

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Springfield, Missouri
September 17-21, 2001

PTHM 526 LEADING CHURCH OUTREACH AND ASSIMILATION
(3 Credits)

David G. Watson, D.Min.

Fall 2001

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Leading church Outreach and Assimilation is a practical course designed to help ministers develop strategies for gaining new converts and making disciples. Attention will also be given to "closing the back door" through an intentional approach to assimilation.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Give an accurate and comprehensive expression of the gospel.
2. Recount the basis and patterns of New Testament evangelism.
3. Discuss motives/methods for involvement in evangelism.
4. Apply biblical evangelism in the work of the ministry.
5. Demonstrate familiarity with some of the current materials available for evangelism.
6. Develop an assimilation process that will "close the back door", keeping people from leaving the church and involving them in the work of the ministry.

TEXTBOOKS

Required:

Innes, Dick. *I Hate Witnessing*. Ventura, CA: ACW Press, 1985. (ISBN 0964252503)

Metzger, Will. *Tell the Truth*. Downer's Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 1984.
(ISBN 087784934X)

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1961.

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Recommended:

Barna, George. *The Frog in the Kettle*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday,	Definitions and descriptions Basis and philosophy of evangelism Development of an assimilation model
Tuesday,	Principles of evangelism New convert classes Adoption programs Practical use of the assimilation model
Wednesday,	Communication and the decision process Making the process work Bring Innes to class
Thursday,	Ministering the Gospel The power of God--Gospel-centered gospel in contrast to man-centered Realizing you don't need gimmicks to fill a church Bring Metzger to class
Friday,	Analysis of the evangelism, discipleship and assimilation strategies The application of the learning models

METHODOLOGY

Lecture
Class discussion
Out-of-class experiences in evangelism
Small Group Interaction
Written reports of evangelism experiences
Research paper

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

A. *Pre-session*

1. Read the assigned texts.
2. Prepare a two-three page typewritten reaction paper on each of the assigned texts. Identify the main theme of each and how it developed.
3. Communicate Jesus to at least three people. Prepare a three-page paper on these encounters and be ready to analyze them in class.

Questions to help guide you:

- a. What did you do to prepare for the occasion?
- b. How did the opportunity present itself? Analyze.
- c. How did you turn the conversation to the realm of the spiritual?
- d. What notable difficulties did you encounter?
- e. What would you do differently next time?
- f. What were the apparent results?

DUE DATE: All pre-session assignments are due on the first day of class,
Monday, September 17, 2001.

B. *Session*

1. The participant is expected to attend and contribute in all class sessions.
2. The participant is expected to develop evangelism, discipleship and assimilation models that may be applied directly to his/her ministry.

C. *Post-session*

1. The participant will prepare a contextual project on some aspect of evangelism, discipleship, and assimilation as it relates to his/her ministry. This paper should be approximately 18-20 pages in length (exclusive of endnotes and bibliography), and based on careful use of primary and secondary sources. The professor must approve the subject of the paper before the final day of the session.
2. Conduct a survey of the evangelism and assimilation program of three churches in your community. In a three-five page paper for each church, identify the basic components of each program and prepare a critique/analysis of the program based upon the principles learned from the course materials.

DUE DATE: All post-session must be **postmarked** by, **December 21, 2001.**

GRADING PROCEDURE

The final grade will be based on the following:

Reaction papers	10%
Class preparation and participation	10%
Church Program Analysis	30%
Contextual project	50%

Late work may be penalized at the discretion of the professor.

NOTE: Work received after the due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

Submit all assignments to: Dr. David Watson
3864 N. Broadway
Springfield, MO 65803

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Autrey, C. E. *Basic Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1971.

Coleman, Robert E. *Evangelism on the Cutting Edge*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1985.

Conant, J. E., and Roy J. Fish. *Every Member Evangelism for Today*. New York: Harper & Row, 1976.

Gordon, Milton Myron. *Assimilation*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1964.

Kennedy, D. James. *Evangelism Explosion*. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1971.

McIntosh, Gary L. *Make Room for the Boom or Bust: Six/Church Models for Reaching Three Generations*. Grand Rapids: Revell, 1997.

Rainer, Thomas. *High Expectations: The Remarkable Secret for Keeping People in Your Church*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1999.

Rees, Tom. *Break-Through*. Waco, TX: Word Books, 1970.

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Schaller, Lyle E. *Assimilating New Members*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon, 1978.

Smith, Baily E. *Real Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1978.

Southard, Samuel. *Pastoral Evangelism*. Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1962.

Sweet, Leonard. *Soulsunami: Sink or Swim in the New Millennium Culture*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999.

Wimber, John. *Power Evangelism*. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.

Wood, A. Skevington. *Evangelism: Its Theology and Practice*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1966.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by David G. Watson, D.Min., June, 2001.