

SYLLABUS

Mid-Career Assessment Workshop PDWS8202

**Spring Trimester
May 21-22, 2009**

**Dr. Mark Tolbert and Dr. Jim Henry
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
3939 Gentilly Boulevard
New Orleans, LA 70126
(800) 662-8701, ext. 3728
mtolbert@nobts.edu**

SEMINARY PURPOSE

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.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This workshop is designed to encourage the student to reflect upon his/her career in ministry, to evaluate the present ministry, and to set goals for future ministry. Students will be involved in dialogues, experiential learning, testing, self-evaluations, and group discussions.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of this course, a student should be able to:

1. Affirm his/her call to ministry.
2. Project a personal plan for spiritual vitality and professional development.
3. Recognize his/her direction in future ministry.
4. Enhance his/her ability to develop more meaningful relationships.
5. Value and strengthen the role of marriage and family in his/her personal life.
6. Formulate a strategy for maximizing effectiveness in ministry.
7. Recognize and address personal wellness issues.
8. Address a variety of ministerial concerns in one's present ministry situation.

TEXTBOOKS

- (1) Hughes, Ken and Barbara Hughes. *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome*. Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishing, Inc., 1987. (ISBN 0-8423-2849-1) (Note: Book is out of print, but adequate copies available on Amazon.com and other book distributors.)
- (2) London, H. B., Jr., and Neil B. Wiseman. *Pastors at Greater Risk*. Ventura, California: Regal Books, 2003. (ISBN 0-8307-3237-3)
- (3) Yessick, Tommy. *Building Blocks for Longer Life and Ministry*. Nashville: Convention Press, 1997. (The book is available on the ProDoc website, www.nobts.edu/cme, "resources". Download from the same area as syllabi.)
- (4) Select ONE of the following books based on your current ministry position:

For senior pastors and others in senior leadership positions:

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Being Leaders*. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2003. (ISBN 0-8010-9143-8) Be prepared to discuss the various audits at the back of the book.

For other ministry leaders (staff members, associate pastors, denominational leaders, etc.):

Bonem, Mike and Roger Patterson. *Leading from the Second Chair: Serving Your Church, Fulfilling Your Role, and Realizing Your Dreams*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2005. (ISBN 0-7879-7739-X) Be prepared to discuss the challenges and issues of serving from the "second chair."

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Workshop Assignments

1. Textbook Readings and Book Reviews:

Texts: (1) *Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome*, (2) *Pastors at Greater Risk*, and (3) *Being Leaders* or *Leading from the Second Chair*

(Please read these three books from the standpoint of your ministry position since each of them will speak to any minister).

Read the texts and write a 5 page (double-spaced) review of each book. Students may use first person for these reviews. Begin each review with a complete bibliographic entry (as per Turabian, 6th edition) and answer the following questions:

- What is the major emphasis of the book?
- What things impacted you from the book and why?
- What areas in your life were affirmed or need changing after reading the book.

The reviews are to be submitted during the first session of the workshop (one hard copy of each). Be prepared to discuss the reviews during the workshop.

2. Textbook Exercise:

Read the text *Building Blocks for Longer Life and Ministry* and answer the questions on the wellness inventory. After answering the questions, write a summary of your findings and a list of proposed personal actions to bring total wellness to your life. There is no minimum page requirement, and the answers to questions are not required to be submitted in this summary.

This summary (one hard copy) is to be submitted during the first session of the workshop.

3. Ministry Insight Questionnaire:

Complete the Ministry Insight questionnaire and submit one hard copy of the report during the first workshop session.

The Ministry Insight questionnaire may be located at:

<http://www.ministryinsights.com/lifeway/>

Note: This item must be purchased online

Post-workshop Assignment

Write a 5 page (double-spaced) personal reflection paper. The paper will be a synthesis of the readings, Insight Questionnaire and seminar discussion. The paper should reflect an assessment of personal ministry strengths, personality profile, as well as areas for growth and development in the ministry context of your calling. Share at least five action steps that you intend to implement to enhance and improve your effectiveness as a minister. This paper is to be mailed or emailed to the professor, postmarked or date stamped by June 22, 2009.

COURSE EVALUATION

Textbook Readings & Critiques	20%
Ministry Insights	20%
Textbook Exercise	20%
Reflection Paper	20%
Workshop Participation	20%