

Endorsements:

Pastor Lou Curcio has served Christ with distinction for over 40 years. He and his wife Patti have raised wonderful children, one of whom is my beloved daughter in law. His counsel in this book is trusted, wise, real and helpful. I pray that God uses it to help many servants of Christ put wise guidelines into place to help them flourish in life and ministry!

Robert H. Riedy
Lead Pastor
Church of the Open Door
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Over my 52 years of working with young people and preparing many young men for the gospel ministry, one of the most frequently asked questions has been: Is there a trusted resource from an experienced pastor that offers practical wisdom for real-life ministry? At last, I can wholeheartedly recommend Pastor Louis Curcio's book, *What Your Degree Didn't Prepare You For, But You Need to Know: The Ministry Application Handbook*. What sets this book apart is its honesty. Each page is saturated with hard-earned wisdom, not sugar-coated success stories. I thank the Lord for the insights found in this book—insights that will help maximize effectiveness and minimize avoidable disappointment and failure. I wholeheartedly and enthusiastically commend this book.

Peter W. Teague, EdD
President Emeritus
Lancaster Bible College

“What a Degree Didn’t Prepare You For but You Need to Know” “The Ministry Application Handbook” With refreshing authenticity and candor, Lou invites us into his home for a closer look at the challenges – expected and unexpected – of life in ministry. Drawing upon over forty years of pastoral experience and biblical insight, he systematically explores ten practical topics – from finances to family life and depression to devotions. While written primarily for those new to ministry or simply considering it, even the seasoned pastor will find Lou’s insights valuable for reflection and redirection. Patti’s contributions as a pastor’s wife while raising four children, make this ideal for use as a couple. See for yourself. With openness to the Holy Spirit, dive in and don’t be surprised when you identify yourself in Lou’s story. You’ll be better for it.

Rev. William G. Schlonecker

Retired Pastor, 45 years in ministry

President, Bible Fellowship Church Denomination

FOREWORD

Pastor Lou's book should be required reading for all young couples thinking about going into the ministry. Offering practical life experience and encouragement, his authentic book gives an accurate depiction of the ups and downs of life in full-time Christian ministry. He doesn't shy away from the hard topics but addresses them with honesty and a kind, fatherly tone. For those who want to know what they are getting themselves into with fulltime ministry, Pastor Lou's book lays out what to expect and how to navigate finances, family life, the counseling burden, personal struggles, and more. As church-planting missionaries serving in Chile, we especially appreciated his practical advice regarding mission trips. After having the honor of knowing Pastor Lou and serving together for the gospel for many years, we can enthusiastically testify that he practices what he preaches. In order to glean from the wisdom that he has gained over his years of faithful service for the Lord, we highly recommend reading his book.

— Nick and Rebekah Ecker, Association
of Baptists for World Evangelism (ABWE)
church-planting missionaries in Chile