



Sentness: Six Postures of Missional Christians

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Kim Hammond serves as the international director for Forge Missions Training Network. A church planter in Australia, he moved to the US in 2009 to launch and lead the work of Forge in America. He is also the director of missional imagination for Community Christian Church in Chicago.

Darren Cronshaw trains leaders through the Baptist Union of Victoria, a network of churches and congregations in Victoria, Australia, and is the pastor of AuburnLife Baptist Church. He also serves as a research associate at Whitley College (Melbourne College of Divinity).

Prepare to Get Sent

While there's no shortage of chatter about "being missional" these days, believers still need coaching from experienced practitioners about how to proceed. In *Sentness*, two Christians who were missional long before it was a buzzword have come together to provide a kind of missional map. Kim Hammond, who serves as the international director of the Forge Missions Training Network, and Darren Cronshaw, an experienced pastor and professor of missiology, bring years of experience and study to the critical question of how Christians can embrace their "sentness," getting out of the pew and joining God at work in the world.

"A big issue facing the church today is that we have bought deeply into consumer church. A great opportunity is to shift from selling to sending: to adopt the posture of sentness," Cronshaw explains. "This is a shift that is happening subversively at all sorts of exciting grassroots levels in the imagination of God's people. It is a grassroots revolution among the church, not primarily about how we *do* church but how we *be* church."

In the introduction to *Sentness*, the authors describe their respective spiritual journeys and reveal their shared passion for the mission of local churches and every believer. Next, Hammond and Cronshaw document how the spirit of consumerism can infiltrate and undermine the church while also celebrating how some churches and disciples are moving beyond consumerism toward fruitfulness. The remaining chapters unpack each of the six missional postures of "sentness":

1. Sent People – understanding that God has a mission, that mission has a church and that everyone in the church is SENT, not just to the other side of the world but into their own neighborhoods
2. Submerged Ministry – following Jesus and moving among places and people; befriending and loving those in the local community
3. Shalom Spirituality – seeking restoration for individuals, communities and all things; enjoying spirituality that embraces everyday life and active mission
4. Safe Places – for people from diverse backgrounds to find faith and community
5. Sharing Life – forming teams around a common vision and strength of relationships, knowing that community is necessary to living on mission
6. Standing in the Gap – empowering pioneering leaders and missional experiments by believing in, supporting and doing whatever it takes to help them succeed and be fruitful

The conclusion encourages readers to dream about what their sentness might look like and write their own dangerous stories. Whether a believer's mission is across the street or around the world, *Sentness* offers paradigms and skills for moving beyond consumer Christianity and cooperating with God as sent people.

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