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Introduction

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Introduction

Gary McIntosh

The concept of "missional" church has captured a large following among church leaders in the United States. However, the concept is also making an impact around the world. Two articles in this issue of the JASCG address these emerging communities of faith. Bob Whitesel's opening article on "Organic Change: 12 Emerging Communities of Missional Theologians" was presented at the November 2006 meeting of the American Society for Church Growth in Kansas City, Missouri. It presents the results of the writer's study of twelve Christian congregations led, staffed, and populated by adults between the ages of 22 and 35 years old. While Whitesel's article is particularly based on a North American perspective, our second article, "The Shaping of Things Now: Questions of Emerging Churches," by Darren Cronshaw, offers a perspective on emerging congregations from Australia.

"Dominion! Kingdom Action Can Change the World" presents C. Peter Wagner's perspectives on a theology that supports social transformation. Wagner discusses some new perspectives on bringing balance to the evangelistic mandate and the cultural mandate.

While great emphasis has been placed on helping "seekers" navigate church in recent years, very little has been written about making a church more inviting to experienced believers. Stephen Vantassel's article, "Beyond Seeker Friendly," seeks to address this issue.

Our final article, by J.D. Payne, details research on the "Means of Evangelistic Growth: The First 300 Years." By examining the various means by which the gospel spread during the first three hundred years of the Church's existence, Payne shares a fascinating, encouraging, and challenging perspective on

Journal of the American Society for Church Growth, Winter 2007

evangelism in the church today.

The fifth installment of Donald McGavran's lecture at Manhattan Christian College in 1981 titled, "Five Kinds of Leaders" is presented in this issue, along with two book reviews.

Please note that the book review by Greg Gilbert in Volume 17, Fall 2006, was missing the following citation: "This article was originally published with 9Marks, a ministry to pastors and local churches. <www.9Marks.org>." This citation was accidentally left off the article.

—Editor