



effect ministry school

program and curriculum

3/19/09

Purpose

To provide a directed course of spiritual development and ministerial preparation through both a combination of academic study and field experience for those who want to take the next step in the exploration of their faith and/or preparation for any type of ministry in the Christian tradition.

Program

1. The program will be administered by staff and guest pastors and teachers and overseen by the board of theeffect.
2. The School is designed to provide whatever level of training the learner desires, and can be tailored for specific needs. Learners can elect to complete the entire curriculum, choose only courses of interest, or simply audit classes. In this way, the program is designed to train:
 - a. those who desire to know more about their faith, theology, and related subjects as part of a personal growth program
 - b. those who desire to work in ministerial areas and want to be as personally prepared as possible to be mentors, teachers, or pastors
 - c. those who wish to be considered for pastoral ordination
3. The School will operate in three areas of training:
 - a. **Academic study**—Based on a curriculum covering a wide spectrum of Christian thought, each student will create his or her own program based on that curriculum, working as much or as little as their needs and interests dictate--except for those interested in being considered for eventual ordination who are required to complete the entire curriculum. Courses will be a combination of directed independent study and actual classroom attendance, and most of the coursework can be completed entirely at the learner's own pace.
 - b. **Hands-on field ministries**—Recognizing that those who are truly called to pastoral ministry are already involved in ministerial work, ordination candidates are required to be actively involved in a ministerial field concurrent with their academic studies—all other learners are encouraged to do so as well.
 - c. **Spiritual mentoring/guidance**—Recognizing that intellectual understanding and field work can never substitute for genuine spiritual and emotional health, each ordination candidate will be required to select a pastoral mentor with whom to work a program of ongoing personal counseling and guidance. All learners are encouraged to do so as well.
4. The program's duration is approximately 2 years, but will vary depending on the learner's personal schedule and previous areas of development and study.
5. Pastoral candidates are required to submit a brief written paper containing a biographical sketch, a spiritual testimony, and plans/desires for future ministry. Candidates must also complete the "Extended Program" curriculum below.
6. Graduation from the School will be determined by the pastors and board of theeffect before any learner is considered for ordination. Completion of the program is a requirement, but not a guarantee of ordination. The pastors and board must unanimously recognize that the graduate also has a proven record of ongoing ministerial work and the necessary spiritual and emotional health for ordination.

It's important to note that this program is not accredited and is intended for personal growth or consideration for ordination at theeffect. If accredited classes are needed, referrals can be made for individual learners.



Academic Curriculum

Required Courses

The following courses are required for completion of the full curriculum.

1. **Development and Transmission of Scripture**

The story of the Bible: how it was written, by whom, when, methods of copying, translations, canonization, different textual families, concepts of inspiration, etc. Foundation for further study of Scripture. Course will consist of at least 4 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Text: Wegner, Paul D. The Journey from Text to Translation: The Origin and Development of the Bible. Baker Academic, 1999

2. **Hermeneutics**

Study of the art and science of Scriptural interpretation focusing on the rules of lexical-syntactical-historic approach—placing scripture in the context of the language, worldview, and time period in which it was written. Course will consist at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Text: Virkler, Henry A. Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation. Baker Book House, 1981.

3. **Overview of Scripture**

A look at the books of the bible, chronology, content, authorship, overall themes, different versions and translation methods for overall understanding of the Bible.

Required Texts:

Anders, Max. 30 Days to Understanding the Bible. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998
Zondervan Handbook to the Bible. Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.

4. **Jewish Studies**

Placing Christianity, its central beliefs and interpretation of Scripture, back into the Jewish context from which it came. A look at the parting of the way between early Jewish followers of the Way and early Greek Christianity through the development of the Western church. Course will consist of at least 4 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study including the topics below.

Required Text: Wilson, Marvin. Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith. Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1989.

- a. Jewish Jesus
- b. Jewish Roots of Christianity
- c. Jewish Context of Scripture

5. **New Testament Studies**

A survey of the books of the New Testament, literary types, content, authorship, central themes and content. Course will consist of at least 3 to 4 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study, including the topics below as a focus.

No required text, other than the Bible, but good concordance and commentaries will be needed. Software approach such as E-Sword is excellent for study purposes see www.e-sword.net for details.

- a. Sermon on the Mount
- b. Red Letter Study



6. **Old Testament Studies**

A survey of the books of the Old Testament, literary types, content, authorship, central themes and content. Course will consist of at least 3 to 4 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

No required text, other than the Bible, but good concordance and commentaries will be needed. Software approach such as E-Sword is excellent for study purposes see www.e-sword.net for details.

7. **Systematic Theology**

A survey of the main themes of Christian theology including: doctrines concerning God, Christ, Holy Spirit, Angelology, Salvation, Sin, Church, Eschatology (last things). Course will consist of 3 to 4 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Text: Enns, Paul. The Moody Handbook of Theology. Moody Press, 1989.

8. **Apocryphal, Pseudepigraphal, Gnostic Studies**

Study of non-canonical books—those not included in the Bible, but written contemporaneously with the canonical books or in same general time periods. These books include the Apocryphal books included in Catholic and Eastern Orthodox bibles but not Protestant bibles, Jewish pseudipigraphal writings from the last centuries before Jesus' birth, and Christian Gnostic writings from the early church era. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Texts:

Barnstone, Willis, Ed. The Other Bible. Harper & Row, 1983

Miller, Robert J., Ed. The Complete Gospels. Polebridge Press, 1992.

Pagels, Elaine. The Gnostic Gospels. Vintage Books, 1979.

9. **Church History**

Survey of the history of the church from the crucifixion through the Reformation. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Text: Cairns, Earle E. Christianity through the Centuries. Academie Books, 1981.

10. **Denominational Christianity**

Study of the hundreds of Christian branches, denominations, and sects from the Reformation to present. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Required Text: Mead, Frank S. Handbook of Denominations in the United States. Abingdon Press, 1995.

11. **Christian-Based Sects and Cults**

Study of non-orthodox Christian sects and cults—their beliefs, history, and structure—including Latter Days Saints (Mormon), Jehovah's Witness, Unitarian, etc. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Required Text: Martin, Walter. The Kingdom of the Cults. Bethany House Publishers, 1985.



12. Comparative Religions

Study of major world religions—their beliefs, history, and structure—their comparisons and contrasts to Christianity including a study of main theological worldviews. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Required Texts:

Smith, Huston. The Religions of Man. Harper Perennial, 1989.

Novak, Philip. The World's Wisdom. Harper San Francisco, 1994.

13. Christian Spirituality

A survey of major themes and practice of Christian spirituality over the history of the church. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Texts to be announced.

- a. Desert Fathers and Mothers
- b. Medieval Mystics
- c. Contemplative Practice
- d. Contemporary Spirituality

14. Pastoral/Lay Counseling

Practical and conceptual studies of counseling techniques covering specific areas of specialty listed below. Course will consist of 1 or 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study for each area of specialty.

Required Text: Crabb, Dr. Larry. Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling. Zondervan, 1975

- a. Youth
- b. Marital/Pre-Marital
- c. Grief/Depression
- d. Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- e. Clinical Indicators
- f. Spiritual Mentoring



Elective Courses

1. **Evangelism**

Practical study of methods of sharing fundamentals of Christian faith, discipling, mentoring. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Texts to be announced.

2. **Didactics**

Practical study of teaching techniques in a variety of venues. Course will consist of wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

3. **Homiletics**

Practical study of preparing/delivering sermons and messages. Course will consist of at least 2 classroom lectures/discussions and independent study.

Cox, James W. *The Minister's Manual*. Jossey-Bass, 2001

4. **Church Government/Administration**

Study of different types of church governments, strengths/weaknesses, historical settings, etc. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

5. **Liturgical Rituals in Christianity**

Study of different types of liturgies, what they are, where they are practiced, importance, contemporary use. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

6. **Mission Ministries**

Study of various missions and ministries, history of church missions, effectiveness, contemporary ministries. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

7. **Christian Education for Youth and Children**

Study of preparing and presenting educational programs for youth and children. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

8. **Field Ministries**

Study of specific needs of various areas of specialty and contemporary practice. Course will consist wholly of independent study.

Texts to be announced.

- g. The aged
- h. Youth
- i. Underserved Children
- j. The infirm
- k. The incarcerated
- l. The poor and the homeless
- m. Alcohol/Substance Abuse
- n. Grief and Depression



Pastoral Candidate Program

Those who wish to be considered for ordination will also:

1. Keep a journal containing entries related to spiritual growth. Entries in the journal should be made on a regular basis and shared regularly with directing pastors. Journal entries can serve both as discussion points for counseling and mentoring as well as reference for eventual consideration for ordination.
2. Select an area of special interest for in-depth emphasis.
3. Complete a bibliography of required reading and participate liberally in a bibliography of elective reading as part of curriculum.
4. Preach and teach publicly and complete two major written papers.
5. Be involved in field ministries of their choice throughout the program.
6. Select a pastor/mentor with whom to work a program of personal guidance/counseling.



Required and Elective Reading

This partial reading list includes the required texts from the curriculum above and additional texts on the listed subjects. This is not an exhaustive list, but will give learners some interesting starting points for independent study, if desired. Titles are listed in general order of relevance/importance starting with required texts.

Hebrew/Aramaic Language, Culture, Worldview

- Wilson, Marvin. Our Father Abraham: Jewish Roots of the Christian Faith. Wm B. Eerdmans Publishing Compay, 1989.
- Young, Brad. Jesus the Jewish Theologian. Hendrickson Publishers, 1995.
- Bivin, David, and Roy B. Blizzard. Understanding the Difficult Words of Jesus. Treasure House, 1994.
- Bruce, F.F. Hard Sayings of Jesus. InterVarsity Press, 1983.
- Douglas-Klotz, Neil. The Hidden Gospel: Decoding the Spiritual Message of the Aramaic Jesus. Quest Books, 2001.
- Douglas-Klotz, Neil. Prayers of the Cosmos: Meditations on the Aramaic Words of Jesus. HarperSanFrancisco, 1993.
- Moseley, Ron. Yeshua: A Guide to the Real Jesus and the Original Church. Messianic Jewish Resources International, 1998.
- Benner, Jeff. His Name is One: An Ancient Hebrew Perspective of the Name of God. VirtualBookWorm, 2003.
- Stern, David H. Restoring the Jewishness of the Gospel: A Message for Christians. Jewish New Testament Publications, Inc., 1988.
- Munk, Michael. The Wisdom in the Hebrew Alphabet. Artsroll, 1986.
- Friedman, David. They Loved the Torah: What Yeshua's First Followers Really Thought About the Law. Messianic Jewish Resources International, 2001.
- Borman, Thorleif. Hebrew Thought Compared with Greek. W.W. Norton & Company, 2002.
- Spong, John Shelby. This Hebrew Lord. HarperSanFrancisco, 1988.
- Spong, John Shelby. Resurrection: Myth or Reality? HarperSanFrancisco, 1994.
- Fruchtenbaum, Aronold G. Hebrew Christianity. Canon Press, 1974.

Origin of Scripture and Christianity,

- Wegner, Paul D. The Journey from Text to Translation: The Origin and Development of the Bible. Baker Academic, 1999
- Mack, Burton L. Who Wrote the New Testament? Harper Collins, 1995.
- Mack, Burton L. The Lost Gospel: The Book of Q and Christian Origins. Harper Collins, 1994.

Overview of Scripture

- Zondervan Handbook to the Bible. Zondervan Publishing House, 1999.
- Anders, Max. 30 Days to Understanding the Bible. Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1998
- Sailhamer, John H. How We Got the Bible. Zondervan Publishing House, 1998.

Church History

- Cairns, Earle E. Christianity through the Centuries. Academie Books, 1981.
- Mead, Frank S. Handbook of Denominations in the United States. Abingdon Press, 1995.
- Martin, Walter. The Kingdom of the Cults. Bethany House Publishers, 1985.
- Forbush, William Bryon, Ed. Fox's Book of Martyrs. Clarion Classics, 1967.
- Maier, Paul, L. Josephus, The Essential Writings: A Condensation of Jewish Antiquities and the Jewish War. Kregel Publications, 1988.
- Josephus. Thrones of Blood. Barbour, 1988.



Apocryphal, Pseudepigraphal, Gnostic Studies

- Barnstone, Willis, Ed. The Other Bible. Harper & Row, 1983
Pagels, Elaine. The Gnostic Gospels. Vintage Books, 1979.
Miller, Robert J., Ed. The Complete Gospels. Polebridge Press, 1992.
Cameron, Ron, ed. The Other Gospels. The Westminster Press, 1982.
Vermes, G. The Dead Sea Scrolls in English. Pelican Books, 1962.

Theology and Hermeneutics

- Enns, Paul. The Moody Handbook of Theology. Moody Press, 1989.
- Virkler, Henry A. Hermeneutics: Principles and Processes of Biblical Interpretation. Baker Book House, 1981.
- Merton, Thomas. Opening the Bible. Fortress Press/The Liturgical Press, 1970.
- Instone-Brewer, David. Divorce and Remarriage in the Bible: The Social and Literary Context. Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2002.
- Lewis, C.S. The Great Divorce. Fount, 2002.
- Lewis, C.S. The Problem of Pain. HarperSanFrancisco, 2001.

Comparative Religions

- Smith, Huston. The Religions of Man. Harper Perennial, 1989.
- Novak, Philip. The World's Wisdom. Harper San Francisco, 1994.
- Jaspers, Karl. Socrates, Buddha, Confucius, Jesus. Harcourt Brace, 1990.
- Henricks, Robert G. Lao-Tzu: Te-Tao Ching. Ballantine Books, 1989.
- Merton, Thomas. The Way of Chuang Tzu. Shambhala, 2004.
- Giles, Herbert A., trans. Chuang Tzu: Mystic, Moralist, and Social Reformer. AMS Press, 1974.
- Henricks, Robert G., trans. Lao Tzu: Te-Tao Ching. Ballantine Books, 1989.
- Farah, Caesar E. Islam. Barrons, 1994.
- Confucius. The Analects. Oxford University Press, 1993
- The Koran. Penguin Books, 1997.
- Zaehner, R.C., Ed. The Bhagavad-Gita. Oxford University Press, 1969.

Counseling and Homiletics

- Crabb, Dr. Larry. Basic Principles of Biblical Counseling. Zondervan, 1975
- Cox, James W. The Minister's Manual. Jossey-Bass, 2001
- Hiscox, Edward T. The Star Book for Ministers. Judson Press, 1994.

Lexicons and Grammars

- Benner, Jeff. The Ancient Hebrew Language and Alphabet: Understanding the Ancient Hebrew Language of the Bible Based on the Ancient Hebrew Culture and Thought. VirtualBookWorm, 2004.
- Benner, Jeff. Ancient Hebrew Lexicon of the Bible: Hebrew Letters, Words and Roots Defined Within Their Ancient Cultural Context. VirtualBookWorm, 2005.
- Kaufman, Steven, ed. Comprehensive Aramaic Lexicon. Hebrew Union College, cal1.cn.huc.edu.
- Jennings, William. Lexicon to the Syriac New Testament. Oxford at the Clarendon Press, 1926.
- Smith, J. Payne. A Compendious Syriac Dictionary. Wipf and Stock Publishers, 1999.
- Aramaic Lexicon and Concordance. The Way International, 1989. Aramaicpeshitta.com.
- English Dictionary Supplement to the Concordance to the Peshitta Version of the Aramaic New Testament. American Christian Press, 1985.
- The Concordance to the Peshitta Version of the Aramaic New Testament. American Christian Press, 1985.
- Strong, James. Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. Hendrickson Publishers, 2007.



Bible Translations and Commentaries

Barnes, Albert. Barnes Notes on the Old and New Testaments. Baker Books, 1983.
Clarke, Adam. Commentary on the Entire Bible. Baker Book House, 1971.
Daniel, Orville. A Harmony of the Four Gospels. Baker Books, 1996.
Gill, John. Exposition of the Old and New Testaments. Baptist Standard Bearer, 2006.
Jamieson, R. Jamieson, Fausset and Brown Commentary on the Whole Bible. Zondervan, 1999.
Lamsa, George M. Holy Bible from the Ancient Eastern Text. Harper Collins, 1968.
Peterson, Eugene H. The Message. Navpress, 1988.
Stern, David. Complete Jewish Bible. Jewish New Testament Publications, 1998.
Stern, David. Jewish New Testament. Messianic Jewish Resources International, 1989.
Stern, David. Jewish New Testament Commentary. Messianic Jewish Resources International, 1992.
Throckmorton, Jr., Burton H. Gospel Parallels. Thomas Nelson, 1979.
Younan, Paul. Aramaic/English Peshitta Interlinear New Testament. Peshitta.org, 2000.
Eight Translation New Testament. Tyndale House Publishers, 1974.
Vincent, Marvin. Vincent's Word Studies in the New Testament. Hendrickson Publishers, 1985.
Boice, James Montgomery. The Sermon on the Mount. Zondervan, 1972.
Comfort, Philip W. English Bible Versions. Tyndale House, 2000.

Contemplative Prayer, Spiritual Journey

Brother Lawrence. The Practice of the Presence of God. Whitaker House, 1982.
Anonymous. The Cloud of Unknowing. HarperSanFrancisco, 2004.
Bochen, Christine M., ed. Thomas Merton: Essential Writings. Orbis Books, 2000.
Cunningham, Lawrence S., ed. Thomas Merton: Spiritual Master. Paulist Press, 1992.
Keating, Thomas. Invitation to Love: The Way of Christian Contemplation. Continuum International Publishing Group, 1994
Keating, Thomas. Open Mind, Open Heart: The Contemplative Dimension of the Gospel. Continuum International Publishing Group, 1994
Merton, Thomas. The Wisdom of the Desert: Sayings from the Desert Fathers of the Fourth Century. Shambhala, 2004.
Merton, Thomas. Thoughts in Solitude. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1999.
Merton, Thomas. The Seven Storey Mountain. Harcourt, 1999.
Merton, Thomas. The New Seeds of Contemplation. New Directions Publishing Corp., 1972.
Kavanaugh, Kiernan, Translator. The Collected Works of St. John of the Cross. ICS Publications, 1991.

Christian Spirituality

Manning, Brennan. The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-Up, and Burnt-Out. Multnomah, 2000.
Manning, Brennan. Ruthless Trust: The Ragamuffin's Path to God. HarperSanFrancisco, 2002.
Manning, Brennan. Abba's Child: The Cry of the Heart for Intimate Belonging. Navpress Publishing Group, 2002.
Nouwen, Henri. Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World. Crossroads General Interest, 2002.
Nouwen, Henri. Return of the Prodigal Son: A Story of Homecoming. Image, 1994.
Nouwen, Henri. The Way of the Heart: Desert Spirituality and Contemporary Ministry. HarperSanFrancisco, 1991.
Nouwen, Henri. Out of Solitude: Three Meditations on the Christian Life. Ave Maria Press, 2004
Yancey, Philip. What's So Amazing About Grace? Zondervan, 2002.



Postmodern Issues

- Kimball, Dan. Emerging Church: Vintage Christianity for New Generations. Zondervan, 2003.
- McLaren, Brian. A Generous Orthodoxy. Zondervan, 2004.
- Sweet, Leonard. Aqua Church: Essential Leadership Arts for Piloting Your Church in Today's Fluid Culture. Group Publishing, 1999.
- Sweet, Leonard. Soul Tsunami. Zondervan, 2001.
- Sweet, Leonard. Out of the Question, into the Mystery: Getting Lost in the GodLife Relationship. Waterbrook Press, 2004.

Miscellaneous Issues

- Campbell, Joseph. The Hero With a Thousand Faces. Princeton University Press, 1973.
- Chesterton, G.K. The Everlasting Man. Ignatius Press, 1993.
- Copi, Irving M. Introduction to Logic. Macmillan Publishing Company, 1982.
- Hawking, Stephen. A Brief History of Time. Bantam, 1998.
- Seiss, Joseph A. The Gospel in the Stars. Kregel Publications, 1972.
- Geisler, Norman & Bocchino, Peter. Unshakable Foundations. Bethany House, 2001.