

# Movements That Change the World: Five Keys to Spreading the Gospel

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## Patrick

### Page 22 · Location 211

They, the Irish monks, revitalized European culture and possibly saved civilization following the fall of the Roman Empire.

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There was a growing band of ordinary people that emerged who had a heartfelt faith and missionary zeal that knew no bounds. Despite opposition from powerful forces within society and the existing church, the gospel spread into unreached fields. The existing church is renewed, and society is transformed.

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From Patrick's story we can identify five key characteristics of movements that change the world.

## 1. White-hot faith.

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Movements that change the world may eventually come to possess resources, learning and power, but they do not begin with these things. Missionary movements begin with men and women who encounter the living God and surrender in loving obedience to his call.

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## 2. Commitment to a cause

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They expected a high degree of commitment from themselves and from one another.

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A movement emerges when people commit to a cause. People who change the world live in alignment with their deeply held beliefs. A movement ceases to exist when no one cares anymore.

## 3. Contagious relationships.

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His (Patrick's) strategy was to reach whole clans with the gospel.

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They removed unnecessary barriers to the spread of the gospel

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The Scriptures were supreme, yet the monks had a love for both classical literature and the pagan poets.

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When movements spread rapidly, they do so through preexisting networks of relationships. Networks of relationships are the means by which a movement expands. They also provide the building blocks that give a movement its strength.

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## 4. Rapid mobilization.

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Patrick grew leaders from the people he reached. His missionaries did the same.

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None of this was centrally planned, funded or controlled.

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Missionary movements spread through the efforts of ordinary people.

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## 5. Adaptive methods.

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Patrick structured the Celtic church for the spread of the gospel. The missionary order was at the head of church life.

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Celtic monasticism was supremely adaptable, flexible and transferable.

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The most effective movements are prepared to change everything about themselves except their core beliefs. Unencumbered by tradition, movements feel free to experiment with new forms and strategies. Movements pursue their mission with methods that are effective, flexible and reproducible, which outlast and even surpass the influence of the first generation of leaders.

# Introduction

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In a general sense, movements are informal groupings of people and organizations pursuing a common cause. They are people with an agenda for change. Movements don't have members, but they do have participants. The goals of a movement can be furthered by organizations, but organizations are not the totality of a movement. A movement can have leading figures, but no one person or group controls a movement. Movements are made up of people committed to a common cause.

## **Page 29 · Location 299**

Movements are characterized by discontent, vision and action. Discontent unfreezes people from their commitment to the way things are. Movements emerge when people feel something needs to change.

## **Page 29 · Location 301**

Movements change people, and changed people change the world.

## **Page 30 · Location 322**

The Church Jesus founded was a missionary church. Its existence and activities were an expression of its missionary calling.

## **Page 30 · Location 323**

All believers fearlessly determined to win others to faith in Jesus.

## **Page 31 · Location 334**

Our English words mission, missionary and missional come from the Latin *missio*, meaning "the act of sending." *Missio* is the equivalent of the New Testament Greek word *apostle* from *apostolos*, meaning "one who is sent."

## **Page 32 · Location 354**

There is no mission without the church,

## **Page 33 · Location 364**

Christianity is a movement of movements—monasticism, evangelicalism and Pentecostalism, to name a few.

## **Page 33 · Location 375**

The great church historian Kenneth Scott Latourette argued that one of the indications of the vitality of the Christian faith is the emergence of new movements. The periods of the greatest vigor and expansion of the Christian faith are the periods in which new movements arise.

## **Page 34 · Location 380**

In the renewal and expansion of the church, the breakthroughs always occur on the fringe of ecclesiastical power—never at the center.

## **1 White-Hot Faith**

**Page 37 · Location 429**

Church history is not made by well-financed, well-resourced individuals and institutions. History is made by men and women of faith who have met with the living God.

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The Moravians were the first Protestants to treat world missions as the responsibility of the whole Church.[ 2] Under Zinzendorf, the Moravians became an intense and highly mobile missionary movement.

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No movement can be sustained on crisis experiences alone. Spiritual disciplines prepare the way for, and support, life-changing experiences.