



## book review

title: Communicating for Change

author: Andy Stanley

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reviewed by: Rob Bedard

For years I've been a big fan of Andy Stanley's books. That is, until I read Communicating For A Change. I dreaded the thought that another publishing house slave had written yet another teaching narrative. Sorry, but reading teaching narratives are way too labour-intensive for my liking. While they are "easy reads," they usually leave me wanting. When I read them, I feel like disappointed Chuck Noland (played by Tom Hanks in the 2000 film Castaway) who exerted way too much energy trying to crack open coconuts, only for a few drops of milk to savour.

Now it wasn't just his writing style that bothered me. I was perturbed by what he claims ineffective preaching is. He dared to assert that most preachers today, including his highly respected father, Dr. Charles Stanley, are doing it all wrong! Admittedly, his book sent me into a preaching tailspin for weeks! I second-guessed everything I did and said while preaching. I almost emailed Andy to share a few of my thoughts on his coconut of a book! But then I realized I was Ray, the fictitious preacher in the story who eventually admitted his preaching needed some work. Then, like Ray, I even warmed up to Andy, who was posing as Will, the big-rig truck driver in the story, who offered to Ray and every other teachable preacher out there seven sagacious tips on effective preaching.

Like every good ending to every good story, let me state for the record, yes, I am once again one of Andy's biggest fans!

Rob Bedard - Lead Pastor - Bethel Tabernacle  
1149 4th Ave., P.O. Box 384, Ladysmith, BC, V9G 1A3  
Office: (250) 245-8221 Fax: (250) 245-9996  
Website: [www.bethelonline.ca](http://www.bethelonline.ca) Email: [rbedard@shaw.ca](mailto:rbedard@shaw.ca)