Sentness: Six Postures of Missional Christians

By Darren Cronshaw and Kim Hammond

Reviewed by Bill Brown

This book is a really good read. It is enticing, disturbing, practical, stretching and encouraging. Darren and Kim are two practitioners who are having a go as they seek to fulfil a call to 'sentness'. They are honest and brave enough to reflect on it, the successes and the failures.

You can't read this without being propelled into reflecting on one's own life, ministry and church experience. It is filled with stories of ordinary people who live their lives as representatives of Jesus i.e. as apostles or 'sent ones'.

The authors challenge the reader to consider their life a blank sheet of paper that they sign at the bottom. In so doing, the reader is basically agreeing with the posture of Mary, the mother of Jesus, when she said, 'I am the Lord's servant. May it be to me as you have said!' Their hope is that every follower of Jesus will be a missionary in their own context. In fact, they make a great case that you can't be a follower of Jesus if you are not on mission or 'sentness'. They call for the people of God, not so much to go to church, but rather to be the church!

One very stimulating section is about providing a safe place for evangelism where...

- curious questions invite another person to consider important aspects of life and meaning. (The authors provide a very helpful list of possible questions)
- stories are shared and heard
- centred-set communities provide a sense of belonging and a safe place for friends to explore faith in Jesus.

This approach is further expanded by Jesus' concept of 'diatrito'-the rubbing of one life on another, which is at the core of what it means to be a disciple of a missionary God.

It is inspiring also to read of way the authors describe their experiences of community and the need for leaders to allow others to carry them. I commend 'SENTNESS' to you and thank Darren and Kim for inviting us into the adventure of 'sentness'.