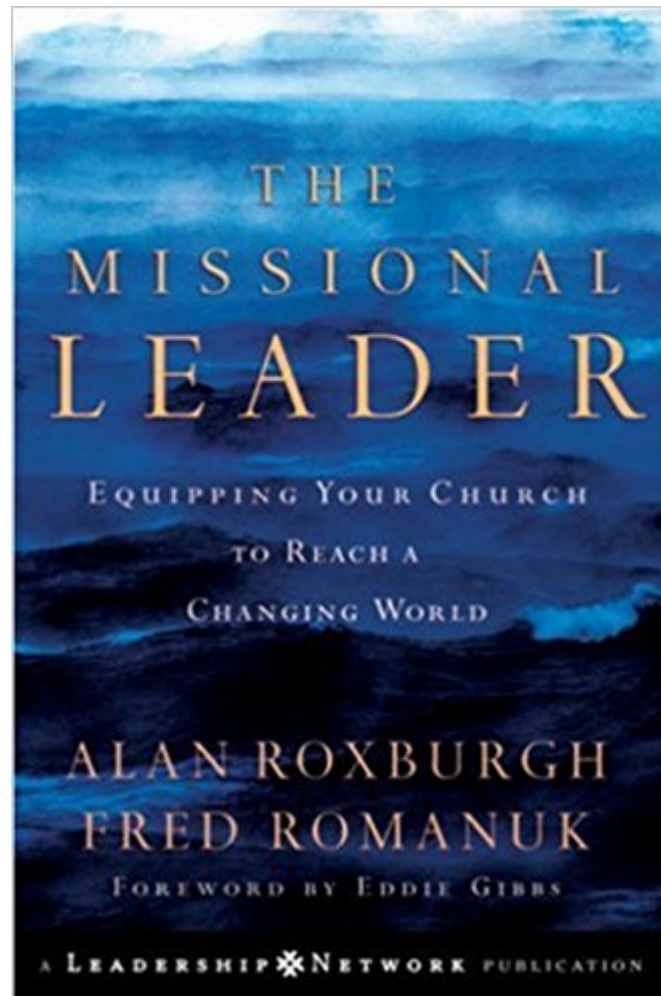




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# **The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church To Reach A Changing World**



## Synopsis

In *The Missional Leader*, consultants Alan Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk give church and denominational leaders, pastors, and clergy a clear model for leading the change necessary to create and foster a missional church focused outward to spread the message of the Gospel into the surrounding community. *The Missional Leader* emphasizes principles rather than institutional forms, shows readers how to move away from “church as usual,” and demonstrates what capacities, environments, and mindsets are required to lead a missional church.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"The Missional Leader paints a realistic picture ... of what life could look like among churches willing to enter the chaos [of the world] and make lasting change little by little." (Christianity Today, Fall 2006)

"Alan J. Roxburgh and Fred Romanuk are two of the few people in the world today who understand how we can create an environment for the missional transformation of the church for the postmodern world. Every church leader should read this book!" •Rev. Dr. Clark D. Cowden, evangelist presbyter, Presbytery of San Joaquin, Presbyterian Church "Discontinuous change wreaks havoc among congregations and pastors who aren't familiar with the new terrain. When it comes to navigating this new land, Roxburgh and Romanuk have my ear and gratitude. Effective, dependable, useful . . . their wisdom is helping retool our congregation

for daring and robust witness. And among my students who feel change deep in their bones, both its threats and opportunities this book is a vital companion as they begin their ministries." Chris William Erdman, senior pastor, University Presbyterian Church; adjunct faculty, MB Biblical Seminary

This book offers a much needed "third way" perspective on the often felt tension between "organic church leadership" and the top-down corporate management style now found in many churches. The authors contend that, as a result of societal and demographic changes, churches evolve in three distinct stages, and that each stage makes unique demands on leadership. These changes, stages, and unique demands are clearly presented, explained, and illustrated. Strategies for intentional transitions and leadership development are also clearly outlined. I particularly appreciated the theological underpinnings of the emerging stage emphasis on energy, vision and commitment for community engagement arising from the membership (below) as opposed to projected down from the leadership (above): The Spirit permeates the entire body, and not just the few at the top. But helping the members of the congregation find their passion and voice is a task given to leadership, and the book clearly outlines the steps by which such empowerment can happen. If anything could be improved in this book it would be the figures and graphics used to summarize various ideas. They seemed simplistic, and some even confusing. But other than that, well done! Many people will be blessed when church leaders review their options after reading this book. And God will smile!

I found this book very helpful to me as I develop new leadership skills to lead my faith community forward in its context. I lead a small rural, but on the edge of a growing area, faith community of the Methodist tradition. We are expecting that those moving in will not look like us, and many will never have had a Christian life. Thus, our own backyard will be a mission field. The authors provided guidance in developing a culture of mission and missional leadership for us to move forward.

I have been a "fan" of Alan Roxburgh since 2004 when I read his book *Crossing the Bridge* where he describes the journey the church is on as crossing a bridge and not knowing where it leads. In *Missional Leader* he continues the theme, but now adds some "how to" material. If you are looking for a "cookbook" on how to do leadership look elsewhere. This is not what you will find. If you want a book that will challenge some of your deepest held beliefs about what it means to lead a church, then you have found the right book. Roxburgh and Romanuk point you in the direction to look, back

to the Bible to find our story once again in God's story. Once I began reading I had to finish and even now it is shaping my thinking about leading my congregation into the future. What that looks like, I wish I knew, but in an old phrase, "I don't know what the future holds, but I know who holds the future."

This book is so needed right now. A new paradigm for church leadership is finally here. For too long we've accepted business or medical model for church leadership all the while never asking if it us God's intention for the church. This book takes the leader into that question and provides an answer that is surprising and challenging. Any Christian leader would benefit from reading this book. Be warned it is not a "how to" manual. It is a paradigm shifting book that will make you reconsider what it means to be a leader. Well worth your time.

Roxburgh does it again, but this time gives the steps necessary to make your church "pitch its tent in the neighborhood". I will recommend this to my Missional Church leadership Team! - Pastor Mike Hoffman, Converge Community in Christ

The Missional Leader provides some very important insights and guidance for church leaders attempting to navigate the challenges of this age. The wisdom about discontinuous change and the adaptive challenges it brings is critical for leaders to understand and embrace. Insights about changing congregational culture are fresh and well grounded theologically and in human behavior. Unfortunately, the book lacks adequate editing. Stories are repeated in the same chapter, some paragraphs read like a first draft rather than the refined prose that such an important work deserves. I hope any future editions of this book will undergo some additional editing.

Decent content, but most of it is common sense. The content is especially useful for those who want to do missional work (local or abroad) but grew up in a largely homogenous area.

Wise and basic information all pastors and Christian leaders must consider

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