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CD 656 Discipling Children in the Large Church

Catherine Stonehouse

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Syllabus

Course: CD656 X1 (SP 2009)
Title: Discipling Children in the Large Church
Hours: 3.00
Published: Yes, on 10/10/2008
Prerequisites:

CD655

Department: Christian Discipleship
Faculty: Dr. Catherine Stonehouse



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Meetings:

During 01/31/2009 to 02/08/2009 Online via ExL.
 On Saturday, 04/25/2009 from 8:00a to 5:00p in EXLEXL.

Maximum Registration: 0

Catalog Description: Examines ministry with children in large churches to discover potentials, challenges, and approaches that provide effective Christian discipling for children and their families. This course involves traveling to visit large churches and learn from their children's ministry staff members followed by research and reflective processing of the experiential learning. Cost in addition to tuition may apply.

Objectives:

Catherine Stonehouse, Ph
 Catherine Stonehouse, Ph.D.
 Professor of Christian Education
 Asbury Theological Seminary, Wilmore, KY 40390

Syllabus
 Spring 2009
 Three Hours

CD 656 – Discipling Children in the Large Church

Examines ministry with children in large churches to discover potentials, challenges, and approaches that provide effective Christian discipling for children and their families. This course involves traveling to visit large churches and learn from their children's ministry staff members followed by research and reflective processing of the experiential learning. **Prerequisite: CD655 or additional background reading to be completed before the course begins.** Cost in addition to tuition may apply.

Course Format

The format and schedule of this course are non-traditional, involving group travel, independent research, and a one day seminar later in the semester when students will present their research papers. Students from the Orlando, Wilmore, and Virtual campuses may participate in the course, and because of the travel time it will provide ExL students with on campus credit.

During the travel days students will observe ministries with children in several large churches and learn from their staff members about the perspectives that guide their discipling of children, the ministries and programs they provide and the resources they use.

After returning to campus students will do additional research into the spiritual potential and needs of children and write a 15 page paper. The paper will evaluate some aspect of ministries with children that were observed, using the research to assess the adequacy of those ministries and identify ways of enhancing those ministries.

Each student will present his or her research paper at the seminar and be prepared to lead the discussion of one other paper. (Depending on the campuses represented in the class, the seminar may involve Distance Learning and ExL students who can not go to Orlando or Wilmore can participate in the seminar by computer hook up. This needs to be discussed with the

professor early on.)

The course will involve additional cost to the students for travel and to cover accommodations and food while traveling. The amount will be determined each time the course is taught, based on the actual anticipated expenses.

Course Dates

Travel to Montgomery AL and Atlanta GA: January 31 – February 8

Seminar: April 18

Course Overview

Although I do not a full schedule for the course, I am thrilled to be able to announce the churches we will visit.

First United Methodist Church, Atlanta GA

Frazier Memorial United Methodist Church, Montgomery AL

Mount Pisgah United Methodist Church, Alpharetta, GA

Peachtree City United Methodist Church

Perimeter Presbyterian Church, Duluth, GA

Roswell United Methodist Church, Roswell GA

Course Objectives

Having completed this course with competence, the student will be able to:

Identify the potential and challenges of ministering with children in large churches

Describe the leadership structures and relationships needed for effective ministry with children in the large church.

Articulate the core values and format of several children's ministry models being used in large churches

Assess children's ministry models in the light of biblical, theological and child development understandings and the leadership challenges of the large church.

Develop plans for effective Christian formation through one aspect of a large church's ministry with children.

Assignments

Pre Course Preparation

Prior to the beginning of the course, **those who have taken** CD655 Ministry with Children in the Church will review the books listed below.

Students who have not taken CD655 will read the following books as extra reading in lieu of the prerequisite course;

Pritchard, Gretchen Wolff, *Offering the Gospel to Children*

May, Scottie, Beth Posterski, Catherine Stonehouse, and Linda Cannell, *Children Matter: Celebrating Their Place in the Church, Family, and Community*

Stonehouse, Catherine, *Joining Children on the Spiritual Journey: Nurturing a Life of Faith*

(All but 200 pages of this can count in the 1200 pages of reading that is requires.)

Reading specific to this course (20 points)

Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Children Should be Your Church's # 1 Priority*, Ventura CA: Regal, 2003.

Beckwith, Ivy. *Postmodern Children's Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Miller, Sue, David Stall. *Making Your Children's Ministry the Best Hour of Every Kid's Week*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2004.

Westerhoff III, John H. *Will Our Children Have Faith?* Revised Edition, Toronto: Morehouse, 2000.

Note: bring these texts with you for the intensive week.

In addition to the above texts, draw from the attached bibliography and other sources pertinent to your research, to complete the 1200 pages of reading required for the course.

Submit a report of reading completed, including book titles and number of pages.

Due: April 18

Observation Notes (20 points)

Make thorough notes on observations and insights from the church visits.

The notes should include such things as:

Descriptions of ministries and programs offered for children

Responses of the children

The place of children in the faith community

The nurture of families

The theology, vision, and core values of the leaders

Leadership structures and functioning: paid and volunteer staff

Strengths of the ministries

Questions

Weaknesses or concerns

Submit the notes to the professor for review.

Due: February 13

Research Paper: 8-10 Pages (40 points)

In consultation with the professor and other class members select an aspect of ministry with children that you will address in your paper.

Through research increase your understanding of Christian formation during childhood and of your selected aspect of ministry with children.

In your paper describe why that aspect of ministry is important to the child's Christian formation and identify criteria to use in assessing the effectiveness of such ministry.

Assess the effectiveness of your selected aspect of the ministries in the churches visited.

Develop a plan for your selected aspect of ministry that will enhance the Christian formation of children and be workable in a larger church. **Post your paper in the CD656 Moodle Classroom on the due date.**

Grading Criteria

Understanding of the importance of the selected topic (aspect of ministry) to the Christian formation of children--including evidence of importance from biblical/theological and social science sources

Insightful assessment of the effectiveness of the selected aspect in the churches visited

Effectiveness and workability of your plan for enhancing Christian formation through the selected aspect of ministry.

15

10

15

40

Due April 11

Presentation and Discussion of Papers (20 points)

Prepare to present your paper to the class.

Also, review the paper of one other student—the professor will assign a paper to you—and prepare to lead the class in discussing that paper.

Prepare a 15 minute presentation of your paper to present on **April 18**.

As you prepare your presentation, time yourself. We will need to cut the presentation at 15 minutes.

Do not read from your paper.

Develop an outline to present from that flows well for the 15 minute presentation.

Prepare a power point presentation or a handout of the highlights of your paper, what you found to be your most significant learning from your research and writing. **By the morning of April 17 post your powerpoint slides or your handout to the CD656Moodle Classroom** so that other students can download it and have it in hand at the session on April 18.

Presentation Grading Criteria

Clarity of presentation 5

Significance of presentation 5

Creativity and effectiveness of power point or handout 5

Total 15

Prepare to lead the class in a 15 minute discussion on the paper written by one of your class mates.

Study the paper assigned to you and develop three questions for guiding the discussion of the paper following the presentation on it.

You will guide the discussion.

Discussion Grading Criteria

Significance of questions and managing of discussion 5

Due April 18

Travel Schedule

January 31 – Travel to Montgomery AL

February 1 – Visit Frazer Memorial UMC

February 2 – Travel to Atlanta

February 3-8 – Visit Atlanta Churches

February 8 – Travel to Wilmore KY

Bibliography

Barna, George. *Transforming Children into Spiritual Champions: Why Should be Your Church's # 1 Priority*. Ventura CA: Regal, 2003.

Beckwith, Ivy. *Postmodern Children's Ministry: Ministry to Children in the 21st Century*. Grand Rapids: emergentys,

Zondervan, 2004.

Berryman, Jerome W. *Godly Play: An Imaginative Approach to Religious Education*. San Francisco: Harper San Francisco, 1991.

Bushnell, Horace. *Christian Nurture*. (reprint) New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 1967.

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Craig, Grace, Marguerite Kermis, and Nancy Digdon. *Children Today: Canadian Edition*. Scarborough, Ontario: Prentice Hall Allyn and Bacon Canada, 1998.

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Dykstra, Craig. *Growing in the Faith: Education and the Christian Practices*. Louisville, KY: Geneva, 1999.

Freudenburg, Ben and Rick Lawrence *The Family Friendly Church*.

Garland, Diana. *Family Ministry*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1999.

Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families: Living the Faith in Daily Life. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2003.

Grant, Reg, and John Reed. *Telling Stories to Touch the Heart: How to Use Stories to Communicate God's Truth*. Wheaton, Ill.: Victor Books, 1990.

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Myers, Barbara Kines, and William Myers. *Engaging in Transcendence: The Church's Ministry and Covenant with Young Children*. Cleveland: Pilgrim, 1992.

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Pipher, Mary. *Reviving Ophelia: Saving the Selves of Adolescent Girls*. New York: Ballantine Book, 1994.

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Roehlkepartain, Eugene C., Pamela Ebsteyne King, Linda Wagner, and Peter Benson, editors, *The Handbook of Spiritual Development in Childhood and Adolescence*, Thousand Oaks: Sage, 2006

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Rizzuto, Ann-Maria. *The Birth of the Living God: A Psychoanalytic Study*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1979.

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