Record Nr. UNINA9910786707903321 Autore Elisha Omri <1972-> Titolo Moral ambition [[electronic resource]]: mobilization and social outreach in evangelical megachurches // Omri Elisha Berkeley [Calif.], : University of California Press, 2011 Pubbl/distr/stampa **ISBN** 0-520-95054-2 1-283-27860-X 9786613278609 Descrizione fisica 1 online resource (277 p.) Collana The anthropology of Christianity;; 12 Disciplina 253.09768/09045 Soggetti Big churches Church work Missions Church and social problems Evangelicalism - Tennessee Lingua di pubblicazione Inglese **Formato** Materiale a stampa Livello bibliografico Monografia Description based upon print version of record. Note generali Includes bibliographical references and index. Nota di bibliografia Nota di contenuto Introduction -- Awaking sleeping giants -- A region in spite of itself --The names of action -- The spiritual injuries of class -- Compassion accounts -- Taking the (inner) city for God -- Epilogue. Sommario/riassunto In this evocative ethnography, Omri Elisha examines the hopes, frustrations, and activist strategies of American evangelical Christians as they engage socially with local communities. Focusing on two Tennessee megachurches, Moral Ambition reaches beyond political controversies over issues such as abortion, same-sex marriage, and public prayer to highlight the ways that evangelicals at the grassroots of the Christian Right promote faith-based causes intended to improve the state of social welfare. The book shows how these ministries both help churchgoers embody religious virtues and create provocative new opportunities for evangelism on a public scale. Elisha challenges

conventional views of U.S. evangelicalism as narrowly individualistic, elucidating instead the inherent contradictions that activists face in their efforts to reconcile religious conservatism with a renewed interest

in compassion, poverty, racial justice, and urban revivalism.