

**PMCP8303 Developing a Missional Church:
Applying Acts 1:8 to New and Existing Churches
May 19-21, 2008**

Dr. Philip Pinckard and Dr. Mark Tolbert
ppinckard@nobts.edu mtolbert@nobts.edu
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary

Seminary Mission

The mission of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary is to equip leaders to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) and the Great Commandments (Matthew 22:34-40) through the local church and its ministries.

Course Purpose

The purpose of this seminar is to help equip those studying at NOBTS to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28: 16-20) through the local church and its ministries.

Core Value Focus

Our seminary has five core values: doctrinal integrity, spiritual vitality, mission focus, character excellence, and servant leadership. This seminar relates in some way to all five core values but especially mission focus which states in part: “We are here to change the world by fulfilling the Great Commission and the Great Commandments through the local church and its ministries.”

Curriculum Competencies Addressed

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary has seven basic competencies guiding the NOBTS curriculum. This seminar supports and relates to various competencies such as biblical exposition in relationship to biblical foundations of missions. The disciple making competency which is stated is “to stimulate church health through mobilizing the church for missions, evangelism, discipleship, and church growth” is especially addressed in the curriculum of this seminar.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to examine and explore how to create a biblically based intentional missions focus in a church which includes evangelism, missions, and reproduction through church planting. The mission concepts in Acts 1:8 and other biblical passages will be explored including the importance of witness empowered by the Holy Spirit, the meaning of being Christ’s witnesses, and intentional sharing of the gospel in the local, regional, and international context. These concepts will be applied to new church planting efforts and existing congregations.

Student Learning Outcomes

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The student who satisfactorily completes this seminar by fulfillment of the requirements should be able to:

1. Apply a biblically based intentional missions focus to the local church and its ministry.
2. Demonstrate appreciation for the missions opportunities which are available to churches, particularly Southern Baptist churches, through the local association, state conventions, North American Mission Board, and International Mission Board.
3. Articulate and advocate missions through the local church and its ministries.

Course Teaching Methodology

A variety of teaching methods will be utilized such as class presentations by the seminar participants and the professor using Power Point and handouts. Other teaching methods include small and large group discussion, multi-media presentations, utilization of missions related websites, and other communication mediums.

Course Textbooks

Minatrea, Mildred. *Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practice of Missional Churches*. Jossey-Bass: San Francisco, 2004.

Read and Critique Two of the following:

Bauckham, Richard. *Bible and Mission: Christian Witness in a Postmodern World*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2003.

Rankin, Jerry. *To the Ends of the Earth: Churches Fulfilling the Great Commission*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2006.

Van Gelder, Craig. *The Essence of the Church: A Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2000.

These textbooks may be secured through the LifeWay Bookstore on the New Orleans campus of NOBTS by contacting (504)282-2626.

Course Requirements

Pre-Seminar Assignments

1. Textbook Reading:

Seminar participants will read all the textbooks prior to the workshop and be prepared to discuss these books during seminar sessions.

2. Textbook Critiques:

Write and submit a five to seven page double-spaced typed separate critique for two of the following books: Bauckham's *Bible and Mission*, Rankin's *To the Ends of the Earth* and Van Gelder's *The Essence of the Church*. Use headings for the following sections of the critique:

Synopsis, Evaluation, Application.

(1) Synopsis - Discuss the major themes of the book. This does not have to include every single theme or chapter of the textbook.

(2) Evaluation - Evaluate the contents from the following applicable categories: A. Biblical, B. Theological, and C. Missiological. (Use separate paragraphs for each category of evaluation.)

A. Biblical- Evaluate the use of Scripture and application of principles drawn from the Bible.

For example: Is the author using the Bible in a proper way or simply trying to justify their position with biblical references or material? Are sound exegetical principles used by the author?

B. Theological- Evaluate the theological soundness of the author's work. For example: What is the basis for their theological statements? Do they acknowledge the foundation for their theological statements? Can you determine the theological heritage of the author?

C. Missiological - For example: Does the author focus on missions theory or practice? What seems to be the basis for the mission statements made by the author?

(3) Application- Discuss a minimum of three ideas or issues presented by the author applicable to someone seeking to lead an existing or new church to have a missional focus which intentionally plans to reach people with the gospel in their local church settings and beyond to the ends of the earth.

Each section can be approximately two pages in length.

2. Write and submit a five to seven double-spaced paper concerning the Minatrea book, *Shaped by God's Heart* which includes the following:

A. Answer the following Reflection and Application questions in light of your life and present church ministry. Page 99, Questions 1-3; Page 109, Questions 1 & 3; Page 154, Question 1, and Page 172, Questions 1-2 & 4.

B. Make a copy of the Missional Church Cultural Assessment, pages 186-194 and complete yourself assessing your church. (A copy of the completed assessment doesn't have to be turned in with the paper.) Describe your reaction to the assessment in your paper.

C. Describe how you view your church's present status in light of the following missional practices: Number One (described in Chapter 3); Number Three (described in Chapter 5); Number Six (described in Chapter 8); Number Eight (described in chapter 10); and Number Nine (described in chapter 11). Indicate what changes you might need to make in your church to help it become a more intentional missional church.

Use headings to separate the sections such as: **Reflection and Application, Assessment Reaction, Church's Present Missional Practices**

Due Date: The textbook critiques and Minatrea book assignment are to be postmarked by Tuesday, April 28 and mailed to both Dr. Pinckard and Dr. Tolbert at the addresses under contact information of this syllabus (You may mail both copies in one envelope). (Include a large self-addressed and postage paid envelope for returning of the assignments.)

Assignments may be sent using the postal service or other carriers to PO boxes.

2. Case Study/Interview:

Each seminar participant will prepare a seven to ten page double-spaced and typed case study and interview with a person involved in an existing church or new church start with an active intentional missions focus of sharing the gospel in their local context, the surrounding area such as an association and/or state convention, North America, and internationally. The paper should include the following and headings:

- A. An overview of the church's missional emphasis.
- B. A brief description of how the church helps members stay focused on missions as a church.
- C. A description of the leadership principles used by the church staff and key leaders to continue having or keep a missional focus.
- D. A description of some lessons or principles gleaned from this church's missional focus which may be adopted and utilized by leaders of other churches. This may include not only possible lessons or principles but also mistakes or suggestions of what to avoid from the person with whom the interview is conducted.
- E. Prepare a separate one to two page summary of key ideas from the case study and interview to be distributed to other participants in the seminar during our on-campus meeting time.

Use headings such as: **Introduction, Church's Missional Emphasis, Keeping Members Focused on Missions, Lessons and Principles to Apply, Conclusion**

Due Date: The Case Study/Interview Paper is due at the beginning of the first session of the seminar on May 19. Provide a copy for each professor(Those taking the seminar by CIV should postmark this assignment by Monday, March 12 and include with the paper a separate handout summary of key ideas). Include a large self-addressed and postage paid envelope for returning of the assignments. Assignments may be sent using the postal service or other carriers through the campus post office.

During the Workshop Assignments

1. Seminar Presentations on Assigned Textbooks:

During the first meeting of the seminar, participants will choose or be assigned to a group for one of the textbooks. Members of the group will be responsible for leading the seminar in the discussion of that particular textbook. The details for the discussion time will be shared in the initial seminar meeting.

2. Case Study/Interview Presentations:

Each seminar participant will be expected to give an oral presentation of their particular case study and interview prepared prior to the beginning of the seminar sessions. Each participant should be prepared to give an appropriate thirty minute presentation to the seminar. (This time for the presentations is approximate and may have to be adjusted at the beginning of the seminar sessions based on the number in the seminar.) PowerPoint can be used and/or video excerpts from interviews may be used with permission of the person interviewed but the entire presentation should not be a video. During the first seminar session a schedule for these presentations will be made. (Some volunteers may be needed to present the first evening of the seminar. Please email the professor if you'd like to sign up for a time slot.)

3. Seminar Participation:

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Each seminar participant is expected to attend all sessions and participate in the discussions including and apart from individual and group presentations. A portion of the seminar grade will include individual participation.

Post-Seminar Assignment

1. **Missional Church Strategy:**

Each seminar participant will research and write a missional church strategy designed to enable a local church to implement an Acts 1:8 strategy which includes intentional local (Jerusalem), regional(Judea), North America(Samaria), and international missions(ends of the earth).

Sections of the Paper:

Introduction

Description of Church's Current Missions Involvement

Give a brief description of your church and an overview of the church's current ministries and its current involvement in missions.

Biblical Basic for a Missional Focus by a Local Church

Discuss the biblical basis for having a missional focus as a local church including selected passages. (Refer to appropriate verses, but it is not necessary to copy entire sections of verses.)

Strategy for Carrying out Missions in Geographic Areas

The major focus of the paper will show how a specific local church can implement a missional church strategy in their particular ministry context that includes local, regional, North American, and international missions. Your paper will include a strategy with a description of how you will carry out missions in the four geographic areas.

Strategy for Utilizing the Kingdom Growth Responses

Your paper will include a strategy with a description of how you will use each of the eight "Kingdom-Growing Responses to the Acts 1: 8 Challenge" for your church. (See link on "Acts One 8" website "What is the Challenge?" for the eight Kingdom-Growing Responses.:

www.actstone8.com). An overview of information on the Acts 1:8 Challenge will be given during the seminar.

Conclusion

Examples of Acts 1:8 churches may be found in articles from *The Commission* available online through <http://tconline.org> or *On Mission* available on life through <http://www.onmission.com/> For detailed information on the Acts 1:8 challenge go to the website: www.actstone8.com

The strategy should include be a minimum of fifteen to a maximum of twenty double spaced typed pages in proper Turabian form. To demonstrate a wide variety of resources have been used to compose the strategy use a minimum of twelve to fifteen different sources in addition to the Bible. These sources may include the textbooks for the seminar and other resources introduced during the seminar. It may include some internet sources in addition to hard copy material such as books, commentaries, reference books, journal articles, etc. Sources used in composing the strategy should be cited in footnotes or endnotes. One source may be cited several times but one counts as one source toward the minimum of using twelve different sources.

A separate bibliography of works consulted for the paper should be included. Use headings for the different sections of the paper.

(Those ministering in a church context which already has an intentional Acts 1:8 strategy or strong missional focus may focus on how to elevate a missional focus to saturate the entire church body. Those serving in a new church plant may write from the perspective of the church's present context and future plans. Those involved in other ministries besides serving on a local church staff may craft their strategy in relationship to their ministry assignment in helping local churches.)

Due Date: The missional church strategy should be postmarked by Monday June 23. Include a large self-addressed and postage paid envelope for returning of the assignments.

Seminar Reminders:

1. Due to office time and copying costs, assignments **will not be accepted** by email. The post-seminar assignment must be mailed with a postmark no later than the due date. **Students will need to provide a large self-addressed postage-paid envelope to receive papers back .**
2. Use the Sixth edition of Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations* as the official style and form guide.
3. Use Times New Roman 12 point font or its equivalent for assignments.
4. Use a cover sheet for all assignments except the interview/case study summary to be distributed to seminar members for which your name on the summary is sufficient.
5. ALL ASSIGNMENTS TURNED IN LATE WILL RECEIVE A MINIMUM OF A ONE LETTER GRADE REDUCTION.
6. Assignments will normally not be accepted two weeks past the due date.

Regular Seminar Evaluation:

Textbook Critiques : 20%

Minatrea Book Assignment: 10%

Case Study / Interview: 20%

Seminar Presentations and Participation including Assigned Textbook, Case/Study Interview, and general participation and attendance for seminar: 20%

Missional Church Strategy 30%

Contact Information:

Mailing Address for Seminar Assignments

Dr. Philip Pinckard
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
3939 Gentilly Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126

Dr. Mark Tolbert
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
3939 Gentilly Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126

Office: Dodd Building # 102
Office Phone: (504) 282-4455, Ext. 3224
Email: ppinckard@nobts.edu

Office: CEM #101
Office Phone: (504) 282-4455, Ext. 3728
Email: mtolbert@nobts.edu

Directed Study Options

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1. Directed study students will complete all the Pre-Seminar and Post-Seminar assignments as listed in the syllabus.
2. In place of the section, “During the Workshop Assignments,” a directed study student will complete three of the following :
 - A. Prepare a video-presentation related to the Acts 1:8 church or ministry examined in the case study which is between 15-20 minutes in length.
 - B. Read two additional books from the seminar bibliography or approved by the professor. Complete an additional two book critiques. (Follow guidelines for Pre-Seminar reviews and use the application section to discuss how the book relates to your ministry context.)
 - C. Study the materials(written and video) available on the Acts 1:8 website created by the North American Missions Board and International Missions Board of the SBC:
www.actstone8.com
Evaluate the materials and develop a plan for how your church or a local church including its key leaders could utilize these materials. The plan can include a summary of resources available and how to use in a particular ministry setting. This evaluation and plan should be approximately five to seven pages.
 - D. Use guidelines from Minatrea’s book to discuss with key leaders of your church how to become a missional church. Write a summary of your interaction and your reflections on the experience as related to you and your church’s ministry. This summary and reflection should be approximately five to seven pages.

The above assignments will be **due by May 19, 2008** and account for 20% of the Directed Study Grade.

Directed Study Evaluation

Textbook Critiques : 20%
Minatrea Book Assignment: 10%
Case Study / Interview: 20%
Special Directed Study Assignments(see above) 20%
Missional Church Strategy 30%

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