

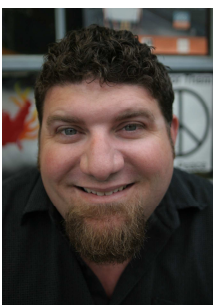
Western Seminary

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
NEWS

ANNOUNCING...

A New Doctor of Ministry Cohort
in Missional Leadership, Directed and Mentored by
Rick McKinley, Pastor of Imago Dei Community

This fall, 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.



Rick McKinley

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.”** For additional course information for all courses, see inside this issue of the news-

letter.

Additional entry points may be determined in the future.

Individuals with an interest in the D.Min. program and the missional leadership cohort should contact the D.Min. Office through one of these contacts:

Administrative Assistant: Sara Pirolo
spirolol@westernseminary.edu or
503.517.1868

Program Director: John Johnson
jjohnson@westernseminary.edu or

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Upcoming Doctor of Ministry Courses

Gerry Breshears

Rick McKinley

Professor, Western Seminary

Pastor, Author, Missional Leader

October 12 - 15, 2009 (Cohort Entry Point)

“Getting the Church Out of the Building and Into the City”

Both new church plants and existing churches are commanded by Jesus to go to the world. We will build on key theological foundations such as the kingdom and the combination of justification, regeneration and sanctification to lead spiritual transformation to get the church into the city to love and serve the city as good neighbors and aliens.

Gordon MacDonald

Author, Speaker, Teacher & Former Pastor

November 9 - 12, 2009

“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 (Cohort Entry Point)

“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 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 of Divinity, Beeson Divinity School

March 15 - 18, 2010

“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

*Doctor of Ministry Cohort in
Missional Leadership
Launching this Fall!*

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.

Gary Thomas

Author & Speaker

June 14 - 18, 2010 (Menucha Conference Center)

General Topic: Spirituality/Spiritual Life

David Fisher (MLC *)

Pastor & Author

September 6 - 10, 2010

“Foundations for Ministry and Mission”

Enoch Wan

John Johnson

Professor, Western Seminary

Associate Professor, Western Seminary

September 13 - 17, 2010 (Tentative Dates)

“Research Design and Methodology”

Dale Burke

Pastor, First Evangelical Free Church, Author & Speaker

November 15 - 18, 2010

General Topic: Leadership/Shepherding

Don Sunukjian

Professor of Christian Ministry, Leadership, and Homiletics, Talbot School of Theology

February 14 - 17, 2011

General Topic: Preaching

Kent Hughes

Author & Former Pastor, College Church

March 21 - 24, 2011

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

John Johnson

Associate Professor, Western Seminary

March/April 2011 (Dates TBD)

Early Church Study Tour in Turkey

Ray Ortlund, Jr.

Pastor, Immanuel Church & Author

May 2 - 5, 2011

General Topic: Shepherding

John Coe (MLC *)

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

June 27 - July 1, 2011

(Menucha Conference Center)

General Topic: Spirituality/Spiritual Life

Enoch Wan

John Johnson

Professor, Western Seminary

Associate Professor, Western Seminary

September 2011 (Dates TBD)

“Research Design and Methodology”

Rick McKinley (MLC *)

Pastor, Author, Missional Leader

Fall 2011 (Dates TBD)

General Topic: Leadership

Chad Hall

Linda Miller

Coach/Consultant

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)

A Window Into the Middle East

This past June, two doctoral students along with their spouses, traveled to Lebanon and Syria with Dr. John Johnson. It was a combined experience of the Middle East Conference at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Beirut and a trip into neighbouring Syria, all for Doctor of Ministry credit. The group was introduced to the Islamic worldview and culture while learning about the global challenges of doing ministry in a Middle Eastern context and how the Western church can effectively partner with ministries in the Mideast.

Kit-lin Cheung, Doctor of Ministry student and participant in the study abroad class, recounts her experience in a journal. Read on to hear how this experience widened her perspective, challenged her ideas about ministry, and even altered some misconceptions about the Middle East.

June 13, 2009 (Saturday)

After fourteen hours of flight from Vancouver, BC via Calgary and Frankfurt, our plane came swooping in over the Mediterranean Sea and also onto the runway in the afternoon. My husband (kwok-ting) and I arrived at Beirut International Airport in Lebanon in the afternoon. We were joined by Ken at the Frankfurt airport. The student from the Arab Baptist Theological Seminary came to the airport to take us to the seminary.

Our first impression of Beirut was a lovely land of mountains, bordered by the sea. On our way to ABTS, we noticed many of the vehicles were driving without lights. Cars just cut off as they speed around the corners and seemed unable to stay within lines. All along our trip, the guard rails were mangled and they were evidence of Lebanon's high accident rate.

The Arab Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) was situated on a beautiful



Beirut Skyline

mountain, overlooking the whole of Beirut. It was nice and cool up on the mountain. In 2005, ABTS founded the Institute of Middle East Studies (IMES) with the main purpose of providing opportunities for Christians and Muslims to engage with one another through better understanding and practice. The vision of IMES is to promote and teach Christ-like attitudes and approaches towards Muslims.

In the airport of Beirut, the relationships of the Lebanese family are very closed to one another. The whole family gathered in the lobby, the children stood around the adults and the adults talked loudly, hugged and kissed each other. The first impression of the Arabic people was very warm, affectionate and friendly. We were told that they have closed family relationship, loyal to family and friends, and honor is also important in the Arabic culture. People strive to gain influence and to accumulate and display wealth, which are signs of success that win respect.

To read the full account of Kit-lin's journey, please visit our website:

www.westernseminary.edu/DMin/downloads/JournalofMiddleEastTrip-June2009.pdf

A Look Ahead to 2012 Courses

Will Willimon (MLC *)

January 16 - 19, 2012

General Topic: Leadership

Will Willimon is a Bishop in the United Methodist Church and previously was Dean of the Chapel and Professor of Christian Ministry at Duke University. He has authored nearly 60 books, and we anticipate that he will bring abiding humor and a shepherd's heart to the course.

Larry Osborne

June 4 - 8, 2012

General Topic: Leadership

"Innovation and Creativity in Ministry"

Larry Osborne is a Pastor at North Coast Church and the author of many books, including [Sticky Church](#), and [Spirituality for the Rest of Us](#). He

introduced video venues in the ministry context, and he has always been an innovative and creative thinker. His course will surely reflect this.

Enoch Wan

John Johnson

Professor, Western Seminary

Associate Professor, Western Seminary

September 2012 (Dates TBD)

"Research Design and Methodology"

Required Course

This course is a core doctoral class in basic research and design. For D. Min. students, emphasis is given to determining a dissertation theme, writing and research skills, and putting together a proposal.

David Fisher

Pastor, Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims & Author

September 2012 (Dates TBD)

Required Course

Alex Kulpecz & Team

Former Executive of Shell Oil

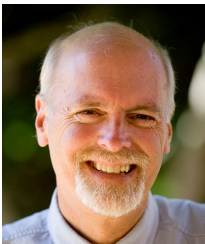
Fall 2012 (Dates TBD)

"What the Church Can Learn from the Corporate World"

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



Marks of an Outlier

I just finished a summer series on the practices of spiritual outliers, a take-off from Gladwell's book, in which he researched the reasons why some people become

exceptionally successful people:

- 1-CONVICTION-Outliers believe they can do something pretty amazing
- 2-CONCENTRATION-Outliers are not easily distracted, maintain incredible focus
- 3-CONTEXT-Outliers are almost always surrounded by a supportive community who encourage and support them
- 4-OPPORTUNITIES-Outliers have been given some extraordinary moments to seize
- 5-DISCIPLINE-Outliers devote themselves to a strict set of practices

The same characteristics define those who live extraordinary spiritual lives. Spiritual outliers I have met tend to be confident, focused, supported, opportunistic, and highly disciplined. Paul challenged Timothy to be an outlier of sort when he wrote these words in 1 Timothy 4:7-8—
"Exercise daily in God—no spiritual flabbiness please! Workouts in the gymnasium are useful, but a disciplined life in God is far more so, making you fit both today and forever"(The Message).

I work out four to five times a week, on a tennis court, in a weight room, and in the pool. I have to work around a schedule that is pretty demanding with two jobs. So some mornings begin at 5:30 on a court, and some evenings in a weight room go past 10:00 pm. The older I get, the less and less I like this regimen. But it is critical if I have any hope of accomplishing anything physically. Paul is telling us that it is no different in the spiritual realm. If you want to see God do something significant, if you want to acquire the necessary muscle to get through hard times, it will also require a regimen, a set of spiritual practices.

This summer I looked at a number of spiritual disciplines, many of them practices of the ancient church. Here, and in some future blogs, I would like to share some things that I learned.

The first of the practices, and the necessary start point for all the disciplines, is the discipline of reading Scripture, *the practice of listening to God*. The routine requires an intentional slowing down. The Word was not given for our perusal, as something to be glanced at like a People Magazine in a doctor's office. The Word cannot be read with a randomness, nor with a distancing eye. Nor can it be read with an uninvolved ear. Reading that never moves to listening will over time seem lifeless and boring, irrelevant and obligatory. This was all part of the early practice of lectio divina—getting the words off the page—beyond our eyes—into our ears.

For the past twenty five years or so, my discipline has been reading through the One Year Bible. Often, I read like I drive to seminary in the mornings—as fast

as the limits will allow. There is a lot of ground to cover each day, if I am to get through this book in a year. But I have stayed with this discipline because my soul needs to be exposed to the whole of the Scripture on a regular basis. The regimen keeps me from missing areas I would otherwise avoid, ignore, overlook (Leviticus, Nahum, Jude).

But the practice of listening to God reminds me that it is not enough to cover ground. Too easily, I read with a distancing eye. The practice of spiritual reading forces me to slow down, get off the freeway and onto the country road, where there are numerous stop signs and other sign posts to pay guide my way. This summer, we drove to Lone, Washington, driving at night in the mountains where there are numerous deer crossing warnings. It required a different kind of driving than the sort earlier in the day on I-84.

It's the same with Scripture. Numerous things cross the road, turn sideways, require intentional slowing. Lord knows how many things I have run over in the Word, not even looking in my rear view mirror—verses in which God wanted me to come to a full stop, but I did a hit and run. This discipline reminds me that the goal is not so much to get through Scripture—but get the Scripture through me; to move from the distancing eye to the listening ear, to the reflective heart. I need to slow enough to let the word move into the interior, stay at it until it is coursing through my veins. Only then is there any hope that what might have been mere information turns into transformation.

A helpful tool in this discipline is Peterson's Eat This Book. He brings me back to this reminder, that the aim is to get to the eye, the ear, as well as the mind, the will, and the heart involved. What is read and heard must be savored, chewed, and contemplated. It is when this happens the word "spreads through our blood, and gets metabolized into acts of love, cups of cold water, missions into all the world, healing and evangelism and justice in Jesus' name, hands raised in adoration of the Father, feet washed in company with the Son."

Sometimes it will not sit well. God warned John the apostle—"Take it and eat—it will turn your stomach sour" (Rev 10:10). Not everything will be to our liking. Peterson warns us to have a well-stocked cupboard of Alka-Seltzer and Pepto-Bismol on hand. But everything will be to our growth, to becoming outliers.

To finish reading this blog, and hear more from John Johnson, visit:

<http://www.johnjohnson.typepad.com>

WESTERN SEMINARY

5511 SE Hawthorne Blvd
Portland, OR 97215

Phone: 877.517.1800 / 503.517.1868

Fax: 503.517.1859

Email: spirolo@westernseminary.edu

Program Director: John Johnson
Administrative Assistant and Newsletter Editor:
Sara Pirollo

www.westernseminary.edu/DMin/index.htm