Michael Frost is one of Australia's most influential evangelists and mission-shaping characters. Together with Alan Hirsch he co-founded Forge and co-authored the seminal Shaping of Things to Come. He has also written Exiles and other books on theology of race, film, culture and everyday spirituality. He pioneered the mission experiment amongst young people that has been active for more than a decade. He teaches as Vice-Principal of Melbourne College and travels internationally to share missional action, life and is well placed to comment in the essence of what it means to be missional.

The book goes to answer some critical missional questions and local church issues. Frosting new paradigms for evangelism beyond the usual spiritual laws, empowering people for mission rather than just offering church members what they want, embracing the humiliation of the cross in Christ living, and moving into a neighbourhood and breathing dirname a broken world.

A key framework for Frost is drawing on NT Wright’s, in the Kingdom of God and its reconciliation, justice and beauty. Just like movie theatre gives an audience a boat of a film’s special effects and focused on most romantic scenes. Frost describes the church as a lightly loaded, a bit lighter for the journey and role of God. Heaven has come to earth, and this church’s role is to distill out and point to evidence of the kingdom. Pointing to and forming the kingdom of God is the role of the church – a missional church - at its best.

Frost’s vision of more, smaller, multicultural, intergenerational, hospitable, nomadic, marginal churches will be attractive to many. He utilises the internal orientation and judgmentalism of mission tradition and challenges readers to be life-givers and fully engaged with their world and culture. He examines any preoccupation with different styles and flavours of church, when the more important issue is dreaming about how the church can change its neighbourhood and the world. The book is worth it for the pages of practical suggestions on evaluating how missional a local church actually is (61-42) and planning to map and engage local neighborhood church (133-140). If someone wants to know ‘what is a missional church really about?’ this is a readable and inspiring introduction. For readers already conversant with the conversations or churches already recalibrating around mission, this is a timely resource to evaluate how missional things are shaping now.

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