

# FROM THE GROUND UP

Available October 2015 | 176 pages, 978-0-8308-4445-6, \$16.00



## **Rebuilding is way harder than building.**

How do we rebuild in a healthy way despite living in a world of brokenness? Cutting-edge pastor and hip-hop artist Tommy Kyllonen shares powerful stories that will encourage and inspire you to pursue God's rebuilding work in your own life, church and world. What does *ReBuild* offer?

- A foundational narrative featuring the life of Nehemiah
- Hope, healing and encouragement for those challenged in their lives and ministries
- Insights for readers interested in racial reconciliation, urban ministry and hip-hop culture
- Resources including a small group guide, videos and sermon notes for church leaders

*"Pastor Tommy is a proven leader, change agent and creator of culture. It's not easy to lead a multiethnic, urban and growing church, but he's doing it in a fruitful and fearless way. Read this book and grow from it."*

**EFREM SMITH**

president and CEO, World Impact

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# ReBuild

reset your life.  
renew your church.  
reshape your world.

Tommy "Urban D." Kyllonen

*"In ReBuild, my friend Tommy Kyllonen shares fresh encouragement and practical insights for people to rebuild their lives in order to help rebuild those around them. Don't miss the leadership lessons in this book!"*

**RICK WARREN**



# REBUILDING WILL STRETCH YOU

“

*My rebuilding journey started at Crossover Church in 1996. I was fresh out of Bible college and built an urban youth ministry at a small church in Tampa. By 2002 the youth ministry had grown to hundreds while the Sunday adult service struggled at around forty people. Several leaders of the church pushed me into stepping up to become the lead pastor and rebuild the church. I was reluctant to take it on as I was only in my twenties and I was a hip-hop artist signed to a national record label. But my wife and I felt God calling us to rebuild our church spiritually and physically. We stepped out of the box and did some things that had never been done before in church. There were people who said it would never work. It would never grow. It would never become self-sustainable. But something amazing began to happen at that little old rundown church building. Fast forward six years and we had physically rebuilt the entire campus and spiritually rebuilt so many lives we were bursting at the seams.*

*Our young urban church was crazy enough to relocate and take on a forty-three-thousand-square-foot build-out of a former Toys“R”Us building in Tampa’s inner city.*

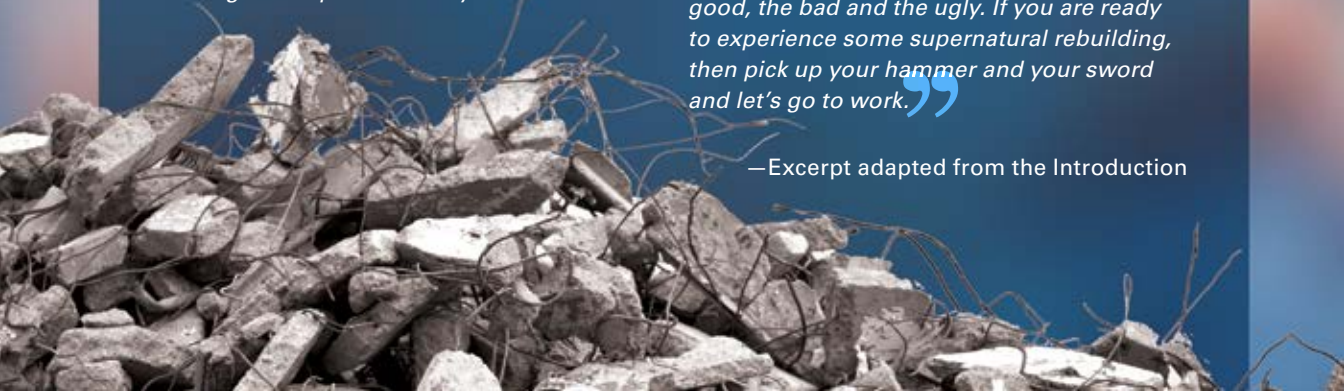
*God had opened up all the right doors, but soon we realized we were in way over our heads. It was beyond our experience, our wisdom and our resources. But sometimes this is exactly where God wants you. That’s when he gets your full attention.*

*Just like our congregation, Nehemiah and his people had some naysayers. They told him it was impossible to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, but he did it in just fifty-two days. The thing that especially excites me about Nehemiah’s story is that he didn’t have the experience to lead, yet God used him.*

*As you look through Scripture, you can regularly see how God uses the unlikely. He uses the underdogs. He uses ordinary people just like you and me to step up and lead things beyond what we’d ever dream or imagine.*

*Rebuilding will stretch you. It can wreck you or make you stronger. Rebuilding your life, your church and your world will take you to places you thought you would never go. It will reveal things about you and those around you that you didn’t know. It will expose the good, the bad and the ugly. If you are ready to experience some supernatural rebuilding, then pick up your hammer and your sword and let’s go to work.”*

—Excerpt adapted from the Introduction



# ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**TOMMY “URBAN D.” KYLLONEN** has been in full-time urban ministry for over nineteen years at Crossover Church in Tampa, Florida. He is also an author, urban ministry coach, speaker and hip-hop artist known internationally as “Urban D.”

Tommy has released seven hip-hop albums and has performed and spoken at concerts and conferences across the United States as well as overseas in Japan, Australia, the UK, Germany and Nigeria. He is the author of *Next*, a resource for new believers from an urban context, and is the creator of *Un.orthodox*, which spans three types of media and includes a book, hip-hop album and film.

Tommy is the founder of the Urban Coaching Network, a six-month webinar coaching experience for lead pastors and church planters in an urban, multi-ethnic context. He is also the founder of the Flavor Fest Urban Leadership Conference, which has trained over 5,000 leaders in fourteen years.

Tommy is the publisher of *S.O.U.LMAG*, which has become the voice of the Christian hip-hop community, along with the TV show *S.O.U.LMAG TV* which he hosts on JUCE Network (formerly JCTV). He has also written articles for *Relevant*, *Pastors.com*, *UYWI*, *Rapzilla.com* and the American Bible Society. He lives in Tampa with his wife, Lucy, and two young daughters.

Learn more about Tommy and his church at [urband.org](http://urband.org) and [crossoverchurch.org](http://crossoverchurch.org).

