

## From Mounds To Megachurches

Choice Research Magazine 2010 From Mounds to Megachurches Encyclopedia of Religion in America Religion Index One Handbook of Megachurches The Routledge Handbook of Megachurches Megachurches and Social Engagement High on God Beyond Megachurch Myths From Megachurch to Multiplication Megachurches & America's Cities The Megachurch Book Rise of Megachurches Unraveling the Mega-Church Megachurches High on God Megachurches Today The Megachurch: How to Make Your Church Grow -2nd Edition Redaktion Osnabrück David S. Williams Charles H. Lippy Stephen J. Hunt Afe Adogame Mark J. Cartledge James Wellman Jr. Scott Thumma Chris Galanos John N. Vaughan LaDonna Carter Alan Greenblatt Wilmer MacNair Sam Hey James K. Wellman Scott Thumma D. A. G. Heward-mills

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in from mounds to megachurches david s williams offers a sweeping overview of the role religion has played in georgia s history from precolonial days to the modern era williams shows that colonial georgia was a remarkably diverse place populated by mainline colonial congregations that included anglicans roman catholics german and spanish speaking jews salzburg lutherans and scottish presbyterians it wasn t until much later that evangelicalism triumphed and baptists became the overwhelmingly dominant denomination williams uses the stories of such important figures as tomochichi john wesley jesse mercer henry mcneal turner lillian smith martin luther king jr and clarence jordan to portray larger historical narratives and denominational battles race and religion were intertwined not only in such key movements as abolition and civil rights but also throughout georgia s history in order to fully grasp the religious heritage of georgia williams says we must return again and again to racial matters recently Georgians have seen racial ethnic and religious diversity grow as muslim buddhist hindu sikh baha i and other communities have settled in the state williams explores how Georgians have dealt with

contemporary issues of tolerance and how at times the state has taken center stage in our nation's culture wars firmly rooting religious history in a social cultural and political context williams presents a representative and balanced account of georgia's religious heritage from mounds to megachurches sheds new light on what it means to be a georgian by exploring an issue that remains central to life in the sunbelt south

explores the origins development influence and interrelations of the many faiths practiced in north america including major world religions and emerging sects cults and movements

the megachurch is an exceptional recent religious trend certainly within christian spheres spreading from the usa megachurches now reached reach different global contexts the edited volume handbook of megachurches offers a comprehensive account of the subject from various academic perspectives

the routledge handbook of megachurches provides a survey of global megachurch phenomena with an international slate of authors introducing existing and emerging research on a wide variety of relevant topics over the past decade the field of megachurch studies has matured and become global in its scope and orientation the handbook offers 33 chapters by top scholars in the field focusing in particular on the location demographic nature and transnational connections of megachurches megachurch worship hermeneutics and theology in theory and practice megachurch institutional dynamics the various ways that megachurches have both influenced and been influenced by their social contexts in terms of class age gender sexuality and pop culture the handbook's interdisciplinary orientation makes it essential reading for sociologists political scientists anthropologists media specialists pop culture observers business strategists leadership consultants marketing analysts scholars of religion and christian historians theologians and missiologists experienced scholars of megachurches will gain valuable insight into aspects of megachurch research beyond their own specializations scholars new to the field will find the chapters useful as signposts for where to begin their own academic exploration christian pastors and laypeople will learn more about this increasingly prominent and influential form of their faith

this book is the first detailed academic study of megachurches in the uk in particular it explores the nature and significance of social engagement by megachurches in the context of london the research contains empirical case studies of two anglican and three african diaspora pentecostal churches as well as exploring the range of social engagement activities provided by these churches the study offers explanations in term of theological motivations and the influence of globalisation subsequently the book outlines the importance of the findings for the relationship between church and society in the contemporary context addressing the implications for social policy and practice the book advances discussions in public theology megachurch studies

pentecostal and charismatic studies and ecclesiology

high on god offers a fascinating study of the rise of megachurches and the reasons that these churches have conquered the american church market the authors reveal the emotional and social dynamics that pull thousands of people into megachurches and keep them there

drawing on extensive broad based and well designed research as well as stories and anecdotes beyond megachurch myths dispels popular myths about megachurches while highlighting the diversity within the megachurch phenomenon defining a megachurch as a protestant church that averages at least 2000 total attendees in their weekend services scott thumma and dave travis reveal what these churches are and are not why they are thriving what their members say about their experiences and why they have many valuable lessons to teach smaller churches

what would cause experience life church frequently named one of the fastest growing churches in the country to completely change directions why would they risk an attendance drop and a decrease in giving in pursuit of a vision that has seldom been attempted in the american church the leaders of experience life knew this journey would be risky and calculated the costs before ever beginning they believed that following jesus and aiming to reach millions was worth any cost be careful with this book it might inspire you to risk everything you have to follow jesus you've been warned

church growth specialist vaughan observes that growth numerical and nurture is the natural result of compassion and that churches grow when people find concerned love in them vaughan maintains the issue is not small churches versus large churches the major issue remains biblical obedience faith and reproductive multiplication as believers

the megachurch book juxtaposes the way of the scripture to the way of the modern day church particularly the megachurch a broad range of subjects are explored including church membership lavish buildings dual church locations the absence of men in the church neglect of community the corporate orientation of the megachurch the tax exempt charter and many more intriguing topics the book primarily focuses on trends and practices that are found in african american community based megachurches certain topics are written in prose and biblical metaphoric style for greater impact the more biblical versed a reader is the more the book will resonate in order to accommodate various levels of biblical familiarity the author includes a discussions and supporting scriptures section at the conclusion of each topic the megachurch book was written to open dialogue invoke discourse and inspire church attendees to not only consider the appropriateness of certain megachurch practices but to also question such practices

as american mega churches continue to grow in both number and congregation size more and more people want to know what all the commotion is about

here macnair shows the emergence of the modern mega church as not only a disturbing break from tradition but as a distortion of the christian tradition of worship morphing the church into something more like a business than a place of worship or a place where the presence of jesus is preserved for future generations this book answers several questions in an effort to help readers better understand this trend what is the impact of the emergence of the mega church what does this mean to modern christianity and to the future of christianity what does this tell us about the practice of religion today and about faith in god in any god in any religion in the face of the encroachment of mega organizational thinking and money making upon traditional belief systems an inside observer social scientist and faith leader macnair offers an insightful critique of mega churches and their proliferation throughout the country reporting from within the halls of christian history and the christian intellectual tradition he offers a new perspective on a growing trend in american christianity taking readers on a tour of a typical mega church macnair reveals the inner workings of this growing organizational approach to american christianity he looks at the physical meeting place the music the sermon the groups and services available to congregants the messages and values it promotes and the future of the mega church in america he argues that the main goal of the mega church is growth and expansion and that such an approach distorts the essence of christianity and sends the wrong message to followers with more than 1200 mega churches in the u s and hundreds of thousands of congregants this controversial work will pique the interest of anyone who wishes to know more about the movement as well as the critiques it engenders

about the contributor s dr sam hey is senior lecturer in the school of ministries at christian heritage college he has taught biblical studies history sociology and theology in christian tertiary colleges for the last 15 years and has been a church pastor for over 25 years after completing a masters degree in theology at the university of queensland he was awarded a phd from griffith university in 2010 for his research into megachurches sam is married with three adult children and lives in brisbane australia

humans are homo duplex seeking to be individuals but knowing this is only possible in communities thus humans struggle to integrate these two sides of their nature megachurches have been enormously successful at resolving this struggle how do they do it and what is it about their structure and rituals that makes so many feel as if they are high on god the affective energies and emotional valences that characterize religious ecstasy are the primary focus of our study of megachurches empirically humans want and desire forms of what randall collins calls emotional energy drawing on extensive qualitative and quantitative data on 12 nationally representative megachurches we identify six desires that megachurches evoke and meet acceptance awe and spiritual stimulation reliable leadership deliverance purpose and solidarity in a community of like minded others

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