

DETAILS



Reviving Mission *Awakening to the Everyday Movement of God*

December 17, 2024 | \$20, 240 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0962-8

"Is God doing a new thing? Linson Daniel, Jon Hietbrink, and Eric Rafferty dare to say that he is! And they are correct. In Reviving Mission, they invite the reader into a renewed wonder and enchantment of a God who is moving toward creation and inviting it into the intimate love of God. This book made me want to be a missionary again. Not somewhere else. But right here."

—A.J. Swoboda, author of *The Gift of Thorns*

A New Season of Renewal and Revival

"If you want to turn from cynicism to wonder, read this book! Linson Daniel, Jon Hietbrink, and Eric Rafferty testify to how God is at work in our world through those who seek him. Understanding the 4E framework illustrated in Reviving Mission transfers mission from professionals to everyday Christ-followers. This is a kairos moment: as we look toward God's future, anticipating it in the present, we can participate with the God of history in creating a future filled with unshakable joy!"

—JR Woodward, national director of the V3 Movement, author of *Creating a Missional Culture* and *The Scandal of Leadership*, and coauthor with Dan White Jr. of *The Church as Movement*

God's mission is for everyone, every day.

In the midst of societal disruption and disillusionment, we're seeing signs of a new season of God bringing people into renewal and revival. Jesus is the Sent One who invites us to become like him and live as sent people. God is leading us into a new normal where all of us—not just the professionals—can encounter him and experience his work.

Apostolic mission leaders Linson Daniel, Jon Hietbrink, and Eric Rafferty reveal God's invitation into everyday mission in the way of Jesus. Though Christians may be discouraged by various challenges, this season holds opportunities for experiencing God's movement in fresh ways among unlikely people.

Linson Daniel is associate pastor at METRO Church, located in both Farmers Branch and Frisco, Texas. He is a senior adviser to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship/USA and the South Asian American ministry adviser at Fuller Theological Seminary's Asian American Center. He is a coauthor of *Learning Our Names* and lives in Dallas with his wife and two children.

Jon Hietbrink is a vice president at InterVarsity, where he helps to cultivate missional movements on campuses across the country. He's one of the founders of the EveryCampus coalition, earned his MA in missional church movements from Wheaton College, and loves hiking in creation and traveling to new places. He lives in the Midwest with his wife, Stephanie, and their two Gen Z kids.

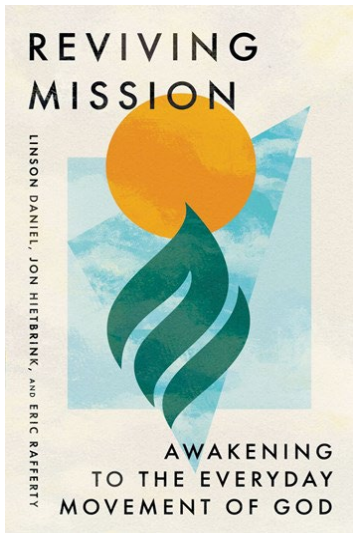
Eric Rafferty is the associate national director of chapter planting at InterVarsity, where he coaches, trains, and creates resources for students and campus ministers to start new ministries on college campuses across the United States and around the world. He earned his MA in missional church movements from Wheaton College, and he serves as the director of groups ministry at his local church, One Hope Benson. He lives in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, Stacy, and their three children.



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EXCERPT



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In Awe of a God Who Moves

God can move anywhere into any space. Clean, unclean, secular, sacred, professional, social, and everywhere in between. There is no place that is immune to the presence of God moving through his people. God transforms mundane places into holy places. Chariots, upper rooms, a tanner's home, and dining tables become sanctuaries as God moves into them.

This idea begins to untangle the cynicism being woven into various areas of our lives. Cynicism, like a dark winding rope, strangles our everyday circumstances of hope and goodwill. Amplified by the echo chambers of social media and news networks, it forms us into cynics among our coworkers, with our families, at our churches, and in our neighborhoods.

Sometimes we are caught unaware by the sinister belief that everyone is self-motivated, self-protective, and self-aggrandizing. We can start to believe that everything is a lie and pronounce judgment before we understand. This is not what God desires for us in these spaces and circumstances in life.

When God moves into our circumstances, and when God moves you and me into different spaces, wonder displaces cynicism. The contempt, apathy, selfishness, and cynicism in our world are not strong enough to keep God's movement at bay. Because of the Spirit of God that lives inside us, if God decides to move you and me into a geography, circumstance, or social space, that place will be different. The atmosphere and environment can change by the power of God within us. Consider how powerful and remarkable that is.

God has a plan to release his shalom, beauty, restoration, healing, and salvation in you, through you, all around you. Whether God is manifesting captivity and liberation for the Hebrews in Egypt, or causing thousands of Jewish migrants at Pentecost to witness the Spirit's movement, or prompting Peter to invite the salvation of pagan Roman immigrants in Caesarea, or stirring you and me to take action in our particular localities, God is moving, and we get to move with him! No place in your city is off-limits to the presence of God. There is no corner of your campus or city where God isn't moving. And in your life, there is no limit to where God wants to move in and take up residence!

Our God can move anywhere. Are we willing to move with him?

How do these theological and scriptural concepts help us awaken to the movement of God? We need everyday, simple practices to help us awaken to God's presence and discern his movement all around us.

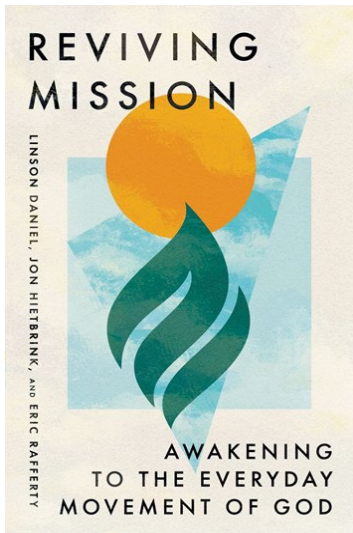
Like anything else, learning to discern the movement of God takes time and invites us into a balance. On the one hand, we should not let our anxiety and impatience rush us into action before we hear God's voice. On the other hand, we shouldn't become passive spectators, assuming God will do everything. God is moving, so we should be bold, but we must remember that it is God's initiative, not ours, so we should be humble. Bold humility is the mark of a person who has taken time to hone their discernment. We can embody that kind of bold humility through these concrete practices.



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Embrace a growth mindset. As we see God moving, we must be willing to move with him, even if we're not totally sure what he's doing. Obedience is key. Even if we fail. We are growing and improving. When you sense a nudge from the Holy Spirit, just try it out and keep honing your discernment of God's voice, even if it feels awkward. (We have to imagine that Philip felt more than a little awkward running next to an Ethiopian chariot, right?)

Thomas R. Kelly, in his book titled *A Testament of Devotion*, says it best: "Begin where you are. Obey now. Use what little obedience you are capable of, even if it be like a grain of mustard seed. Walk on the streets and chat with your friends. But every moment behind the scenes be in prayer, offering yourself in continuous obedience." Some of my friends call this "playing the hunch"—if you believe that God is moving around you, take a step of faith and embrace a growth mindset, because some things are better experienced than explained.

Practice prayer walking. One of the best ways to experience the God who moves is to move while we experience God. Too often we assume that prayer needs to happen in isolated, quiet spaces with our eyes closed and our hands folded neatly in our laps. However, if God is moving, we can move with him and pray as we walk through our neighborhoods, campuses, and cities.

As you walk and pray, pay attention to your surroundings and notice if the Spirit is prompting you to pray for someone or something. For example, you might walk past a neighbor's house and be reminded to pray for a particular need in their family. Or you might walk by an elementary school and the Spirit might ask you to pray for teachers, children, and their well-being. Overall, moving while you pray helps you notice that God is moving all around you.

Sometimes we can ask God for a "clue" as to somewhere he wants us to go or someone he wants us to engage. Some people call this "treasure hunt" prayer walking because we're actively looking for the "treasure" God has told us about.

Though this might be a new practice for some, consider the Spirit's instructions to Philip in Acts 8 that we looked at above. The Spirit does not say, "Go south to the desert road where I want you to baptize an Ethiopian eunuch" (though that would have been significantly more straightforward!). Rather, the Spirit says, "Go south to the road—the desert road" (Acts 8:26), and only after Philip obeys that first "clue" does the Spirit say, "Go to that chariot and stay near it" (Acts 8:29).

—Taken from chapter three, "Encounter: God Is Here"



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