

Church Growth and Renewal
Doctor of Ministry Core - DMC 804
Mark Dever & Ed Stetzer
July 17-21, 2006

Course Description:

An exploration of church growth and renewal dynamics from a biblical, theological and cultural perspective. Topics include corporate prayer, worship, preaching, teaching, small groups, evangelism and ministries of mercy & justice. Special attention will be given to developing missional churches that engage today's culture with transformational gospel ministries.

Course Instructors:

Dr. Mark Dever serves as the senior pastor of Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington, DC. A Duke graduate, Dr. Dever holds a M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, a Th.M. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and a Ph.D. in ecclesiastical theology from Cambridge University. He is the executive director of 9Marks Ministries and has taught at a number of seminaries, including Beeson Divinity School, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School. Dr. Dever has authored several books and articles, including *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church* (Crossway Books, 2000, 2004), *The Deliberate Church* (Crossway 2005), *Promises Kept: The Message of the New Testament* (Crossway 2005), and a forth-coming publication of *Promises Made: The Message of the Old Testament* (Crossway 2006). He and his wife Connie live and minister with their son, Nathan, on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C.

Dr. Ed Stetzer has planted churches in New York, Pennsylvania, and Georgia. He has trained pastors and church planters on five continents, holds two masters degrees and two doctorates, and has written dozens of articles and books. Ed served for three years as a seminary professor at the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and has taught at ten other seminaries. He has written *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*, *Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church* (w/ Elmer Towns), *Strategic Outreach* (with Eric Ramsey), *Breaking the Missional Code* (w/ David Putman, forthcoming in May 2006), and *Planting Missional Churches* (also forthcoming, May 2006). He serves as the Missionologist and Research Team Director at the North American Mission Board in Alpharetta, GA and co-pastor of Lake Ridge Church in Cumming, GA. He is married to Donna and they have three daughters.

Course Assignments:

The integration paper is to be an informal discussion of specific ways in which you plan to change your ministry in light of class readings and discussion. You may choose to be broad or specific. You should interact with as many reading assignments, lectures, and discussions as possible. This 15-20 page paper should be mailed to the D.Min. Office by October 31, 2006.

Course Reading:

Each student should read 2000 pages of new reading and write a one-page standard book report on each book or article over 50 pages in length. The book reports are due on the first day of class, July 17, 2006.

Required: (If not previously read)

Dever, Mark. *Nine Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004. 270 pp.

Dever, Mark. *Display of God's Glory*. Washington, D.C.: 9 Marks, 2001. 61 pp.

Dever, Mark. "Ecclesiology" 80 pp. E-mail request to jsisler@rts.edu.

Dever, Mark. *Polity: Biblical Arguments on How to Conduct Church Life*. Washington, D.C.: 9 Marks, 2001.

Dever, Mark and Paul Alexander. *The Deliberate Church: Building Your Ministry on the Gospel*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2005. 211 pp.

Lewis, Robert. *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2003, 224 pp.

Keller, Tim. "The Missional Church." www.redeemer2.com/resources/papers/missional.pdf 3 pp.

Piper, John. *Brothers, We Are NOT Professionals* Broadman & Holman Publishers, 2002. 150 pp.

Stetzer, Ed and David Putman. *Breaking the Missional Code: When Churches Become Missionaries in their Community*. Broadman and Holman, 2006. 250 pp.

Stetzer, Ed, and Elmer Towns. *Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church*, Moody, 2004. 201 pp.

Stetzer, Ed. "The Evolution of Church Growth, Church Health, and the Missional Church: An Overview of the Church Growth Movement from, and back to, Its Missional Roots." 32 pages. www.newchurches.com/private/ChurchGrowth.pdf

Recommended Reading: (In the event that you have not reached your 2000-page new reading quota, and/or for additional study)

Barna, George. *Revolution*. Ventura, CA: Tyndale, 2005.

Hunter, George G., III. *Radical Outreach: Recovery of Apostolic Ministry and Evangelism*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2003.

McIntosh, Gary, ed., *Evaluating the Church Growth Movement: Five Views*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Rainer, Thom. *Breakout Churches: Discover How To Make The Leap*. Grand Rapids:
Zondervan, 2005.

Dever, Mark, Edited by Danny Akin and David Dockery. *The Church*, Nashville: Broadman
and Holman, forthcoming.

Please limit your report to one page (single spaced). Write approximately one paragraph per topic (*Overview*, *Critique*, *Application*) and a Quote.

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Title of Book
Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer some specific application to your own ministry— demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Your Name:
Course Title & Number:
Professor:
Date:

Reading List

Author

Title

Pages

Total Pages Read _____

Signed _____

Date _____