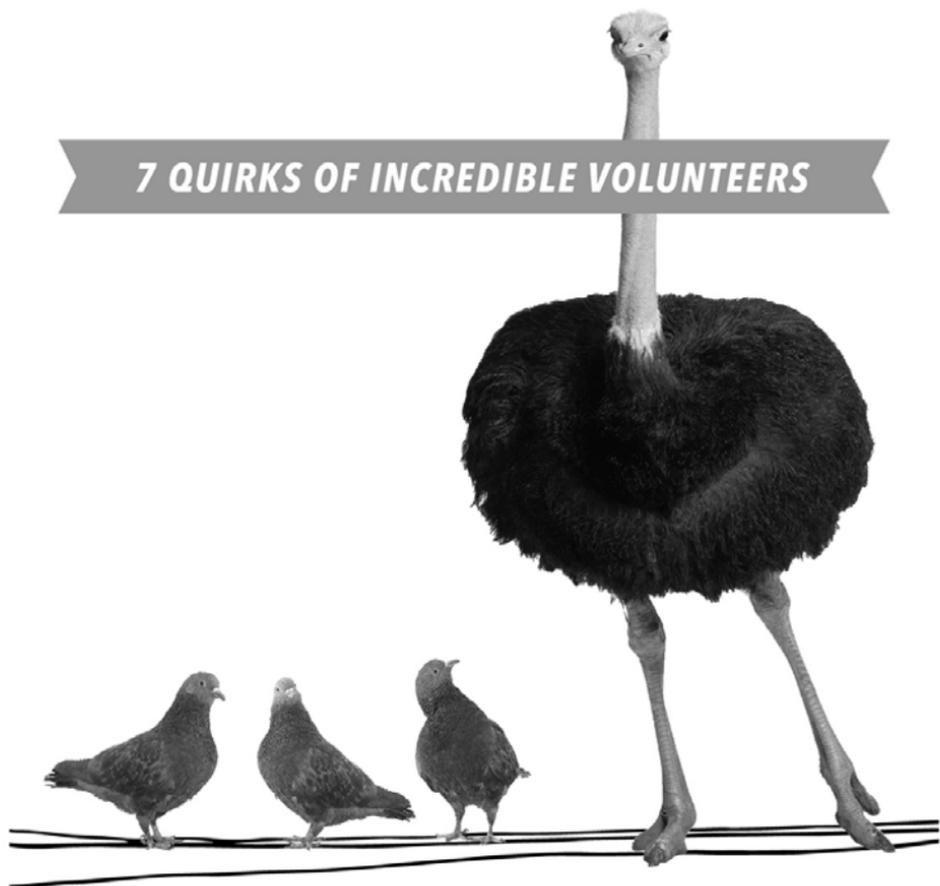
We hope you enjoy this complimentary sample of *Not Normal: 7 Quirks of Incredible Volunteers*, by Sue Miller and Adam Duckworth.

This sample contains the first chapter, information about the authors, and the complete table of contents.

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NOT NORMAL

7 QUIRKS OF INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS



SUE MILLER & ADAM DUCKWORTH



Not Normal: Seven Quirks of Incredible Volunteers

NotNormalBook.com

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FOREWORD

So, you're a volunteer.

Maybe you're a brand new volunteer and you are in the first stages of this journey.

Or, maybe you have been volunteering for a long, long time and are leaving an amazing legacy.

Or, maybe you have been volunteering and love it so much you want to make a career out of it.

Or, you were a volunteer once and you decided it was time to hang it up.

Either way, you're not normal.

"Not normal," you say? What does that mean?

Well, normal means doing what's expected, what everyone else does. That doesn't apply to any of you.

You have signed up to do the unexpected. The not normal thing. You are a volunteer. You have chosen to do this crazy thing of helping someone else – for free.

Wherever you are in this journey, this book is for you. Volunteers who live out these quirky things soar in their roles, and get the most out of their experiences.

Our goal is to grow your quirkiness. We want to help you become even more not normal.

If we were honest with ourselves, most of us would say that we don't want to be just normal. We want more out of life, and we truly believe God has more for us than what we are currently doing. We wonder, "What if circumstances were different?" or "What if we hadn't made that one mistake?" or "What if life had taken a different turn twenty years ago?" If only that one thing was different, we could have something different than we have now.

The not normal difference happens when we engage with something bigger than ourselves. That's why in this book, Sue Miller and Adam Duckworth have unpacked seven principles – or "quirks" – that they have experienced during their time leading some of the nation's most innovative approaches to family ministry. Quirks are positive, unusual behaviors that spin into powerful impacts and unexpected results.

Sue and Adam are two of my favorite leaders. Individually, each one has extraordinary influence. But together, their combined voice quickly gets out-of-control quirky. The result? Some new ways of helping parents, small group leaders, volunteers and kids experience faith in a way that's not normal.

When we've watched people apply these principles and practices, we have seen them grow and lead in ways you wouldn't expect. Wherever you are in this process, we think you will do the same when you understand and apply these quirks.

After all, you're just not normal.

– Reggie Joiner

CHAPTER

1

START SOMEWHERE



1

This first quirk is a fairly simple one, but one of the most meaningful if we are to begin living not normal lives.

Get started.

Most of us start out really wanting to do something that matters with our lives.

Then we get busy. Then just when we can manage how busy we are, we get comfortable.

COMFORTABLE LIVING THE STATUS QUO

**COMFORTABLE FOCUSED ON OUR OWN NEEDS
AND INTERESTS**

COMFORTABLE WITH OUR CURRENT ROUTINES

This all feels quite normal.

But along the way, every now and then, we live with a sense that something is missing. Something more important than all of this everyday stuff. Something much bigger. Something that's going to outlast our time on this planet.

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Every single one of us dreams about giving ourselves to an important cause. We imagine how great it would be to change something in the world that would make life better for someone else. We long to give ourselves to something bigger than our own lives and interests.

Needs are all around us each and every day. Some of them are really big needs, and some are really small needs. Some of these needs happen at our churches, and some of them happen in our communities, and some happen in other countries. Some happen with people we know and some happen with complete strangers.

We want it. We think about it. But then we get stuck.

Why?

It's not because there aren't great causes to give ourselves away to – there are huge needs in our world pulling at us from all directions.

It's not because we don't have something to contribute – we have abilities that could help someone else.

It's not even because we don't have enough time (although we often say we don't). The truth is, we always find time to do what matters most to us.

So, what causes the stuck-ness?

IT'S BECAUSE THE NEEDS ARE TOO BIG.

IT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE TOO MANY TO CHOOSE FROM.

BUT MOSTLY, IT'S BECAUSE WE NEVER GET STARTED.

We are only one person. How much of a difference could one person make?

START SOMEWHERE

WE IMAGINE HOW
GREAT IT WOULD BE TO
**CHANGE SOMETHING IN
THE WORLD THAT WOULD
MAKE LIFE BETTER FOR
SOMEONE ELSE.** WE LONG
TO GIVE OURSELVES TO
SOMETHING BIGGER
THAN OUR OWN LIVES
AND INTERESTS.

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It's absolutely overwhelming! How do you decide who to help? Where do you even begin? Way too much is needed to even make a slight dent in the world-changing arena.

So, because some of us can't figure out how to do everything some of us don't do anything.

We settle for what's normal.

But it doesn't have to be this way. There is a not normal life out there with your name on it.

THERE IS A NOT NORMAL MISSION THAT WILL CAPTURE YOUR HEART AND YOUR IMAGINATION.

THERE IS A NOT NORMAL ORGANIZATION THAT CAN SHOW YOU KNOW-HOW TO CHANGE SOMEONE ELSE'S WORLD.

THERE IS A NOT NORMAL LIFE FILLED WITH PURPOSE AND FULFILLMENT LIKE YOU'VE NEVER EXPERIENCED BEFORE.

It's simpler than you think.

Which takes us back to Not Normal Quirk Number One...
take one small step and just start volunteering somewhere.

INTERESTING APPEAL

Sometimes the quirky opportunity is right in front of you, and you just need to say yes to something that sounds good to you.

Callie worked in the corporate world as a very busy executive. Her time was swallowed up by work and family, leaving very little time for much else. But then her company threw a wrench in her well-ordered life by placing a volunteer opportunity right smack-dab in front of her.

START SOMEWHERE

It was an innocent gesture. A new initiative, if you will. Senior executives were going to let any director take their team on a volunteer adventure building houses in the southeast for one week of time with pay. They were convinced that great team building would happen as a result of their time away making them better work partners and more compassionate human beings.

Callie's team had been experiencing some corporate bumps and bruises lately, and their spirits were low. So, this idea appealed to her. She thought this might do them all some good. What did she have to lose?

So she said yes to her first experience ever as a volunteer, as simple as that. Callie rallied her team around the house building idea, and they made plans to give it a shot together.

The day her team arrived at the construction site they met other volunteers from across the country already there working. Things felt awkward at first, with folks on her team sensing they were out of their comfort zone.

Did they belong here?

What had they gotten themselves into?

But they were quickly absorbed into assigned teams with specific assignments, eventually finding their groove as time went on that first day.

Turns out, building a house is a lot of really hard work. Early mornings, long hours, lots of physical labor doing things they weren't used to day after day. Muscles were stretched, backs got stiff, and everyone had blisters and sore feet by day three.

But, the job site was a happy place. Music was playing, a few people were singing along out loud from time to

time, and sometimes a few would dance with each for ten seconds when they passed. High fives were given whenever something was completed successfully. People joked and laughed freely with each other.

At the end of each exhausting day, the chief contractor would tell them what a great job they had done, listing all of the tasks that had been accomplished. He would end by giving them one new fact about the family they were building their house for to give them fresh perspective about what they were doing. People hooted and hollered after every new piece of information was shared, reminded that soon all of this was going to be worth it.

At night, Callie's teammates hung out to rehash their day. Often they belly-laughed really hard as someone shared the latest mishap that had happened. One of their favorite stories was about a team member who had installed a toilet for the first time ever, and as a known germaphobe had everybody rolling with his version of how he had gotten the job done. This team had moved beyond the work partner status, and had actually become friends who liked being together.

The showstopper moment came when all of the volunteers got to meet the single mom and her three children in person. She thanked each one of them so sincerely, telling them the many ways this house was going to change her family's future. There wasn't a dry eye in the place as she spoke.

They watched in awe when she was given the keys to her very first house.

Spontaneous cheers erupted from everywhere as she raised the keys up over her head and waved them in the air, unable to contain her joy.

START SOMEWHERE

In that moment, Callie felt something shift on the inside. Something new clicked into place. This was what had been missing in her life. This was the something bigger, something more important that she had been waiting to find.

THIS FEELING OF FULFILLMENT

THIS SENSE OF SIGNIFICANCE

THIS REALIZATION OF PURPOSE AND MEANING

She had tasted what this was like, and she wanted more. She wanted her family to experience what she had experienced. Callie wanted them to see and feel the difference they could make when helping someone else have a new beginning.

It was better than she had even imagined.

Callie had no idea where she would volunteer from here, but she knew she could no longer settle for less. She had to start living a not normal life.

Sometimes, an appealing volunteer opportunity is right in front of you and you just need to say yes. Other times, it may not be so obvious. You may want to ask yourself some questions to help you figure out what appeals to you. . . .

The best way to make sure you're starting in the right way is to ask. . . .

WHAT AM I GOOD AT?

WHAT DO I ENJOY DOING?

WHAT COMES NATURALLY TO ME?

God designed each one of us uniquely, and gifted us in different ways.

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NO ONE CAN DO WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOR CAN THEY DO IT LIKE YOU WOULD DO IT.

NO ONE HAS THE HISTORY THAT YOU HAVE TO UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT FOR WHY YOU WOULD DO IT.

NO ONE HAS THE DRIVE THAT YOU HAVE TO BE PASSIONATE FOR WHAT YOU ARE PASSIONATE ABOUT.

You have a unique contribution to make in order to make someone's world better.

Next, ask yourself what would you like to see change in this world.

WHAT MAKES YOUR HEART BEAT FASTER?

WHAT INJUSTICE MAKES YOU MAD?

WHAT DO YOU SEE ON THE NEWS AND YOU SAY, "I HAVE TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT THIS!"?

Not sure? Talk to someone in your local community about places to volunteer. Or, just Google "volunteering" and the name of your town. We think you'll find opportunities are everywhere!

In our opinion, local churches are great places to make a difference. We believe that the local church has something to offer the community that no one else can. By partnering with other key influencers, the local church can be an answer for all kinds of questions people are asking.

That's where we both decided to start volunteering.

See,

WE CAN'T STAND THE THOUGHT OF A GENERATION GROWING UP WITHOUT FAITH IN A REALLY BIG GOD.

START SOMEWHERE

WE CAN'T STAND THAT PEOPLE HAVE A NEGATIVE OPINION OF CHURCHES AND DON'T WANT TO BRING THEIR KIDS TO THEM.

WE CAN'T STAND THAT THE MESSAGE OF JESUS HAS BEEN HIJACKED BY PEOPLE WHO WEREN'T REPRESENTING HIM PROPERLY.

We couldn't be normal any more. We had to do something about it.

Okay, that's what fires us up. **Now let's focus on you.**

Think about the things that you already like to do, and find a place that is looking for something you are good at.

If you like to cook, join a cooking club that volunteers to make meals for those who need food brought in at your church. Volunteer at a local food pantry for an hour a week. Find a soup kitchen and show up there to help make meals and serve them to those who are in need.

If gardening is your love, volunteer on a team to make the grounds beautiful at your church, local school or community center. Investigate opportunities with nonprofits in your area and offer to care for their flowers, shrubs and grass.

If you like working on cars, find a group in your community who like the same thing and volunteer to work on cars for single mothers.

If technology is your thing, then check out the production team at your church to find out how you could put your skills to good use. You'll get to watch a lot of great programs come together, and put your gift to use at the same time.

Here's the good news. There is a place where you can use what you like to do as a volunteer to care for someone else.

VOLUNTEERING IS MEANT TO BE ENERGIZING.

VOLUNTEERING IS MEANT TO BE FULFILLING.

VOLUNTEERING IS MEANT TO BE ENGAGING.

Volunteering isn't meant to force you to do something you don't like to do. It is not supposed to be draining. You shouldn't feel like you gave a pint of blood every time after you volunteer.

So, try something that appeals to you, and just start somewhere.

Do something.

Take one small step and see how your life can be changed.

START AGAIN AGAIN

Some of you have tried volunteering somewhere, and had a really bad experience.

YOU TRIED IT, IT WENT BADLY, AND YOU QUIT.

YOU HAVE BEEN THERE AND DONE THAT.

END OF STORY.

The problem we have with the things we just mentioned is that they are so normal. (We know, we are saying that word a lot, but it's true.)

NORMAL PEOPLE GIVE UP TOO EASILY.

NORMAL PEOPLE DON'T TRY AGAIN.

NORMAL PEOPLE OFTEN CARRY A CHIP ON THEIR SHOULDER.

The problem with some of us is that we strive for perfection or we strive for immediate gratification. Now don't get

START SOMEWHERE

us wrong, for perfection isn't a bad thing. However when starting to volunteer, don't try to find the perfect spot right away. It doesn't exist. There is no such thing out there as a perfect instant situation.

MAYBE MAKING COPIES WASN'T FOR YOU.

MAYBE YOU FOUND OUT YOU REALLY DON'T LIKE THIRD GRADERS.

MAYBE YOU UNCOVERED THAT DEALING WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL GIRL DRAMA IS MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE.

Here's someone who's singing your song...

One of our favorite characters in all of television history is George Costanza from Seinfeld. If you know anything about this character, you know that George is known for failed relationships, being fired from jobs, pretty much all around not having his life together. In one episode, George and his friends are volunteering at a senior citizen center over the holidays. The episode begins with George, Jerry and Elaine in a coffee shop discussing the longing they all have to invest in people. They talk about how they have this thing inside of them that they feel like they want to give back.

But on George's first visit with the senior adult that he is assigned to, the experience gets really rough. This isn't George's perfect spot. In fact, after the first visit with the senior citizen, George tells Jerry, "Yeah, I'm a great quitter. It's one of the few things I do well. I come from a long line of quitters. My father was a quitter, my grandfather was a quitter. I was raised to give up!"¹

George Costanza is normal. Well, in many ways George Costanza is not normal, but not in the same way we are talking about.

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Most of us don't like to admit it, but if we have a bad experience, our first instinct is to give up.

But wait a minute, have you ever had a bad experience at a restaurant?

MAYBE IT WAS A RUDE OR DISINTERESTED SERVER.

MAYBE THE FOOD WAS TERRIBLE.

MAYBE THE REVIEWS ONLINE WERE TOTALLY WRONG.

Whatever the reason, you walked out, and you were never going back there again.

Did that one bad experience cause you to stop eating out? Probably not.

We simply cross that restaurant off of our list and move on to another one that we end up liking much better. But we don't give up on every restaurant forever just because we had one bad experience, right?

THERE ARE DOCTORS WHO DON'T CLICK WITH US.

THERE ARE HAIRCUTS GONE AWRY THAT MADE OUR EARS STICK OUT AND LOOK HUGE.

THERE ARE LESS-THAN-STELLAR SOCCER COACHES.

THERE ARE GRUMPY STORE CLERKS WHO DON'T WANT TO HELP.

But that doesn't mean we give up. We look for someone new, and start over.

If you had a bad experience we want to challenge you to start again someplace new.

Make another choice.

START SOMEWHERE

Try something else under a different leader. Maybe, even probably, in the same place.

Get back in the game with more information than you had before. You now know a little bit more about what you don't want to do. You have the ability to make a more informed choice.

For some of you, starting somewhere means starting over again.

This time, make sure you like what you are signing up to do when you volunteer.

DON'T SIGN UP TO BUILD HOUSES FOR OTHERS IF YOU HATE CONSTRUCTION ZONES.

DON'T SIGN UP TO WORK WITH KIDS IF THEIR ENERGY STRESSES AND DRAINS YOU.

DON'T SIGN UP TO BE ON A CREATIVE TEAM WHEN YOU LIKE ADMINISTRATION INSTEAD.

DON'T SIGN UP FOR STUDENT MINISTRY IF YOU HATE EMOTIONAL DRAMA AND PROCESS.

DON'T SIGN UP TO WEAR A BEAR SUIT IF YOU ARE ALLERGIC TO FAKE FUR.

Ask the leader for more details about the role you are volunteering for. Find out how she/he leads volunteers. What can you expect in your role? Ask why this role is important. Find out what success looks like so you will know what a clear win is for you. Ask more questions this time. And then, start again.

YOU WERE MADE FOR THIS

We can't help but think about all of the reality television shows that have vocal auditions. We consistently see family members and close friends encouraging people to sing

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who have no business singing. Our favorite is after the pep talk right before the audition and the great expectation that the singer will perform well. Then the contestant walks in front of the judges only to sound like a tortured animal. The thought races through our mind, "Who in the world is encouraging this poor person to sing?"

Generally, the aftermath of this experience is entertaining to watch. The auditioning vocalist cries his or her eyes out and adds a few expletives and gestures as he or she exits the building in a reality-television storm!

You were made for this, they said. Not so much.

But each of us was made for something, usually something very specific, and it's okay to walk through a few different experiences to find what it is.

For me (Adam), finding what I was made for meant accidentally walking into the wrong office. I thought I was supposed to volunteer with high school students, but I walked upstairs instead of downstairs and ended up in the elementary director's office. After talking with the elementary director (who I thought was the high school director), I knew I was in the right place. Even though I walked into the wrong office to sign up for the wrong age group, I ended up in the right place working with the right group for me.

Every individual has a different door to walk through (even a wrong door that may end up being the right door), and volunteering is part of who we are.

In the United States last year, **64.5 million people** showed up to make the world better for someone somewhere. That's a lot of not normal people like us!

START SOMEWHERE

EVERY INDIVIDUAL HAS A
DIFFERENT DOOR TO WALK
THROUGH (EVEN A WRONG
DOOR THAT MAY END UP
BEING THE RIGHT DOOR),
**AND VOLUNTEERING IS
PART OF WHO WE ARE.**

NOT NORMAL

The estimated worth of those volunteers is \$22.55 an hour. **They did \$175 billion dollars of actual work.** So many things in our world would not get done without the help of caring volunteers.

A third of those 64.5 million volunteers spent their time helping at a **religious organization**, with another 25.6 percent in education and 14.7 percent in community organizations

These are good places to start, but what is it that motivates us to volunteer in the first place to help someone else?

For that answer, we have to go back to how we were made.

WE WERE CREATED TO LOVE.

WE WERE CREATED TO GIVE.

WE WERE CREATED TO CARE.

WE WERE CREATED TO HELP OTHERS.

That desire was hardwired into our DNA by our Creator who designed us from the get-go.

One of the early leaders of the Christian faith advised us this way: "Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" (I Peter 4:10 NIV).

You see, God knew that if we only focus on our own interests, we could become selfish individuals who hold onto our material stuff way too tightly. An inward, insular focus leads to emptiness and selfishness.

You were made for so much more than that.

START SOMEWHERE

God wants you to really live – in a not normal way – differently than anything you have ever experienced.

When you deeply believe in what you are doing and want to do everything you can to help it succeed and move forward, amazing things start to happen.

Life starts delivering the not normal results we have all been longing for.

GREATER CONTENTMENT HAPPENS WHEN YOU REALIZE YOU HAVE ENOUGH “STUFF” ALREADY.

DEEPER FULFILLMENT COMES WITH GIVING RATHER THAN GETTING.

MORE PERSONAL VALUE COMES FROM DOING SOMETHING LASTING IN THIS WORLD.

BETTER OUTLOOK COMES WHEN YOU VIEW YOUR STRUGGLES IN LIGHT OF THOSE YOU ARE TRYING TO HELP.

INCREDIBLE JOY SURFACES WHEN YOU GET TO SEE SOMEONE ELSE SOAR BECAUSE OF YOUR EFFORTS.

Who doesn't want that?

These things come only when we partner with God to take care of the people He loves. We just have to start helping someone else. Do something for someone else.

We don't have to worry about trying to do everything for everyone in order to make a difference in this world. That's His job. Not ours. Phew! Don't you feel better?

Take a deep breath. Now exhale.

All you have to do is just start somewhere.

5 QUIRKY THINGS SUE STARTED AND STOPPED

1

FLYING LESSONS

I logged in six hours of flying time with an instructor. That's about the time I realized you really had to have science and math skills to learn this stuff. I have neither.



2

KNITTING

All of my friends were into this, so I thought I would give it a try. It's fun, it's creative. You will love it, they said. After dropping stitch after stitch while knitting row after row, sweat pouring down my forehead as I tried to get this right, I decided this was the most exasperating activity I had ever tried to do. Just. Too. Much.



3

KICKBOXING

After years of high-impact aerobics, this class looked interesting and fun. A great stress reliever from real life. Loved the first class until the next morning. I could not get out of the bed. For three days. Oops! (Adam's response: "Sue Miller was a KICKBOXER!?!")



COOKING LESSONS

I had dreams of throwing great dinner parties. I wanted to like cooking more than I did, which was not at all. Turns out that knowing more about HOW to cook didn't really make me like cooking any more than I did. Which was not at all.

4

BEING A CANDYSTRIPER

I loved being a hospital candystriper when I was in high school. I thought I should go into medicine. Except that medical stuff made me queasy. It turns out that I just liked meeting the people as a candy striper, and delivering their flowers and presents.

5

5 QUIRKY THINGS ADAM STARTED AND STOPPED

1

SPINNING CLASS

I went with my wife once, told her she was out of her mind, and never went back.



2

BLEACHING MY HAIR STARK WHITE

I did this for years and thought it was cool. But the process of the peroxide destroying my scalp became too much pain. Beauty hurts, but cool shouldn't have to.





COLLECTING THINGS

Addictive personalities can be dangerous, and I have one. I am a collector at heart. The problem is, if I start collecting something, I have to have every single thing that has ever existed. So in 2014, I made the decision I was going to stop being a collector--of anything. (Act now to see an amazing collection of my Vinylmations on ebay).

4

WATCHING "THE BACHELOR"

When the show went to two hours of content, I couldn't deal with the situational drama for that amount of time. Meanwhile, my wife sat on the couch with a box of tissues.



5

WRITING A BOOK OF QUOTES

Some of the quotes I had were "Very few people are reasonable people" and "You can choose not to be offended." I bounced the quotes off my friend John and John replied, "This sounds more like an argument with your wife than a book of quotes." I quickly discontinued the project.



3

ABOUT THE AUTHORS

SUE MILLER

Sue is a teacher, leader, speaker, and author with a passion for bringing out the best in volunteers. Much of that passion developed over the 17 years she served as Children's Ministry Director at Willow Creek Community Church near Chicago, Illinois. Her ongoing challenge was to figure out how to recruit, grow, and keep a fantastic team of volunteers that could influence the faith of the 3,000 kids that attended each weekend. She also served on the senior management team under the leadership of pastor Bill Hybels, a champion of volunteerism.

In 2005, Sue joined Orange, a nonprofit organization that creates resources to help churches partner with parents to build faith in the next generation. She's traveled all over the world helping parents and churches develop life-changing experiences for children and teenagers.

Currently she and Adam work with a team to create Live to Serve conferences. These are one-day training events for volunteers that are creative, informative, and impactful (fun too!) Sue is the author of several books, including *Parenting Is Wonder-full* and *Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week*.

When not working, Sue lives with her handsome husband, Rick, in a fixer-upper house in Atlanta, Georgia. She does life with her two favorite adult kids, one amazing son-in-law, a mischievous black mini schnauzer and two of the most incredible grandsons on the planet.

ADAM DUCKWORTH

Adam Duckworth is the Family Pastor at First Fort Lauderdale, a forward-thinking downtown church committed to reaching families and embracing culture in its community. First Fort Lauderdale is at the center of South Florida's fastest-growing business, entertainment and residential corridor midway between Miami and Palm Beach. Members of the church come from more than 70 different nations, giving a completely new meaning to "family tradition."

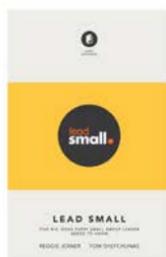
Before launching a career of leading volunteers at a church, Adam attended the University of Toledo, where he completed degrees in both education and English.

In addition to leading Live to Serve with Sue Miller, Adam hosts the Studio 252 program and serves as a communicator at Camp KidJam, Orange Conference and Orange Tour.

At First Fort Lauderdale, Adam has revolutionized the volunteer culture by creating opportunities for volunteers to serve, leading them toward a common goal, and leveraging the influence of the next generation to volunteer as well.

Adam lives a block from the beach in Fort Lauderdale with his wife, Katelyn, and their petite goldendoodle, Dottie. For more information about Adam, follow him on Twitter @adam_duckworth.

MORE FROM ORANGE BOOKS



Small groups come in many sizes. Those that wear diapers. Those that watch Disney. Those learning to drive. Those picking a college. **Lead Small: Five Big Ideas Every Small Group Leader Needs to Know** clarifies the responsibilities of the small group leader who works with children and teenagers. It establishes five common threads so that those who choose to lead in any size church can work off the same blueprint.



Make Believe: 5 Things Great Student Pastors Choose to Believe is for student leaders. It explores five ideas that combine faith and imagination—plus practical steps to turn those beliefs into behaviors—with the goal of reinvigorating student pastors' hearts and ministries.



Every kid needs parents with a strong marriage. Every church needs couples with strong marriages. **Married People: How Your Church Can Build Marriages that Last** is for every leader—pastor, age group minister, family minister, even the dedicated volunteer—who needs a vision and a step-by-step strategy for empowering marriages and strengthening the church in the process.

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Connecting leaders to a better strategy for influencing the next generation.