

A Plan For Maturing Members At Calvary Chapel
Reverend Douglas Earls

ABSTRACT

Calvary Chapel desires to produce spiritually mature congregants who are continually spiritually transformed and who model the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit. The purpose of this project was to develop and teach a course on spiritual transformation and the fruit of the Spirit that would assist the congregants of Calvary Chapel in growing to spiritual maturity. The course was developed to challenge its attendees to accurately evaluate the virtues of the Spirit in their lives and develop a plan for improvement in weak areas.

A spiritual maturity course (“Changing Your Life: Becoming the Person God Wants You to Be”) composed of ten class sessions for adult small groups was created. The course was taught at Calvary Chapel in Buffalo, Missouri, September 8, 2002, through November 17, 2002. The course was composed of the following ten sessions: (1) Lordship of Christ; (2) Spiritual Transformation/Change; (3) The Sinful Nature; (4) Love; (5) Joy; (6) Peace; (7) Patience; (8) Kindness and Goodness; (9) Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control; and (10) Being Fruitful.

In order to show progress or knowledge gained from the course, a pretest and posttest criterion reference assessment on Christian virtues was given. The *Christian Life Profile* (CLP), developed by Randy Frazee, was selected as this assessment tool. Comparisons of the pretest/posttest revealed a significant growth in understanding of the course materials presented.

The evaluative factors showed that the project was effective in helping the participants grow in spiritual maturity. Specifically, the participants not only were given instruction and encouragement to change, but from self-evaluation the participants are seeing progress in their lives. Participants showed significant gain in experiencing the virtues of the fruit of the Spirit by participating in the course.

**Small Groups: An Approach To Enhance Spiritual Formation and
Community Within All Nations Church, Hampton, Virginia**

Reverend Ronald Gavin

ABSTRACT

Life-changing events can take place in our lives so simply and innocently that we do not fully understand their importance until years, even decades later. This was the case when, as a teenager in the summer of 1971, I attended a home meeting in northern Virginia. In this meeting, people of all ages gathered regularly to praise God, pray, study Scripture, and share refreshments. The members of that small group were sharing something deeper—their very lives in community with one another. I did not realize at the time that this was a picture of how the Church began and thrived in the New Testament; I only knew there was something very powerful in the experience.

Years later I began to hear of small group meetings sponsored by churches and held in members' homes. Through my theological training I realized the connection between the Early Church approach to ministry and the approach that churches were rediscovering today.

My journey has come full circle as I now seek to lead my current church through the path of community and spiritual formation that becomes awakened through a small group philosophy of ministry. The impact that this small group project has had on my ministry and my church assures me that small group methodology is not only a tool from the past used by the Church, but is a vital tool today for connecting with God, each other, and to society. Jesus must have certainly known what He was doing when He chose the small group model as a force that would unleash the power of the gospel to a dying world. The time for spiritual formation and community throughout the Church and society is needed again. Church leaders today have a

proven New Testament concept that is bringing new life in the Spirit to current congregations. I commend to you the model of the small group.

Abstract: Marriage and Family Textbook For Global University
Reverend Wayde I. Goodall

ABSTRACT

The Christian Marriage and Family is intended to serve as a study book for families throughout the world and as a textbook (course) for college credit with Global University (a university connected with Assemblies of God World Missions). The book will be released in twelve languages simultaneously and will be in as many as a million homes within five years. Some of the language groups include English, Spanish, Chinese, French, German, an Indian language, Russian, and Portuguese. It will be distributed through the marketing efforts of Global University and through Assemblies of God missionaries. Families will be able to study the book as they endeavor to follow biblical instruction for their marriage, children, and extended families. Students will be able to do extra work (i.e., tests, writing, extra reading) for Global University credit.

A requirement from the publisher was that the content cover the basic mandates of marriage, difficulties in marriage, parenting, and aging. The treatment of these subjects is meant to be general in format and to be written in a way that can easily be read and understood. Global University assigned all of the thirteen chapters.

The book was written from a strong biblical perspective and was not intended to reflect American culture and traditions. To determine the types of issues to discuss, missionaries, college administrators, national officials, and lay people from a variety of countries were asked what topics and specific areas needed attention. Unique concerns of various cultures have been addressed. If a particular culture had large population, the subject was addressed with more detail. If the population was small, subjects were

addressed with less detail, however, footnoting items for further study and Scriptural support were included. The anticipated release date for *The Christian Marriage and Family* is the fall of 2003.

Closing the Church's Backdoor: A Seminar Designed to Develop Nigerian Assemblies of God Leaders Who Would More Effectively Assimilate and Retain People in Their Churches

Reverend John O. Ikoni

ABSTRACT

The Nigerian Assemblies of God has witnessed great evangelism explosion, resulting in great harvest of souls into the kingdom of God and phenomenal growth during the Decade of Harvest (1990–2000). In spite of this astronomical growth, many congregations are experiencing a loss in attendance. In many cases, the total number of new converts does not translate into proportionate gains in attendance. Many church members drop from church; others are on the move, shopping around for churches. It has frequently been observed that a parade of people come into the church through the “front door” but drift out the “backdoor.” The rate of attrition causes many pastors to lose spiritual impetus.

A twofold problem exists. First, there is a failure to assimilate new converts. Second, current believers are failing to remain faithful in their church attendance. Sadly, most pastors have been taught evangelism but not assimilation (how to preserve the “front door” fruit) and discipleship (how to mature believers in the faith).

The project focuses on assisting shepherd leaders in developing leadership skills and qualities to more effectively attract, assimilate, disciple, and retain people in their congregations. To get a clearer understanding of the role of pastors as leaders in relationship to the retention of members through vital and systematic assimilation and discipleship programs, input was sought through field survey and seminars. The results from the survey and seminars substantiate the need for training pastors and church leaders in basic leadership skills.

By-products of this study may occur: (1) pastors will become more effective shepherds of their congregations, especially in the throes of a vastly changing society; (2) pastors will enhance their leadership skills and be able to give their members better direction, by developing vision and values for themselves and their congregations and by becoming people of influence; (3) pastors will place as much value on the maturity of members as they do on numerical growth; (4) churches will experience more steady growth; and (5) the instruments and strategies developed can be used by other churches to enhance their effectiveness in leadership, as well as assimilation and discipleship programs.

**BELIEVER EMPOWERMENT SEMINAR FOR PRAISE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
IN DERBY, KANSAS**

Reverend Milton J. Krans

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this project was to utilize a Believer Empowerment Seminar (BES) so the members and attendees of Praise Assembly of God in Derby, Kansas would be able to minister more effectively under the godly leadership of their pastoral staff. The seminar would teach biblical principles of believer ministry, motivate Christians to involvement in ministry, and initiate the equipping process for them to use their God-given gifts in ministry.

The BES involved the reshaping and enhancing of a model that has been successfully used to empower believers in many churches across the United States. The seminar consisted of the following: (session 1) contemporary church statistics and biblical foundations for believer ministry; (session 2) discovering how God has shaped every believer for ministry; (session 3) helping every believer find and understand his or her S.H.A.P.E. which involves—spiritual gifts, heartbeat, abilities, personal temperament, and important life experiences; (session 4) biblical guidelines for believer empowered ministry; (session 5) philosophy of a believer empowered church; and (session 6) contemporary believer ministry examples from selected churches in the United States.

The project involved designing the following: (1) a church leadership survey to be used by the pastoral staff to identify the lay leaders at Praise Assembly; (2) a pretest to be administered before the seminar began to assess believer's biblical knowledge and understanding of believer ministry; (3) a BES with a workbook for all seminar

participants; (4) a PowerPoint presentation that corresponded to the participant's seminar workbook; (5) A posttest to be administered to all seminar participants at the close of the BES; and (6) a believer's personal profile for ministry that included a record of the believer's ministry S.H.A.P.E.—one for each seminar participant.

The steps in modifying the original S.H.A.P.E. model were as follows: (1) applying everything from the reshaped model to a small local church in the state of Kansas in which the believers were multi-ethnic, educationally-diverse and at different stages of sanctification; (2) adopting a current, inexpensive, contemporary, and very effective spiritual gift test; and finally, (3) selecting an appropriate personality profile for believers to take.

The major benefits of the project research and BES were two. First, believers in this church do desire to find out their ministry S.H.A.P.E. and be equipped for ministry in the local church. Secondly, the knowledge gained from this project-seminar can be taught to any students at Evangel University and they can become empowered believers doing ministry. It can also be used to prepare prospective local church pastors who desire to follow biblical principles and equip believers for ministry in the local church.

**A Guide Manual For Utilizing Electronic Resources In Spanish
For Graduate Theological Education In Latin America**

Reverend Larry D. McNeill

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the project was to develop a manual to guide students and faculty in the regional study centers of Latin America Theological Seminary (LATS) to utilize electronic resources to enhance their research and study practices. A survey of LATS students prior to the development of the manual revealed that the majority did not access the Internet for anything other than E-mail, and none had utilized the Internet to locate textual material for study purposes.

The underpinning of theological education was shown to be biblically mandated and firmly etched in the practices of God's people throughout the Veterotestamental historical record. The Church in succeeding eras has consistently employed effective means to perpetuate the tradition of popular theological education and ministerial formation. Electronic resources are tools for the current age to aid in the continuation of the educational mission of the Church.

The project focused on locating textual material in Spanish on the Internet and CD-ROMs relevant to curricular studies at LATS. An extensive discovery phase to locate appropriate material was conducted by way of comprehensive Internet searches supplemented by consultations with educators and students. The information located by the exploration was catalogued according to course offerings. A training course, *Introduction to Electronic Resources*, was designed to guide students and faculty into an effective use of the information available by electronic means. A successful administration of the course in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, yielded encouraging results that

LATS students and faculty would be able to quickly learn the necessary skills to navigate the Internet as a tool beneficial to their study discipline. Further, the course will be easily replicable in other regional centers across Latin America.

The major implications rendered by the project suggest that electronic resources provide an expansive supply of study material, most of which will not likely become available in LATS libraries by traditional printed means. The ensuing enrichment of study practices by LATS students and faculty will help them to be more thoroughly equipped for effective ministry in today's blending hues of cultures. It is reasonable to anticipate that the benefits of the project will extend beyond LATS students and faculty to the larger community of twenty thousand Assemblies of God theological students in Latin America in the mission effectiveness of the Church of Jesus Christ.

**Hispanic Church Planting Initiative in
The North Carolina District of the Assemblies of God**
Reverend Reginald Stone

ABSTRACT

Aubrey Malphurs quotes a denominational executive who was overheard saying sarcastically, “The church is organized for the 1950s and if the 1950s ever come again, we will be ready.”¹ What has happened in the last fifty years has transformed the composition of the American population. “No nation in the world is as culturally diverse as America with some 500 distinct groups who communicate in over 600 different languages.”² Presently our nation is experiencing the greatest cultural change in its history.

Churches that fail to adapt to the realities of cultural change become increasingly irrelevant. Many churches pride themselves in their involvement in foreign missions, but choose to ignore the need to reach the hundreds of people from foreign countries that reside in their own communities. Unfortunately, the Assemblies of God, for the most part, is guilty of the same and being left behind in ministering to the ethnic groups at their own doorstep, preferring to continue to do business as usual. One of the most populous ethnic groups in America is the Hispanic community, which during the 1990s grew to 35.5 million, making it equal to the African American population. Presently, there is only one Hispanic church for every 20,000 Hispanics.

¹Aubrey Malphurs, *Developing a Vision for Ministry in the 21st Century*, (Grand Rapids, Michigan: Baker Books, 2001), 21.

²Charles Hackett, Homes Missions *Mission America Publication*, December 2001.

This project addresses the problem of reaching the Hispanic population of North Carolina which totals 378,963.³ The outreach to the Hispanic population by the North Carolina District of the Assemblies of God officially began in January 1996 when the district presbytery formally initiated a Hispanic section. The author of this project was appointed as the coordinator of the new section. The number of Hispanic churches and missions of the section has grown to twenty five. The leadership of the Hispanic section has developed a five-year vision plan to plant twenty five new Hispanic churches, and the author has been chosen to direct the coordination of the church planting vision.

This project will serve the achievement of that goal in the following ways:

- Focusing on the need for evangelizing the Hispanics in North Carolina.
- Reviewing the biblical-theological justification for evangelizing this large ethnic group
- Addressing the cultural characteristics of the Hispanics that affect the approaches that will be employed in Hispanic church planting
- Describing the proposed field test intervention and subsequently the actual field test intervention
- Summarizing the progress of the project and concluding with a wrap-up of lessons learned along with suggestions on how the Assemblies of God nationally could more effectively evangelize the Hispanic population in the United States

³US Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, United States Census 2000, *The Hispanic Population*, 4.

**A Resource To Assist Ministers In The Awareness And Prevention
Of Ministerial Sexual Misconduct**
Reverend Cheryl A. Taylor

ABSTRACT

Although ministers are not the only people who commit sexual misconduct, when they do, special significance is attached. Ministerial sexual misconduct is a moral, theological, ethical, and practical problem. Even though sexual temptation is common to all, there appear to be unique pressures on those within ministry that contribute to ministerial sexual misconduct—pressures that if recognized and addressed properly can assist in the prevention of sexual impropriety.

Consequently, the purpose of the project was to develop and present a seminar to assist ministers in proactively addressing the problem of ministerial sexual misconduct. The two-hour *Sexual Integrity in Ministry Seminar*, with accompanying resource materials, sought to do the following: (1) increase awareness of the problem of ministerial sexual misconduct; (2) inform ministers of unique vocational vulnerabilities contributing to the problem; (3) educate ministers in how to recognize and respond properly to the warning signs; (4) equip ministers with resources to assist in the prevention of impropriety; and (5) encourage ministers how to respond appropriately should it occur.

The seminar was presented to eighty-three ministerial students at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary, as well as to local church leaders, denominational leaders, and educators from Assemblies of God institutions of higher education. The project design involved the use of a pretest and posttest instrument for gaining quantitative data as to whether significant awareness had occurred as a result of the seminar. An additional

postsession evaluation was administered to provide specific feedback on the effectiveness of the seminar delivery and usefulness of the seminar resources.

The findings of the project confirm that highly significant learning occurred in the lives of those attending the seminar. Thus, the project was successful, demonstrating the overall effectiveness of the materials developed and implemented in the field test. The project has resulted in a resource that will benefit the seminar participants personally, the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary as an institution, as well as other believers in the kingdom of God. It is believed that the project provides a valuable resource to assist in the prevention of ministerial sexual misconduct.

A Case Study Of An Effective Church Plant In Brighton, Michigan
Bradley Trask

ABSTRACT

This project was designed to enhance effectiveness in new church formation commonly referred to as church planting or pioneering. The case study utilized was an Assemblies of God church planted in 1992 in the community of Brighton, Michigan. Focus and application throughout the project pertaining to church planting or pioneering was specific, but not limited, to North America.

Next, articulation regarding a biblical-theology foundation directly related to church planting was the primary focus. In addition, the project will also serve as a stimulus and counsel to individuals who desire to plant or pioneer a new congregation. Five chapters comprise this body of work. Chapter one examines the need for church planting within the Assemblies of God and other evangelical denominations. This chapter also provides the biblical and theological roots of the Church and examination of biblical precedence regarding church planting. Chapter two contains current methodologies and suggestions being utilized by those involved in effective church plant scenarios. Section three explores the ten-year history and development of the Brighton Assembly of God church plant. The final chapter addresses essential characteristics that a successful church planter will possess or strive to possess. This chapter also includes reflective recommendations based upon the writer's personal experiences while pioneering.

**Implementing A New Testament Diaconate In The International
Christian Assembly Sasebo, Japan**
Reverend Paul Williams

ABSTRACT

The purpose of the project was to implement a New Testament, service-oriented diaconate in the International Christian Assembly (ICA), Sasebo, Japan.

Biblical—Theological and general literature were researched in order to determine a biblical basis and a framework for establishing a diaconal model. The model consisted of the following components: (1) a theology of service, (2) deacon ministry training [for service rather than administration], (3) adherents and deacons surveys, (4) *A Deacon Ministry That Works* videocassette training series by Herbert L. Pedersen, and (5) deacon meetings in which deacons report activities and receive further training.

The project design used preliminary questionnaires, designed by the pastor and tailored to the needs of ICA, in order to gather and evaluate data to determine the adherents' interest in a service-oriented deacon ministry. Post-questionnaires were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the project and whether the members accepted the ministry of the deacons. Additional surveys were conducted to gather and evaluate data from the deacons concerning their training and deacon ministry.

The major implication of the project is that the pastor's effectiveness in providing pastoral care will be significantly enhanced by implementing a service-oriented New Testament model of the diaconate in the local church. Another implication is that Christian maturing and spiritual growth will take place among deacons who assist the pastor in providing pastoral care for the church members.

**INTITUTING A SMALL GROUP MINISTRY
AT WHEATLAND HARVEST CHURCH,
WHEATLAND, CALIFORNIA**
Reverend Grady C. Windham

ABSTRACT

The goal of this project was to institute a small group ministry at Wheatland Harvest Church (WHC), Wheatland, California, for the purpose of building up the local church. The project focused on the research and development of a small group ministry model which would have a positive evangelistic and church growth impact.

The project consisted of the following elements: (1) introducing a theological, historical, and practical small group ministry; (2) identifying, recruiting, and training small group ministry leadership; (3) researching and identifying demographic and geographic locations for small group implementation; (4) establishing a monthly meeting of three small groups in the three demographically diverse locations of Wheatland, Olivehurst, and Beale Air Force Base, to meet participant needs; and (5) instituting a monthly training session for group leaders.

The project elements were effective in bringing a renewed sense of community in the church. The project's impact was a nominal increase in Sunday morning service attendance, and a renewed commitment by group participants to the local church. Members assumed church leadership positions, and nonmembers joined the church. The major implication of the research is that WHC could experience measurable growth through evangelism and assimilation by developing an intentional small group ministry. Due to this positive small group ministry impact, WHC will consider permanently implementing such a ministry into its overall ministry strategy.

**IMPROVING THE COACHING SKILLS OF SECTIONAL PRESBYTERS
IN THE SOUTHERN MISSOURI DISTRICT COUNCIL**

Reverend Mark Wootton

ABSTRACT

The first duty listed for sectional presbyters in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Southern Missouri District Council of the Assemblies of God is to promote and assist in the building up of assemblies within their sections. However, current statistics indicate that attendance in Assemblies of God churches in the Southern Missouri District is plateauing. The executive officers of the district are taking several proactive steps to address the plateauing trend. The sectional presbyters' abilities to help combat the trend can be enhanced, if they receive encouragement and training.

The project provides several suggestions for enhancing the abilities of sectional presbyters to coach for growth. First, it is proven that promoting and assisting church growth is a legitimate duty for sectional presbyters. The project proves this duty to be biblically justified, historically precedented, and constitutionally mandated. Second, it is proven that there is a need and receptivity for sectional presbyters to provide growth assistance to pastors within their sections. Third, the project provides models of leadership and church organization that are holistic and adaptable to any church setting in the Southern Missouri District. These models provide guidance and simplicity in coaching churches and pastors into health and growth.

During research for the project, several serious obstacles were mentioned that hinder sectional presbyters from promoting and assisting church growth. The most significant was insufficient time available to assist churches. Uncertainty about coaching

content was also a hindering factor. The independence of some pastors was also mentioned as limiting coaching opportunities. The project provides several suggestions to circumvent these obstacles.

The research and suggestions were presented as a seminar for Southern Missouri District Council sectional presbyters during their 2001 fall retreat. Their receptivity testified to the value of the material. However, the project did not include an extended implementation phase by the sectional presbyters with follow-up. The project indicates that the seminar was appreciated and effective. Therefore, extended implementation and follow-up should only further enhance the ability of sectional presbyters to promote and assist in the building up of churches within their sections. That would be a timely and desirous effect upon Southern Missouri District Council churches and pastors.

**BIBLE COLLEGE LECTURES ON THE HISTORY OF THE
ASSEMBLIES OF GOD OF BURKINA FASO**

Reverend Etienne Zongo

ABSTRACT

The Assemblies of God of Burkina Faso has a long and rich history. However, for most of its eighty-two years, the historical “records” have been housed in the libraries of oral tradition—the hearts and minds of certain elderly people. As first generation Christians die or become unable to recall details of the past, the “library treasure” of the Burkina Faso Assemblies of God disappears.

This project represents the investigation of the historical development of the Assemblies of God in Burkina Faso from its early beginnings to the year 2003 and the initial step in the process of preserving the historical data in written form. The research findings are presented in a lecture format that can be utilized to inform the present generation of believers and future church leaders of their heritage and to challenge all Christians to be motivated toward greater unity and continued church growth. These lectures concurrently address the historical, doctrinal, and missiological development of the Church. Both negative and positive influences have been highlighted.

Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6 of the project represent the actual series of lectures and include an overview of the history of the Pentecostal phenomenon and the birth of the Assemblies of God; the formative years of the Assemblies of God of Burkina Faso from its beginning to 1954, highlighting the arrival of missionaries; the expansion of the Church from 1955 to 1984, focusing on key leaders, significant revivals, the development of church ministries, and the rapid development of home and world missions from 1985 to the year 2003.

The results of this project will assist teachers in Bible colleges and the local churches in teaching the history of the Church. This initial written account can also serve as a foundation for further study and publication of the history of the Assemblies of God of Burkina Faso.