

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY NEWS

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5 Questions. He is a well known author who has devoted much of his writings to pastoral integrity. He has experienced the heights of ministry as well as the depths.

Gordon MacDonald will now take your questions.

You've always been a wide reader. What are the books that impacted you most?

Eggemeyer's Bible stories that I read when I was a young boy. They built my whole understanding of the Bible. Shantung Compound: The Story of Men and Women Under Pressure, shaped my view of the world; the kind of world I would be entering into as a pastor. Biographies have always been my great choice of reading, beginning with Charles Simeon. Simeon was an innovator, but more, in his generation he had an amazing impact on his world, the people he mentored, and the things he did that no one had done before him. He was truly the center of everything that was going on in his time. Another book is Tozer's The Knowledge of the Holy, which taught me, for the first time, that God is wholly Other, and destroyed the prevailing myth that God was someone just a little above man. And then finally Tournier's Guilt and Grace and Secrets shaped my understanding of the human spirit and helped me to become more curious and reflective.

Of the books you have authored, which one has had the greatest impact?

Ordering Your Private World has seemed to be the book most people refer back to when I talk to them. The book that I have most enjoyed writing is one of my most recent books, Who Stole My Church? It was a very different experience writing fiction, but it led to both the experience of great laughter as well as weeping.

What do you miss the most and miss the least since leaving the pastorate?

I miss none of the organizational responsibility. I always did it under quiet protest. I do miss the weekly contact, watching people grow and change. I miss the preaching and discipling. My wife and I would select fifteen people every year to meet together for 40 weeks. We set the bar high. Over the years, we mentored a group of people who are now making their own impact. That was a great part of pastoring.

Before a person retires, what questions must be sorted out?

First of all, no one really retires. All retirement means is that you're no longer accountable to a board. But you must come to grips with this, that when you leave the organization, you must be willing to accept the slow growth of obscurity. If you don't, you may become bitter. It's wise to have a strategy and it is especially prudent to invest in the next generation. This will not only keep you young, the next generation hungers for it.

As you look at an emerging generation of young pastors, what do you see that is either encouraging or troubling?

I like the innovative, creative spirit I see. In the 60s when I became a pastor, pastoring was for losers and nerds; high-profile people went into para-church ministry. Since the 90s, the church has regained its role, and I see an emerging group of leaders who are taking art, fresh theology and creative management and doing great things. On the other side, I am concerned about a superficiality of worship. I fear we are not producing mature believers, saints. We need to figure this out really quickly.

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"I see an emerging group of leaders who are taking art, fresh theology and creative management and doing great things."

Upcoming Doctor of Ministry Courses

Gordon MacDonald

Author, Speaker, Teacher & Former Pastor

November 9 – 12, 2009

PTS 752J “The Personal Side of a Leader’s Life”

The life of a leader can be easily consumed, even neutralized, by the accumulated demands of institutional leadership. Spiritual vitality, personal relationships, health, and emotional stability are some of the issues facing a leader. Paul instructed Timothy: “watch your life and doctrine closely.” How is this done? And how does the leader develop priorities that lead to continuous growth? Students will look at four aspects of a leader’s life: imagining the future, remembering the past, dealing with the present, and forming personal community.

Alan Hirsch & Michael Frost (* MLC)

Author, Teacher & Missional Strategist

Missional Author & Speaker

February 1 – 4, 2010

PTS 737R “The Forgotten Ways: Cultivating Missional Imagination and Praxis for the 21st Century Church”

This course will involve a comprehensive exploration into the internal and external dynamics of rapidly

There is still space available in the February course with Alan Hirsch and Michael Frost!

Contact us soon to reserve a spot!

expanding, highly transformative, Jesus movements in history. We will explore the phenomenology of two significant movements in history (namely the Early Christian Movement and The Underground Chinese Church) in an attempt to identify what factors must come together to create catalytic, exponential, growth. This is not primarily an historical study. Emphasis will fall on the interpretation of apostolic dynamics for the missional situation of the Church in the West—particularly with implications for the Emerging Missional Church. We will explore the implications at the level of philosophical systems, theological paradigms, as well as dealing with practical issues facing local churches.

Robert Smith

Associate Professor, Beeson Divinity School

March 15 – 18, 2010

PTS 737S “Incarnational Leadership: The Pastor and Preacher as Incarnational Leader”

This course will be devoted to the study of incarnational leadership which finds expression in the work of the pastor/preacher. Primary attention will be given to the examination of incarnational leadership by looking through the lens of religious experience, theological formulation and hermeneutical construction. Research will be conducted through a consideration of various leadership methodologies and sermon models that exemplify the pastor/preacher as an incarnational leader.

John Johnson

Associate Professor & Director of the Doctor of

Ministry Program, Western Seminary

April 2010 (Dates TBD)

PTS 712 “Research Design and Methodology”

This is a core doctoral course in basic research and design and survey of methodologies used for dissertations. Lectures, peer to peer discussions, and presentations are part of the course design. Emphasis is given to determining a dissertation theme, writing and research skills, and putting together a dissertation proposal.

Gary Thomas

Author & Speaker

June 14 – 18, 2010 (Menucha Conference Center)

“The Pursuit of God: An Historical and Contemporary Look at Christian Spiritual Formation”

This course will examine historical models of spiritual formation with a view toward contemporary application. We will study what it means to pursue God, to be loved by God, to build a life of devotion and service toward God, and to help others to do the same. Our emphasis will be on spiritual experience, character transformation, and growth in Christlikeness.

David Fisher (* MLC)

Pastor & Author

September 6 – 10, 2010

PTS 711 “Foundations for Ministry and Mission”

This required course focuses in two areas: first, the students will spend a day assessing their strengths, weaknesses, ministry and relational skills. The personal assessment portion of the course is a day long focus of attention on things in us that do not change (hard wiring) and the things that do change (soft wiring). During the remainder of the course, the students will explore pastoral ministry from a historical and theological perspective. The aim is to give students a solid theological foundation on which to build the rest of the doctoral courses. The group will examine pastoral ministry in the classical tradition, reading and reflecting upon early church fathers through the Puritan era. The course will then explore classical and contemporary pastoral theology, the venerable discipline of biblical and theological reflection on the pastoral person and pastoral ministry. The goal is to enable students to place their pastoral ministry in a historical, biblical and theological context.

Dale Burke

Pastor, Author & Speaker

November 15 – 18, 2010

“How to Lead and Still Have a Life”

Explore with author, conference speaker and pastor Dale Burke eight leadership disciplines that empower leaders to lead with greater vision and have a life at the end of the day. This course will aim to integrate a biblical theology of leadership, with practical wisdom from corporate practices. Among questions this course will address are: How can I simplify the structure? How can I balance all the demands of life and ministry? If I can’t do it all, then what should I do first? How can I be a servant-leader and still say NO? How can I motivate and mobilize a leadership team? How can I stimulate vision and creativity? How can I master plan a year of sermons? How can I minister from my strengths and manage my weaknesses? What if I follow a beloved predecessor? How can I take an existing and successful ministry to a next level? The class will also

include a day structured around the questions the class “always wanted to ask but never had a chance”.

Don Sunukjian

Professor, Talbot School of Theology

February 14 – 17, 2011

General Topic: Preaching

Kent Hughes

Author & Former Pastor

March 21 – 24, 2011

General Topic: Exposition, Vision Setting for Ministry, Pastoral Ministry

John Johnson

Associate Professor & Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Western Seminary

Early Church Study Tour in Israel

March/April 2011 (Dates TBD)

John Johnson

Associate Professor & Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Western Seminary

April 2011 (Dates TBD)

“Research Design and Methodology”

Check out the changes to dates and course design for PTS 712 “Research Design and Methodology.” This is a required course for all students, so plan ahead!

Ray Ortlund, Jr.

Pastor & Author

May 2 – 5, 2011

General Topic: Shepherding

John Coe (* MLC)

Director of the Institute for Spiritual Formation & Professor, Biola University

June 27 – July 1, 2011 (Menucha Conference Center)

General Topic: Spirituality/Spiritual Life

Rick McKinley (* MLC)

Pastor & Missional Leader

Fall 2011 (Dates TBD)

General Topic: Missional Leadership

Chad Hall

Coach/Consultant

Linda Miller

Executive Coach

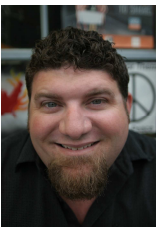
November 14 – 17, 2011

General Topic: Intuitive Leadership as the Key to Leading the Future Church

* MLC = Missional Leadership Cohort Class (MLC Classes are also open to non-cohort students, unless otherwise noted)

Missional Leadership Cohort Beginning!

As you have hopefully heard by now, we are pleased to announce that the Doctor of Ministry Program will be adding a cohort option to the program design. Students entering the program will have the choice between our standard D.Min. program, which offers maximum flexibility throughout their doctoral studies, or joining with a group of colleagues and working through the program together. This first cohort will center on the theme of missional leadership. This track will focus on developing cohort members into the type of leaders who can lead a congregation with theological and gospel-centered depth, as well as cultural intelligence.



The cohort will be directed and mentored by Dr. Rick McKinley, founding pastor of Imago Dei Community, a missional faith community in Portland, Oregon. Rick is a nationally known pastor and author, and an important voice in the missional church movement. He holds a doctorate from Gordon Conwell Theological Seminary. Students entering the cohort will engage with one another as they share what is being learned, continue to build relationships with one another, and gain counsel from Dr. McKinley. Cohort members will take specific courses, pre-determined by the cohort mentor, each connecting to this theme of Missional Leadership. Courses in this track will include:

- Alan Hirsch/Michael Frost: February 1-4, 2010

- David Fisher: September 6-10, 2010
- John Coe: June 27-July 1, 2011
- Rick McKinley: TBD Fall 2011
- Will Willimon: January 16-19, 2012
- Rick McKinley: TBD 2013

Two additional courses are yet to be determined.

The entry point for this cohort will be this winter, with a February 2010 D.Min. course, co-taught by missional leaders Alan Hirsch and Michael Frost, titled **“The Forgotten Ways: Cultivating Missional Imagination and Praxis for the 21st Century Church.”** The deadline for entry into this course and the Missional Leadership Cohort is fast approaching! Completed applications must be received by the seminary, along with essays, transcripts and recommendations by November 15th.

Individuals with an interest in the D.Min. program and the missional leadership cohort should contact the D.Min. Office:

Administrative Assistant: Sara Pirollo
spirollo@westernseminary.edu or 503.517.1868

A Look Ahead to 2012 & 2013 Courses

Will Willimon (* MLC)
Author, Bishop, Communicator
 January 16 – 19, 2012
 General Topic: Leadership

We are in the process of mapping out courses for 2013!

Dr. Bryan Chapell, author of [Christ-Centered Preaching](#), will tentatively be teaching June 3-7, 2013.

The class will be held at the Menucha Conference Center in Corbett, Oregon.

Alex Kulpecz
Former Executive of Shell Oil
Abbott Smith
Former Vice-President of Hewlett Packard
Bill Lattin
Former Executive of Intel
 March 12 – 15, 2012
 “What the Church Can Learn from the Corporate World”

John Johnson
Associate Professor & Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program, Western Seminary
 April 2011 (Dates TBD)
 “Research Design and Methodology”
 This is a core doctoral course in basic research and design and survey of methodologies used for dissertations. Lectures, peer to peer discussions, and presentations are part of the course design. Emphasis is given to determining a dissertation theme, writing and research skills, and putting together a dissertation proposal.

Larry Osborne
Pastor & Author
 June 4 – 8, 2012
 “Innovation and Creativity in Ministry”

David Fisher
Pastor & Author
 September 2012 (Dates TBD)
 “Foundations for Ministry and Mission”

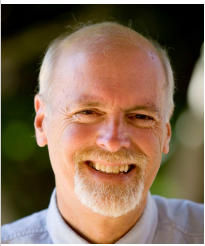
Andy Crouch (Tentative Course) (* MLC)
Author & Senior Editor, Christianity Today International
 October 22 – 25, 2012
 General Topic: Culture/Leadership

We are still piecing together the rest of the 2012 course schedule, so stay tuned!



* MLC = Missional Leadership Cohort Class
 (MLC Classes are also open to non-cohort students, unless otherwise noted)

Director's Corner



Working With Ideas

Mostly I blog about things I am reading, ideas that are shaping my world. I have to stay at reading, lest my conversation descends merely to

events or people. Not that events or people are unimportant; but ideas are what keep our conversations at the higher level, keep them full of life. There's nothing more energizing than to be in a conversation, like yesterday with Alan Hirsch (author of *Forgotten Ways*), talking about the kind of leadership that is necessary to create tomorrow's missional church.

Hirsch, and others-like fellow author Michael Frost—are passionate to see the church embrace the right leadership. Leaders create a culture, an atmosphere, a "field", so it is critical the missional church is led by missional leadership. For Hirsch and Frost, this means recovering the five gifted leaders mentioned in Ephesians 4. Churches are typically run by pastors and teachers, but without apostolic and prophetic and evangelistic types, the church tends to become insular, building up

but not stretching out. He may have a point. I am actually spending a significant part of my time this Fall assessing his model and presenting a paper (hence my sporadic blogging).

It is their conviction that unleashing all five are necessary to keeping the church from devolving into an institution, keeping white hot convictions from cooling down into crystallized codes and petrified dogmas. Every organization needs an apostolic type—a pioneer, an entrepreneur—who sees beyond the horizon, sees the next hill. This is why I like to go to Beirut every year. Grant Porter, former head of OM, is an apostolic type. We sit overlooking a valley, and he sees the next region that must be reached for the kingdom of God. He's hard wired that way. Me? I like to think out there like him, but a lot of my heart is back in Bekka Valley, figuring out how to help believers go deep. It's my pastor/teacher coming out.

Lord knows we also need prophetic types to round out leadership. But the church can be less embracive of them as well. I am reading the fascinating life of Winston Churchill, and I am discovering that, like almost all prophets, he was not generally liked. In the 30's, with Hitler ascending into power, he often spoke in the House to empty seats. England was not ready for him. As he put it, "the forces of apathy, of willful myopia and of

general delusion in high places were too strong for us". His only hope was that England would awaken before it was too late. Maybe some leaders will die in office, and if they do, his best advice was "embalm, bury, cremate. Take no chances!" Like most prophets, Churchill could see into the future, and warned England of the inevitable dark clouds (sort of like what Jeremiah did with Israel). Despite the criticisms, he remained faithful to the cadence of his own drummer...

To continue reading this blog entry or to read more of John Johnson's blog, visit: <http://www.johnjohnson.typepad.com>

Announcing Changes to the Course Design for PTS 712 "Research Design and Methodology"

Traditionally, this class has been a joint Doctor of Missiology and Doctor of Ministry class. While the value of this model is not to be diminished, feedback from the past few years has indicated that, given that the nature of the DMin and DMiss dissertations can be vastly different, it may be better to offer this class as a DMin only course.

Thus, we are moving to a model where this class is taught by Dr. Johnson, with guest lectures by Dr. Wan, the Director of the DMiss program. We've also decided to move the timing of this class to April, rather than September (being careful to avoid the Easter holiday). We believe both the structure and the new dates for this course will significantly increase the value of the class for students and will better prepare you to begin the DMin dissertation.

These changes mean that the course in September of 2010 will be cancelled. Instead, there will be opportunities to take this class in April 2010 or April 2011 (specific dates to be determined).

Please let us know if you have any concerns or questions!

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