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Williamson College Board Member Authors Book Designed to Raise Leadership Level “One Stone at a Time”

FRANKLIN, Tenn. (May 1, 2013) – Helping people raise their level of leadership has been a long-time passion of Dick Wells, a Franklin businessman and [Williamson College](#) board member whose leadership roles included serving as president and CEO of an aerospace company with about 2,000 employees and as executive pastor of a large church. In 2009 he launched Hard Lessons, a leadership development company.

However, his leadership journey was anything but smooth sailing early in his career. In his own words, he was “flunking as a leader” in his first stint as a supervisor, an assessment confirmed by his boss, who told Wells the people working for him hated him. This revelation put Wells on the road to becoming an authentic and effective leader who people want to follow.

It’s a journey he’s still on, as he candidly writes in his new book, [*16 Stones: Raising the Level of Your Leadership One Stone at a Time*](#), which is based on the story of Nehemiah, an Old Testament Jewish cupbearer to a king who, some 2,500 years ago, took on the formidable task of rebuilding the wall surrounding Jerusalem, which had been reduced to rubble.

The 16 stones referenced in the book’s title are 16 rock-solid principles intended to help readers fortify the way they lead, wherever they lead.

“Twenty years ago, God planted the idea for a book about leadership, but I wasn’t ready,” Wells said. Nehemiah’s story appealed to him because “it’s like a manual on leadership.” As he researched books currently published about Nehemiah, Wells discovered they were primarily written by ministers, not business people.

Yet Nehemiah masterfully employed business practices—including vision casting, planning, delegating and managing—and he successfully dealt with conflict and opposition as he and his team rebuilt the wall, one stone at a time. The amazing result was that just 52 days after Nehemiah took charge of the project, the wall was completed and its gates were put in place.

“*16 Stones* is very practical, and it’s written from a business-world perspective, not a ministry perspective,” he said. “I’m not aware of any other biblical leader quite like Nehemiah.”

“*16 Stones* is the story of an ancient leader’s amazing accomplishment . . . told in terms that every 21st century leader will understand and can apply,” writes Norm Miller, chairman of Interstate Batteries, in the foreword. “It doesn’t matter what type of organization—business, church, college or government—you are leading, or hope to lead, *16 Stones* needs to be in your leadership toolbox.”

According to Wells, the Old Testament book of Nehemiah is written like a journal. “Nehemiah tells us ‘this is what I faced and here’s how I handled it.’ His message and advice are as relevant today as they were 2,500 years ago.”

While personal stories and observations are interspersed throughout its pages, Wells stresses that *16 Stones* is not about him or his leadership style, but rather it conveys practical business advice based on the conviction that “you can be a godly leader and be successful.”

For more information about *16 Stones* or to purchase the book, visit <http://16stonesbook.com/>. E-book editions are available from Amazon and Barnes and Noble.

Founded in 1998, Williamson College is a non-profit organization that serves students of all ages, including non-traditional ones who are already in the workforce. Classes are usually held one day a week and one class at a time with nine start times during the year. Williamson College is guided by an eleven-member board of trustees. For more information, visit www.williamsoncc.edu or contact Susan Mays at 615-550-3161.