

The Temple

Temple

THE BIBLE PROJECT



MARK 11:15-17 (ESV)

[15] And they came to Jerusalem. And he [Jesus] entered the temple and began to drive out those who sold and those who bought in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold pigeons. [16] And he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple.

[17] And he was teaching them and saying to them, “Is it not written, ‘My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations’? But you have made it a den of robbers.”





WRIGLEY FIELD
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1 PETER 2:4-5 (ESV)

[4] As you come to him, a living stone rejected by men but in the sight of God chosen and precious, [5] you yourselves like living stones are being built up as a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

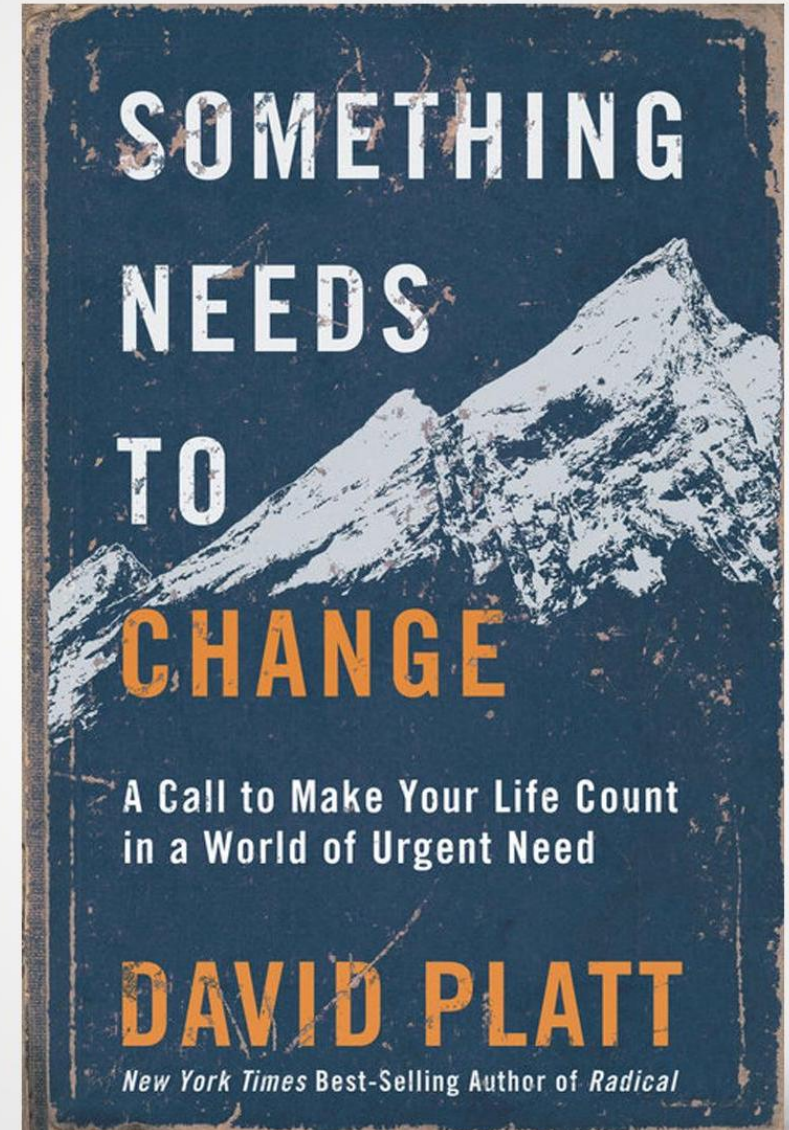


EPHESIANS 2:19-22 (ESV)

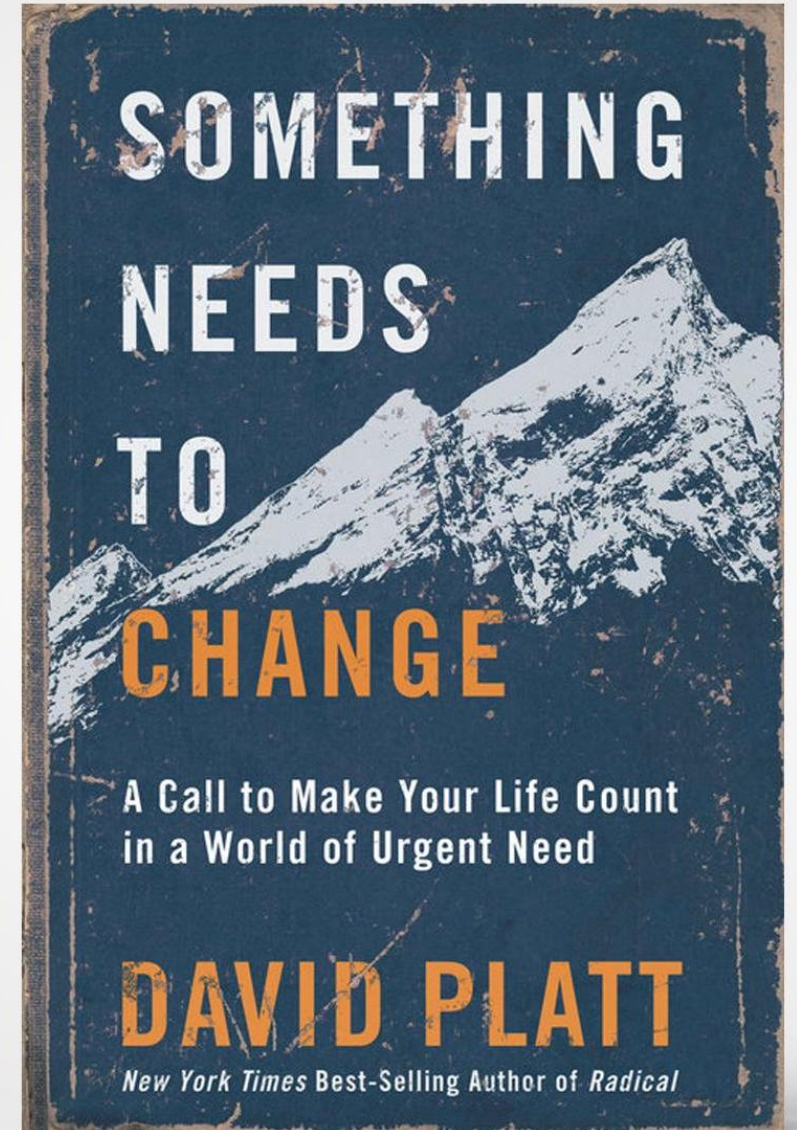
[19] So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, [20] built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, [21] in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. [22] In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.



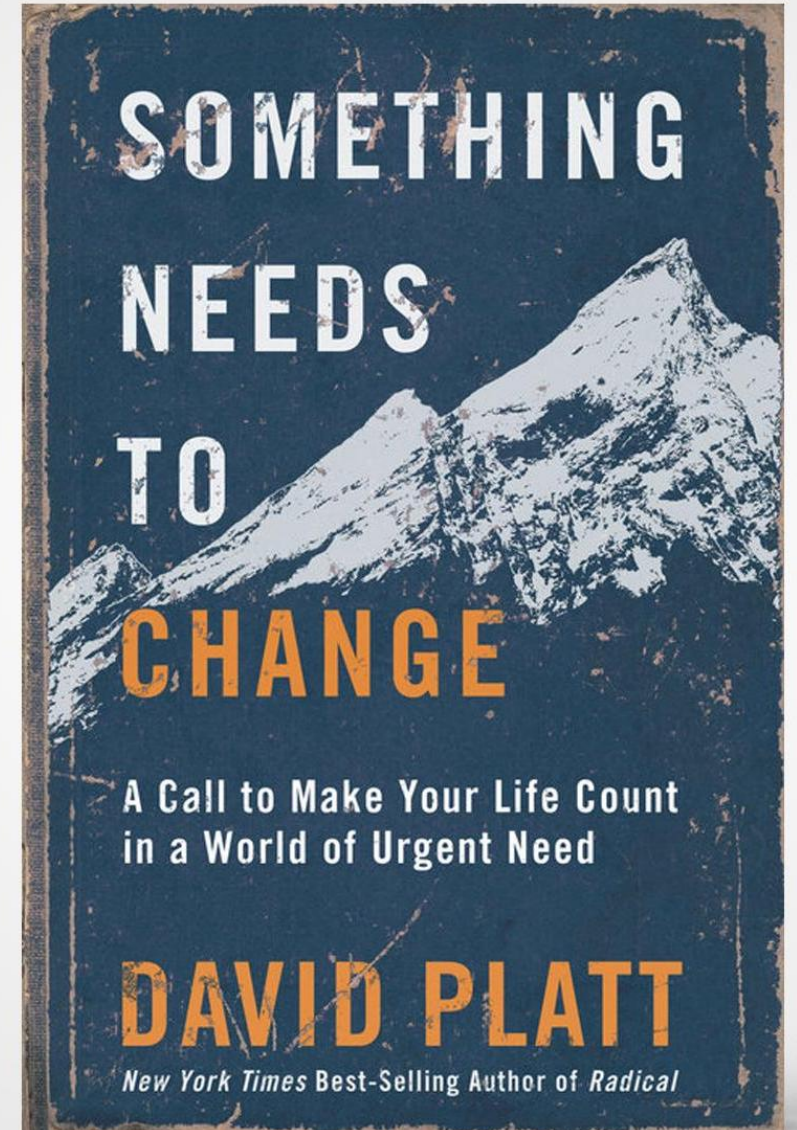
Humbled, I see tiny lights in the distance slowly making their way up the trail. I think about the stress people in our culture sometimes have over a fifteen-minute-or longer drive to church. How about a two-hour hike up a narrow mountainside in the freezing cold, followed by a two-hour hike back down the same mountainside in the pitch-black darkness after the service?



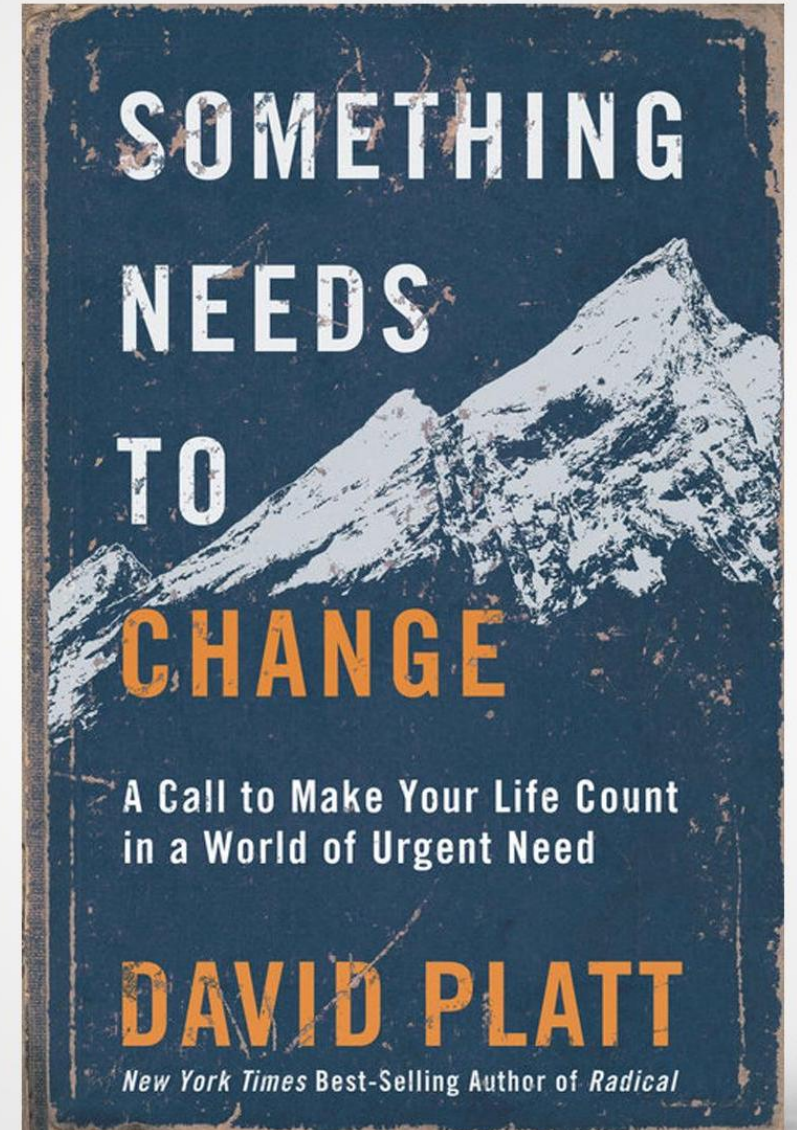
When we get to the church, the owner of the house greets us with a warm smile. She motions for us to sit in seats of honor, either on or right next to the bed. Soon others arrive, and we're shocked to see who has climbed that mountain to come to church. It's not just the youth and the healthy. Every age is present, from babies to grandparents.



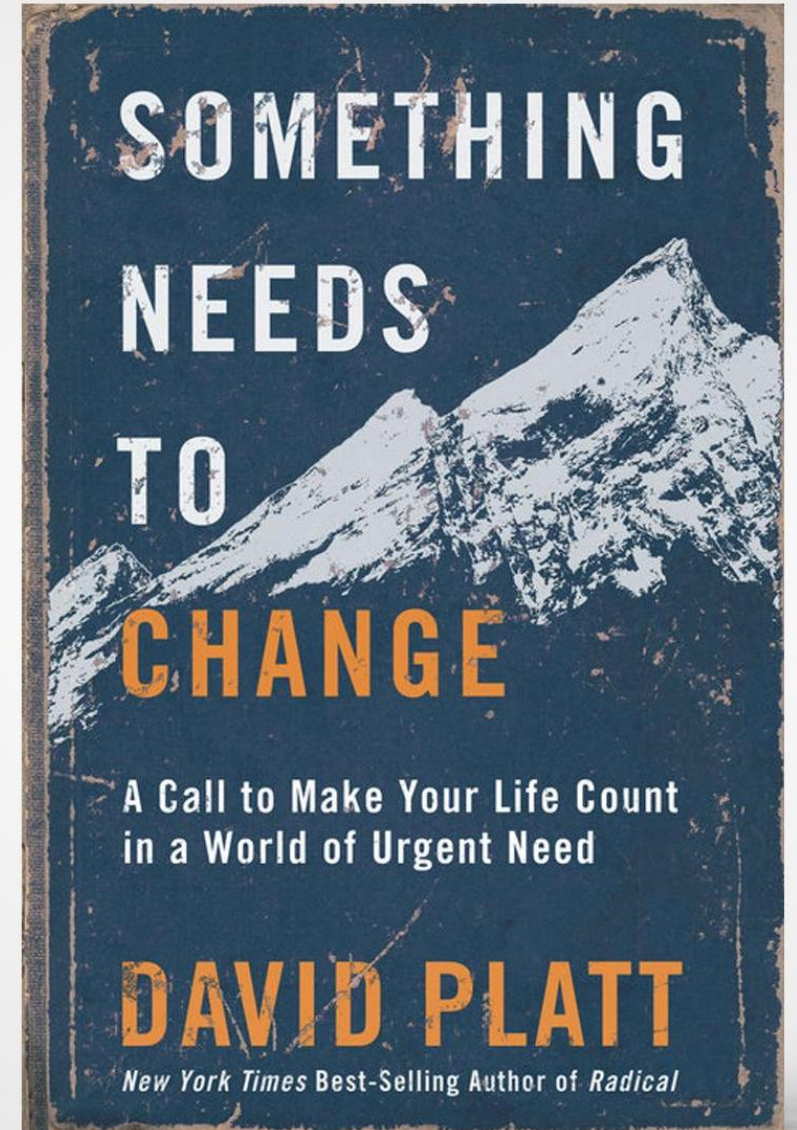
One by one they start to cram in, and cram is the right word. By the time everyone arrives, I count more than fifty people sitting on the floor, on the bed, or on top of each other. They will sit in the most uncomfortable positions with smiles on their faces for the next two hours. They will sing, clap, pray, and listen intently as I share from Scripture.



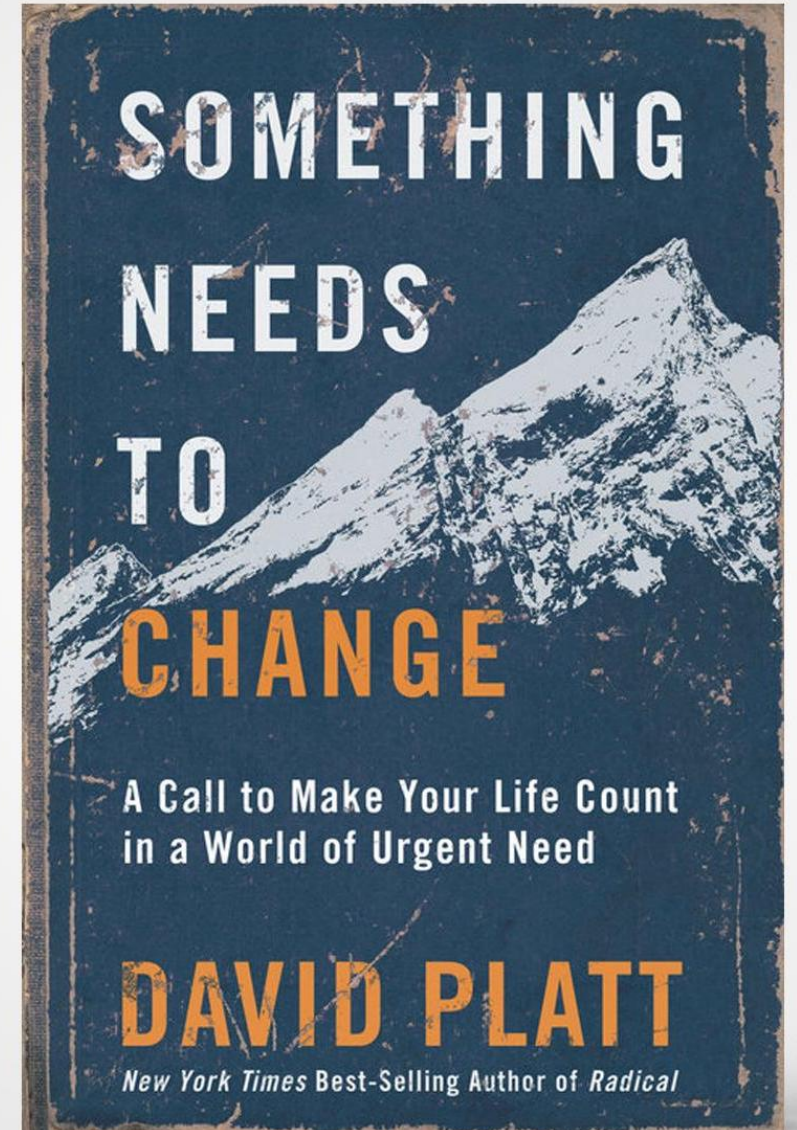
It's not until I finish, however, that I am most encouraged. After our time in God's Word, they begin to share their needs with one another. One older woman in the corner of the room mentions a physical challenge she is facing, and a woman on the other side of the room offers to help take care of her.



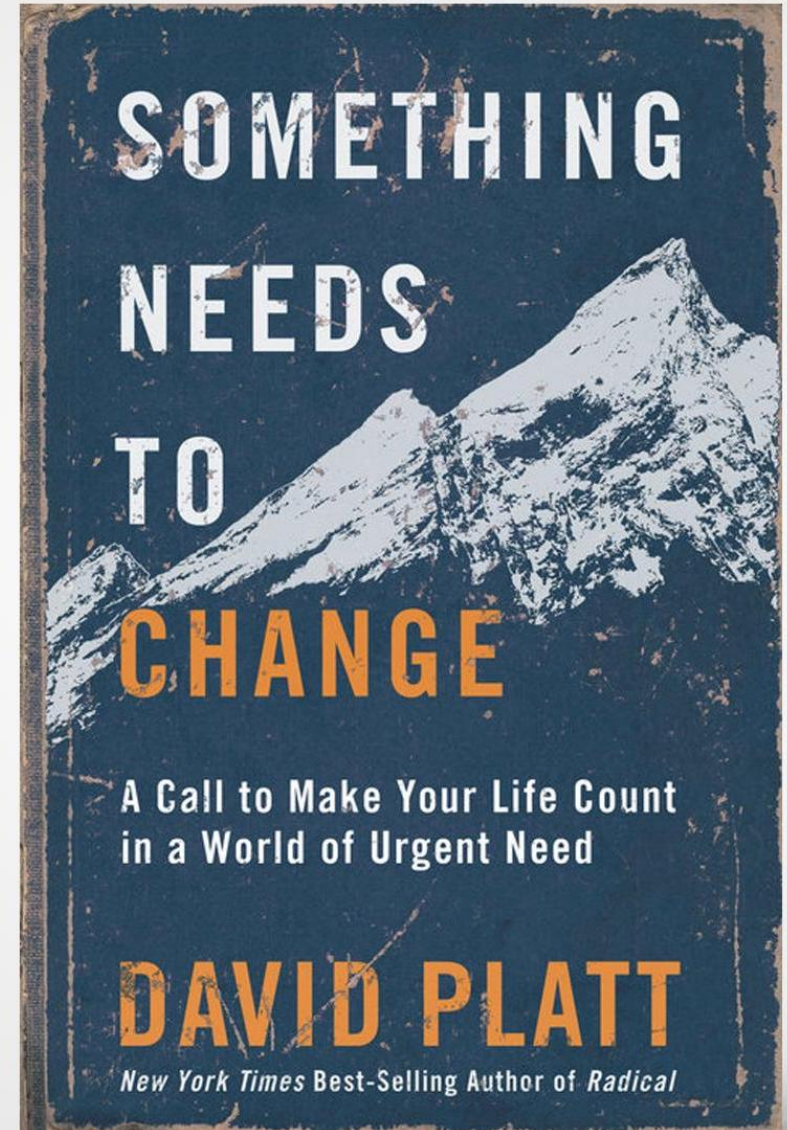
A young man tells of someone he recently shared the gospel with who is now persecuting him, threatening to harm his family. In response, an older man shares how the same thing happened to him, prompting the pastor to encourage them both based on his own experiences with persecution.



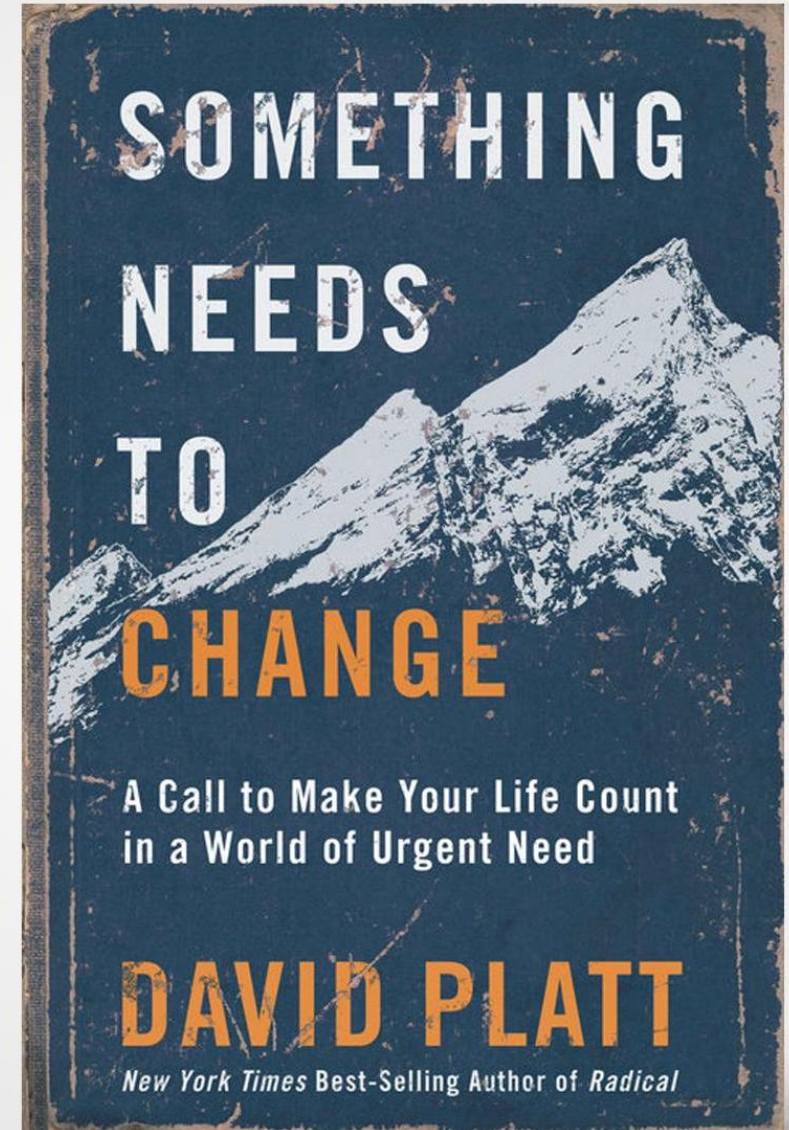
That leads to a couple who tell how they shared the gospel with another family and how that family believed in Jesus. They are now thinking about starting a new church in that family's home in a nearby village.



As I watch what is happening in this room and listen to these conversations between brothers and sister in the family of God, it hits me. This is it. This is what these villages and the people in them need most! Absolutely, they need the gospel. Without question, they need to hear the good news of God's grace that give them eternal life. But they need more than that too.



They need community - the kind of community that treks for two hours - not just to worship with one another but to care for and encourage one another. The kind of community that takes responsibility for one another's physical needs. They need brothers and sisters who provide for one another as family and love one another as themselves. And these villages need a community of men and women who will take great personal risk to share the greatest news in the world with people who have never heard it.



It's surprisingly simple when you think about it. No easy, but simple. This church has so little of the things you and I think about when it comes to church in our culture. They don't have a nice building. They don't have a great band. They don't have a charismatic preacher. They don't have any programs. They just have each other, God's Word in front of them, and God's Spirit among them. And, apparently, that's enough.

