

QUOTES ABOUT MISSIONAL-INCARNATIONAL CHRIST-FOLLOWERS

from the book by Michael Frost & Alan Hirsch/*The Shaping of Things to Come*

“But it does seem to us that the real hope lies with those courageous leaders who will foster the development of alternative, experimental, new communities of faith.” (preface)

“it is a cry from an emerging post-modern generation for community of belonging, spirituality, sensuality, empowerment, and liberation...unless the church recovers its role as a subversive, missionary movement...we will be seen as the least likely option for those seeking an artistic, politically subversive, activist community of mystical faith.” (pages 6-7)

“...we’re convinced that what will ultimately be required is Christian leadership that values imagination, creativity, innovation, and daring.” (page 7)

“The missional church always thinks of the long haul rather than the quick fix.” (page 11)

“It can be messy, chaotic, and dynamic.” (page 12)

“The church is in decline in almost every context in the First World. The church is worse off precisely because of Christendom’s failure to evangelize its own context and establish gospel communities that transform the culture.” (page 14)

“If you build it they will come.” “How much of the traditional church’s energy goes into adjusting their programs and their public meetings to cater to an unseen constituency?” (page 19)

“The hierarchical model has little to say to a generation that values egalitarianism and community...It will place a high value on communal life, more open leadership structures, and the contribution of all the people of God...it will be adventurous, playful, and surprising.” (pages 21-22)

“Too much existing Bible teaching happens to passive groups of Christians, many of who are not involved in any kind of risky missional activity.” (The missional church will take context seriously, but will also work on recovering the biblical narrative with its richness and potency for today’s world.” (page 27)

“We so easily impose a cultural form on the people and the groups we hope to reach with the love of Jesus. We so often make the gospel synonymous with a bland middle-class conformity and thereby alienate countless people from encountering Christ.” (page 39)

“We believe the missional-incarnational church will spend more time on building friendships than it will on developing religious programs.” (page 44)

“Such an incarnational outreach would require all the elements New Testament (writers) experienced and taught as normative: the leaving of one’s comfort zone, sacrifice, hard work, the possibility of persecution, endurance, and putting others first. On the other hand, it’s possible for Christians in traditional churches to attend services with no real cost to themselves at all.” (page 51)

“The missional-incarnational church should be living, eating, and working closely with its surrounding community, developing strong links between Christians and not-yet-Christians.” (page 57)

“Instead, why not allow the rhythms and lifestyle patterns of the people we’re trying to reach determine the shape our communal life and worship meetings take?” (page 63)

“We are increasingly convinced that bigger is not necessarily better...the missional-incarnational church thinks more in terms of multiplication than addition.” (page 65)

“The incarnational church has to completely reframe the community’s perceptions about Jesus and the church. Many Christians in the west think the church is paternalistic, manipulative, greedy, and controlling.” (page 76)

Storytelling - A Sense of Wonder and Awe - Extraordinary love - Exploration - Jesus-focused = followers!