

John Finney, *Emerging Evangelism* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2004)

Reviewed by Darren Cronshaw

Finney expands on the themes of *Mission-Shaped Church* and the need for new ways of expressing church and its witness. Emerging evangelism pays attention to new methods of conveying the gospel, and Finney evaluates the effectiveness, and shortcomings, of nurture courses like Emmaus and Alpha (and the more postmodern Essence). But emerging evangelism is also careful with the content of the message that is conveyed and the shape of the church which expresses it, and Finney argues the Church and its gospel need to be broader and deeper. God as Trinity, creator, mystery and host are worth reflecting on for evangelism as much as God as forgiver of sins. He investigates things that keeps people away (like a reliance on Sunday mornings) and what will bring in new people (good old-fashioned pastoral care and the mystery of liturgical worship is sometimes as effective as tinkering with worship services.) Finney sees hope in new forms of church, and suggests opening the door on monastic communities in their many forms as a paradigm for the future.

Darren Cronshaw coordinates leadership and mission training for Baptist Union of Victoria and Forge Mission Training Network. *Emerging Evangelism* was originally reviewed in Cronshaw, 'The Emerging Church: Introductory Reading Guide', *Zadok Paper*, S143, Summer 2005 and then in "Exploring faith Explaining rebirth ... Re-birthing Evangelism", *Witness: The Voice of Victorian Baptists*, No.3 (April), p.21. Darren welcomes feedback to darren.cronshaw@buv.com.au