

*Spirituality for the Sent: Casting a New Vision for the Missional Church*

Available March 2017

\$30, x + 243 pages, paperback  
978-0-8308-5157-7

This collection of essays features contributions by

- Craig G. Bartholomew
- Susan Booth
- Mae Elise Cannon
- Diane Chandler
- Anthony L. Chute
- Michael W. Goheen
- George R. Hunsberger
- Christopher W. Morgan
- Soong-Chan Rah
- Timothy W. Sheridan
- Gordon T. Smith
- Gary Tyra

## Evangelical Scholars Cast a New Vision for the Missional Church

**How do you two bring your areas of expertise to bear on the topic of the missional church?**

**Nathan Finn and Keith Whitfield:** We have been friends for years and are both very interested in the intersection between spirituality and mission. Nathan comes at this question as a church historian who studies spirituality and is interested in the missional church, while Keith comes as a theologian who studies the missional church and cares deeply for spirituality.

***Spirituality for the Sent* is a collection of essays from a variety of scholars. What is the main theme running through their contributions?**

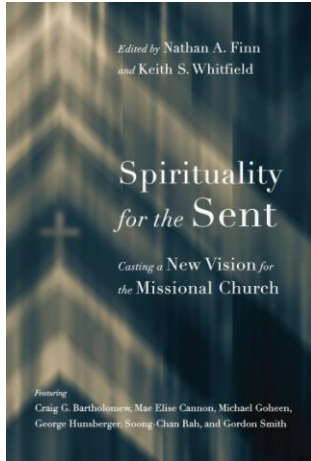
**Finn and Whitfield:** We believe the missional church conversation and the spiritual formation conversation have too often been in isolation from each other. We want those two conversations to give rise to a single conversation about the nature of missional spirituality. Each essay in this collection addresses some aspect of the intersection between mission and spirituality. No other book has focused on this topic from a more theoretical, academic perspective.

**What is distinct about your book as it relates to the missional conversation?**

**Finn and Whitfield:** First, it provides “space” for the missional conversation and spiritual formation conversation to intersect in intentional ways. Second, while there is certainly application to the wider body of Christ, this is a self-consciously evangelical work. Finally, we have tried to represent the theological and methodological diversity present within North American evangelicalism.

**Who is *Spirituality for the Sent* written for?**

**Finn and Whitfield:** We see our first audience as scholars and thoughtful ministry practitioners who are interested in the missional church, spiritual formation, or both. We see our secondary audience as seminary or divinity students who are taking courses in spiritual formation or missiology. We have tried to edit a book that bridges the gap between technical scholarship and popular works in these fields.



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## Church Historian and Theologian Explore the Intersection of Mission and Spirituality



**Nathan A. Finn** (PhD, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary) is dean of the School of Theology and Missions at Union University, where he also serves as professor of Christian thought and tradition.

Finn is the author of *History: A Student's Guide* and coauthor of *The Baptist Story: From English Sect to Global Movement*. He serves on the editorial board for the sixteen-volume *Complete Works of Andrew Fuller* and edited the volume dedicated to Fuller's *Strictures on Sandemanianism*. He also serves on the editorial board of the Monographs in Baptist History series, and is a general editor of the forthcoming fifteen-volume series *Theology for the People of God*.

Finn is a member of the steering committee for the Baptist Life and Thought Study Group of the Evangelical Theological Society and a member of the continuation committee for the International Conference on Baptist Studies. He also serves as a fellow for the Research Institute of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention, the Andrew Fuller Center for Baptist Studies at Southern Seminary, and the L. Russ Bush Center for Faith and Culture at Southeastern Seminary. He is also an adjunct associate professor of historical theology and Baptist studies at Southeastern Seminary. He and his wife, Leah, have four children.

Learn more about Finn at his website, [nathanfinn.com](http://nathanfinn.com).

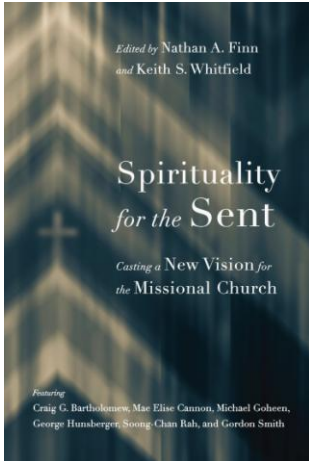
Follow Finn on Twitter: [@nathanafinn](https://twitter.com/nathanafinn).



**Keith S. Whitfield** serves as vice president of academic administration at Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary and assistant professor of Christian theology. He is the editor of *Trinitarian Theology* and *Loving Your Muslim Neighbors*, and serves as the editor of ETS eBook Series for B&H. He has also contributed two chapters to *Theology and Practice of Mission: God, The Church, and The Nations* and co-wrote a chapter for *Theology for the Church* and a chapter for *Missiology: An Introduction to Missions*.

Prior to joining the faculty at Southeastern, Whitfield served churches in Indiana, Virginia, and Tennessee, and served as an elder at *Imago Dei* Church in Raleigh, North Carolina. He and his wife, Amy, have two children.

Follow Whitfield on Twitter: [@kswhitfield](https://twitter.com/kswhitfield).



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*Spirituality for the Sent* brings together evangelical scholars from a variety of disciplines and ecclesial traditions to address the relationship between spiritual formation and a missional vision of theology and practice. The contributors share a common vision for a missional spirituality that fosters spiritual maturity while also fueling Christian evangelism, cultural engagement, and the pursuit of justice.

## Respected Scholars Investigate How Jesus' Messiahship Shaped the Gospels

"In *Spirituality for the Sent*, Nathan Finn and Keith Whitfield have presented us with a framework for a spiritually rich and missionally engaged church. By assembling this formidable group of scholars, they have woven together a fresh vision for the church that values spiritual formation, but not at the expense of the church's mission. Indeed, in their vision, spiritual formation is essential for missional effectiveness and sustainability. This book is generous enough in its scope to encourage contemplatives and activists alike."

—**Michael Frost**, author of *The Shaping of Things to Come*

"Finn and Whitfield's *Spirituality for the Sent* is a welcome broadening and deepening of the missional church discussion. It represents a generous concept of what constitutes evangelical scholarship, bringing a remarkable diversity of voices and approaches into productive interaction. The ongoing challenge of the missional-theological initiative worldwide has been its translation into the practice of the community and the formation of the individual Christian. This substantive volume is a resource that addresses that challenge and leads the conversation forward. It should foster much discussion, encourage ever more provocative research, and embolden more contributions to the conversation."

—**Darrell L. Guder**, Henry Winters Luce Professor Emeritus of Missional and Ecumenical Theology, Princeton Theological Seminary, senior fellow and scholar in residence, St. Andrew's Hall, University of British Columbia, Vancouver

"Within evangelicalism, two dispositions have coexisted without much crossover into each other's paths. Evangelical churches express their faith in active missional engagement, or they express their faith through cultivating personal spiritual lives. The truth is that both of these impulses are irreplaceable. Spiritual formation is key to missional living, and missional living is key to spiritual formation. Indeed, all of God's people are called to all of God's mission, but we cannot reach others to be fully devoted followers of Christ if we are not living under his lordship and for his glory. *Spirituality for the Sent* frames an important conversation on the interrelatedness of robust spiritual lives and the church fulfilling God's mission."

—**Ed Stetzer**, Billy Graham Professor of Church, Mission, and Evangelism, executive director of the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism, Wheaton College

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