

Download Free Exiles Living Missionally In A Post Christian Culture Michael Frost Read Pdf Free

Exiles **Surprise the World** Shaping of Things to Come, The Creating a Missional Culture *The Outrageous Idea of the Missional Professor, International Edition* **Introducing the Missional Church** *Reading the Bible Missionally* **Why Cities Matter** *Introducing the Missional Church (Allelon Missional Series)* **Reading the Bible Missionally** The Missions and Missional Purpose of Ephesians *The Gift of Barzillai* **The Missional Leader** Mission as Integrated Witness **Being Church in Contemporary Western Europe** **The Missional Quest** Missional Communities *Real Church* Missional God, Missional Church *Cultivating an Evangelistic Character* *Breaking the Missional Code* Culture **The Road to Missional (Shapevine)** *Less Missional Church* **Missional Acts** *Cultivating the Global Missional Potential of International Churches* The Road to Missional *Missional. Monastic. Mainline. Called into the Mission of God* Living to the Praise of God's Glory *The Missional Church in Perspective* *ReJesus* *The Interface of Science, Theology, and Religion* **Leading Missional Change** *The Impact of Church Consultancy* Kingdom Communities **Becoming a Missionary Church** **Partnering with God** media.faith.culture: Parents **101**

In celebration of Alister E. McGrath's sixty-fifth birthday in 2018, this Festschrift aims to highlight him as a lauded scholar, who exemplifies an interface of science, theology, and religion. It comprises works by McGrath's theological allies and colleagues from diverse ecclesial homes including Graham Ward, Oliver Crisp, Tony Lane, Sung Wook Chung, Randall Zachman, Veli-Matti Karkkainen, Jonathan Wilson, Jeffrey P. Greenman, Robert Kolb, Sister Benedicta Ward, Michael Lloyd, Bethany Sollereeder, and Patrick Franklin. Critical but appreciative is the posture with which these contributors engage the wide range of McGrath's own scholarly pursuits and publications. This volume, edited by Dennis Ngien, covers these themes that are central to the life and witness of the church: atonement, Christology, Trinity, eschatology, mission, Reformation, science, nature, culture, evangelism, and theodicy--there is much to ponder and reap here. Readers will join with the contributors and pay tribute to McGrath who has risen to a life of significance as a scientist turned theologian, professor, author, Christian apologist, and churchman. LESS is a dive into all the reasons why and how of raising youth to live missionally, compassionately, and globally NOW...even while they are young! With the outline of L.E.S.S., Anna offers extensive research, theology, and a range of experiences to give resources to help pastors, teachers, and parents to raise youth to love the world globally and locally in living out their faith. All proceeds of this book go toward Christian Community Development Organizations. "Most Western Christians have yet to truly appreciate the spiritual and material needs of the world so that their lifestyles reflect God-honoring choices with their possessions. Those that do may then struggle with passing the vision on to their children or their friends. Anna Goodworth offers the perfect antidote. Not only is she passionate about a missional lifestyle; she relates countless experiences that have worked for her own family and for others. Blending a delightful sense of self-effacing humor with a writing style that makes you want to just keep reading, she presents a solid biblical foundation for her topic, along with a whole potpourri of practical possibilities. If you can't find something here to help you and those you most care about live more missionally, then you aren't looking very hard!" (Craig L. Blomberg, Distinguished Professor of New Testament, Denver Seminary) "We all want to raise kids with God's heart for the world, right? But who has time to read a

hundred books, watch a hundred movies, and scrutinize scripture for every bit of appropriate wisdom? Well, we don't need to, because Anna Goodworth has done it for us. She has added her own considerable wisdom and insights to her research and hands it to us in a nice tidy package! Written with her sweet unique humor and real stories of her adventures in raising kids to have hearts for the poor and the oppressed, you will feel at the end that Anna Goodworth is your best friend, and you'll have practical steps for introducing your children, of any age, to a missional world perspective that will ultimately bring them to God's purpose for their lives and thus a place of great joy. At the end, Anna provides a lengthy resource list worth the purchase of the book in itself." (Sandy Grubb, World Vision U.S. Board member)

This study explores what Pentecostals can learn about being church in contemporary culture from emerging missional churches and gatherings living out the Kingdom of God missionally and incarnationally in Western Europe. The project is a collective case study of four emerging missional churches in German-speaking Europe and four from French-speaking Europe to explore how postmodern Christians are living out the Kingdom of God missionally and incarnationally. The methodology of data collection included interviews, participant observation and literature analysis of internet websites, books, brochures and other publications. The study reflects on the cases from a Pentecostal perspective. The findings demonstrate that there are emerging missiological patterns among the cases that are important for living out the Kingdom missionally in Western Europe. The cases also share several common values. The study will reflect on those values for living incarnationally in postmodern Europe. In addition, the study will identify the cases' challenges and weaknesses. From the findings, the study develops instruments to evaluate churches engaging and living in contemporary Europe. Finally, the study reflects on the findings from Pentecostal perspectives and assesses classical European Pentecostals with the fresh rubric of evaluation emerging from the collective case study. Building on the works of David Bosch, Lesslie Newbigin and others, Ross Hastings delivers a comprehensive theology of mission founded on the trinitarian doctrine of God and a great optimism about the possible re-evangelization of the Western world. What would a theology of the Church look like that took seriously the fact that North America is now itself a mission field? This question lies at the foundation of this volume written by an ecumenical team of six noted missiologists—Lois Barrett, Inagrace T. Dietterich, Darrell L. Guder, George R. Hunsberger, Alan J. Roxburgh, and Craig Van Gelder. The result of a three-year research project undertaken by The Gospel and Our Culture Network, this book issues a firm challenge for the church to recover its missional call right here in North America, while also offering the tools to help it do so. The authors examine North America's secular culture and the church's loss of dominance in today's society. They then present a biblically based theology that takes seriously the church's missional vocation and draw out the consequences of this theology for the structure and institutions of the church. Missiologist and church planter JR Woodward offers a blueprint for the missional church—not small adjustments around the periphery of the infrastructure but a radical revisioning of how a church ought to look that entails changing how we think about leadership and what we expect out of discipleship. It has recently become acceptable, and even fashionable, to refer to one's church as "missional." But many churches misunderstand the concept, thinking of "going missional" as simply being a necessary add-on to church-as-usual. This domestication of what is actually a very bold paradigm shift makes missional nothing more than one more trick to see church growth. With a light hand and a pastoral spirit, Michael Frost points out how church practitioners are not quite there yet. He reestablishes the ground rules, redefines the terms accurately, and insists that the true prophetic essence of "being missional" comes through undiluted. This clear corrective will take ministry leaders from "not missional yet" to well on their way. Over the past half century, it has become clear that mission is a central theme in the Bible's narrative and, moreover, is central to the very identity of the church. This book significantly widens and deepens the emerging conversation on missional hermeneutics. Essays from top biblical and missiological scholars discuss reading the Scriptures missionally, using mission as a key interpretive lens. Five introductory chapters probe various elements of a missional hermeneutic, followed by sections on the Old and New Testaments that

include chapters on two books from each to illustrate what a missional reading of them looks like. Essays in two concluding sections draw out the implications of a missional reading of Scripture for preaching and for theological education. (Publisher). In *Called into the Mission of God*, Roji George argues that Paul's primary interest was neither doctrinal teaching nor the articulation of an anti-imperial discourse. Instead, he contends that amidst the many problems that faced the local Thessalonian community--problems arising out of eschatological fears, ethical difficulties in the community, and persecution from outside groups--Paul brought primarily a missional concern to impart ethical exhortation and eschatological teaching in a political language. The book will be helpful to those theologians, scholars, teachers, and students grappling with the message of Paul in his own time and in ours. *Called into the Mission of God* represents an increasing commitment on the part of Fortress Press to support the wide dissemination of the best theological and biblical writing by the best scholars from the Global South. Two ministry experts map the variety of missional church visions over the past decade, opening up new horizons for extending the conversation biblically and theologically. *Academy of Parish Clergy's Top Ten Books for Parish Ministry Insights* from a noteworthy convergence of top scholars in biblical studies and missiology Over the past half century, it has become clear that mission is a central theme in the Bible's narrative and, moreover, is central to the very identity of the church. This book significantly widens and deepens the emerging conversation on missional hermeneutics. Essays from top biblical and missiological scholars discuss reading the Scriptures missionally, using mission as a key interpretive lens. Five introductory chapters probe various elements of a missional hermeneutic, followed by sections on the Old and New Testaments that include chapters on two books from each to illustrate what a missional reading of them looks like. Essays in two concluding sections draw out the implications of a missional reading of Scripture for preaching and for theological education. CONTRIBUTORS Craig G. Bartholomew Richard Bauckham Carl J. Bosma Tim J. Davy Dean Flemming John R. Franke Mark Glanville Michael W. Goheen Joel B. Green Darrell L. Guder George R. Hunsberger Timothy M. Sheridan Christopher J. H. Wright N. T. Wright We live in a unique moment in history. Right now, more people live in urban centers than ever before. This means that we have an unprecedented opportunity to influence the majority of the world through the church in the city. Helping us to make the most of this moment, urban pastors Justin Buzzard and Stephen Um lay out a compelling vision for cultural engagement and church planting in our world's cities. If you're looking for motivation to maintain a commitment to the city or for guidance as you consider going all in, this book provides a comprehensive analysis of urban life that informs, instructs, inspires, and answers questions including: Why cities are so important What the Bible says about cities How to overcome common issues and develop a plan for living missionally in the city Instead of retreating from or taking from our cities, here is a call to make the cities our home, to take good care of them, and to participate in God's kingdom-building work in the urban centers of our world. The purpose of the letter to the Ephesians is unknown. The book suggests that the purpose of Ephesians is about missions and being missional. The author of Ephesians committed the task of missions to the church. The author located the mission of the church in the redemptive plan of God. The redemptive "plan" (oikonomia) of God consists of historical epochs of missions: the mission of Israel, the mission of Christ, the mission of the disciples, the mission of the apostles, and the mission of the church. The term "missional" has been used ambiguously. The existence of a distinction between the mission of the church and missional church is demonstrated, and both expressions of mission are grounded in the biblical text of Ephesians. The mission of the church is grounded in an exposition of Eph 1-3, and the missional church is grounded in an exposition of Eph 4-6. The author of the letter intended for the mission to the nations to be continued by the church (this is the mission of the church). He intended for the members of the church to continue to reach out to their local community (this is expressed by the missional church). The mission of the church has been grounded in the Great Commission. The missional church is grounded in the values, morals, and lifestyle principles set out in Eph 4-6. In *The Missional Leader*, consultants Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk address two questions: "How do we do missional?" and "What does missional leadership

look like?" Drawing on their many years of experience, the authors show readers how to bring God's word into the community outside the church's walls. They focus on how to lead missionally on the ground, in the local setting, even amid leaders' experience of massive change within the church and in the wider world. The challenge for many church leaders is that they are not equipped to lead a church in shifting from a consumer model of church to one that is missional. They were trained in a Christendom mindset--to meet the needs of the church's members. This book assists leaders in shifting from dominant models of leadership rooted in strategic planning--with mission and vision statements, desired outcomes, measurements along the way, and determined goals. It provides a praxis for beginning where people are, rather than where the leader wants them to go. Roxburgh and Romanuk give frank recognition to the fact that the shift from a consumer model to a missional mindset will almost certainly be stormy, disruptive, and disorienting. This is not a book of quick fixes and slick slogans, but one that sets out a comprehensive and in-depth treatment for a different way of leading. *The Missional Leader* is a critical commentary that needs to be read in the light of today's realities. The third book in the trilogy that explores the popular missional movement From Reggie McNeal, the bestselling author of *The Present Future* and *Missional Renaissance*, comes the third book in the series that helps to define and illuminate the popular missional movement. This newest book in the trilogy examines a natural outgrowth of the move toward a missional orientation: the deconstruction of congregations into very small Christian communities. For all those thousands of churches and leaders who have followed Reggie McNeal's bold lead, this book details the rise of a new life form in churches. Discusses how to move a church from an internal to an external ministry focus Reggie McNeal is a recognized leader in the missional movement Outlines an alternative to the program church model that is focused on the projects and passions of the congregants This book draws on McNeal's twenty years of leadership roles in local congregations and his work over the last decade with thousands of clergy and church leaders. The mission of God has a church. So the church needs to be in sync with the mission of God. This is the guiding philosophy of the Forge Missions Training Network, which has helped church leaders and laypeople alike all over the world to reach their neighbors, their neighborhoods and their communities with the gospel. In these guides you and your friends will be equipped to be missionaries where you are—which is why God has a church in the first place. In *Culture: Living in the Places of God* you and your friends will focus your attention on the context in which God has placed you. Just as the church in the book of Acts learned to constantly ask, "What type of people do we need to be, and what type of message do we need to speak, in order to faithfully live on mission where we find ourselves?" you'll learn how to be in and for the place God has you. Other volumes in the Forge Guides for Missional Conversation: *Community: Living as the People of God Mission: Living for the Purposes of God Power: Living by the Spirit of God Vision: Living Under the Promises of God* One of the greatest mission opportunities today comes through the international community, those who reside, work, and worship in lands other than their own. In unprecedented numbers, people are increasingly on the move globally and often in need of a waystation--a place of connection, rest, and even safety. International churches are in a unique position to provide so much more by recognizing the missional opportunity through the diversity and mobility of their congregants. This research aims to capture a small portion of this incredible opportunity by seeking to understand how international church leaders can cultivate the missional potential of their churches and congregants in fulfilling the Great Commission globally. The goal of this research was to identify missional perspectives and practices that can help international church leaders intentionally cultivate awareness and a personal sense of calling among their congregants for increased participation in God's mission wherever they go. Part I explores the understanding of God's mission and the role of international churches and congregants as participants in his mission. Through the research of literature, it was discovered that international churches have a good theological foundation for mission. However, the literature did not address the practical cultivation and activation of a global missionary vision which encourage encourages congregants to missionally engage people around them wherever they go. Part II addresses the data collection methods used for the field research and the results.

Through interviews with international church leaders, the practices and environments utilized in international churches were investigated. Part III examines the data collected to determine the organizational structure of international churches in the practical preparation of their congregants for participation in the *missio Dei* locally in their countries of current residence and wherever God sends them globally. The analysis determined that many international church leaders have a healthy missional vision and practices for discipling their congregants in their faith and witness. However, there was still a need to increase the congregants' sense of personal calling to God's mission accompanied with a global vision to become missionaries wherever they go. The GIM (Global Impact Model) was created to help leaders and congregants bridge the gap between where they are now and becoming further activated in God's mission globally. It seems that nearly everyone is talking about missional change for congregations. As a result, many church leaders are attempting to drive that kind of change for the ministries they lead. Some succeed. But many others hit a wall of considerable frustration as they find that congregations resist the very change that is so needed. The reasons for this resistance are many, and they are explored in this volume. What is required to move a church from resistance to readiness? Some resistance is deeply rooted in spiritual patterns. But there are other reasons as well, and they center on trust--personal trust in the leaders who offer missional change. For this work, the authors have done extensive primary and secondary research to identify patterns and behaviors that invite missional leadership. More than that, they've lived this out in their own ministries as pastors of traditional congregations. This book thus offers compelling first-person stories and congregational case studies alongside more generalized findings. *Leading Missional Change* was written to support pastors and other church leaders who experience resistance, to share wisdom and experience that may lead to readiness, and to give hope and encouragement toward a re-energizing of your own congregation. Here is the long-awaited volume that provides both the theoretical foundations and practical guidance for developing new monastic and missional communities in contexts that are theologically progressive, racially and economically diverse, and multicultural. This book contains the wisdom and perspectives of people who live and serve in missional, new monastic communities in United Methodist and other mainline traditions, and it describes new forms of theological education that are emerging to resource a new generation of Christian leaders. Heath and Duggins challenge Methodists, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Presbyterians, and other Christians to reach into their own robust, mainline heritage for resources to develop small, intentional communities that practice a rigorous life of prayer, hospitality, and justice. Sharing your faith doesn't have to be complicated. Christians are called to be a witness for Christ in daily life, to surprise people around us with the good news of the gospel. Yet putting that mission into regular practice can seem overwhelming. Author Michael Frost, a renowned expert on evangelism, offers refreshingly simple tactics to make evangelism fulfilling, exciting, and effective. *Surprise the World* teaches clear and practical tools for making evangelism part of your daily life. This short and easy read covers the BELLS method, along with thought-provoking questions and prompts for applying each habit. You'll learn about each of the five habits: Bless others Eat together Listen to the Spirit Learn Christ Understand yourself as Sent by God into others lives Ideal for personal use or training groups on evangelism, the inspiring lessons in this book will transform your view of evangelism in daily life. A timely wake-up call for believers. A concise and helpful encouragement to those seeking to live on-mission in their communities. Ed Stetzer, author and pastor Eminently doable, entirely practical, and exceptionally effective! Felicity Dale, author of *An Army of Ordinary People* If every believer developed a lifestyle that included these 5 habits, I'm convinced a great spiritual awakening would take place. Al Engler, mission director of Nav Neighbor This study aims to read Jesus's foot washing narrative missionally (John 13:1-38). A missional reading is identical to a missional hermeneutics based on the literary-theological interpretation of the text. John uses sending language and formulae, and the frame of "as . . . , so . . ." throughout the whole Gospel, which clarifies Jesus's and his disciples' mission as integrated witness. In this literary context, the foot washing narrative signifies the integrated witness of Jesus and the disciples. The narrative consists of two parts: one, Jesus's symbolic action for his death, and the other,

for its interpretation for the disciple community. Jesus's death, as his unique mission, results in purifying both his disciples and the world so that they might dwell in the holy union with the triune God. The disciples are sent into the world. Just as Jesus did, so must they proclaim Jesus and his teachings. Also, they should bear witness to him by living Jesus's life-pattern of self-giving, sacrificial love, and humble service. Their verbal proclamation as evangelism and life-witness cannot be separated to testify to Jesus and their identity. Finally, today's Christians, specifically Evangelicals, are invited to participate in the Johannine mission as the integrated witness of evangelism and life-witness.

The Gift of Barzillai is about Barzillai, a relatively minor Biblical person, who came alongside David, the most influential man of his time, spiritually walking with the king in a covenant relationship when David was traumatized. That led to Barzillai being singled out for a special blessing, which led to our being blessed with the Person of Jesus Christ. K. Joshua Christiansen has ministered with a number of churches, denominations, and parachurch organizations in many countries and is currently shepherding an intentional missional housechurch in New Hampshire that is known for taking the Bible seriously, praying for the nations, and encouraging each person to live missionally. He has a D.Min. from Fuller Theological Seminary. He and Marcia have been married for more than 40 years and have 7 children. This book offers a historical assessment and balanced critique of contemporary church movements, especially in light of missional ecclesiology. An expert on Lesslie Newbigin and an expert on contemporary church models show how Newbigin's ideas have been developed and contextualized in three popular contemporary church movements: missional, emergent, and center church. In addition, the authors explain that some of Newbigin's insights have been neglected and need to be retrieved for the present day. This book calls for the recovery of the missionary nature of the church and commends church practices applicable to any congregation. God has an epic plan for the flourishing of all people and places. Want to join in? Partnering with God will help you find your place in that quest as we join in building God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Mission is no spectator sport, and God invites our participation in the millennia old story of the *missio Dei*. Lynette Edge and Gregory Morgan have lived and taught mission within The Salvation Army for many years. In these pages, they offer a missiological framework and practice in the West today from a Salvation Army perspective. You will be challenged in these pages to think and live missionally. We are called to join a profound partnership with God to bring about the world as it was intended to be. Are you in? This project explores the relationship between worship, discipleship, and evangelism within the missional church movement. Engaging contributions from liturgical theology, Christian ethics, and post-Christendom evangelism, the book proposes a missional approach to worship that, when integrated with a praxis-oriented discipleship, cultivates Jesus' character among God's people. Along the way, the project attends to the Holy Spirit's transformative presence, the liturgical rhythms of remembering and anticipating, and the practices of hospitality and compassion. In the end, *Cultivating an Evangelistic Character* contends that the Spirit works through the integration of worship and discipleship to form God's people. In other words, God's people become evangelistic, or as Newbigin said, "the hermeneutic of the gospel."

"Church as I know it usually leaves deep parts of me dormant, unawakened, and untouched. I don't much like going. So, what now?" What's happening to the Church? Why are so many people who for decades have been faithful, steady churchgoers (and others who want to start going to church but can't seem to find one that meets their needs) losing interest in even attending church, let alone getting involved? What is fundamentally wrong with the "types" of churches (Seeker, Bible, Emergent, Liberal, Evangelical) that dot the religious landscape? Larry Crabb believes it is time to rethink the entire foundation and focus of what we know today as church -- everything we're doing and are wanting to see happen. In his most honest and vulnerable book to date, the author reveals his own struggles in this area and then offers a compelling vision of why God designed us to live in community with Him and others, and what the church he wants to be a part of looks like. *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian Culture* presents a biblical, Christian worldview for the emergent church--people who are not at home in the traditional church or in the secular world. As exiles of both, they must create their own worldview that integrates their Christian beliefs with the contemporary

world. Exiles seeks to integrate all aspects of life and decision-making and to develop the characteristics of a Christian life lived intentionally within emerging (postmodern) culture. It presents a plea for a dynamic, life-affirming, robust Christian faith that can be lived successfully in the post-Christian world of twenty-first century Western society. This book will present a Christian lifestyle that can be lived in non-religious categories and be attractive to not-yet Christians. Such a worldview takes ecology and politics seriously. It offers a positive response to the workplace, the arts, feminism, mystery and worship. Exiles seeks to develop a framework that will allow Christians to live boldly and courageously in a world that no longer values the culture of the church, but does greatly value many of the things the Bible speaks positively about. This book suggests that there is more to being a Christian than meets the eye. It explores the secret, unseen nooks and crannies in the life of a Christian and suggests that faith is about more than church attendance and belief in God. Written in a conversational, easy-to-read style, Exiles is aimed at church leaders, pastors and laypersons and seeks to address complex issues in a simple manner. It includes helpful photographs and diagrams. The letter to the Ephesians is missional to its core. It effectively exhorts its readers to understand, support, and participate in God's mission to rescue humanity and all creation from the damage and distortion of sin, and so bring about a renewed creation filled with God's glorious fullness. Working at the creative intersection of biblical studies and missiology, this study adopts a missional hermeneutic to overcome the scholarly neglect of mission in Ephesians. The book systematically explores each passage in Ephesians, delving into the characterization of God and his mission; allusions to Old Testament missional texts in Ephesians; and the portrayal of the apostle Paul and believers as participants in God's mission. A multi-faceted vision of mission emerges which encompasses God's actions in salvation history; the church as mediator of God's glory, reconciliation and grace to the nations; prayer; ethical witness; and verbal proclamation of the gospel. Reading Ephesians through this missional lens yields fresh insights into its purpose and context, and the richness of its portrait of mission. A leading voice in the missional church recasts the missional movement from a church add-on to a whole new way of following Jesus. Growing up, we didn't have the Internet, our friends didn't cut themselves and text messaging wasn't even on the radar. Today's young people are bombarded by media of all kinds, and have instant access to any subject and any topic of their choosing. Their media-saturated lives are inescapably inundated by chat rooms, movies, instant messaging and their ipods. How do we help guide our children to live Godly lives amidst this kind of cultural climate? Brett Ullman discusses, from a parent's perspective, sensitive topics affecting today's young people including cutting, suicide, substance abuse, sex and violence. Bringing hope and an awareness to today's parents, Brett sheds light on how with increased knowledge of youth trends, adults can be more discerning in their parenting strategies and better able to anticipate the needs of their children as they navigate the often challenging waters of adolescence. In *The Shaping of Things to Come* Australians Frost and Hirsch present an innovative vision of how the church can be more relevant and responsive to the spiritual hunger seen in the Western world. Lance Ford and Brad Brisco walk leaders through the major shifts involved in converting consumer-model churches into congregations on a quest for the kingdom of God. Addressing everything from sowing the seeds of incarnational thinking to stepping out in the local community, *The Missional Quest* will prepare your church for the long run. An inspirational and compelling exploration of a spreading phenomenon that is breaking out in the most unlikely of places. As attendance in churches is in plateau or freefall, small and growing numbers of people are turning to creative and relationally connected communities that shine the light of Christ with great effect and generosity. *Kingdom Communities: Shining the light of Christ through faith, hope and love* examines the rise of this diverse and organic movement that is popping up in neighbourhoods, regional towns, urban slums, brothels, aged care villages, schools, churches ... indeed anywhere! Using multiple case studies from across the region, *Kingdom Communities* explores this growing movement historically, biblically and theologically and uncovers the power of distributed networks for holistic Christian mission. In our age of disruption and rapid discontinuous change that has shaken religious institutions to their core, this book is both a challenge and major injection of hope

for those who are passionate about the kingdom of God, Christian leadership, the future of ministry and the relational communities that the world desperately needs. Read this book and I guarantee you'll be deeply encouraged even before you finish the introduction! God is doing something new, breathing fresh life into his people, sending them out as Kingdom Communities, embedded in neighbourhoods right across the country. And Andrew and Dean have got their finger on the pulse. Their book is not only full of stories from around Australia, it provides both the theological frame and the practical steps for launching a movement of Kingdom Communities wherever God has placed you. -Rev Dr Michael Frost, Morling College, Sydney, Author of *Exiles: Living Missionally in a Post-Christian World*, *Incarnate: The Body of Christ in an Age of Disengagement* and *The Shaping of Things to Come*. Dr Andrew Menzies is Principal at Stirling College - University of Divinity. Prior to this he was Senior Pastor at Camberwell Baptist and has also had pastoral, denominational and lecturing positions in Adelaide, Melbourne and in Salatiga, Java. He has served as Deputy Chancellor of the University of Divinity since 2012 as well as on a number of other Not for Profit Boards. Andrew has degrees from Victoria University, Australian College of Theology, Charles Sturt University - St Marks National Theological Centre and Fuller Theological Seminary. Dean Phelan is an Organisational Psychologist, Consultant and Spiritual Director who has recently finished as Chief Executive Officer of Churches of Christ in Queensland, a \$260 Million per annum, Not for Profit organisation that oversees the integrated services of children, family, housing, aged care, churches and many other kingdom communities. Prior to this Dean co-founded and led a national consulting organisation providing human resources and organisational development services. He has served as Chair of the Council of Churches of Christ in Australia as well as on a number of other Not for Profit and For Profit Boards. Dean has degrees from University of Melbourne and Swinburne University. This book follows the journey of ten churches who underwent church consultancies, and explores in depth both the consultancy and its outcomes. Pre-consultancy and post-consultancy "snapshots," four to five years apart, of vitality indicators and attendance figures (using National Church Life Survey and other data) are used to compare these with churches that have not undertaken church consultancies. Theologies of church consultancy, church health, and church growth are also developed and examined, intersecting with a wide body of literature, including contemporary ecclesiologies. Consultancy outcomes are examined in detail. This includes interviews with pastors of some of those churches, reflecting on their perceptions of whether and how the church consultancy impacted the health and growth of their church. Conclusions are drawn about the efficacy of church consultancy in influencing the health and growth of churches, as well as contexts for the best use of church consultancy. This is a significant book for denominational leaders, theological lecturers, pastors, and church leaders as they encounter lack of health in churches and seek ways forward for greater health and impact in their local communities. Many pastors and church leaders have heard the term "missional" but have only a vague idea of what it means, let alone why it might be important to them. But what does it actually mean? What does a missional church look like and how does it function? Two leading voices in the missional movement here provide an accessible introduction, showing readers how the movement developed, why it's important, and how churches can become more missional. *Introducing the Missional Church* demonstrates that ours is a post-Christian culture, making it necessary for church leaders to think like missionaries right here at home. Focusing on a process that allows a church to discern its unique way of being missional, it guides readers on a journey that will lead them to implement a new set of missional practices in their churches. The authors demonstrate that living missionally is about discerning and joining God's work in the world in order to be a witness to God's kingdom on earth. The outrageous idea of this book is that God wants to use professors as professors to reach others, transform the academy, and meet the needs of the world. God is on a mission to redeem and restore this fallen world, and as members of one of the most influential institutions in society, Christian professors in the university play an important role in that mission. Becoming a missional professor will require a clear vision of God's heart for the lost as well as humankind's purpose and calling under the banner of Christ, an understanding of the significance of the university as a cultural shaping in-

stitution and mission field, and a desire for Christian wholeness in a fragmented world. This idea is outrageous because many Christian professors struggle to live missionally and need a clear vision of such a life as well as role models to lead the way. Many professors already living missional lives need encouragement to "excel still more" (1 Thess 4:10). We all need God's grace and mercy as we try to faithfully follow Christ within the university. Paul M. Gould (PhD. Purdue University) teaches philosophy and apologetics at Oklahoma Baptist University and is the founder and president of the Two Tasks Institute. D. Keith Campbell (PhD. Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) is Global Partnerships Vice President at Global Scholars. Li Ma (PhD. Cornell University) is Senior Research Fellow at the Henry Institute for the Study of Christianity and Politics at Calvin College. Omar Montero (PhD. Candidate, University of Buenos Aires) is Associate Professor and Researcher for Undergraduates and Postgraduates in the Architectural and Design Department at the University of Buenos Aires. Granville W. Pillar (PhD. University of Newcastle) is Associate Professor of Philology at Ferenc Rákóczi II Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, Ukraine. Osam Edim Temple (PhD. University of Ibadan) is former Professor of Philosophy at the American University of Nigeria and Special Advisor to the Honourable Minister of Niger Delta Affairs. Bee-Lan C. Wang (PhD. University of Chicago) taught at the Science University of Malaysia, Northern Illinois University, and Wheaton College (Illinois).

ReJesus asks the following questions: * What ongoing role does Jesus the Messiah play in shaping the ethos and self understanding of the movement that originated in him? * How is the Christian religion informed and shaped by the Jesus that we meet in the Gospels? * How do we assess the continuity required between the life and example of Jesus and the subsequent religion called Christianity? * In how many ways do we domesticate the radical Revolutionary in order to sustain our religion and religiosity? * How can a rediscovery of Jesus renew our discipleship, the Christian community, and the ongoing mission of the church? These questions take us to the core of what the church is all about. Rather than reformation, the authors call their task re-founding the church because it raises the issue of the Church's true Founder or Foundation. This theme is of particular importance at the dawn of the twenty-first century as many attempt to address Christianity's endemic and long trended decline in the West. The authors feel that a spiritual, theological, missional, and existential crisis looms in the West. Many pastors and church leaders have heard the term "missional" but have only a vague idea of what it means, let alone why it might be important to them. But what does it actually mean? What does a missional church look like and how does it function? Two leading voices in the missional movement here provide an accessible introduction, showing readers how the movement developed, why it's important, and how churches can become more missional. Introducing the Missional Church demonstrates that ours is a post-Christian culture, making it necessary for church leaders to think like missionaries right here at home. Focusing on a process that allows a church to discern its unique way of being missional, it guides readers on a journey that will lead them to implement a new set of missional practices in their churches. The authors demonstrate that living missionally is about discerning and joining God's work in the world in order to be a witness to God's kingdom on earth. The authors provide expert insight on church culture and church vision casting, along with case studies of successful modern missional churches. What is Luke's main purpose in writing the book of Acts? In this close study of the entire Acts narrative, McGinnis analyzes Luke's story of the first Christians in light of ancient rhetorical conventions, concluding that Luke presents his stories to strengthen the missional commitment and practice of his readers. Missional Acts approaches a vast amount of varied mission content systematically, dividing it into rhetorical instruction about missional stimuli, structures, strategies, and suffering, while using a body analogy to provide coherence. Even the enigmatic ending of Acts intentionally advances Luke's rhetorical purposes. Luke's teaching finds its culmination in the ministry of his archetypal missionary, the apostle Paul, whose missionary journeys are a Lukan masterclass in mission strategy with much to teach about ministry that transforms whole regions. McGinnis rejects the traditional dichotomy that Paul is either a missionary or a prisoner and shows that throughout his work Luke depicts suffering as an integral part of the mission, seeking to prepare his readers to face opposition of various kinds. Missional Acts will

help readers approach Acts in innovative ways by reading it through a primary missional lens.

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