

## Forgotten Ways

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((Ray: Published in 2006, clearly a thinker ahead of his time!! Within the last 5 years, there is a movement of the leaders in the church in the West toward most of what Alan presents in this book.))

### Part 1 Setting the Scene

Pg 36 only 10-15% will come to an attractional church

Pg 40 a church is a covenanted community Worship, Discipleship, Mission

Pg 43 Contemporary Church Growth model, 90% passive audience

**Pg 45** Attraction list, expand building, excellence preaching on relevant subjects Inspiring worship experience, excellent band etc, excellent parking, and attendants, excellent programs for children & youth, Cell groups built around Christian education, Next week is better than last week.

BUT you cannot consume your way into discipleship

Pg 47 TEMPT model, **T**ogether we Follow, **E**ngage with Scripture, **M**ission, **P**assion for Jesus, **T**ransformation

### Part 2 Setting the Scene

Pg 55 the Bible always challenges religious organizations, holy rebellion

Pg 59 In 300 AD, the shift to an official religion of the state Characteristics Christianity as official religion, movement from margins of society to center, assumption all citizens were Christians, no freedom political power regarded as divinely authenticated, infant baptism symbol of obligatory incorporation into, Sunday official day of obligatory church attendance, orthodoxy determined by church leaders, imposition of Christian morality on all, hierarchical ecclesiastical system, massive church buildings, clergy laity distinction, obligatory tithes to the church, Christianity defended by legal sanctions, use of political and military force to impose Christianity, use of OT rather than NT to support practices (Ray: Reformers broke away from the Catholic church, but many remnants of these characteristics remain in the church today) (Dan Grider calls this the beginning of Version 2 church)

Pg 65-66 current church is outmoded, needs fundamental change, to become genuinely missional. Require major realignment of our current thinking and resources, Christendom is so deeply entrenched in our practices, will require significant political will to change.

Pg 68 simple church, house church, focus on Jesus, living as community, welcome stranger, serve with generosity, etc

### *Section 2, Journey to Apostolic Genius*

Pg 78 Diagram, Jesus is Lord, Disciple Making, Missional incarnational impulse, Apostolic environment, Organic system, Communitas not community

### *3 Jesus is Lord*

Rom 11:35

Pg 90 every aspect of our lives,

Pg 93 Kingdom = rule of God, Mat 6:33; Eph 1:20-23; 1 Cor 15:25-28

Pg 95 no distinction of sacred and secular, no sacred spaces John 4:20-24  
Rev 3:20 Jesus outside the church knocking on the door

Pg 100 "We need only look into our own lives when we deliberately sin, or when we refuse to allow his claim to seep into all the dimensions of our lives and respond in obedience, we effectively limit the lordship of Jesus and his claim of absolute rule."  
Lk 6:46 *Why do you call me Lord, and do not the things I say?*

### *4 Disciple Making*

Pg 102 most critical element, to embody the message of Jesus, This is why the church exists

**Pg 104** we have lost the skill of disciple making, we have reduced church to intellectual assimilation of ideas, plus the abiding impact of cultural Christianity plus the phenomenon of consumerism in our day pushes against a true following of Jesus."

Pg 105 They developed Life Transformation Groups, LTG's  
Bible reading, Story telling, Personal accountability, Prayer EVERYONE

Pg 108 up until Enlightenment, church was dominant role in Identity, Meaning, Purpose and Community, Then came, rise in capitalism mediator of value, rise in nation as mediator of protection and provision, rise of science as mediator of truth and understanding

**Pg 113** The heart of discipleship is to become like Jesus, His strategy is to get "a whole lot of little versions of Him infiltrating every nook and cranny of society by reproducing Himself in and through His people in every place throughout the world."  
We are living letters, 2 Cor 3:1-3

Pg 115 The only way to propagate a message is to live it, follow my example  
1 Cor 11:1; 1 Thes 1:6-9; Phil 3:17; 2 Thes 3:9

Pg 120 DM before leadership, Jesus does DM in the midst of doing mission

Pg 122 Greeks, Academy solely organized around the transfer of concepts and ideas, Information In tray is full, the Out tray of action and obedience is empty. the Hebrews acted into a new way of life. We try to think our way into new life. diagram pg 124

### 5 *Missional Incarnational Impulse*

Not evangelistic attraction, but SENDING

Pg 133 genuine identification and affinity with those we are trying to reach  
Jesus lived normal life for 30 years, 1 Cor 9:19-23 I become all things...  
Proximity, involved in their lives Motivation is revelatory, so they may come to know God through Jesus.

Powerlessness, servanthood, humility in our relationships Phil 2:5-  
Proclamation, willing to share the message, we are a message tribe

Pg 141 move from attractational model to Incarnational community, entering into the community and serving, use of building for community

Pg 145 Third Place Communities, TPC, 1<sup>st</sup> home, 2<sup>nd</sup> work or school, 3<sup>rd</sup> time off, social gathering Hang out and be the people of God in public spaces look for inquisitive non believers

### 6 *Apostolic Environment*

(Ray: I hold to the position that gift of apostleship built the foundation of the church, Eph 2:20, YET, this section deserves practical consideration, for the formation of a balanced leadership team. )

Pg 151 pioneering innovative leadership

Pg 166 Farmer creates conditions for growth, a good leader is like a farmer  
1 Cor 3:5-9 one plants another waters, God caused the growth

Pg 170 Table of **APEPT**

Apostolic, sent ones, ensures the Gospel is transmitted to another context  
Prophetic, an ear toward God, discerning God's will, ensuring obedience  
questioning status quo

Evangelistic, the recruiter communicator of the message, Calls for response  
Pastoral, cares and develops the people of God, nurturing, protecting  
Teaching, Clarifies the revealed will of God,

- Pg 175 leadership team with each area represented, Fit & Split, Contend & Transcend
- Pg 176 An example for an issue at hand: (being discussed by leadership)  
 The apostolic person would present or critique in light of the need to galvanize the community around mission.  
 The prophetic types would challenge just about everything and ask irritating questions about how God fit into our grand schemes.  
 The evangelist would always be trying to emphasize the need to bring people to faith and how what we suggested would achieve that.  
 The pastoral type expressed concerns about how the community could healthily engage the issue sustainably and  
 the teacher would try discerning its validity from scripture and history.

## 7 Organic Systems

- Pg 185 Organic, Natural discipling friendships
- Pg 194 Elements of a Movement:  
 cellular organization  
 recruitment through friendships, organic relationships  
 personal commitment generated by a conversion, a radical new lifestyle  
 an articulated ideology, a statement of common beliefs, basis of unity  
 a real or perceived opposition from society at large
- Pg 195 To recover missional vitality, must shed all that which does not matter" and get back to the uncluttered way of Jesus
- Pg 205 a network incarnated into the local community, become part of existing groups, There is no center, it exists in nodes, hubs, and enriching relationships, built squarely on the fabric of friendships
- Pg 206 the amazing example of Al Qaeda, network of cells (very sobering)
- Pg 211 the example of the spread of a virus, the Sneezing of the Gospel from person to person
- Pg 212 reproduction, NOT cloning, Each new group must adapt and be unique, A group must have reproduce-ability.
- Pg 214 short discussion of Chinese church, new believers would form a new church, this resulted in genetic variety
- Pg 215 the current attractational mega church is complex, and not simply reproducible  
 In US, majority of 485,000 churches are under 80 people

## 8 *Communitas, not Community*

**Pg 219** "...the middle class involves a preoccupation with safety and security, developed mostly in pursuit of what seems to be best for our children. And this is understandable as long as it does not become obsessive. But within these impulses of the middle class culture fuel with consumerism, as they most often do, we can add the obsession with comfort and convenience to the list. And this is not a good mix – at least as far as the gospel and missional church are concerned."

Pg 220 example of liminality and 13 yr old boys in Africa who must fend for themselves in the wild to be accepted as a man in the community.

Pg 222, "... Christian community has become little more than a quiet and reflective soul-space or a spiritual buzz (charismatic circles) for people trying to recuperate from an overly busy, consumerist lifestyle." Harsh assessment of small group!!

Pg 223 Israel forgot God, Deut 4:23-31

Pg 224-228 What is *communitas*, Example of Fellowship of the Ring, an unlikely group of different people who share an adventure together Teams that together face a challenge

Pg 229 Most churches are fragile environments, like the fish bowl in Finding Nemo

**Pg 231** "... we have structured community in isolation from any real engagement with the world. We are missing *communitas* experience because we are missing the missional component that takes us out of our safety zones into risky engagement with the world."

**Pg 233** "the role of leadership within the church is to cultivate environments wherein the Spirit of God might call forth and unleash the missional imagination of the people of God."

Pg 234 NT vision of our future, shapes our actions now

**Pg 235** No groups that came together around non-missional purpose, (prayer, worship, study) ever ended up becoming missional. It was only those groups that set out to be missional (while embracing prayer, worship, study) actually got to doing it. What is the mission?

Pg 236 Mission is oriented to outsiders  
ministry is oriented to insiders

Pg 238 The example of Jane, and her experience at church, a division of sacred and secular, God is a church god, and not the God of all of life...

Pg 240 meeting in 3<sup>rd</sup> places, doing church in public spaces and go where the people are... get out of the building

A movement of God, requires the movement of God's people We need to hit the road again.