

RTS Atlanta
4DM804 - Church Growth Course Syllabus
Spring 2012 Term: February 28 ~ March 2
Dr. Robert Leslie Holmes

Course Description

“When congregations are healthy, they grow the way God intends. Healthy churches don’t need gimmicks to grow--they grow naturally,” writes Rick Warren (*The Purpose Driven Church*, Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan Publishing House, 1995, p.17). A local church is the nearest thing to the body of Christ that some people will ever see, therefore it is vitally important that local churches demonstrate growth that bears witness to being healthy. This is true even in difficult environments (see, e.g., 1 Thessalonians 1:5-8). Reality is, however, that in many places around the world churches are not manifesting this healthy growth. Many churches, including formerly strong bodies are, in fact, declining while others are growing in ways that are not healthy. This course focuses on how churches can demonstrate both spiritual and numerical growth.

We will examine the biblical and theological principles for church revitalization from a Reformed perspective. Simultaneously, the course will examine biblical paradigms, strategies, church leadership, and practical applications for healthy church growth both in terms of local congregations and leadership. This course will be studied from the following four perspectives that fit the RTS Doctor of Ministries/ICS requirements:

First, this course is a historical study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues related to healthy church growth and revitalization through both Western Church history and Korean Church history.

Second, the course is a theological study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for church revitalization and growth from a Reformed theological perspective.

Third, the course is a missiological study. - Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for healthy church revitalization and growth from a missiological perspective.

Fourth, the course is a practical study. Students will be exposed to several principles and issues for healthy church revitalization and growth by way of studying several selected healthy revitalizing and growing church examples.

Course Objectives

There are five objectives for this course. They are:

1. To assist students in attaining a general comprehension of biblical principles of healthy church revitalization and growth based on a Reformed theological perspective.

2. To assist students to adhere strictly to a proper understanding and direction for healthy church revitalization and growth through both Western Church and Korean Church history.
3. To assist students in providing biblical strategies and practical church cases for healthy church revitalization and growth in order to develop healthy pastoral ministries.
4. To assist students to overcome barriers and critical issues for healthy church revitalization and growth adhering to the biblical concept of healthy churches and healthy leadership.
5. To assist students in providing a missiological perspective for healthy church revitalization and growth.

Course Requirements

Required texts:

Clowney, Edmund P. , 1995. *The Church*, InterVarsity Press

에드먼드 클라우니. *교회* (IVP) 383 pgs

Hiebert, Paul G, 1997. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries*, Baker Book House Company

폴 히버트. *선교와 문화인류학* (조이선교회출판사) 448 pgs

Pope, Randy, 2002. *The Prevailing Church*, Moody Press

랜디 포프. *랜디 포프의 목회 계획* (국제제자훈련원) 351 pgs

Reeder, Harry L. 2004. *From Embers to Flame: How God Can Revitalize Your Church*, P&R Publishing

해리 리더. *다시 불길로 타오르게 하라* (국제제자훈련원) 230 pgs

Stott, John, 2004. *What Christ Thinks of the Church: An Exposition of Revelation 1-3*, William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

존 스토틀. *예수님이 이끄시는 교회* (도서출판 두란노) 197 pgs

Warren, Rick, 2005. *The Purpose Driven Church*, Zondervan

릭 워렌. *목적이 이끄는 교회* (디모데) 444 pgs

Sanders, J. Oswald, 1994. *Spiritual Leadership*, Chicago: Moody Press

J. 오스왈드 샌더스. *그리스도인의 영적 리더십* (예찬사) 250 pgs 또는

J. 오스왈드 샌더스. *영적 지도력* (요단출판사) 267 pgs

Finzel, Hans, 2007. *The Top Ten Mistakes Leaders Make*, Colorado Springs: David C. Cook

한스 핀젤. *리더가 저지르시 쉬운 10 가지 실수* (도서출판 프리셉트) 224 pgs

Evaluation:

Reading: Students must read the required books

Class participation: Students must participate in class discussions and presentations

Research paper: Each student must prepare a 20 page paper on a topic related to healthy church revitalization and growth. This paper should reflect the following qualities:

1. A thoughtful evaluation of the student's own local church experience with special reference to Stott's book as to the student's assessment of which church best represents his church now
2. Evaluation of past strengths and weaknesses
3. A five-year plan for the healthy revitalization and growth of the student's current church setting with a clear focus on a Reformed theological and missiological perspective

Course subjects:

Introductions and Course Orientation

Why God Established the Church

...in His World

...in Korea in Particular

What Christ Looks for in His Church

The Place of Prayer

The Leader's Personal and Public Life

Developing God's Vision for "Your Church"

Why Excellence is the Only Way

The Who, What, Why, Where, and How of Healthy Worship

Engaging God in Our Worship: Four Delicate Tensions

...Worship and Preaching that Brings Forth Healthy Revitalization and Growth

The Fellowship of the Believers: What Use Is It?

Engaging and Empowering the Laity: Recognizing and releasing Spiritual Gifts

Servant Evangelism: Developing the Passion, Plan, Personnel, and Power

Becoming a Globally Engaged Church

Writing Your Course Research Paper