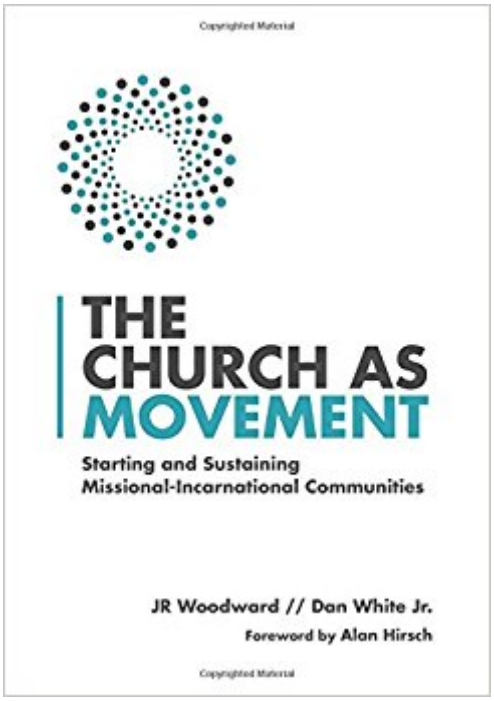
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The Church As Movement: Starting And Sustaining Missional-Incarnational Communities



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Synopsis

2016 IVP Readers' Choice Award Public gatherings are vital for movement, but too often in our approach to planting churches, we haven't paid enough attention to the difficult grassroots work of movement: discipleship, community formation, and mission. This book will help you start missional-incarnational communities in a way that reflects the viral movement of the early New Testament church. JR Woodward (author of Creating a Missional Culture) and Dan White Jr. (author of Subterranean) have trained church planters all over North America to create movemental churches that are rooted in the neighborhood, based on eight necessary competencies: Movement IntelligencePolycentric LeadershipBeing DisciplesMaking DisciplesMissional TheologyEcclesial ArchitectureCommunity FormationIncarnational Practices The book features an interactive format with tools, exercises, and reflection questions and activities. It's ideal for church planting teams or discipleship groups to use together. It's not enough to understand why the church needs more missional and incarnational congregations.The Church as Movement will also show you how to make disciples that make disciples. This is the engine that drives the church as movement, so that everyday Christians can be present in the world to join God's mission in the way of Jesus.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"One of the strengths of the book derives from the fact that JR and Dan are reflective practitioners: both have planted churches, are leading a wonderful new movement called V3 and have been training planters all across North America. . . . Furthermore, their understanding of movement is

wonderfully minimalist without being reductionist. The result is that it can be practiced by ordinary, everyday Christians. Here they activate the essence of movementÃ¢â ¬â ¢where everyone, regardless of race, gender and class, is an active agent in the game. Jesus movement is people movement!" (Alan Hirsch, founder, 100Movements, Forge Mission Training Network, Future Travelers, coauthor of The Permanent Revolution (from the foreword))"JR and Dan have produced a simple, intensely practical guide for those of us who want to shift from merely sustaining the 'religious industrial complex' to unleashing a dynamic missional church planting movement. The Church as Movement is full of ideas on missional discipleship, rhythms of life, cultural exegesis, fivefold leadership models and more, all anchored in a beautiful biblical vision of the sent-and-sending God." (Michael Frost, author of The Shaping of Things to Come, Exiles and The Road to Missional)"The Church as Movement is a book I wish I'd been able to get my hands on twenty years ago. I got into church planting because I wanted to be a disciple and make disciples of Jesus. Instead, I encountered a system that largely measured success in terms of attendance, budgets, and buildings. Woodward and White not only offer an alternate transformational vision, they have created an immensely practical resource. I've seen their work firsthand and am deeply encouraged by their ability to come alongside leaders and equip them to embody the way of Jesus in their local communities." (Mark Scandrette, founder, ReIMAGINE, author of Practicing the Way of Jesus, Free, and Belonging and Becoming)"In The Church as Movement White and Woodward rewrite what it means to cultivate and grow churches in the mission fields of post-Christendom. Accomplishing the impossible, they provide an exhaustive preparation for those who dare to navigate this terrain. It's a learning experience enormous in its aspirations yet so necessary for the task that lies ahead for the church in mission." (David Fitch, B. R. Lindner Chair of Evangelical Theology, Northern Seminary, author of Faithful Presence)"If you want to see the church through a radically different lens and recover the vision of how ordinary Christians working together in the neighborhood can become the greatest hope for change in these fractured and fragmented times, then this book is your guide." (Tim Soerens, cofounder and director, Parish Collective, coauthor of The New Parish)"Theologically and theoretically complex and robust, yet practically so transferable in its attentiveness to movement dynamics and awareness of place-based disciple-making. This is a book that will surprise and challenge trained practitioners while offering tools that are adaptable enough for real movement. I believe even the title is a phrase that will become integral to the new vocabulary of church multiplication. I honestly wish I had written it myself!" (Linda Bergquist, church planting catalyst and coach, coauthor of Church Turned Inside Out)"JR and Dan use their wisdom and experience to help churches plant churches that better reflect the effectiveness of the early

church, emphasizing the importance of community and discipleship." (Ed Stetzer, executive director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College)"This is a book on Christian movement and church planting that I enjoyed reading and want to commend to many others seeking to discern innovative ways of being God's people in a time of massive change. JR and Dan have written with wisdom. They distill their on-the-ground experience into a book that is practical, instructive, and informed with theological imagination. They offer the reader a direction for this journey toward a movement of God's people in our day. Like any book, one isn't going to agree with everything, but this is one of a few books in this field I want to recommend." (Alan Roxburgh, The Missional Network, author of Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World)"Practitioner led, biblically based, and theologically sound. In this book, JR and Dan have been able to navigate the line between missiology and strategy by presenting a team guide for discipleship and church planting. So buy this book, gather your friends together, and learn how to start a movement that will change your city!" (Daniel Im, director of church multiplication, NewChurches.com, coauthor of Planting Missional Churches)"What I love about JR and Dan is that they don't just write about the stuff of missional discipleship, they live it! The Church as Movement is a real gift to the church. It is not only crammed full of practical wisdom, but is written in a way that is accessible to everybody." (Debra Hirsch, author of Untamed and Redeeming Sex)"This is a book of wisdom by thoughtful practitioners, experienced and mature in their own leadership. It provides valuable help in an integrated approach that many will find inspiring and, most of all, truly helpful." (Mark Labberton, president, Fuller Theological Seminary)"A church building or sign is no indicator that the community of God is truly present as a transforming force in any particular place. This book pushes us to see the church as it was meant to be biblically and as it needs to be today in order to advance the kingdom of God. Missional, incarnational movement and discipleship cannot be optional ideas for the church but must be core essentials so that the justice and truth of God is experienced in a broken world." (Efrem Smith, president and CEO, World Impact, author of The Hip Hop Church and The Post-Black and Post-White Church)"The early church was a spiritual-social movement and The Church as Movement insightfully shows what that means today. Woodward and White insist the church is not church if it is not a genuine community of disciples following Jesus. They are right when they say, 'We need to water the small, over and over, and allow God's Spirit to blow on the embers.' This is the powerful essence of The Church as Movement." (Howard A. Snyder, visiting director, Manchester Wesley Research Centre, England)"In The Church as Movement, JR and Dan provide leaders who are concerned about being faithful to the values of the kingdom with a compelling examination of the kind of leadership required to touch the deepest yearnings of our

generation. Instead of offering trendy relevance, the church imagined in this new book offers hope by calling us to sacrificially love our neighbors and our neighborhoods as brothers and sisters committed to live as followers of Jesus the Christ." (Noel Castellanos, CEO and president, CCDA)"Much recent writing about how to do church has dealt with tasks and ideas. But if the church is God's expression of himself on the earth, then isn't it important for the church to also grow from our own engagement with God? If the church is to be authentic, it will require us as leaders to submit to God's ongoing work of personal transformation. This is hard work, so we need guides that invite whole-person engagement, trusting that as we experience the mission of God in our own lives, we know more deeply how to live it out in our communities. The Church as Movement is that kind of guide." (Mandy Smith, lead pastor, University Christian Church, author of The Vulnerable Pastor)"JR Woodward and Dan White Jr.'s words have helped us incarnate in our neighborhood in Honolulu the very Word that desires to made flesh in all neighborhoods. While holding together the critical tension between imagination and implementation, they provide us with a missional map, a creative compass, technical tools, and a renewed sense of hope for the journey. A truly innovative offering." (Kevin and Christine Sweeney, copastors, Imagine Church, Honolulu)"This back-to-basics book on pastoral theology could benefit the involved layperson as well as pastors. Indeed, much of the book explains how to stoke lay involvement in a way that's real, practical, Spirit-driven, and faithful." (Gerald Wisz, Christian Market, August 2016)

JR Woodward (MA, Fuller Theological Seminary) is a church planter, activist, missiologist and the national director for church planting with V3, a missional church planting movement. He is the author of Creating a Missional Culture and he desires to awaken people to join God in the renewal of all things. JR is founder of New Life Christian Fellowship (NLCF) and cofounder of Kairos LA, the Solis Foundation, Ecclesia Network and Missio Alliance. He serves locally with the District Church in Washington D.C. and is pursuing a PhD at the University of Manchester (UK). He loves to surf, travel, read, skateboard and meet new people. He enjoys photography and film and tries to attend the Sundance Film Festival whenever he can.Dan White Jr. co-leads Axiom Church, a developing network of missional communities in the urban neighborhoods of Syracuse, New York. After being a full-time pastor for fifteen years, his family along with four other families moved into the city to pioneer a discipleship-centered, mission-oriented, community-shaped, neighborhood-rooted approach to being the church. Dan works as a consultant and missional coach with the V3 Movement, which trains, plants and seeds missional expressions throughout the country. He also co-founded the Praxis Gathering, an annual gathering of more than two hundred on-the-ground

missional practitioners. Dan is the author of Subterranean: Why the Future of the Church is Rootedness and his writing has been featured in The Christian Post, The Missional Times, Next Generation Church Leader, Outreach Magazine, Jesus Creed, Church Leaders Magazine and the Huffington Post. He has also been featured as a speaker and presenter at the Sentralized Conference, Inhabit Conference and Missio Alliance Gathering.Alan Hirsch is the founding Director of Forge Mission Training Network. He is the co-founder of shapevine.com, an international forum for engaging with world transforming ideas. He leads Future Travelers, a learning journey applying missional-incarnational approaches to established churches and is an active participant in The Tribe of LA, a Jesus community among artists and creatives in Los Angeles. Known for his innovative approach to mission, Hirsch is a teacher and key mission strategist for churches across the western world. His popular book The Shaping of Things to Come (with Michael Frost) is widely considered to be a seminal text on mission. Alan's recent book The Forgotten Ways, has quickly become a key reference for missional thinking, particularly as it relates to movements. His book ReJesus is a radical restatement about the role that Jesus plays in defining missional movements. Untamed, his latest book (with his wife Debra) is about missional discipleship for a missional church. His experience in leadership includes leading a local church movement among the marginalized as well as heading up the Mission and Revitalization work of his denomination. Hirsch is an adjunct professor at Fuller Seminary and lectures frequently throughout Australia, Europe, and the U.S.

Too many of us know how frustrating and even hurtful it can be to love JesusÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s church but not fit into any local church; anyone who questions the elevated role of the Sunday service has felt the isolation. In light of this, Church as Movement is more than the practical guidebook it sets out to be--itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s the resounding reminder that weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re not alone, that weÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢re not crazy. Reading Church as Movement is a similar experience to talking with the authors in person--it leaves us exclaiming, ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve finally found my tribe!ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•Even better, Church as Movement is the rare book that inspires both the dreamers and the doers. JR and Dan have done more than dream of a fresh way forward for the church--they have lived it. They pour their dreams and passion into every chapter; but they also punctuate their pages with charts, graphs, and other resources. While many missional church books are heavy on vision but light on details, this is a gift to all missional planters: a vision of how to use the details to grow our dreams instead of drown them.Church as Movement builds to and flows from the central concept that ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“the church is not a building, a weekly gathering, or a program, but a people God has called out of the

world and sent back into the world to redeem and renew it.ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• The trouble is, this is an easier sentence to tweet than to live. (Ok,you canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t tweet it either, because it has over 140 characters, but you get the idea!) This book was borne from JR and DanÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s failures and breakthroughs. Then, after they started and led communities, they began to coach others how to do it too. In fact, this book was initially compiled as a coaching curriculum for church planters. This is perhaps its greatest strength: each chapter has undergone countless edits stemming from rich conversations with on--the-ground planters.The final product is a must-have for anyone interested in missional communities. Among other things, JR and Dan present how to lead a community with movement in mind, the importance of scalable tools, an understanding of mission and incarnation, and how to structure leadership. They walk through discipleship as an essential catalyst of movement--first for who the leader is, then how to lead others who lead others who lead others. Community is explored as a recurring theme--from the shared table, to a collective rule, and more. They also emphasize the neighborhood over the sanctuary stage as where God is moving, and offer clear steps shifting both paradigm and practice. Plus, every chapter includes questions for reflecting and notes with further resources. Anyone would benefit from reading it on their own, it is really designed to be used by group.Church as Movement paints a refreshing vision for church as it could be and should be. I canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t express how much IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve benefited from its wisdom, practical instruction, and clear message of hope. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m confident it will influence the missional church movement for years to come.IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m profoundly grateful that IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve finally found my tribe.

The Church as Movement is an indispensable work to walk through the essentials of missional, incarnational theology and praxis in our culture. JR and Dan have put together a workbook that is best worked through in community with other leaders; however, is accessible to anyone who desires to live more deeply into scripture (I would stress the importance of processing this in community with other Christ followers). Their understanding of missional theology, writing style, use of story, imagery, and graphics, and their ability to break down the subject matter into digestible chunks make this especially useful for anyone who could benefit from a field guide of sorts. It will help you and your friends develop a thoroughly missional, incarnational, Trinitarian, kingdom-infused framework through which you can view scripture, the church, and the world in which we live. It will expose you, challenge you, and encourage you as you discover afresh the beauty of our timeless gospel. If you put what you learn into practice, be ready for God to radically transform you and your neighborhood as you, together, live into movement.Scott OlsonAuthor of Re-Imagining the Church

Most of the conversation surrounding the church and the health of the church in some way involves the Missional Church movement. Whether it involves changing the focus of existing churches or planting new churches that have this concept built-in, missional is a concept that is here to stay. What Woodward and White do in this book is present a clear, concise, practical manual for how to do the latter.What I love most about this book is the concept of simplicity and reproducibility that permeates the writing and structure of this book. I believe that a group of committed Christ followers with a passion to reach a people group could pick this book up, read through and process it together and figure out a way to start some kind of missional-incarnational community. Many books in this category are written towards ministry/ theology types that are then translated to some kind of practical application or teaching for the masses. This book is immediately applicable.The second thing that stood out in this book is the simple structure it proposes for church planting. As someone who has thought about planting a church one day, I have been struck by the cost and risk that goes into traditional style church planting with an emphasis on a quality Sunday worship gathering as the driving force. The Church as Movement proposes an option that starts with reproducing in the intimate (2-4), personal (5-12) and social (15-70) spaces. The book envisions creating a community that utilizes these three spaces for creating room for the different aspects of discipleship and evangelism that are most effective in those spaces. This allows for a movement to start that is centered around life on mission and space for hospitality and community with a core of people constantly reproducing disciples. As reproduction continues, there is then room for gathering people together in the public space. The authors leave a lot of freedom for how the public gatherings are organized and don’t go into to much detail on how to do this. Considering the glut of resources in this area, those concepts or ideas aren’t missed in this work.Finally, this book is to be worked through in community and with application in mind. It is first and foremost a practical training guid that is meant to be lived out. This book provides helpful ideas for how to incorporate a more missional lifestyle and way of life into an organization that already exists. However, where this will come in handy most is to provide a general roadmap for people who have a passion and desire to move into the neighborhood and reach unreached people.

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