

Birmingham Theological Seminary
2200 Briarwood Way
Birmingham, Alabama 35243
205-776-5354

DM9101 Church Revitalization

Class dates: Jan. 19-22, 2012

Professor: Dr. Harry L. Reeder III

Reader/Grader: Rev. Thad James, Jr.

205-776-5386

Class Hours: 2

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Course Description

Thorough exploration of the biblical principles and strategies for the renewal of stagnant and dying churches. Covers ten key initiatives for turning the church back to health with a special emphasis on the personal and spiritual development of the revitalizing pastor/teacher. Whenever possible guest ruling and teaching elders of churches involved in such renewal efforts will join the class for input and discussion.

Course Objectives

1. To address the contemporary church profile and the pressing need of church revitalization along with the related issues.
2. To acquaint the student with specific quality literature that deals with the issues of church revitalization and related dynamics.
3. To determine Biblical models and theological principles applicable to church revitalization.
4. To identify those factors which bring church stagnation and decline.
5. To develop a plan to initiate church revitalization in the student's ministry that is faithful to the Scripture, relevant to a specific situation establishing a productive change culture and clearly prioritized for practical application.

Course Assignment

1. Prior to Embers to a Flame Conference, read *From Embers to a Flame* and *The Leadership Dynamic* so you will be prepared to discuss and review texts during the conference.
2. Develop a notebook to be turned in by April 27, 2012 to Thad James, Jr., Briarwood Presbyterian Church, 2200 Briarwood Way, Birmingham, AL 35243. The notebook should include:
 - a. 1-2 page review and critique for each volume on the reading list. At the bottom of each review, please acknowledge whether or not you have read the book by inserting the line, "I hereby certify that I have read the material."
 - b. A history (5-10 pages) of the last 10-15 years of your church with an identification of the contributing factors for the current condition of the church from your perspective.
 - c. 2-3 page report detailing a 2-year plan to "remember" God's faithfulness in the life of your church (including events, prayer opportunities, publications).

- d. 2-page personal philosophy of ministry including a list of non-negotiables in your ministry which will come from your personal ministry assessment done with your FTF Coach.
 - e. Using the Insights and Action Steps booklet from the Embers Conference, develop a ministry strategy (1) take the 10 strategies from the Embers to a Flame material and describe each in a single sentence. (2) Develop three action steps that you can take in the next 1-3 years to implement each strategy, as described in your statement.
 - f. 2-page report listing areas where corporate repentance may be needed. Use the previously prepared church history for input into this.
3. Day before the Embers to a Flame Conference - Meet with your FTF Coach to discuss the following:
- The proposed calendar for the entire Fanning the Flame process
 - The need for an administrator for the coaching process. Deadline for selecting this person is January 30, 2012.
 - How to recruit the FTF leadership team.
 - The personal assessments to be done for each pastor in the cluster
 - Working towards the church's key purpose and the plan for meeting in the summer
9. By January 31 - Send FTF Administrator's name to FTF Coach
10. By February 15, have conference call with FTF Administrator and FTF Coach to discuss the following: Coach's Initial phone call with pastor and administrator.
- Work through the coaching manual together.
 - Discuss the importance of a prayer coordinator and the role of that team member.
 - Final agreement on dates of coach's first visit, the Spiritual Formation Retreat, and the Planning Retreat
 - Reminder on selecting the leadership team members for this coaching process. Final team should be selected by January 30.
 - Discuss the general-purpose of -- and the general requirements for -- the Spiritual Foundations Seminar.
 - Discuss general requirements for the planning retreat site and equipment.

BTS FORMAT AND STYLE STANDARDS

All research papers must be formatted in accordance with Turabian Chicago standards including the title page. Times New Roman #12 font is required on all papers. Any paper not conforming to these standards will automatically be dropped one letter grade.

DUE DATES FOR ASSIGNMENTS

All course materials must be submitted by the last day of class. Thereafter, course materials may be submitted for up to six (6) weeks after the end of the semester directly to the office of the Registrar with the permission of the professor. If a student submits course materials after the end of the semester but within the six (6) weeks grace period, the student's grade will be lowered by one letter grade. The course materials will not be accepted after the six (6) week grace period and a failing grade will be posted to the student's transcript.

All work must be completed and turned in to **Thad James, Jr.** in the Seminary Office by **April 27, 2012.**

A total of 10 books must be read for the course. Please choose from the required reading list. If you have already read any of the titles listed in the required list, then substitute from the optional list to make a total of 10 books

REQUIRED READING:

<i>From Embers to a Flame</i>	Harry L. Reeder, III
<i>The Leadership Dynamic</i>	Harry L. Reeder, III
<i>Outgrowing the Ingrown Church</i>	C. John Miller
<i>City on a Hill</i>	Philip Ryken
<i>The Pastor Evangelist</i>	Roger Greenway (ed.)
<i>Surprising Insights from the Unchurched</i>	Thom Rainer
<i>Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Church</i>	Don Whitney
<i>Dynamics of Spiritual Life</i>	Richard Lovelace
<i>Disciplines of Grace</i>	Jerry Bridges
<i>Nine Marks of a Healthy Church</i>	Mark Dever

OPTIONAL LIST:

<i>Master Plan of Evangelism</i>	Robert Coleman
<i>The Living Church Revitalized</i>	Don McNair
<i>A Royal "Waste" of Time</i>	Marva Dawn
<i>The Art of the Leader</i>	William A. Cohen
<i>Brothers, We are Not Professionals</i>	John Piper
<i>Growing your Faith: How to Mature in Christ</i>	Jerry Bridges
<i>Holiness by Grace</i>	Bryan Chappel
<i>Master's Plan for the Church</i>	John MacArthur
<i>Preaching and Preachers</i>	Martin Lloyd Jones
<i>Purpose in Preaching</i>	Jay Adams
<i>Redemption, Accomplished and Applied</i>	John Murray
<i>Revival</i>	D. Martin Lloyd Jones
<i>Spiritual Leadership</i>	J. Oswald Sanders
<i>Supremacy of God in Preaching</i>	John Piper
<i>The Spirit of Revival</i>	Archie Parrish