

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Department
Springfield, MO
A Graduate Credit Option
In Partnership with the Montana District Council
July 8-12, 2002

P THE 640 Emerging Church and Shifting Culture

COURSE SYLLABUS

Douglas A. Oss, Ph.D.
(2 Credits)

Summer, 2002

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An investigation of the New Testament evidence pertaining to ministry in the early church, and what implications the evidence holds for today's emerging church in the light of our shifting world-culture. Special emphasis will be given to leadership models in the New Testament, and to the work of the Holy Spirit in and through New Testament congregations, with a view toward developing relevant, biblical models for emerging new paradigm leadership and ministry.

OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course the student should be able to:

1. Describe the primary characteristics of emerging church models (new paradigm models).
2. Describe the diversity among New Testament church models.
3. Evaluate and explain the NT evidence as it applies to contemporary issues of ministry-relevance in today's shifting culture.
4. Apply the relevant NT material to emerging models of ministry, focusing on methods that may connect with contemporary people (people who are the products of shifting culture).
5. Compare and contrast new paradigm models of ministry with more traditional "wineskins."

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6. Develop and articulate models of ministry with potential for reaching today's generation.
7. Define and explain the function of "frameworks" in our understanding of Scripture.
8. Relate insights from the seminar to her/his own ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

The Bible in a contemporary translation (e.g., NASB, NIV).

Erickson, Millard J. *Postmodernizing the Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1998.

Erickson, Millard J. & James L. Heflin. *Old Wine in New Wineskins*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1997.

Frazer, Randy. *The Connecting Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2001.

George, Carl F. *How to Break the Growth Barriers*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993.

George, Carl F. *Prepare Your Church for the Future*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1991.

Gibbs, Eddie. *ChurchNext: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2000.

Haggard, Ted. *The Life Giving Church*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 1998.

Henderson, Robert Thornton. *Subversive Jesus Radical Grace: Relating Christ to a New Generation*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2001.

McLaren, Brian. *A New Kind of Christian: A Tale of Two Friends on a Spiritual Journey*. San Francisco: Jossey Bass, 2001.

_____. *The Church On the Other Side: Doing Ministry in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

Miller, Donald E. *Reinventing American Protestantism*. Los Angeles: University of California, 1997.

Mittelberg, Mark. *Building a Contagious Church: Revolutionizing the Way We View and Do Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 2000.

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Regele, Mike. *Death of the Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995.

Schaller, Lyle E. *The New Reformation*. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995.

Sweet, Leonard. *Aqua Church*. Loveland, CO: Group, 1999.

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Wagner, C. Peter. *Churchquake: How the New Apostolic Reformation Is Shaking Up the Church as We Know*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 1999.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Confronting the Powers*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 1996.

Wagner, C. Peter. *The New Apostolic Churches*. Ventura, CA: Regal, 1998.

White, James Emery. *Rethinking the Church: A Challenge to Creative Redesign in an Age of Transition*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 1997.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Raising the issues: What is the Emerging Church?

- A. Power ministry and *charisma*
- B. Relationships and programs
- C. Role of prayer
- D. Deliverance and discipleship
- E. Outreach and evangelism
- F. Leadership and vision
- G. Developing ministers
- H. Worship
- I. Preaching
- J. Apostles, networks, and the local church
- K. Understanding the culture shift

II. Examining the issues: What does the New Testament have to say about all this?

- A. Preliminary considerations
 1. Frameworks and perception
 - a. Paradigm shifts

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- b. Experience (or lack of experience) and our understanding of the meaning of biblical texts
 2. The two primary works of the Spirit as framework
 - a. Inner-transformation
 - b. Empowerment
 3. Diversity among the New Testament churches
- B. New paradigm ministry in the light of the New Testament
 1. Power ministry and *charisma*
 2. Relationships and programs
 3. Role of prayer
 4. Deliverance and discipleship
 5. Outreach and evangelism
 6. Leadership and vision
 7. Developing ministers
 8. Worship
 9. Preaching
 10. Apostles, networks, and the local church
 11. Understanding the culture shift

III. Reflections on leading churches through paradigm shifts

- A. Is a shift necessary?
- B. Pressing
- C. Cloning
- D. Fractures
- E. Passion
- F. Release of the Spirit
- G. Freedom

METHODOLOGY

Seminar format.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Pre-session:

Read the assigned material from the textbook section. Some of the readings have specified page numbers; for the others read the entire work. If you have already worked through any of these books, you should substitute something you have not read from the select bibliography (the amount of the substitute reading should be equivalent).

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2. Session

Attend all class sessions and participate in the discussion and interaction portions of the course.

3. Post-session:

Write a 25 page research paper bringing to bear the New Testament evidence on a selected issue relating to the emerging church & shifting culture.

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Arnott, John. *The Father's Blessing: A Refreshing Move of God That Is Shaking Toronto--and the World*. Orlando: Creation House, 1995.

Barna, George. *The Second Great Coming of the Church*. Dallas: Word Books, 1998.

Barron, Bruce. *The Health and Wealth Gospel*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1987.

Bartleman, Frank. *Azusa Street: The Roots of Modern Pentecost*. S. Plainfield, NJ: Bridge Publishing, 1980.

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- Comblin, Jose. *The Holy Spirit and Liberation*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1989.
- Cox, Harvey. *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the Twenty-first Century*. New York: Addison-Wesley, 1995.
- Dawn, Marva. *Reaching Out Without Dumbing Down: A Theology of Worship for the Turn-of-the-Century Culture*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- DeArteaga, William. *Quenching the Spirit: Discover the Real Spirit Behind the Charismatic Controversy*. Orlando: Creation House, 1996.
- Del Colle, Ralph. *Christ and the Spirit: Spirit-Christology in Trinitarian Perspective*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1994.
- Du Plessis, David J. *The Spirit Bade Me God: the Astounding Move of God in the Denominational Churches, Rev. Ed.* Plainfield, NJ: Logos International, 1970.
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- Eckhardt, John. *Moving in the Apostolic*. Ventura, CA: Gospel Light, 1998.
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- Ervin, Howard M. *Conversion-Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.
- Fee, Gordon D. *Gospel and Spirit: Issues in New Testament Hermeneutics*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Goff, Jr., James R. *Fields White Unto Harvest: Charles F. Parham and the Missionary Origins of Pentecostalism*. Fayetteville, AK: University of Arkansas Press, 1988.
- Goldingay, John, ed. *Signs, Wonders and Healing*. Leicester, U.K.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.
- Guder, Darrell ed. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

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Specific Data

Syllabus prepared by Doug Oss, Ph.D., June 2002.