



Book Review by Dan Benson *Movements That Change the World* by Steve Addison

In *Movements That Change the World*, Steve Addison examines several great Christian movements throughout history -- the 1st century church, Patrick of Ireland, the Moravians, John Wesley's Methodists, the Baptists, Pentecostalism and today's Third World expansion of the Kingdom. He concludes that there are five elements that characterize these movements in their growth, and when these movements lost focus on these elements, they tended to falter. "Whenever and wherever we find dynamic missionary movements, we will find each of these characteristics in some form," Addison writes. These characteristics are:

- **White-hot faith.** "Missionary movements begin with men and women who encounter the living God and surrender in loving obedience to his call. ... It is the fuel that missionary movements run on."
- **Commitment to a cause.** "(Patrick and his followers) attracted the youth of Ireland who gladly devoted their lives to the spread of the Gospel." People want something bigger than themselves to live for. They want mission. We in the church so often fail to give it to them, making no greater demand, really, than that they be nice.
- **Contagious relationships.** "When movements spread rapidly, they do so through preexisting networks of relationships. ... Like a virus, the gospel travels along these lines of preexisting contagious relationships." We see this with the Philippian jailer, Cornelius, the woman at the well and others, including the 12 disciples themselves, who led their "households," friends, and acquaintances to the Lord.
- **Rapid mobilization.** "None (of what Patrick accomplished) was centrally planned, funded or controlled. There was the expectation that the same Spirit who had inspired Patrick would inspire others to follow his example."

- **Adaptive methods.** "The heart of the gospel remained the same. The forms (these movements utilized) changed to fit the context and to serve the needs of an expanding movement." Christians should constantly be evaluating the way we do things and asking whether what we do is accomplishing the mission God has set out for us, Addison writes.

One of the major points Addison makes is that change comes from individuals, not organizations. And often those individuals are at the fringes and even sometimes opposed by those in charge. "In the renewal and expansion of the church, the breakthroughs always occur on the fringe of ecclesiastical [church] power -- never at the center," he writes. "Church history is not made by well-financed, well-resourced individuals and institutions. History is made by men and women of faith who met with the living God."

I found *Movements That Change the World* to be a fascinating study of church history and a thought-provoking challenge for me personally and for us at Friedens to be a "movement" for the advancement of the gospel.

Addison is the Australian director of Church Resource Ministries and the author of several books. You can learn more about him and his work at www.movements.net. *Movements That Change the World* is available in the Friedens church library and can be purchased through the online store at www.friedenschurch.org.

Ozaukee Christian School Update

By Doris Schlenvotg

The community is invited to hear Pastor Mel Lawrenz, senior pastor at Elmbrook for ten years, share about "Nine Patterns of Godly Families." He has authored over ten books and hosts "Faith Conversations," a radio interview program. The event is on Friday, April 29, at 6 pm at OCS. This is a free event. A light supper will be provided. A free-will offering will be received for the supper.

April 13th and 14th are visit days. We invite potential new students to join us for a "shadow" morning. Students today...world-changers tomorrow. We're so convinced that there are many boys and girls in our communities who need what God has to offer them at OCS, that we are offering a \$1,000 EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT for all new students. Must enroll by May 1st!