DOING THE HARD THING

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In one of his first posts, Phil commented about some talks by Michael Frost (listen to them if you haven't already):

> *It's about some of the most challenging thoughts that I have listened to in a long time. Part of me wants to completely disagree with what he has to say, because being comfortable is far more appealing, but then what's the point of just staying comfortable?*

Whatever their problems, traditional churches are relatively comfortable, whereas missional communities look like being hard work. David Fitch (author of the wonderful The Great Giveaway: Reclaiming the Mission of the Church from Big Business, Parachurch Organizations, Psychotherapy, Consumer Capitalism) has just posted an excellent piece on how missional church life is difficult.

Among the telling points he makes is the following:

> *'**It is more difficult** to build a gathering that is a mission in the world, than it is to build a gathering that comes to see the show. It is more difficult to build a gathering into being the Body of Christ in the world than it is to build a crowd into a bigger crowd around a personality. Yes it is more difficult, but in the end so much more satisfying. And when you're gone this community will keep reproducing the love of Christ, the fruits of the Spirit and the leader(s) to carry on the transformation of the world until Christ returns.'*

It looks harder - especially when you are starting from the traditional church standpoint. But, I think it's the way we have to go.

By the way, Phil; not many people get their names linked with Frost, Hirsch and Fitch! Well done.