

**Evangelism – 4MS508**  
**RTS – Atlanta**  
**Dr. James Saxon**  
**Spring of 2011**

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

**Class Schedule:** Six Monday nights beginning on April 4 through May 9<sup>th</sup>, 6-9pm.  
All day practicum – 9-3pm - Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, or – Saturday, May 7<sup>th</sup>

**Purpose of the Course** – To help 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 at least 1 page single spaced report highlighting the main theses as well as key principles, insights, and practices gathered from the reading. (See Book Report Guidelines).

*Final Exam* – 2 Parts – 50% of the final grade

Oral – 25% of the Final Grade - Evaluates how well the student articulates a written draft of his/her salvation testimony.

Written – 25% of the final grade - Evaluates each student's understanding of the content of the course lectures. The date of exam TBA and will be convenient to the class.

## **Required Readings:**

Sjogren, Steve, Dave Ping and Doug Pollock. *Irresistible Evangelism* (Loveland, CO: Group Publishers, 2004). *Report due by* – 4/11

Packer, J.I. *Evangelism and the Sovereignty of God* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1961). *Report due by* – 4/25

Rainer, Thom S. *The Unchurched Next Door* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2003). *Report due by* – 5/9

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* – 5/9.

***\*Reports can be turned in before their due dates.***

## **Recommended Reading**

**(choose ONE of the following - Report due by – 5/16)**

- 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).
- Richardson, Rick. *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 2002).
- 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 course will be led by James Saxon, an ordained PCA minister since 1979, who has actively served in the pastorate for the last 31 years. He was converted to Christ at the age of twenty while a student at the University of Alabama. His conversion was so dramatic that he decided against going into the business world with his Marketing Degree and instead began pursuit of his call to pastoral ministry by enrolling in RTS Jackson in the summer of 1975. After serving as a youth director for two summers, and taking a year long internship at the well-known Spanish River Presbyterian Church in Boca Raton, Florida, he discerned God’s calling to go into church planting. 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 ApostlesLife

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, the outreach ministry strategy for the next twenty years of the church. 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.

He also supervises three departments – Children’s, Student, College and Young Adult ministries. Since 2005, he has served as guest lecturer at RTS Atlanta and has taught two courses, Evangelism and Pastoral Care. Though he is currently involved in outreach ministry, he is a pastor at heart and his life ministry verse is Colossians 1:28, “And we proclaim Him, admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom, that we may present every man complete in Christ.”