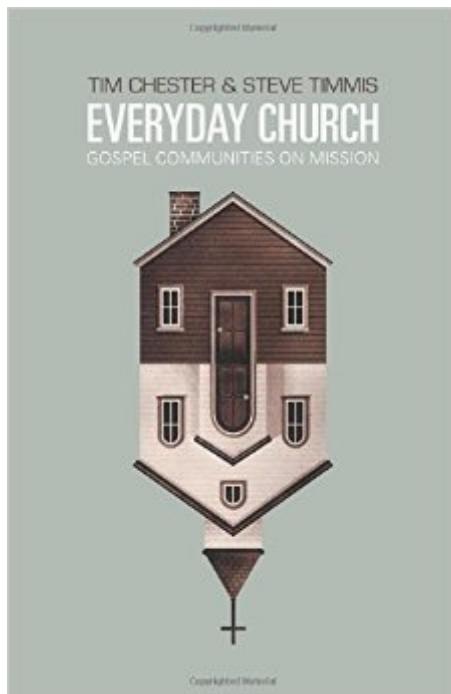


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# Everyday Church: Gospel Communities On Mission



## Synopsis

HOW DOES THE CHURCH REACH THE UNCHURCHED? We live in an increasingly post-Christian culture. More and more we find ourselves on the margins as less and less people have any intention of ever attending church. What used to work doesn't work anymore and we need to adapt. Helping us to see the way forward, this book offers practical ideas and personal stories for engaging with Western society. Find out how to effectively reach people in the context of everyday life and take hold of the opportunity to develop missional communities focused on Jesus.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

In short, this book is excellent, buy it and read it. Gospel Communities are defined as "a group of people with a shared life and a shared mission." It offers practical insight as it walks you through the book of 1 Peter. The insights are not theories as the authors actually live this out in their church community. It is also a call for Christians to live with everyday Gospel intentionality. Contents Include: Intro 1) Life at the Margins 2) Everyday Community 3) Everyday Pastoral Care 4) Everyday Mission 5) Everyday Evangelism 6) Hope at the Margins Conclusion: Next Steps The book isn't very long, is an easy read and well worth the time. I also highly recommend Total Church as well as A Meal With Jesus.

Recent years have seen an increase in books and blogs on what the church is and how we can

move from being primarily focused on just programs to focusing on what the Bible teaches about what a church should be. Continuing in this recent trend is seasoned Pastors Tim Chester and Steve Timmis wrote Total Church and now Everyday Church. Total Church argued that the Christian gospel and the Christian community should be central to every aspect of life and mission. Everyday Church builds on that foundation by calling for the Church to be an everyday church with an everyday mission. The focus of this book is a call to shift our focus from putting on events to creating attractional communities. This book calls Christians to rediscover the missional call of the people of God in order to recover witness to Christ muddled by nominal Christianity. The book does this by expositing the book of 1st Peter a book that calls Christians and the Church to be in the world but not of the world by being salt and light in the world. One of the things I appreciated the most about this book is the following statement: "We need to do church and mission in the context of everyday life. We can no longer think of church as a meeting on a Sunday morning. We must think of church as a community of people who share life, ordinary life. And we cannot think of mission as an event that takes place in an ecclesiastical building. Of course, there will continue to be a role for special events, but the bedrock of mission will be ordinary life. Mission must be done primarily in the context of everyday life. An everyday church with an everyday mission" (28). What I just quoted is a need perspective in the current conversation on the nature of the Church. The Church has been charged with a message that reaches the lost, mends the broken hearted and calls the hard-hearted out of rebellion and into the Kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. Christians are not to be "church-hoppers", or isolate themselves in a "Christian cliché" or even isolate themselves at home on Sunday or throughout the week, but rather to join in genuine heartfelt worship and fellowship with God and one another in community with the people of God. The point of "an everyday church with an everyday mission" is an important one because many think that everything is to be done by the elders, deacons and Pastors of local churches when in fact the average lay person preaches far more through how they work, and how they live to the lost in their work places everyday than church officers ever do. The fact that Christians have been charged with a mission from God and empowered by the Holy Spirit means they are to take seriously the message and adopt a lifestyle that conforms to the message they believe (the Gospel). It's not just a "Gospel life" that we are to live, but rather a life that is founded upon the Gospel that impacts the way we live. Everyday Church is a helpful book that builds upon the foundation of Total Church which helped me think through more of what a Church should be like. Everyday Church is equally an important book that needs to be considered by those thinking through what the Church is and how we can reach our culture for Christ. At the heart of this book as with at the heart of what

Christians are to proclaim is the Gospel. What we believe about the Gospel must affect how we live. Thankfully this is precisely where Everyday Church excels at balancing what we should believe with how we are to live which in and of itself is needed in contemporary Christian thinking. I recommend seminary students, Pastors and lay Christians read Everyday Church to gain insight into how the Gospel should ground our lives in Christ and also our witness to the world for the Gospel. Title: Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission (Re: Lit Books) Author: Tim Chester and Steve Timmis Publisher: Crossway (2012) Disclosure of Material Connection: I received this book free from the publisher through the Crossway book review bloggers program. I was not required to write a positive review. The opinions I have expressed are my own. I am disclosing this in accordance with the Federal Trade Commission's 16 CFR, Part 255 : "Guides Concerning the Use of Endorsements and Testimonials in Advertising."

Fair warning. I am a huge fan of just about everything that I read from Tim Chester. It's borderline "fan boy" status. Some people like Piper or Driscoll or Warren or other authors a lot. I like Chester a lot. What he writes about the gospel and about community resonates in my soul. So you should be not be surprised that I read his latest book, written with Steve Timmis, and loved it. Actually, I love Steve Timmis too. Their new book, Everyday Church: Gospel Communities on Mission, is really a continuation of the gospel-centered missional community that they wrote about in their phenomenally helpful book, Total Church. You might remember that Total Church was one of the four church planting resources that I thought every planter should own. The book is super gospely (is that a word?), super community oriented, and super missional. It chapters are as follows: Life at the Margins Everyday Community Everyday Pastoral Care Everyday Mission Everyday Evangelism Hope at the Margins What's so great about the book is that it tackles these subjects by way of expositorily working through 1 Peter. If you are interested in learning more about missional communities within the Reformed evangelical stream, this is a good introduction. Chester and Timmis are winsome, engaging, experienced, and mindful of how they can be used to help the churches that are outside of their specific tradition. Will you agree with everything they say? Well, do you agree with everything that anyone says? Probably not. But you will benefit from this book! Highly recommend!

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