

Stephen F Staten

AUTHOR, SPEAKER, TRAINER & CONSULTANT

Keynote | TED-Style Talk | Breakout | Workshop | Webinars

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Keynote Prospect – Audacious Undertakings

The ubiquitous decisions underpinning groundbreaking achievements, based on the book *The Art of Breakthrough: Collaborating on Audacious Undertakings*.

Abstract

The greatest achievements in aviation, technology, and space travel were made possible because of interrelated commitments that elude less successful enterprises.

The message can be tailored to nearly any high-stakes organization, including large faith institutions, charities, schools, and government. Besides the keynote, there are related presentations for use in formats that are more interactive, such as classes and workshops.



Learning Objective

Teach strategic systems thinking in an entertaining style using real-world examples.

Reviews / References

Book: "... [I] found it to be one of the few books that examines how individuals come together to achieve remarkable results. I highly recommend this book to anyone who leads people and wants to have an impact. Mr. Staten's book will become a "must read" for those in my company."

– Steven Rivera, Cyber Security Specialist, Senior VP, Americas Sales for Trustwave
st.rivera819@gmail.com

Keynote: "The presentation by Steve Staten was well researched and cutting edge. His delivery was excellent, highly motivational, and had a great impact on the entire conference, inspiring participants to think in bold, creative ways."

– Robert Carrillo, Global Missions Expert, former CEO HOPE *worldwide*
robertcarrillo@mac.com

Workshop: "I want to extend an enormous thanks for your thinking through the presentation and form for the workshop. You had a great talk and those who attended said so during the feedback at the end."

– Justus Harris, STEAM Educator, Designer & Speaker
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Audacious Undertakings

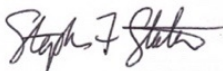
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To planners for faith-based conferences, workshops, masterminds and retreats:

Alongside the examples from my book, *The Art of Breakthrough: Collaborating on Audacious Undertakings*, I have developed a few distinct presentations. The settings in which I have delivered my findings vary widely: a cybersecurity company; a classroom discussion on the “moonshot” at the Harold Washington Chicago Public Library; a 3-day Hackathon for churches and charities; and workshops for church leaders in Chicago and Los Angeles. The core message illustrates what sets apart successful undertakings from the forgotten and the infamous failures.

I seek opportunities to serve any organization that is striving to make a constructive difference in the world. My material can be customized for each endeavor’s starting point and what they are aiming for – their “here and there.” For churches, I will show how the seven ubiquitous principles behind achievement were first promoted in both the Old Testament (by Moses) and the New Testament (by Jesus and Paul). If asked, I will propose ways that the participants and their organizations can improve their chances of achieving their goals.

If you are interested in this kind of inspirational and practical material, please reach out to me.



Book review: *The Art of Breakthrough*, Ephesians 4, and the Church

Dave Pocta, teacher, missionary, youth ministry specialist & PhD student in Spirituality

Steve Staten’s book, *The Art of Breakthrough: Collaborating on Audacious Undertakings*, is a masterful study based on empirical evidence that highlights what humankind can accomplish when people learn how to come together and truly collaborate. Although it directly addresses secular applications, it has profound implications for churches and charities at this very time. In the church affiliation where Steve and I both teach we participated in a decisive rejection of top-down command hierarchy, following its short-sightedness and abuses. The last couple of decades have been marked by healing, rebuilding trust and relationships, and striving to understand a more comprehensive and mature ministry model.

The Scriptures are filled with metaphors to help us understand God’s divine intent for his people: the church as family, kingdom, bride, etc. We likewise have various models for how we are to function together: servant leadership, a body, and appointed positions of leadership such as elder, evangelist, teacher, and deacon. Each of these metaphors and models serves God’s people to cast vision and assist us as we strive for ecclesial health. In our present climate and desire to mature, Ephesians 4:11-16 may be the most important visual we need. Christ gave his people various talents to collaborate in maturing one another as the church grows and builds itself up in love, each part doing their work. Staten’s book models this critical biblical principle, showing us what can happen when clear goals, proper alignment, mutual respect, team effort, and shared responsibility guide an organization.

What could happen in churches and faith-based charities if the principles taught in Ephesians 4 and modeled in *The Art of Breakthrough* were utilized? What could be accomplished in the name of God if the whole body, built up in love, put their unique talents to work? How different could we be if evangelists, teachers, elders and leaders of charities saw their primary goal as empowering this type of collaboration? Staten’s work is timely for those of us who dream of vibrant and mature churches, achieving God’s will “on earth as it is in heaven.” I wholeheartedly recommend reading *The Art of Breakthrough* through the lens of Ephesians 4. It has the potential of creating a breakthrough for us.