



PMEV8303 CASE STUDIES IN HEALTHY, EVANGELISTIC CHURCHES

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Division of Church Ministry

Winter 2022 Trimester

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to teach students to analyze churches in contemporary, blended, and traditional settings and their utilization of church growth principles to discover strategies for achieving evangelistic church growth.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To explore the application of church health/growth principles in actual church settings.
2. To synthesize dynamics of churches in various settings and propose strategic plans for strengthening the healthy evangelistic growth of churches.
3. To develop an action plan applying healthy evangelistic church growth principles in the student's ministry context.

Course Teaching Methodology

Lectures: Lectures by the professor related to healthy, evangelistic churches will be part of the resource material for the course.

Discussion: Students are expected to be involved in the seminar discussions based on questions raised in the assigned reading, case studies, and assigned projects.

Research: Students will be expected develop a case study of a healthy, evangelistic church assigned by the professor.

Application: Students will apply the principles learned in the course to a specific problem in their church.

Textbooks and Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. Each student will read the three required textbooks: *Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions* by Donald McGavran; *The Ten Most Influential Churches of the Past Century: And How They Impact You Today* by Elmer Towns; *How to Break Growth Barriers: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, and Capture Overlooked Opportunities for Your Church*, Updated ed. by Carl F. George and Warren Bird.

2. Each student will select one additional book from the following list: *Transformational Church: Creating a New Scorecard for Churches* by Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer; *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever: From Pentecost to the Present* by Elmer Towns and Douglas Porter; *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health* by Tony Morgan; *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin; *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* by Thom Rainer and Eric Geiger; *When God Builds a Church: 10 Principles for Growing a Dynamic Church* by Bob Russell; *Church Growth Flywheel: 5 Practical Systems to Drive Growth in Your Church* by Rich Birch. **The student will email the professor his/her book choice for approval.**

3. Each student will prepare a six page, double-spaced review for each of the three required textbooks and one additional book from the provided list. The critical book review should include a statement of the author's purpose(s), a synopsis of the content (message) of the book, contribution of the book to the field of evangelistic church growth, and a critical analysis of the book including strengths and weaknesses of the book. These reviews (with cover sheet) should be in the most recent Turabian form (no footnotes necessary). Direct quotes from the textbooks should be indicated with the page number in parentheses. Students should be prepared to discuss each assigned book. **The book reviews are due on the first day of the seminar, January 4, 2022 and should be posted in Blackboard.**

Post-Seminar Assignments

1. In consultation with the professor, students will develop a case study on a church that has experienced significant healthy evangelistic growth. This church does not have to be a Southern Baptist Church. However, the church must meet the criteria agreed upon in the seminar. Students should study issues including, but not limited to:

- 1) The role of the senior pastor in the overall effort
- 2) Growth barriers
- 3) Developing priorities related to a strategic plan for church growth
- 4) The process used to determine mission, vision statements, goals, and actions
- 5) Staff needs and responsibilities
- 6) Sunday School or small group organization
- 7) Outreach efforts
- 8) Assimilation approaches

2. The student will complete a paper on the student's church. Utilizing the materials presented and discussed in class, the student will develop a healthy evangelistic growth plan for his church. The format for these two reports will be explained in the seminar.

The two reports are due on March 4, 2022 and should be posted in Blackboard.

Evaluation of Grade

The requirements for the course and the contribution of each towards the final grade are as follows:

Book Reviews 40%

Class Discussion 10%

Healthy Evangelistic Church Report 25%

Healthy Evangelistic Growth Plan for Student's Church 25%

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. BlackboardHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Blackboard Learning Management System NOBTS.Blackboard.com.
3. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for general technical questions/support requests.
4. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Help for Writing Papers at "The Write Stuff"

NOBTS maintains a Writing Center designed to improve English writing at the graduate level. Students can receive writing guides, tips, and valuable information to help in becoming a better writer.

Plagiarism on Written Assignments

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

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