

# **508 Church Growth and Evangelism**

## **BEAR VALLEY BIBLE INSTITUTE**

3 semester hours

Will Hanstein, Instructor

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### **COURSE SYLLABUS**

#### **Course Description:**

This course is designed to be an in-depth study of church growth and evangelism. Emphasis will be given to understanding various evangelistic methods, motivating and equipping congregations, as well as formulating a plan to grow the Lord's kingdom in a particular area.

#### **Course Objectives:**

1. The student will understand the challenges of church growth in different cultures.
2. The student will understand various evangelistic efforts that have been used in church growth.
3. The student will understand how to better motivate a congregation to evangelize.
4. The student will understand how to identify his current talents, as well as learn new ones.
5. The student will understand how to grow the Lord's kingdom in his community.

#### **Course Approach:**

Because we are not in a classroom, the approach for this class will be mail, email, and telephone when necessary.

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#### **Course Requirements:**

1. The student will read completely, in word-for-word manner, all the required materials. The student will write that he has completely read the required materials and sign it. The

student will write and sign one such sheet for each required book and send it to the instructor.

### Required Reading

- Required texts:
  - a. Hesselgrave, David J. Planting Churches Cross-Culturally. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2000.
  - b. McIntosh, Gary. One Church, Four Generations. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.
  - c. Russell, Bob. When God Builds a Church. West Monroe: Howard, 2000.
- Recommended Texts:
  - a. McIntosh, Gary L. Biblical Church Growth. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
  - b. North, Ira. Balance. Nashville: Gospel Advocate, 1983.
  - c. Rainer, Thom S. Surprising Insights From the Unchurched. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
  - d. Schultz, Thom & Joani. Why Nobody earns Much of Anything at Church: and How to Fix It. Loveland: Group, 2004.
  - e. Stewart, Ivan. Go Ye Means Go Me. Arlington: Ivan Stewart, 1974.
  - f. Zwonitzer, Rodney E. Testing the Claims of Church Growth. St. Louis: Concordia, 2002.

2. The student must do the following:

- The student must read completely the three required texts and write a book review on each.
- The student must choose two of the remaining six recommended texts and do a book review for each of the two chosen.

### Book Review Guidelines

Book reviews follow a simple format. The general publication data should be given at the beginning of the review. The bulk of the review should consist of two points: strengths and weaknesses of the book. A book review should be written as if it will be read by a person who is interested in buying the book, yet needs to know if it is worth the time and expense. It should be at least four pages, but no more than five pages, in length.

- Details of Publication.
  - a. Put data at the top of the page (author, title, series, price, etc).
  - b. Write around three sentences about the author (not a whole page).
- Evaluation (primary part of the review).
  - a. Content.
    - i. Do you agree with the thesis and the other major points of the book? Why?
    - ii. Do the book's conclusions agree with scholarly opinion as a whole on the topic? If not, does the book represent one particular segment or school of scholarly opinion? Does the book take advantage of the most recent developments in scholarship on the topic? Does the book advance scholarly discussion on the subject?
  - b. Aesthetics.
    - i. Is the book well written, easy to read, and interesting?
    - ii. How do you rate the quality of the book's binding and printing? Are there many typographical errors or other obvious mistakes?
  - c. General Evaluation—what is your overall opinion of the book? Is it better or worse than others on the topic? Can you recommend it to others?

3. The student is also required to write a term paper:

- The term paper must be at least 15 but no more than 20 pages in length and written in MLA format (works cited pages, etc, do not count toward the total).
- The paper must have at least 15 cited sources.
- The paper will consist of a report on the congregation the student is currently working with/attending.
- Various subjects should be addressed:
  - a. Demographics of the area and congregation.
  - b. General History of the area.
  - c. History of both denominational and Christian missions in the area.

- d. Current state of the area and congregation.
  - e. A plan to help this local church grow spiritually and carry the gospel to the community (this is the main focus of the paper and should be very detailed).
4. The student will also prepare three sermons designed to spur church growth and submit them in outline form. The outlines should each be no more than five pages in length.

**Grading:**

Your grade will be determined as follows:

Reading all required books 15%  
Book reviews 15%  
Term paper 50%  
Sermons 20%

The grading scale for this course is:

100-95 / A  
94-87 / B  
86-74 / C  
73-63 / D  
62-0 / F