



## **Developing a Discipleship Strategy for a Healthy Growing Church.**

Professional Doctoral Seminar – PME8305  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Spring 2014 Trimester, May 12-14, 2014

(This seminar will be conducted CIV at the following campuses –  
New Orleans, Atlanta, Birmingham, and Orlando)

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### **Dr. Hal Stewart**

Associate Professor of Discipleship  
Broadmoor Chair of Discipleship  
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary  
3939 Gentilly Blvd. New Orleans, LA 70126  
hstewart@nobts.edu (504) 282-4455 Ext. 8073

### **Dr. Joe Sherrer**

Ministry-Based Professor of Christian Education, NOBTS  
Associate Pastor, First Southern Baptist Church  
6400 S. Sooner Rd., Oklahoma City, OK 73160  
[Jsherrer@nobts.edu](mailto:Jsherrer@nobts.edu) (405) 732-1300

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### **Mission Statement**

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.

### **NOBTS Core Values and Core Value Focus**

The Seminary's core values are: (1) Doctrinal Integrity, (2) Spiritual Vitality, (3) Mission Focus, (4) Characteristic Excellence, and (5) Servant Leadership. The 2011-12 core value focus is Characteristic Excellence.

### **Course Description**

This seminar is designed to address the issue of discipleship development in the contemporary church. Emphasis will be placed on identifying biblical descriptions of a disciple and strategies for making disciples. Students will discover, analyze, and develop tools to evaluate the various stages of disciple development in their churches and produce

a strategy for moving people to the next step. Students will engage in research, development testing, administering, and interpreting an assessment instrument; book reviews; strategy planning; and creative presentation.

## Course Objectives

At the conclusion of the seminar students should be able to:

1. Identify and support a biblical definition of a disciple.
2. Catalog biblical processes for making disciples.
3. Discover and evaluate contemporary assessment instruments designed to measure congregational discipleship stages.
4. Assess the spiritual development of the congregation s/he serves.
5. Chart the course for disciple-making in his/her congregation.

## Textbooks

NOTE: Review the list of assignments before purchasing textbooks. Not all textbooks will be required by each participant in the class. Some books are assigned to specific groupings.

Each student is to read the following textbooks and to be prepared to integrate their content into seminar discussions and presentations:

Early, David and Rod Dempsey. *Disciplemaking Is: How to Live the Great Commission with Passion and Confidence*. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2013.

Mancini, Will. *Innovating Discipleship: Four Paths to Real Discipleship Results (Church Unique Intentional Leader Series)*. Lexington, KY: CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 2013.

Willard, Dallas. *The Great Omission: Reclaiming Jesus' Essential Teachings on Discipleship*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006.

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### **And one of the following (See Assignments for Specific Book)**

Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel-Centered Discipleship*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2012.

Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *How People Grow*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Hull, Bill *The Complete Book of Discipleship*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2006

Pope, Randy, and Kitti Murray. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church (Leadership Network Innovation Series)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2013.

Putnam, Jim and Bobby Harrington. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps to Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2013.

Ogden, Greg *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time*. Downers Grove: Ill, Intervarsity Press, 2003.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

## Seminar Requirements

### *Before the Seminar*

- 1. Definition and Strategy.** Students will complete a personal Bible study aimed at answering two important questions: (1) “What” is a disciple? (2) How do you make one? The study should focus on the Gospels and the book of Acts. The students should prepare a *written report of their conclusions*. The report should follow basic Turabian format and be 5-7, double-spaced pages in length. **Due Date:** Submit through the Assignment area in Black Board by May 5, 2014.
- 2. Talking Points.** Each Student will read and prepare a list of at least seven talking points (key ideas, observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) from each of the three core text books. Include a complete bibliographic entry and submit on a single page. A header should include your name, assignment, date, course name. Be prepared to discuss in class. This assignment should be presented on the first day of the seminar.
- 3. Book Summary:** Each student will complete a 4 page summary and review and a two page application of an assigned book in a template supplied by the professor. Each summary should include a brief summary of the book, key ideas and principles, strengths and weaknesses of the author’s position, points of agreement and disagreement. The application insert (pages 5 & 6) should be related to the student’s personal ministry context and should identify at least five potential application points. Headlines and bullet points should be cited on the reverse side with adequate space for notes by class members. Summaries should be made available online before the seminar. Each student will be expected to present their book reviews to the class. Some seminar time will be allowed for collaboration and preparation. **Due Date:** Summaries are to be posted in the Discussion Board in Black Board by May 5, 2014. Students should print and bring all summaries.

Assignments:

Atlanta – Pope, Randy, and Kitti Murray. *Insourcing: Bringing Discipleship Back to the Local Church*

----- Kershaw, Mewbourne, Miller

Okla City 1- Cloud, Henry and John Townsend. *How People Grow.*

---- Arnold, Boyd, Brown

Okla City 2 - Hull, Bill *The Complete Book of Discipleship.*

---- Jaye, Jones, Ohls

Okla City 3 – Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church.*

---- Caceres, Langley, Dunn

New Orl 1 - Putnam, Jim and Bobby Harrington. *DiscipleShift: Five Steps to Help Your Church to Make Disciples Who Make Disciples.*

---- Braddy, Englehart, Sullivan

New Orl 2 - Ogden, Greg *Transforming Discipleship: Making Disciples a Few at a Time.*

---- Gunn, Norman, Schobert,

New Orl 3 - Dodson, Jonathan K. *Gospel-Centered Discipleship.*

---- South, Spinney

4. **Curriculum Review.** Each student will conduct a search of current discipleship curricula and select one for a review. The final curriculum choice should be approved by one of the seminar instructors. Review the curriculum using the following criteria: biblical integrity, objectives, content, delivery method, appeal, reproducibility, and leader training. The review will be submitted through blackboard and made available to all students through the Discussion Board. Pictures can be added for emphasis and communication. Brief summaries, lists and bullet points are encouraged. Dedicate one segment to a general criticism. Each student will be expected to make a brief presentation to the class. Preparations should be made prior to the seminar as no time will be allocated. **Due Date:** Reviews are to be posted in the Discussion Board in Black Board by May 5, 2014. Generate a thread, introduce the review with a paragraph and attach the document. Students should print and bring all summaries to the seminar.
5. **Spiritual Development Assessment.** Students will acquire and use (collect data on a random sample of church members/attendees) a selected assessment instrument designed to measure the spiritual development of a congregation. Students may select an assessment instrument from the attached list, or propose one of their own. Findings should be summarized in a one-page report to be submitted on the first day of the seminar.
6. **Application of Disciple-Making Strategies.** Each student will evaluate his current church or ministry setting utilizing the ideas and principles discovered and discussed during the seminar. In this post-seminar assignment, the student will present possible

strategies and implementation plans for their church or other ministry context. Evaluation will be approximately 6-7 pages, double-spaced, written according to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc. **Due Date: June 22, 2014**

### *During the seminar*

**Seminar Participation:** Students are expected to be active participants in all sessions of the seminar. Students are expected to contribute with meaningful dialogue during the seminar. Note: The seminar actually begins with the receipt of the syllabus and continues through the material completed after the three day component. The seminar does not consist only of the three day session time component.

**Seminar Presentations:** Each student will be expected to make one group presentation (assignment 3) and one individual presentation (assignment 4) during the seminar.

### *Following the seminar*

**Submit a Disciple-Making Strategy.** Each student will evaluate his current church or ministry setting utilizing the ideas and principles discovered and discussed during the seminar. In this post-seminar assignment, the student will present possible strategies and implementation plans for their church or other ministry context. Evaluation will be approximately 6-7 pages, double-spaced, written according to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc.

**Date Due: June 22, 2014.**

## Evaluation

<b>Definition and Strategy</b>	10%
<b>Talking Points</b>	10%
<b>Book Summary</b>	15%
<b>Curriculum Review</b>	15%
<b>Spiritual Development Assessment</b>	20%
<b>Strategy Report</b>	20%
<b>Seminar Presentations/Participations</b>	10%

## Proposed Schedule (subject to change)

### Monday

1:00 - 1:30pm	Introductions and Seminar Overview
1:30 - 2:30pm	Biblical/Theological Backgrounds
2:30 - 3:30pm	<i>Discussion: What is a disciple?</i>
3:30 - 4:00pm	Break
4:00 - 5:30pm	<i>Discipleship Strategies Part 1</i>
5:30 - 6:30pm	<i>Discipleship Strategies Part 2</i>
6:30 - 9:00pm	Group Presentation Preparation

### Tuesday

8:00 - 8:30am	Devotion & Review
8:30 - 10:00am	Group Book Presentations 1 & 2
10:00 - 10:15am	Break
10:15 - 11:45am	Group Book Presentations 3 & 4
11:45 - 1:00pm	Lunch
1:00 - 2:30pm	Group Book Presentations 5 & 6
2:30 - 3:30pm	Summary, Discussion and Dialogue
3:30 - 4:00pm	Break
4:00-5:30pm	Using Assessment Tools Presentation & Discussion
5:30-6:30pm	Intro to curriculum
6:30-8:00pm	Curriculum Presentation Preparation

### Wednesday

8:00- 8:30 am	Devotion & Review
8:30-10:15am	Presentation and Discussion of Curriculum Resources
10:15-10:45	Break
10:45-12:00am	Wrap up, unfinished business, follow up assignments.

## DIRECTED STUDY ASSIGNMENTS

1. **Definition and Strategy.** Students will complete a personal Bible study aimed at answering two important questions: (1) What is a disciple? (2) How do you make one? The study should focus on the Gospels and the book of Acts. The students should prepare *a written report of their conclusions*. The report should follow basic Turabian format and be 5-7, double-spaced pages in length. **Due Date:** Submit through the Assignment area in Black Board by May 5, 2014.
2. **Talking Points.** Each Student will read and generate a 1-2 page summary of each book. Additionally students will prepare a list of at least seven talking points (key ideas, observations, insights, criticisms, etc.) from each of the three core text books. Include a complete bibliographic entry. Submit on a single page. A header should include your name, assignment, date, and course name. **Due Date:** Submit through the Assignment area in Black Board by May 5, 2014.
3. **Book Summary:** Each student will complete two 4 page summary and review and a two page application of two books from the supplemental list in a template supplied by the professor. Each summary should include a brief summary of the book, key ideas and principles, strengths and weaknesses of the author's position, points of agreement and disagreement. The application insert (pages 5 & 6) should be related to the student's personal ministry context and should identify at least five potential application points. Headlines and bullet points should be cited on the reverse side with adequate space for notes by class members. **Due Date:** Summaries are to be posted in Black Board by Ma 5, 2014.
4. **Curriculum Review.** Each student will conduct a search of current discipleship curricula and select one for a review. The final curriculum choice should be approved by one of the seminar instructors. Review the curriculum using the following criteria: biblical integrity, objectives, content, delivery method, appeal, reproducibility, and leader training. The review will be submitted through blackboard and made available to all students through the Discussion Board. Pictures can be added for emphasis and communication. Brief summaries, lists and bullet points are encouraged. Dedicate one segment to a general criticism. Student will develop a brief presentation viewable by the class. Preparations should be made prior to the seminar as no time will be allocated. **Due Date:** Reviews are to be posted in the Discussion Board in Black Board by May 5, 2014. Generate a thread, introduce the review with a paragraph and attach the document.
5. **Spiritual Development Assessment.**
  - a. Students will acquire and assess the strengths and weakness of 3 instruments designed to measure the spiritual development of a congregation from the attached list, or by proposing other(s). Assessment and report should be typed, double-spaced, and 2-3 pages for each instrument/process. **Due Date:** May 5, 2014.

- b. Students will select and administrate one of the assessment instruments designed to measure the spiritual development of a congregation. Students will collect data on a random sample of church members/attendees. Students may select an assessment instrument from the attached list, or propose one of their own. Findings will be reported in a 2-3 page paper submitted by May 5, 2014.
- 6. Application of Disciple-Making Strategies.** Each student will evaluate his current church or ministry setting utilizing the ideas and principles discovered and discussed during the seminar. In this post-seminar assignment the student will present possible strategies and implementation plans for their church or other ministry context. Evaluation will be approximately 6-7 pages, double-spaced, written according to Turabian 6<sup>th</sup> edition regarding footnotes, headings/subheadings, margins, pagination, cover page, etc. This assignment should be submitted by June 22, 2014.

## **Selected Bibliography**

- Anderson, Keith R. and Randy D. Reese. *Spiritual Mentoring: A Guide for Seeking and Giving Direction*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.
- Barna, George. *Growing True Disciples*. Ventura, CA: Issachar Resources, 2000.
- Boa, Kenneth. *Conformed to His Image*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Eims, Leroy. *The Lost Art of Disciple Making*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978.
- Fryling, Alice, ed. *The Disciplemakers' Handbook*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1989.
- Goldsmith, Malcolm. *Knowing Me Knowing God: Exploring Your Spirituality With Myers-Briggs*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1997.
- Hahn, Todd and David Verhaagen. *Generation Xers After God*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1998.
- Hanks, Billie and William A. Shell, eds. *Discipleship: Great Insights from the Most Experienced Disciple Makers*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- Henderson, D. Michael. *John Wesley=s Class Meeting: A Model for Making Disciples*. Nappanee, IN: Francis Asbury Press, 1997.
- Hendricks, Howard. *As Iron Sharpens Iron: Building Character in a Mentoring Relationship*. Chicago: Moody, 1999.
- Henrichsen, Walter A. *Disciples Are Made, Not Born*. Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1974.
- Hull, Bill. *The Disciple-Making Church*. Grand Rapids: Fleming H. Revell, 1990.
- Lamb, Richard. *Following Jesus in the Real World: Discipleship for the Post-College Years*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Laurie, Greg. *Discipleship: The Next Step in Following Jesus*. Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 1999.

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Strategy 2000: Churches Making Disciples for the Next Millennium*. Grand Rapids: Kregel Resources, 1996.

Marsh, F. E. *Discipler's Manual*. Grand Rapids: Kregel, 1980.

Morton, Scott. *Down to Earth Discipling*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2003.

Ortberg, John. *The Life You=ve Always Wanted*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1997.

Petersen, Jim. *Lifestyle Discipleship*. Colorado Springs: Nav Press, 1993.

Scazzero, Peter. *The Emotionally Healthy Church: A Strategy for Discipleship that Actually Changes Lives*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003.

Whitney, Donald S. *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 1997.

Willard, Dallas. *Renovation of the Heart: Putting On The Character of Christ*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2002.

Willard, Dallas. *The Spirit of the Disciplines: Understanding How God Changes Lives*. San Francisco: Harper, 2000.

Wright, N.T. *Following Jesus: Biblical Reflections on Discipleship*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1997.

## **Selected Assessment Instruments**

*Personal Spiritual Inventory*, by The Barna Research Group, Ltd., 2000.

(Cost information available at the Barna website, [www.barna.org](http://www.barna.org))

*GrowthFinder Assessment*, Church Teams Ministries

(Information available at [www.churchteams.com/GrowthFinder.asp](http://www.churchteams.com/GrowthFinder.asp) -- the assessment should be done with at least 10 people in your Church to become oriented to this process.)

*Vital Signs of a Healthy Church*, by Randy Millwood, 2000.

(A Church Health assessment that focuses on disciple-making as the primary work of the Church)

*Spiritual Formation Inventory* ([http://www.lifeway.com/Product/spiritual-formation-inventory-P005216492#product\\_description](http://www.lifeway.com/Product/spiritual-formation-inventory-P005216492#product_description))

*The Christian Life Profile Assessment Tool Workbook*

(A personal spiritual health assessment process based on the 30 Core Competencies of Pantego Bible Church B Available at [www.pantego.org](http://www.pantego.org) (resources/the connection online). Students who use this approach should purchase 10 of the books/instruments and use them with 10 people in your Church to become oriented to their process. NOTE: Amazon.com has this for \$9:30 per book. The **Guide** and the **Kit** are optional items that you may wish to purchase, but not necessary to administer the assessment.

*Christian Character Index 360*.

[www.assess-yourself.org](http://www.assess-yourself.org) Click on Assess Your Christian Character.