

**Worship and Healthy, Evangelistic Church Growth
PROFESSIONAL DOCTORAL SEMINAR**

PMEV – 8304

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New Orleans/Atlanta/Orlando

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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.

Purpose

The purpose of this seminar is to lead students to explore biblical and contextual factors of worship with specific application to the setting of the local church and implications for the improved health and evangelistic growth of the church. Seminar participants will study, experience, and assess worship from a variety of perspectives.

Core Value Focus

The primary core competencies addressed are spiritual vitality and mission focus. The course will focus both on worship and evangelism.

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

The primary curriculum competency addressed is disciple-making. Worship evangelism involves two facets of disciple-making, both worship and evangelism.

Course Description

This course is an integrative course designed to identify and address key issues confronting ministry in the 21st century church in a holistic manner. Attention will be given to determining how various ministry disciplines can work together and be packaged to develop healthy ministers and churches. This course is to be taken during the student's final year of study.

Objectives

1. Students will be able to articulate a personal theology of worship as it pertains to the healthy, evangelistic, growing church. The theology will have a biblical base.
2. Students will be exposed to multiple models of worship (in reading and by experience) in order to better understand and discuss 'styles' of worship.
3. Students will clarify the role of worship in the evangelism of unsaved people.
4. Students will develop skill in assessing the worship experiences of their own congregation as it relates to the community around them.
5. Students will design a strategy to educate the people of their own church regarding worship in the healthy, evangelistically growing church.

Course Methodology

- I. Research. Students will engage in extensive research under the direction of the professor(s). Research will include both literature and experienced based components.
- II. Presentations. Students will make interesting and creative presentations of the findings of their research to seminar participants.
- III. Discussion. There will be a full discussion of the issues raised by the lectures, research, and presentations.
- IV. Lectures. Brief lectures from the professors will provide necessary clarity to seminar presentations and discussions.

PRE-SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

All students should enroll on Blackboard for this course. The password may be obtained from the Professional Doctorate Office.

1. Each student will read the four required books and one individually-assigned book. For the required texts, each student will write a 1000-word ministry reflection paper on each book (use third person). The reflection paper should focus on a brief synopsis of the book and particular insights drawn from the work which have potential for helping the student in his/her ministry context.

For the individually-assigned book, the student will write a formal book review. The individual book assignments will be distributed by the professors once the enrollment period is complete, possibly via Blackboard.

Required:

Worship Evangelism: Inviting Unbelievers into the Presence of God. Sally Morgenthaler. Zondervan, 1995 & reprint 1999.

Beyond the First Welcome Visit. Gary McIntosh, Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2006.

Holy Gatherings: A Leader's Guide for Engaging the Congregation in Corporate Worship. Michael Sharp and Argile Smith. 2006.(Available in Lifeway Bookstore, New Orleans Campus)

Worship Matters: Leading Others to Encounter the Greatness of God. Bob Kauflin, Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2008.

Students are expected to thoroughly read all materials and will be asked to sign a statement indicating the completion of this assignment.

2. To elaborate on #1 (above), each student will prepare a formal book review on the individually-assigned book (as assigned by the professors). The formal book review should include: (1) Title page, Table of Contents, etc.; (2) A brief synopsis of the messages of the book; (3) A critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the

messages of the book; (4) An evaluation of the degree to which the author accomplishes the stated purpose; and (5) Three to five new things you have learned from this work that you can apply in your future ministry. Emphasis should be placed upon the student's interaction with the content, rather than a written summary of the material. Reviews should be third-person and meet Turabian form and style standards.

3. Each student is to conduct and report on interviews.
 - (1) Interview 3 staff members from other churches regarding their use or lack of use of their worship service as an evangelistic tool. Preferably the student will interview one or more staff members of churches that have successfully transitioned their worship services to be more culturally connected with the community. The student is to develop the questions.
 - (2) Interview 7 laypersons (representing a broad cross-section) in the student's church regarding their view of their worship service. The student is to inquire in the following areas...
 - a. What do you view as the purpose of our primary worship service?
 - b. What do you view as a strength of our primary worship service?
 - c. What do you view as the area(s) which could be improved in our worship service?
 - d. Is there something the church could improve/change, which would cause you to be more likely to invite your neighbors and friends?
 - e. To you, how do you determine when your church has been successful in the worship service?

Following the interviews, the student is to write a summary report of each set of interviews. The two written documents (reports) should be copied and made available to all seminar participants (approximately 11). Note: Although no specific page requirements are given, the student is expected to adequately and succinctly cover the interview material. Students should be prepared to present findings of this research to the seminar.

4. Each student will assess two alternative styles of worship (Baptist or non-Baptist) available to people in their geographical area. *These should be different from the styles incorporated in the observer's home church.* The student should make arrangements to attend a worship experience at each of the two alternative style models. Afterwards, student should prepare a 1000-word reflection paper (per church) to present to the seminar. The papers should reflect both a description of the worship style observed and how these services might be perceived by a non-churched individual. Additionally, from an outsider's perspective, the observer should reflect his/her own emotional responses and thought patterns during the event. Did you connect? How did the leadership and/or format help or hinder you from doing so?
5. Students may be assigned chapters from one of the textbooks for discussion by the whole seminar. Each student will facilitate the discussion, under the assumption that all students have read the material. Leading the discussion should be both creative (visuals, etc.) and

participatory (small groups, discussion, etc.) and should be planned around a twenty minute block of time.

All pre-seminar work is due on the first day of the seminar, **October 20, 2008**.

DURING SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

1. Each student will be responsible for leading a portion of the seminar in a discussion of the following:
 - (A) A chapter from one of the textbooks AND
 - (B) Report on individually assigned reading during the session (see #2 in Pre-Workshop assignments).
2. Each student will share findings from the interviews (see assignment #3 above)
3. Each student will be responsible for leading a portion of the seminar in a discussion of their study and experience of alternative styles of worship (see assignment 4 above).
4. Students will assess one or more *virtual* worship experiences (by video) during the seminar. The assessment will be made using the article, "Was it Worship?" from *Leadership*.
5. Each student should submit a set of two or three discussion questions for each of the chapters 1- 5 in the text *Worship Evangelism*.

POST SEMINAR ASSIGNMENTS

1. Using the resources of the seminar experiences, students will develop a worship assessment instrument to be employed in their own churches. Students should enlist a variety of key leaders to complete the instruments for two consecutive weeks. Every effort should be made to secure the confidentiality of responses. Afterwards, students will prepare an objective review of the state of authentic worship in their church as pertains to the health and evangelistic growth of their churches. Students will submit this report with two components:
 - a. The worship assessment instrument (as designed for use in this project)
 - b. An interpretation of the raw data results (in narrative report form), with projected suggestions for implementation to improve deficiencies as noted.
2. In response to this objective analysis, students should design one of the following:
 - A] Four sermon briefs for a four-part sermon series that teaches the church about the subject of worship, informed by the completed analysis.
 - B] Four lesson plans for a four-session training event to be taught to the church family on the subject of worship, informed by the completed analysis.

3. Each student will prepare a 1500-2000 word position paper on the subject of “The Intersection of the Ministries of Corporate Worship and Evangelism-Church Growth in the Local Church.” The paper should include biblical support and address a variety of theological areas and communicate the student’s personal philosophy of worship as it relates to evangelism in the worship or evangelism debate. All post-seminar work is due in the digital drop box on Blackboard no later than **December 5, 2008.**

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