

A Conversation with Brandon Hatmaker
Author of *A Mile Wide: Trading a Shallow Religion for a Deeper Faith*

Q: Why did you write A Mile Wide and what do you hope it accomplishes?

A: After more than 20 years in church leadership I've seen so many people that "get it" and so many that seem to have a pattern of constant struggle. Those who constantly struggle never seem to get past having a faith that is all about them and their church journey seems to mirror a consumer/surface level faith. On the flip side, those who seemingly "get it" appear to be living a life of fullness, peace, confidence, and fruitfulness. Those I would put in the "get it" category all seem to have a deeper, more thought out perspective on the gospel and it's implications on our life. They are more informed. They trust more. and it just It seems to be more holistic. And tends to result in a Kingdom perspective more similar to what Jesus taught.

I want readers to realize that not only is the faith and life they dream of possible, but it's Jesus' plan for their life too. But it's going to take a little self evaluation and hard work to get there. We don't get to just stick our toe into the faith pool, we've got to jump in with both feet. I want believers to experience this full life Jesus promised and A MILE WIDE will help them connect the dots on significant areas of faith that will help them get there.

My ultimate hope is that people come to understand a greater gospel that not only works to save us and change us, but then works through us to change everything else.

Q: Why do you think this book is important in today's culture?

A: Today's culture is asking the right question. They are thinking bigger, digging deeper, and wanting to know the reason behind the reasons. A MILE WIDE speaks the language of our culture. It doesn't dance around the issues but goes directly to the heart of the matter.

Q: What do you hope the reader takes away from this book?

A: Historically the church tries to program evangelism, discipleship, and mission. We're hoping for fruit but not doing the hard work of tilling the soil. A MILE WIDE focuses on our hearts by challenging us to consider how receptive we truly are to the work of the Gospel in and through us. I think believers will experience a new kind of freedom and fullness by focusing more on believing and living the ways of Christ and allowing the Gospel to then do it's work to save, transform and renew.

Q: Who do you think will benefit most from A Mile Wide and why?

A: Anyone willing to take an honest look inward and upward will benefit from A MILE WIDE. It will serve communities and small groups well as the wrestle with each chapter together. But it will also help the individual see how scripture naturally translates to real life.

About Brandon Hatmaker

Brandon Hatmaker is a huge fan of the underdog. The tattooed preacher, author, and humanitarian who loves motorcycles and outcasts has devoted his life to exploring how deeper faith demolishes silos and reconciles people to God and one another. The founder of Austin New Church, Brandon has more than 20 years of church leadership experience. He launched The Legacy Collective, a giving community focused on partnering, pioneering, and funding sustainable solutions to systemic social issues around the world – in 2015, and currently serves as the organization’s CEO. Along with his wife, author and speaker Jen Hatmaker, and their five children, Brandon has also charmed the entire country on breakout HGTV series “My Big Family Renovation” and “Tiny House Arrest,” along with other appearances. His books include “Barefoot Church: Serving the Least in a Consumer Culture” and the highly anticipated **A Mile Wide: Trading a Shallow Religion for a Deeper Faith (Nelson Books, ISBN: 978-0718078508; Sept. 13, 2016; \$22.99)**. The Hatmakers live just outside of Austin, Texas. For more information, please visit BrandonHatmaker.com and AMileWideBook.com