



**PMEV8303 Case Studies in Evangelistic
Church Growth
February 2-4, 2026
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary
Professional Doctoral Program
Division of Church Ministry
Spring 2026**

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Mission Statement

New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary and Leavell College prepare servants to walk with Christ, proclaim His truth, and fulfill His mission.

Course Description

The purpose of this seminar is to teach students to analyze churches in contemporary, blended, and traditional settings and their utilization of church growth principles to discover strategies for achieving evangelistic church growth.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. To explore the application of church health/growth principles in actual church settings.
2. To synthesize dynamics of churches in various settings and propose strategic plans for strengthening the healthy evangelistic growth of churches.
3. To develop an action plan applying church healthy evangelistic growth principle in the student's ministry context.

Pre-Seminar Requirements:

A. Each doctoral student will pick 2 of the three required textbooks:

McGavran, Donald A. *Bridges of God: A Study in the Strategy of Missions*. Eugene, OR: Wipf & Stock, 2005.

Towns, Elmer. *The Ten Most Influential Churches of the Past Century: And How They Impact You Today*. Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2015.

George, Carl Warren Bird. *How to Break Growth Barriers: Revise Your Role, Release Your People, and Capture Overlooked Opportunities for Your Church*. Ada, MI: Baker Books, 2017.

B. Each student will SELECT 1 additional book from the following list (The student will email DeShannan Paddock at prodoc@nobts.edu his/her book and choice for approval).

1. *Transformational Church: Creating a New Scorecard for Churches* by Ed Stetzer and Thom Rainer
2. *The Ten Greatest Revivals Ever: From Pentecost to the Present* by Elmer Towns
3. *The Unstuck Church: Equipping Churches to Experience Sustained Health* by Tony Morgan
4. *Growing Young: Six Essential Strategies to Help Young People Discover and Love Your Church* by Kara Powell, Jake Mulder, and Brad Griffin
5. *Simple Church: Returning to God's Process for Making Disciples* by Thom Rainer
6. *When God Builds a Church: 10 Principles for Growing a Dynamic Church* by Bob Russell
7. *Church Growth Flywheel: 5 Practical Systems to Drive Growth in Your Church* by Rich Birch and Carl George.

C. Each student will prepare a six page, double-spaced executive summary of each book.

The executive summary should include a statement of:

1. The author's purpose(s) (1 page)
2. A synopsis of the content of the book (2-3 pages)
3. A critical analysis of the strengths and weaknesses of the book. (1-2 pages)
4. 3-5 takeaways for your ministry context. (1-2 pages)

D. Evangelistic Case Study Assessment (PowerPoint Presentation)

Students will develop a case study on a church that has experienced significant healthy evangelistic growth. This church does not have to be a Southern Baptist Church. However, the church must be analyzed from the following subtitled perspectives:

- 1) Overview of Senior pastor in the overall effort
- 2) Growth barriers to overcome
- 3) Developed strategic plan for church growth
- 4) The process used to determine mission, vision statements, goals, and actions.
- 5) Staff roles and responsibilities
- 6) Sunday School or small group organization
- 7) Outreach efforts
- 8) Assimilation approaches
- 9) 3 takeaways for your ministry context

*All executive summaries must include a cover sheet, the most recent Turabian form parenthetical (in text) footnotes only. Students should be prepared to discuss each assigned book. The book reviews and PowerPoint presentations are due on the first day of the seminar and should be posted on Canvas by **8:00am Monday, February 2, 2026.**

In-class Seminar Assignments

February 2-4, 2026

Attendance is required. The Schedule of events will be posted on Canvas.

Post-Seminar Assignments

D. Healthy Evangelistic Growth Report

The student will complete a paper on the student's church. Utilizing the materials presented and discussed in class, students will develop a healthy evangelistic growth plan for their church. The format for this report will be explained in the seminar.

The report is due by February 25, 2026 and should be posted on Canvas.

Course Teaching Methodology

The course will involve the following methodologies: lectures, student engagement, PowerPoint presentations, and personal reflections.

Grades will be computed as follows:

Course Engagement and Participation	10%
Executive summaries (3 in total)	30%
Evangelistic Case Study Assessment (PowerPoint Presentation)	25%
Healthy Evangelistic Growth Report	35%
Total	100%

Policy Regarding All Assignments

All assignments should be submitted in .doc or .pdf on Canvas unless otherwise stated.

Policy on Late Assignments

All work is due on the assigned day and at the assigned time. The grade for late assignments will automatically be reduced by 5 points per day. **Assignments that are over one week late will not be accepted.**

Academic Policies

Academic policies related to absences, examinations, and other topics can be found in the *New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary Academic Catalog*.

Academic Honesty Policy

All graduate and undergraduate NOBTS students, whether on-campus, internet, or extension center students, are expected to adhere to the highest Christian standard of honesty and integrity when completing academic assignments for all courses in every delivery system format. The Bible provides our standard for academic integrity and honesty. This standard applies whether a student is taking tests, quizzes, exams, writing papers, completing Discussion Boards, or any other course requirement.

Technical Assistance

For assistance regarding technology, consult ITC (504-816-8180) or the following websites:

1. Selfserve@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Selfserve.nobts.edu or My.nobts.edu site (Access to online registration, financial account, online transcript, etc.)
2. Canvas@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS Canvas Learning Management System (Faculty/Students/Staff) Canvas.NOBTS.edu.
3. [Video Conferencing Help Desk](#) - Email for technical questions/support requests with the Video Conferencing NOBTS classrooms (On and Off-Campus)
4. TelephoneHelpDesk@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests with the NOBTS On-Campus Phone system.
5. ITCSupport@nobts.edu - Email for technical questions/support requests in the Flex classrooms and for general technical questions/support requests. If you are not sure who to contact, use this email address!
6. [504.816.8180](tel:504.816.8180) - Call for any technical questions/support requests. (Currently available Mon-Thurs 7:00am-9:00pm & Fri 7:00-7:00pm Central Time)
7. www.NOBTS.edu/itc/ - General NOBTS technical help information is provided on this website.

Netiquette

Appropriate Online Behavior. Each student is expected to demonstrate appropriate Christian behavior when working online on Discussion Boards or whenever interaction occurs through web, digital, or other electronic medium. The student is expected to interact with others students in a fashion that will promote learning and respect for the opinions of others in the course. A spirit of Christian charity is expected at all times in the online environment.

Emergency Plan

In the event of a hurricane or other emergency, go to the seminary web site for information: www.nobts.edu. Also, students should use Canvas to follow any announcements that may be posted.

Plagiarism

NOBTS has a no tolerance policy for plagiarism. Plagiarism in certain cases may result in expulsion from the seminary. See the NOBTS Student Handbook for definition, penalties, and policies associated with plagiarism.

Disability Accommodations

Accommodations for students with disabilities are determined and approved by the Assistant Dean of Students for Student Affairs. If you, as a student, believe you are eligible for accommodations but have not obtained approval please contact Conner Hinton immediately at chinton@nobts.edu or

504-816-8246. Students must complete the Accommodation Request Form and provide documentation of their disability. The Assistant Dean of Students notifies students and faculty members of approved academic accommodations and coordinates implementation of those accommodations. While not required, students and faculty members are encouraged to discuss details of the implementation of individual accommodations. The seminary reserves the right to consider each request for special accommodations on a case-by- case basis pursuant to the criteria enumerated above.