

*James Emery White, Author of
Embracing the Mysterious God: Loving the God We Don't Understand*



James Emery White is the founding and senior pastor of Mecklenburg Community Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. Started in a Hilton hotel in October of 1992, Mecklenburg was often cited as one of the fastest-growing church starts in the United States during its formative years. Now with over 2,500 families calling it home, Mecklenburg continues to experience more than 80 percent of its growth from the unchurched, and has been cited in a study by the Lilly Endowment as one of the top 300 Protestant churches in the United States. This has generated widespread attention from the media, including "CBS Evening News" and USA Today.

Mecklenburg adheres to a unique philosophy of ministry. The weekend services use drama, multimedia, contemporary music and practical messages to present the timeless truths of Scripture at an introductory level that can be easily understood by those investigating Christianity. The low-key evangelistic environment of the weekend services stands in marked contrast to the atmosphere of the midweek service, where believers gather together for worship, communion and in-depth Bible teaching. An extensive network of small groups, meeting in homes and businesses throughout the community, fosters relationships and spiritual growth. Mecklenburg recently completed the first phase on their eighty-two acre campus, and sponsors The New Work Conference and other resource events for church leaders around the world. (See www.Mecklenburg.org for more information.)

Dr. White holds a B.S. degree in public relations and business from Appalachian State University, and M.Div. and Ph.D. degrees from Southern Seminary, where he was awarded a Garrett Teaching Fellowship in both New Testament and theology. He has also done advanced graduate study at Vanderbilt University in American religious history, and post-doctoral continuing education at Oxford University in England. He has served as a visiting professor at such institutions as Southern Seminary, Southeastern Seminary, the Moscow Theological Institute, and New Orleans Seminary. He currently serves on the Board of Reference at Union University, and as the adjunct professor of Christian Theology and Culture at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary/Charlotte.

An international speaker and consultant, Dr. White is the author of many books, including *Rethinking the Church*, *A Search for the Spiritual* and *Life Defining Moments* and *Long Night's Journey Into Day*. Dr. White also served as the consulting editor as well as contributing author to *The Holman Bible Handbook* and *The Holman Concise Bible Commentary*. His most recent book is *Embracing the Mysterious God: Loving the God We Don't Understand* (InterVarsity Press, July 2003).

Though his family's roots have been tied to North Carolina for generations, he was born in Chicago, and then lived in California, Utah, and Washington during his childhood. His family returned to North Carolina during his teen years. Jim and his wife, Susan, live in Charlotte with their four children, Rebecca, Rachel, Jonathan and Zachary.