

Church Growth and Renewal

RTS Doctor of Ministry Core - 2DM804

Joel Hunter & Ed Stetzer

July 14-18, 2008

Course Description:

- Explore church growth and renewal dynamics from a biblical, theological and cultural perspective.
- Study different dimensions of spiritual and numerical growth.
- Examine ways to extend any church structure into a more missional, field-based organization.
- Focus on the changing role of the leader in church growth—as you remember the unchangeable basics of leadership.
- Learn how to develop missional churches that engage today’s culture with transformational gospel ministries.
- Experience interactive, collaborative learning through an onsite visit to *Northland-A Church Distributed**

*The course will involve attendance at the July 14, Monday evening worship service, 7 PM at *Northland – A Church Distributed* in Longwood, Florida. <http://www.northlandchurch.net/>

Course Instructors: Joel Hunter & Ed Stetzer

Joel Hunter is the senior pastor of *Northland, A Church Distributed* in Longwood (Orlando) Florida. Started by 11 people in 1972, Northland was recently named one of “America’s 50 Most Influential Churches”. Since June 1985, Dr. Hunter has served as senior pastor. During his tenure, the church has grown from 200 to a congregation of 12,000. As an internationally known spokesperson for issues such as Life, Creation Care, Justice, Poverty, Marriage and the Family, Dr. Hunter has been featured in *Newsweek* and *The New York Times*, as well as on TV programs such as *The Early Show*, *Nightline* and *Anderson Cooper 360*. His new books include *A New Kind of Conservative* and *Church Distributed*. Joel will be the instructor Monday morning until Wednesday noon.





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. He served for three years as seminary professor at the Southern Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky and has taught at fifteen other seminaries. He is currently the Director of Lifeway Research and Lifeway's Missiologist in Residence. The books Ed has written (or co-authored) include: *Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age*, *Perimeters of Light: Biblical Boundaries for the Emerging Church*, *Strategic Outreach*, *Breaking the Missional Code*, *Planting Missional Churches*, *Comeback Churches* and *11 Innovations in the Local Church*. Ed will be the instructor Wednesday noon until Friday noon.

Course Assignments (Beyond Class Attendance & Participation)

➤ Reading Assignment

Students are required to read 2000 pages of new reading (see lists below) and write a one-page book report (see form attached) giving evidence of critical analysis of each book or article more than 50 pages in length. The book reports are due on the first day of class.

➤ Integration Paper

Students are required to write two 10-15 page integration papers (1 paper for Dr. Hunter and 1 paper for Dr. Stetzer) giving evidence of: 1) integration of course readings, lectures and discussions and 2) practical ways in which they plan to improve their ministries in light of this course. All papers are due (at the RTS D.Min. office) October 31, 2008.

Required Reading: (If not previously read)

Hirsch, Alan. The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church, 2006, Bazos Press, 272 pp.

Hunter, Joel C. Church Distributed, 2007, Distributed Church Press, 179 pages.

Olson, Roger E. Reformed and Always Reforming, 2007, Baker Academic, 237 pages.

Stetzer, Ed and David Putman. Breaking the Missional Code, B&H, 2006. 250 pages.

Stetzer, Ed. Comeback Churches, Broadman and Holman, 2007. 219 pages.

Stott, John. The Living Church, 2007, InterVarsity Press, 174 pages.

Stott, John. Issues Facing Christians Today, 2006, Zondervan, 516 pages.

Recommended Reading: (If you've already read some *Required Reading* books)

Dever, Mark. *9 Marks of a Healthy Church*. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books, 2004. 270 pages.

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

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

Keller, Timothy J. *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*. P&R. 2nd Ed. 1980, 1997. 233 pages.

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

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

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

Piper, John, *Brothers, We Are NOT Professionals*. B & H Publishers, 2002. 150 pages.

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

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

Roxburgh, Alan J. and Fred Romanuk, *The Missional Leader: Equipping Your Church to Reach a Changing World*. Jossey-Bass (Leadership Network Series), 2006. 206 pages.

Please limit your reading report to one single-spaced typed page. Write 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 (Please type)

Author

Title

Pages

Total Pages Read _____

Signed _____

Date _____