



The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church

By Alan Hirsch

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Alan Hirsch is convinced that the inherited formulas for growing the Body of Christ do not work anymore. And rather than relying on slightly revised solutions from the past, he sees a vision of the future growth of the church coming about by harnessing the power of the early church--a movement which grew from as few as 25,000 adherents in AD 100 to up to 20 million 200 years later. Similar meteoric growth has also been recorded in history and is currently being in many apostolic movements throughout the world today. How do they do it?

The Forgotten Ways proposes the concept of Apostolic Genius as a way to understand what caused the church to experience exponential growth and impact at various times in history, interpreting it for use in our own time and place. From the theological underpinnings to the practical application, Hirsch takes the reader through this dynamic mixture of passion, prayer, and incarnational practice to rediscover the dormant potential of the modern church in the West.

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Editorial Review

Review

"Alan Hirsch has been a major influence in the way I think about the mission of the church and more importantly, the way I live church. The Forgotten Ways must be remembered, must be read, must be integrated into your life, leadership, and local church context." –Greg Nettle, president, Stadia "An amazing work of analysis, synthesis, and application. Hirsch provides a timely, well-informed overview of the range of current thinking and writing on movemental Christianity and draws rich insights that, if ignited by the Holy Spirit, can revolutionize many churches today." –Howard A. Snyder, author of *The Problem of Wineskins*; visiting director, Manchester Wesley Research Centre "Only a handful of books have set the stage for God to have a conversation with the whole church about his mission. The Forgotten Ways is one of those books, now available with critical updates. Hirsch has placed before the church a timeless conversation about the future, the mission, the people, and the practices of a God-breathed movement." –Hugh Halter, author, church planter, and director of Forge America "In this fresh, reworked edition of *The Forgotten Ways*, Hirsch continues to engage, challenge, and inspire us as we explore what it means to fully be God's church in an ever-changing cultural landscape. Hirsch holds tightly to the deep truth that in order to move forward we must renew our commitment to journey down an ancient path—the rugged, narrow way found in the life of Jesus Christ. This book is a must-read." –Jo Saxton, chair of the board, 3dmovements; church planter, author, and speaker "The Forgotten Ways has been a road map for missional movements. The map is now updated with even more insight and ten more years of learning." –Neil Cole, Movement Catalyst; author of *Organic Church*, *Church 3.0*, and *Primal Fire* "I referred to the first edition of this book as a 'full-blooded and comprehensive call for the complete orientation of the church around mission,' and that is no less true for this updated version. With the benefit of ten years of experience in teaching these concepts around the world, Hirsch has freshened his groundbreaking work for a new generation of readers. The Forgotten Ways is as relevant and as powerful as ever." –Michael Frost, author of *Road to Missional* and *Surprise the World* "I heartily recommend *The Forgotten Ways* to church planters and ministry leaders around the world. This significant text's fresh recovery of and call to a dynamic missional movement paradigm has shaped my thinking and practice." –Mark Reynolds, vice president of leadership programs, Redeemer City to City "The Forgotten Ways was a catalytic force of God in my own life, and it remains on my must-read list for anyone interested in the church and mission. In the new edition, Hirsch ignites our imaginations with deep hope and raw honesty and convinces us that the church's finest hour is ahead of us. Prophet, priest, teacher, and

leader, Hirsch is an essential voice to our generation." –Danielle Strickland, speaker, author, and Salvation Army officer "Hirsch's prophetic voice and unique passion beckons the church to rediscover the ancient path and follow where it leads. The Forgotten Ways is a navigational chart for pastors and churches willing to brave a journey of faith, courage, and sacrifice beyond the safety of comfortable shores for the sake of the gospel." –Mark DeYmaz, directional leader, Mosaic Church of Central Arkansas; author of Building a Healthy Multi-Ethnic Church "In this rebel camp we call the church planting community, The Forgotten Ways has long been one of the great fires around which we have gathered to dream. Now, with fresh and important fuel for a radical rethinking of church, this fire is spreading a new hope for apostolic movement within every part of the church." –Graham Singh, executive director, Church Planting Canada; pastor, St. James Montréal "Reading The Forgotten Ways when it was first published revolutionized the way I understood God's mission, the essence of the church, and my participation in both. I didn't think it was possible, but with this second edition, Hirsch provides even greater clarity and challenge. If you are serious about the future of the church, then read every page and allow it to activate a movement within you and throughout the life of the church." –Brad Brisco, coauthor of Missional Essentials and Next Door as It Is in Heaven "Hirsch revisits The Forgotten Ways like a jackhammer revisits concrete. This book shatters our narrow vistas, revealing the broad panorama of Jesus's mission. It assails imagination and redefines an apostolic approach to a culture evermore scornful of current Christian ministry and thought." –Ralph Moore, author of Starting a New Church and Making Disciples "Hirsch has gone on a quest with this latest work. There is nothing more important than seeking to rediscover our identity and purpose as established by the Lord of the church; it truly is a journey, but one that is essential and well worth it." –Tammy Dunahoo, Foursquare Church "Many people have been helped by The Forgotten Ways. For those of us in the institutional churches, the book has been bracing and challenging with parts we disagree with, but also many lessons to learn. Hirsch's book is a call to reimagine the church, and this call applies as much to the new types of church increasingly emerging in the global North as to the older ones. The church, even new versions, needs to be constantly re-formed. Hirsch offers a comprehensive and illuminating guide for the task." –Michael Moynagh, author of Church for Every Context; Wycliffe Hall, Oxford "In this second edition, Hirsch does what he does best: he helps us remember our past so that we can reimagine our future. It's time for the church to become a movement again. Read the book and become part of this emerging future; too much is at stake to settle for anything less." –Dave Rhodes, pastor of discipleship and movement initiatives, Grace Fellowship Church; lead team director, 100 Movements "Alan puts forth his ideas for a new generation longing to rediscover the church's missional nature and reactivate anew its forgotten ways. When I read Alan's words, I want to drop what I'm doing and focus my attention again on God's mission. After reading this book, I imagine you will as well." –Ed Stetzer (from the foreword) "I am

thankful for how Alan . . . calls us back to what is true of God's people and prophetically catalyzes us toward a vision for what life looks like when we remember who we are. . . . May our memories be jogged, as our hearts are stirred, to live in the forgotten ways of our Savior, Lord, and King, Jesus Christ!" —Jeff Vanderstelt (from the afterword) "It is refreshing to read a book related to the missional church that provides theological depth coupled with creative thinking. Hirsch reestablishes the essential links between Christology, missiology, and ecclesiology. The Forgotten Ways helps to rescue the concept of church from the clutches of Christendom, setting it free to become a dynamic movement in place of a dying institution." —Eddie Gibbs, coauthor of *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures* and author of *LeadershipNext* "A fascinating and unique examination of two of the greatest apostolic movements in history and their potential impact on the Western church. Hirsch identifies and describes the primal energies of apostolic movements and describes the components that make for catalytic, spontaneous expansion. The book may well become a primary reference book for the emerging missional church." —Bill Easum, Easum, Bandy & Associates "It is AD 30 all over again. While many church leaders are trying desperately to retrofit institutional expressions of Christianity in hopes of achieving better results, Hirsch helps us understand the necessity for us to reengage the movement in its primal missional form. This volume identifies a missional, not a methodological, fix if we want to experience first-century Christianity." —Reggie McNeal, author of *The Present Future: Six Tough Questions for the Church* "This book clearly demonstrates Alan's original and creative thinking. There are few books that one can describe as markers in the field of mission—this is one such book. It is essential reading for all those who are grappling with the key issue of what the church can and must become." —Martin Robinson, author of *Planting Mission-Shaped Churches Today*

From the Back Cover

"Hirsch has discovered the formula that unlocks the secrets of the ecclesial universe like Einstein's simple . . . formula ($E=mc^2$) unlocked the secrets of the physical universe. There are some books good enough to read to the end. There are only a few books good enough to read to the end of time. *The Forgotten Ways* is one of them."

--**Leonard Sweet** (from the foreword)

"With *The Forgotten Ways*, Alan Hirsch has brought us closer to the reality of seeing a true apostolic church-planting movement in the West. This is a seminal work that will change our thinking, our vocabulary, and hopefully our way of being the church in this new century. I have already read the book twice and will probably devour it again."

--**Neil Cole**, author of *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens and Cultivating a Life for God*

"A full-blooded and comprehensive call for the complete reorientation of the church around mission. Nothing less than the rediscovery of a revolutionary missional ecclesiology will do for Alan Hirsch. A master work."

--**Michael Frost**, coauthor of *The Shaping of Things to Come* and author of *Exiles*

"A fascinating and unique examination of two of the greatest apostolic movements in history (the early church and China) and their potential impact on the Western church at the dawn of the twenty-first century. The book may well become a primary reference book for the emerging missional church."

--**Bill Easum**, Easum, Bandy & Associates (easumbandy.com)

"It is refreshing to read a book relating to the missional church that provides theological depth coupled with creative thinking. *The Forgotten Ways* helps to rescue the concept of church from the clutches of Christendom, setting it free to become a dynamic movement in place of a dying institution."

--**Eddie Gibbs**, coauthor of *Emerging Churches: Creating Christian Community in Postmodern Cultures* and author of *LeadershipNext: Changing Leaders in a Changing Culture*

About the Author

Alan Hirsch is the founding director of Forge Mission Training Network. His experience includes mission and church planting to the marginalized as well as leading at the denominational level. He has written nine books, many of these are considered to be seminal works in the area of missional church and spirituality.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Dawn Spigner:

Information is provisions for folks to get better life, information nowadays can get by anyone on everywhere. The information can be a understanding or any news even an issue. What people must be consider whenever those information which is in the former life are challenging to be find than now's taking seriously which one is appropriate to believe or which one the actual resource are convinced. If you receive the unstable resource then you have it as your main information it will have huge disadvantage for you. All of those possibilities will not happen in you if you take *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church* as your daily resource information.

Sherrill Height:

Often the book *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church* has a lot of knowledge on it. So when you make sure to read this book you can get a lot of benefit. The book was published by the very famous author. The writer makes some research previous to write this book. This book very easy to read you may get the point easily after scanning this book.

Jerry Gunnell:

The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church can be one of your basic books that are good idea. We all recommend that straight away because this publication has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in terminology, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort to set every word into delight arrangement in writing *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church* although doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource information that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information may drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial contemplating.

Gregory Kile:

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