



The Missional Church in Perspective



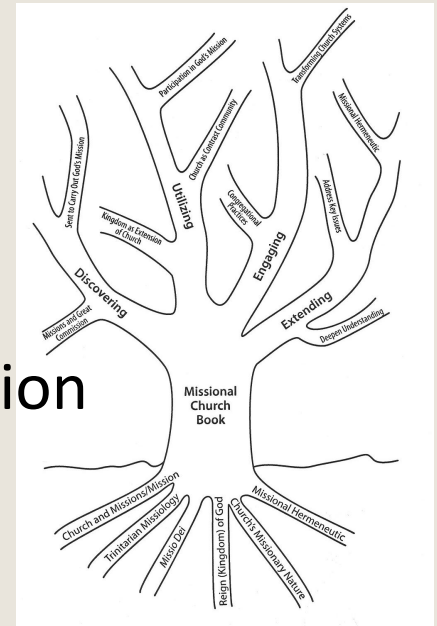
MAPPING TRENDS AND SHAPING
THE CONVERSATION

Foreword by Alan J. Roxburgh

Craig Van Gelder
Dwight J. Zscheile

Book Overview

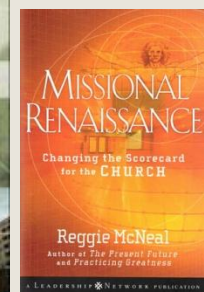
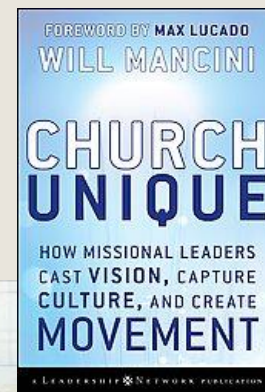
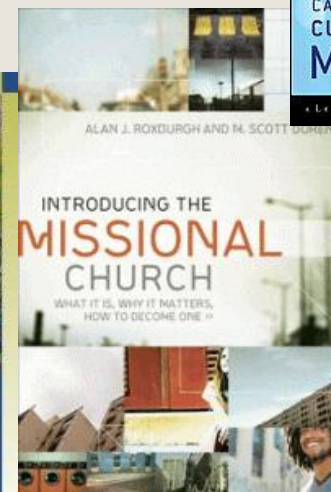
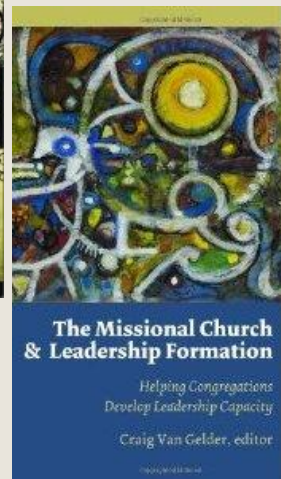
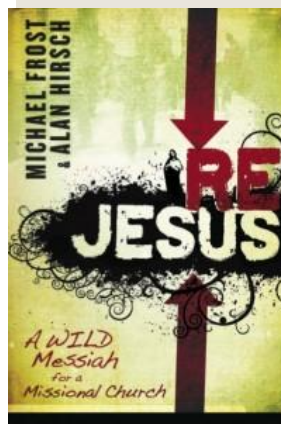
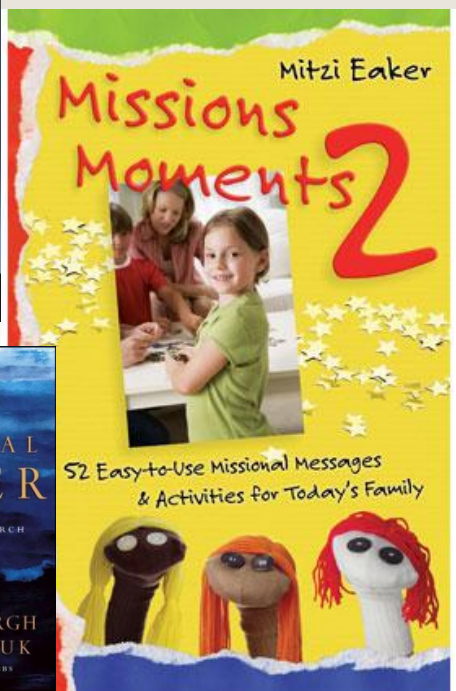
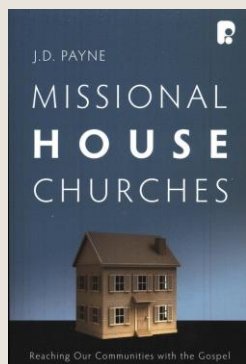
- **Part I: History and development of missional conversation**
 - Concepts influencing missional conversation
 - Revisiting seminal work *Missional Church*
 - Mapping missional conversation
- **Part II: Perspectives that extend the missional conversation**
 - Expanding and enriching theological frameworks
 - Missional engagement with culture in a globalized world
 - Missional practices of church life and leadership



“Missional”?!?

“The word ‘missional’ seems to have traveled the remarkable path of going from obscurity to banality in only one decade.”

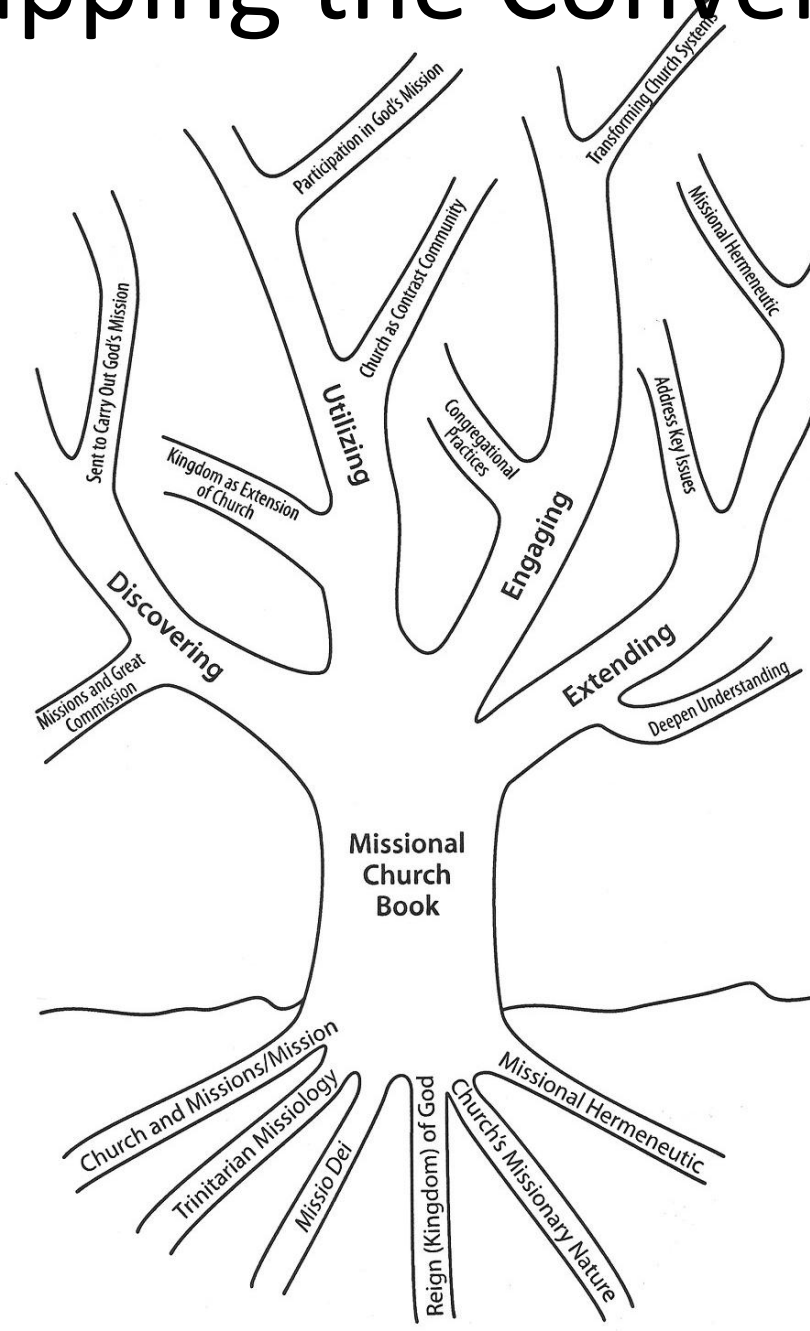
—Alan Roxburgh



Four **Common Themes** in the Literature

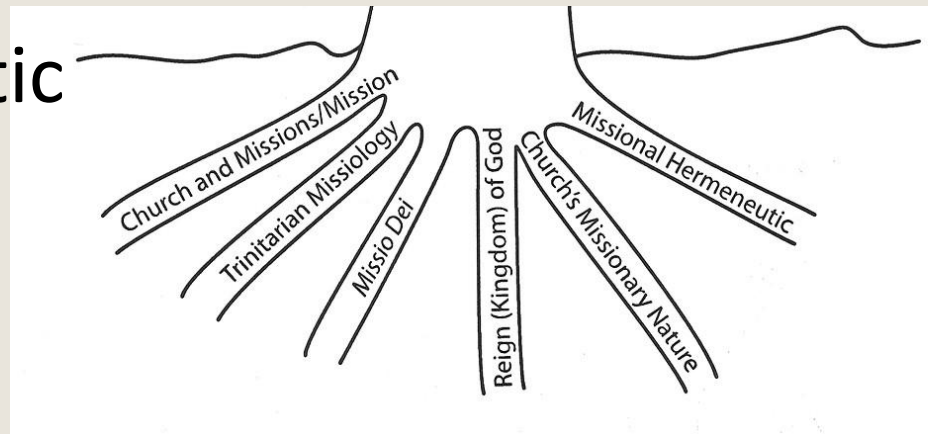
- God is a missionary God who sends the church into the world
- God's mission in the world is related to the reign (kingdom) of God
- The missional church is an incarnational (vs. attractional) ministry
- The internal life of the missional church focuses on every believer living as a disciple engaging in mission

Mapping the Conversation



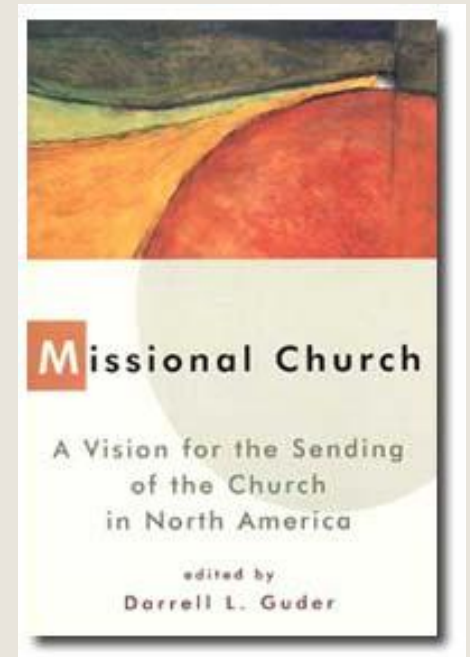
Concepts Influencing the Conversation

- Church and missions/mission
- Trinitarian missiology—God is a sending God
- Reign (Kingdom) of God
- *Missio Dei* (Mission of God)
- Church's missionary nature
- Missional hermeneutic



Revisiting *Missional Church*

- **Underdeveloped concepts, unresolved theological issues**
 - Trinitarian missiology (western logic)
 - Relationship of *missio Dei* and Reign of God
 - Church and culture/world
 - Anabaptist and Reformed strains
 - Worship, sacraments, ordination
 - Historical ecclesiologies



Missio Dei and Reign of God

- **Specialized views**
 - Church embodies reign of God
 - Church witnesses to reign of God
- **Generalized secular views**
 - God's mission unfolds through secular history
 - God's mission unfolds in the midst of secular history
- **Integrated view**
 - Church participates in God's continuing creation and redemptive mission

Mapping the Literature

- **Discovering**
 - Missions/Great Commission
- **Utilizing**
 - Kingdom as extension of church; participating in God's mission; church as contrast community
- **Engaging**
 - Congregational practices; transforming systems
- **Extending**
 - Addressing key issues; missional hermeneutic; deepen understanding



Expanding and Enriching Theological Frameworks

- **Social *and* sending Trinity**
 - Mission in image of Trinity as participation in God's communal, creative, reconciling movement in world
 - Reciprocity, mutuality



Expanding and Enriching Theological Frameworks, cont.

- **From imitation to participation**
- **Creation, incarnation, passion**
(cruciform mission)
- **Spirit**
- **Relational anthropology**



Missional Engagement with Culture in Globalized World

- **21st century cultural complexity**
 - Hybridity
 - Globalization
 - ‘Neighborhoods’ in a networked world
 - Reversals of global mission
- **Creation and culture**
- **Hospitality of world**
- **Missional church in public**



Missional Practices of Church Life and Leadership

- Missional imagination
- Missional discipleship practices
- Participatory missional leadership
- Rethinking church organization
- Missional church planting



Discussion