

From Mounds To Megachurches

Beyond Megachurch MythsChoiceThe Shape of the ChurchResearch MagazineAfrican American History Day by Day2010From Mounds to MegachurchesSuburbianityShrinkLibrary of Congress Subject HeadingsEncyclopedia of Religion in AmericaReligion Index OneHandbook of MegachurchesMegachurches and Social EngagementThe Routledge Handbook of MegachurchesHigh on GodMegachurches & America's CitiesFrom Megachurch to MultiplicationThe Megachurch BookThe Glass Church Scott Thumma Ephrem Arcement Karen Juanita Carrillo Redaktion Osnabrück David Salter Williams Byron Forrest Yawn Tim Suttle Library of Congress Charles H. Lippy Stephen J. Hunt Mark J. Cartledge Afe Adogame James Wellman Jr. John N. Vaughan Chris Galanos LaDonna Carter Mark T. Mulder

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drawing on extensive broad based and well designed research as well as stories and anecdotes beyond megachurch myths dispels popluar 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

this is a book to help further the ecumenical cause by providing a new paradigm for growth in ecclesial wholeness the shape of the church charts a pathway that is at once biblically and theologically grounded and pastorally applicable seven interdependent dimensions are identified evangelical pentecostal sacramental intellectual mystical pastoral prophetic which constitute the church s wholeness and safeguard its integrity throughout church history these seven dimensions have struggled to maintain a life giving balance and have often isolated themselves from one another distorting the church s catholicity and wholeness reform movements have repeatedly arisen to help revive dimensions being neglected but have often over emphasized these dimensions to the neglect of others and further distorted the church s shape the shape of the church seeks to offer a vision of the church that values the full dimensionality of the church and insists upon the giftedness of all its dimensions arguing that the path forward to greater ecclesial maturity and wholeness is only through the nurturing and integration of all its seven dimensions

the proof of any group s importance to history is in the detail a fact made plain by this informative book s day by day documentation of the impact of african americans on life in the united states one of the easiest ways to grasp any aspect of history is to look at it as a continuum african american history day by day a reference guide to events provides just such an opportunity organized in the form of a calendar this book allows readers to see the dates of famous births deaths and events that have affected the lives of african americans and by extension of america as a whole each day features an entry with information about an important event that occurred on that date background on the highlighted event is provided along with a link to at least one primary source document and references to books and websites that can provide more information while there are other calendars of african american history this one is set apart by its level of academic detail it is not only a calendar but also an easy to use reference and learning tool

this sweeping overview of the role religion especially diverse denominations of christianity has played in georgia s history from pre colonial days to the modern era uses the stories of important figures to portray larger historical narratives and denominational battles

rick warren famously wrote it s not about you but much of the western church seems to disagree having settled for a self centered message of personal fulfillment with incisiveness and a passionate love for the church pastor and author byron forrest yawn offers a compelling call away from narcissism and back to the powerful and transforming gospel of jesus he shows the difference between

sunday morning life coaches selling self help seminars and preachers proclaiming god s redemptive work through christ promises of prosperity and comfort and a realistic and helpful perspective on suffering escape from unbelievers and their godless world and redemptive engagement with people as byron exposes the false gospel of suburbianity he offers readers a better alternative to look beyond themselves and embrace god s call to be his image bearers and ambassadors partnering with him as he restores people and all creation to his original design

among followers of jesus great is often the enemy of good the drive to be great to be a success by the standards of the world often crowds out the qualities of goodness virtue and faithfulness that should define the central focus of christian leadership in the culture of today s church successful leadership is often judged by what works while persistent faithfulness takes a back seat if a ministry doesn t produce results it is dropped if people don t respond we move on this pursuit of greatness exerts a crushing pressure on the local church and creates a consuming anxiety in its leaders in their pursuit of this warped vision of greatness church leaders end up embracing a leadership narrative that runs counter to the sacrificial call of the gospel story when church leaders focus on faithfulness to god and the gospel however it s always a kingdom win regardless of the visible results of their ministry john the baptist modeled this kind of leadership as john s disciples crossed the jordan river to follow after jesus john freely released them to a greater calling than following him speaking of jesus john said he must increase but i must decrease joyfully satisfied to have been faithful to his calling john knew that the size and scope of his ministry would be determined by the will of the father not his own will following the example of john the baptist and with a careful look at the teaching of scripture tim suttle dares church leaders to risk failure by chasing the vision god has given them no matter how small it might seem instead of pursuing the broad path of pragmatism that leads to fame and numerical success

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

for most of his life the megachurch ministry of robert h schuller in orange county california displayed an apparent strength that betrayed none of the fractures that lay below the success oriented surface yet when tested and stressed in the late 2000s the ecclesial structure s accumulated fragility proved to be catastrophic drawing on extensive data gathered from archives interviews and ethnographic observation the glass church examines the spectacular collapse of the crystal cathedral to better understand both the strength and fragility of schuller s ministry the apparent success of the ministry obscured the many tensions that often threatened its future certainly all churches depend on a mix of constituents charisma and capital yet the size and ambition of large churches like

schuller's crystal cathedral exert enormous organizational pressures to continue the flow of people committed to the congregation to reinforce the spark of charismatic excitement generated by high profile pastors and to develop fresh flows of capital funding for maintenance of old projects and launching new initiatives the constant attention to expand constituencies boost charisma and stimulate capital among megachurches produces an especially burdensome strain on their leaders by orienting an approach to the collapse of the crystal cathedral on these three core elements constituency charisma and capital the glass church demonstrates how congregational fragility is greatly accentuated in larger churches a notion we label megachurch strain such that the threat of implosion is significantly accentuated by any failures to properly calibrate the inter relationship among these elements

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