

Evangelism – 4MS508
RTS – Atlanta
Dr. James Saxon
Spring of 2009

Course Title – Evangelism and Soul-winning (4MS508)

Class Schedule: Eight Monday nights beginning on March 23 through May 11.

All day practicum – Saturday, April 18th or May 9 – 9-3 pm.

Purpose of the Course – To help pastors and believers fulfill the mandate of II Tim 4:5 -
“Do the work of an evangelist, (and) fulfill your ministry.”

Course Description – This Evangelism Training Course is designed to be a practical overview of the ministry of evangelism and soul winning. It is structured to cover the fundamental aspects of the biblical paradigm for evangelism as well as to equip and to train students to actively engage our culture for soul-winning purposes. The atmosphere will be one of highly interactive learning designed to develop in students a balance of knowledge (learning), understanding (equipping), and wisdom (engaging) in the fine art of soul-winning.

Course Objectives:

- The overall goal of the class is to stir our zeal for evangelism, root it in the soil of biblical content, and ground it on the foundation of sound theology.
- To build confidence to overcome the natural fears inherent in doing evangelism.
- To de-mystify evangelism and make it practical and understandable.
- To learn insights, approaches, and practices in evangelism that are current and relevant to reaching lost people in today’s culture.
- To learn a comprehensive view of evangelism as a process, not as point action.

Topics to be Covered:

The Biblical Basis for Evangelism

- Introduction and Overview
- God’s Heart for the Lost – OT
- God’s Heart for the Lost – NT
- God’s Commission to the Church
- God’s Sovereignty in Soul-Winning
- Man’s Responsibility in Soul-Winning

The Fine Points of Soul-Winning

- The Identity of the Soul-winner
- Pitfalls in Soul-winning – The Apostolic Paradigm
- God’s Plan for Soul-winning
- Mastering Basic Skills – The Key to Building Confidence
- The Art of a Good Testimony
- Winning a Soul – How it Usually Looks

The Evangelism Process

Understanding the Primary Target Group
Finding the Open Door
Effectively Presenting the Gospel
Inviting a Person to Receive Christ
Follow-up of New Believers
Positioning Growing Believers to Press on to Maturity

Course Requirements:

Class attendance and interaction – 25% of the final grade – this includes active participation in the Saturday field project

Reading of Assigned Texts - 25% of the final grade - see the list below – Each assigned reading requires a one page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles, insights, and practices gathered from the reading.

Final Exam – 2 Parts – 50% of the final grade – this must be completed in a timely manner

Oral – Evaluates how well the student compiles and articulates a written draft of each student's salvation testimony - 25% of the final grade

Written – Evaluates each student's understanding of the content of the course lectures – 25% of the final grade

Sjogren, Steve, Dave Ping and Doug Pollock. *Irresistible Evangelism* (Loveland, CO: Group Publishers, 2004). *Report due by* – 4/6

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1961). *Report due by* – 4/20

Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003). *Report due by* – 5/4

Book of Acts – Read Devotionally - Journal entry of readings with a one sentence summary of the heartbeat of each chapter. *Due at the final class* – 5/11.

****Reports may be turned in before their due dates.***

Recommended Reading

(choose ONE of the following - Report due by – 5/11)

- Barna, George. *Evangelism That Works – How to Reach Changing Generations With The Unchanging Gospel* (Venture, CA: Regal, 1995).
- Comfort, Ray. *Hell's Best Kept Secret – Discover the Crucial Key Needed to Unlock the Unbeliever's Heart* (New Kensington, PA: Whitaker House, n.d.).
- Covell, Jim & Karen and Victorya Michaels Rogers. *How to Talk About Jesus Without Freaking Out* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Publishers, 2000).
- Douglas, J.D. e.d. *Let The Earth Hear His Voice* (Minneapolis, MN: World Wide Publications, 1975).
- Fay, William. *Share Jesus Without Fear* (Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman Publishers, 1999).
- Kromminga, Carl G. *Bringing God's News to Neighbors* (Nutley, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Company, 1976).
- Kuiper, R.B. *God-Centered Evangelism* (London, England: The Banner of Truth and Trust, 1961).
- Metzger, Will *Tell The Truth – The Whole Gospel to the Whole Person by Whole People* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002).
- Parrish, Archie. *Impact Your World – How to Pray With Kingdom Focus So That Your Family, Associates and Neighbors Are Gripped With The Gospel* (Atlanta, GA: Serve International, 2001).
- Wagner, C. Peter e.d. with Win Arn and Elmer Towns. *Church Growth – State of the Art* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 1998).
- Webber, Robert E. *Ancient-Future Evangelism: Making Your Church a Faith-Forming Community* (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2003).

Teacher/Professor – This class will be led by James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 29 years. He founded and pastored the Tampa Bay Presbyterian Church, in Tampa, Florida for 20 years and had oversight of the founding of one daughter church, Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Brandon, Florida. He joined the staff of the fast-growing, outreach-minded Church of The Apostles in Atlanta in the fall of 2000. Since coming to Apostles, he has served in a variety of staff roles and has recently assumed the role of Director of Evangelism and Assimilation.

In addition to being a successful church-planter, James spearheaded the founding of the Southwest Florida Presbytery in the early 1990's, and then led the effort to host the 2000 General Assembly in Tampa by that presbytery. He graduated from the RTS Doctorate of Ministry program in the spring of 2005, completing his dissertation entitled, "Empowering the Local Church through Mentoring" which featured a practicum that field-tested mentoring seminary students as a part of their theological education.

He is currently the director of the ministry initiative entitled ApostlesLife. This core ministry of The Church of The Apostles is a cutting-edge evangelism strategy that inculcates many current ideas and approaches that are successfully being utilized in soul-winning around the country. This strategy and much more will be covered in this course, which will be conducted in a hands-on, interactive atmosphere.