

**BELIEVER EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR FOR PRAISE ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
IN DERBY, KANSAS**

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**ABSTRACT**

The purpose of this project was to utilize a Believer Empowerment Seminar (BES) so the members and attendees of Praise Assembly of God in Derby, Kansas would be able to minister more effectively under the godly leadership of their pastoral staff. The seminar would teach biblical principles of believer ministry, motivate Christians to involvement in ministry, and initiate the equipping process for them to use their God-given gifts in ministry.

The BES involved the reshaping and enhancing of a model that has been successfully used to empower believers in many churches across the United States. The seminar consisted of the following: (session 1) contemporary church statistics and biblical foundations for believer ministry; (session 2) discovering how God has shaped every believer for ministry; (session 3) helping every believer find and understand his or her S.H.A.P.E. which involves—spiritual gifts, heartbeat, abilities, personal temperament, and important life experiences; (session 4) biblical guidelines for believer empowered ministry; (session 5) philosophy of a believer empowered church; and (session 6) contemporary believer ministry examples from selected churches in the United States.

The project involved designing the following: (1) a church leadership survey to be used by the pastoral staff to identify the lay leaders at Praise Assembly; (2) a pretest to be administered before the seminar began to assess believer's biblical knowledge and understanding of believer ministry; (3) a BES with a workbook for all seminar

participants; (4) a PowerPoint presentation that corresponded to the participant's seminar workbook; (5) A posttest to be administered to all seminar participants at the close of the BES; and (6) a believer's personal profile for ministry that included a record of the believer's ministry S.H.A.P.E.—one for each seminar participant.

The steps in modifying the original S.H.A.P.E. model were as follows: (1) applying everything from the reshaped model to a small local church in the state of Kansas in which the believers were multi-ethnic, educationally-diverse and at different stages of sanctification; (2) adopting a current, inexpensive, contemporary, and very effective spiritual gift test; and finally, (3) selecting an appropriate personality profile for believers to take.

The major benefits of the project research and BES were two. First, believers in this church do desire to find out their ministry S.H.A.P.E. and be equipped for ministry in the local church. Secondly, the knowledge gained from this project-seminar can be taught to any students at Evangel University and they can become empowered believers doing ministry. It can also be used to prepare prospective local church pastors who desire to follow biblical principles and equip believers for ministry in the local church.

