

## *Book of the Month*

## May 2011

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

SUN

***Deep Church: A Third Way Beyond Emerging and Traditional.***  
***Jim Belcher. IVP Books. Downers Grove, IL. 2009.***

It's tough to find a good church today. Have you noticed? For the person looking, it sometimes feels the choice is limited to either a cemetery or an insane asylum! On the one hand, many churches seem stuck in the past and thus irrelevant. On the other hand, other churches seem captured by cultural trends and thus heretical. What to do?

In *Deep Church*, Jim Belcher analyses the contemporary situation by examining both traditional churches and "emerging" churches. As one who first jumped on the emergent bandwagon and then jumped off, Belcher is uniquely qualified for the task. Seeking to blend the best and avoid the worst of both kinds of churches, he offers a third way. His hope is that we can rediscover what C. S. Lewis called the "Deep Church."

If you have recently found yourself in passionate debate with someone who "does church" very differently from you, or if you simply feel confused over the current state of the church today, *Deep Church* is a very helpful resource in finding your way. Though you may not agree with all that the author says, there is much to learn from a book that takes seriously the issues facing the church today and seeks to forge a way forward by embracing the postmodern context in which we are called to live and minister without capitulating to it. Rather than veering to the left or to the right, this book invites us to go deep.

*Pastor Stan Key*