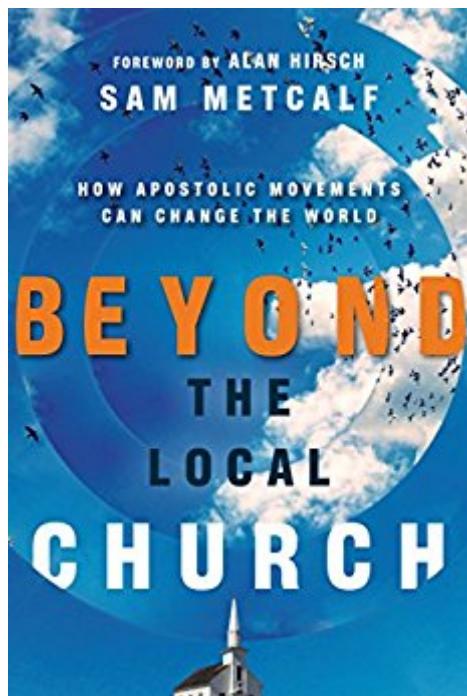


The book was found

Beyond The Local Church: How Apostolic Movements Can Change The World



Synopsis

Many people have given up on the church. But that doesn't mean that they've given up on God or Christianity. In many cases, it was merely that local church congregations were not the best context for missional people to live out their sense of God's call. The good news is that God is raising up vibrant movements of Christians in a vast array of vocations around the world: disciple-making ministries, missions, relief and development, social activism, advocacy and much more. These are all strategic ways to live for the kingdom "in venues beyond the local church. Wherever movements of the gospel have occurred, visionary people and apostolic structures have been essential. Mission leader Sam Metcalf shows how God has always worked through entrepreneurial individuals and organizations that launched out in fresh ways. He gives biblical and missiological foundations for missional movements, showing that what has often been called "parachurch" is an equally valid manifestation of the church. Affirming the strengths of apostolic personalities, Metcalf shows how they can be deployed to cross cultural barriers, renew secular societies and transform the nations with the power of the gospel. God may be inviting you to join what he is doing around the world. Answer the call and discover how God can use you beyond your imagination.

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Customer Reviews

The watching church and mission world has needed this book for about 100 years! This is absolutely the most provocative and biblically-based book that could potentially free us from unnecessary church-mission wars that have raged for 50 years over who or what is more important--the local church or missions? Sam Metcalf does a masterful job of building a compelling case on biblical principles, precedent and the practice of 2000 years of church history to clarify the vital role of both the local church and the church in mission--read: apostolic structures carrying the gospel beyond the borders of near-neighbor evangelism in our town and country. This is most illuminating discussion on the differences between modalities--local churches, and sodalities--mission teams, since Ralph Winter's blockbuster article of 1973 in which he introduced the terms. This is mandatory reading for every mission leader engaged in seeding and planting fresh new expressions of the church across cultures, and a must-read for pastors and missions pastors who want to get over the fallacy of what some call "the primacy of the local church." We are in this together. We need each other. We will never fulfill our Jesus-mandated Commission until we learn to value and appreciate the role local and churches in mission have to reproduce each other! You will thank me when you read this book.

I have enjoyed reading through this book. It brought new insights to Ralph Winter's concepts of "sodality" and "modality." The book shows how both dimensions of the Church are essential dimensions of the whole Church.

As a seminary student and practitioner I have read over forty books on missiology and leadership in the last two years alone. This book trumps them all! The history of movements accompanied by honest evaluations of key issues facing the Church today are both challenging and refreshing. A must read for those with a grand vision for ministry with no place to express it. Sam is speaking to you!

We needed this volume. Too long we have given attention to the internal workings of the church a growing population is not stepping foot in. I appreciate what Sam has done here and hope it calls more apostolic men and women into the fields. The harvest is white and we need you here.

I am only half way through, Sam, but "WOW", I am stunned. For all of us that haven't felt our God ordained vision/calling/dreams/gifts fit neatly within the confines of one local church, you have helped remove the self imposed guilt that we (and others) heap upon us believers who have embraced the idea that "the WORLD is my mission field!" You have taken the classic article Dr. Ralph Winter wrote on the "The Two Structures of God's Redemptive Mission" [...] and unpacked it biblically, historically, objectively, and practically, helping us understand there are two avenues (Modalities AND Sodalities) that are legitimate, God designed, partnerships to reach the world for Christ. When I finish it, I am going to take our entire staff through it too. Steve Shadrach [...]

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