



**JEREMY W. CHAMBERS**

Lead Pastor, Fairwood Church; Renton, WA

***Jesus in an Ethnically Rich Environment: A Multi-cultural Study in the Requirements for Effective, Consistent Gospel Communication in Southeast Renton, Washington***

Project Adviser: Dr. Paul Lewis

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Blaine Charette

This project arose from the desire to minister in the dominantly multicultural community of Renton, Washington. The project utilized interviews to reveal common factors that would enable gospel communication across several cultures: Filipino, Caucasian, African American, and Chinese. The scale used to develop the common factors included disquieting experiences, amorphous cultural zones, conception of “beyondness,” phenomenological triggers, soteriological metaphors, second faith, thickness of the cultural border, and the Hofstede cultural typology.

A variety of techniques were used to conceptualize the research such as cultural analysis, sociological and psychological approaches, and human resource theory in order to drive a multi-disciplinary understanding of the topic. Additionally, Meyer’s Culture Map provided a business perspective on communicating, evaluating, persuading, leading, deciding, trusting, disagreeing and scheduling. The combination of the data gathered from the interview transcripts and the models allowed for a variety of conclusions, including that multicultural gospel communication is possible so long as the gospel communicator remains sensitive to differences among people. The project also yielded a set of eight best practices for effective multicultural gospel communication.



## **MICHAEL JASON FULLERTON**

Assistant/Worship Pastor, Muskogee First Assembly; Muskogee, OK

### ***Intergenerational Transmission of Faith: The Biblical Role of the Godly Parent in the Spiritual Formation of the Child***

Project Adviser: Dr. Wayde Goodall

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Doug Oss

The extensive research recently completed by the National Study of Youth and Religion (NSYR) at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill determined that parents remain the biggest determinants in shaping a child's faith that is strong through the teen years and their transition into adulthood.<sup>1</sup> However, apart from taking their children to church and modeling godliness, most parents remain uncertain of how to participate in the process of intergenerational faith transmission with their children.

To assist parents in remedying this issue, a course entitled "The *Trek*: An Eight-Week Spiritual Journey for Parents and Their Children," was created and implemented at First Assembly of God in Muskogee, Oklahoma. Ten families with fourth to eighth grade students actively participated in the course, which identified eight of the most integral values for spiritual formation and equipped parents to transmit these lessons to their children. As a result of The *Trek*, parents developed an enhanced understanding of their role in the intergenerational faith transmission process. They also reported feeling better equipped to develop their children as lifelong followers of Christ.

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<sup>1</sup> The NSYR is a longitudinal examination (from 2001 to 2014) of 3,290 young people that involves ongoing personal interviews with 267 of these respondents in 45 states; Christian Smith, *Souls in Transition: The Religious & Spiritual Lives of Emerging Adults* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 220-224.



## **ELIZABETH GARCIA-SMITH**

Lead Pastor, House of Prayer Church; New Orleans, LA

### ***From Brokenness to Wholeness: Developing Healthy Leaders at House of Prayer Assembly of God in New Orleans, Louisiana***

Project Adviser: Dr. Carolyn Tennant

Biblical Adviser: Dr. David Clark

In ministerial conversations, discipleship and leadership are two common themes of discussion. The twenty-first century church must be intentional about developing a plan to help parishioners grow in their relationship with Christ and become healthy leaders. This task requires the implementation of a discipleship and leadership system that will help believers mature in Christ while also perpetually training individuals for leadership within the local church. The local church must disciple believers and raise up leaders if it intends to transform the lives of families, communities, cities, and nations for generations to come.

This project designed a system of developing healthy leaders at House of Prayer Church in New Orleans, Louisiana. The systematic discipleship system addressed the intrapersonal and interpersonal lives of believers with the goal of helping them become healthy, whole, and healed leaders. The “Be Made Whole” discipleship system provided mentorship as well as a safe space for transparency and leadership development. As a result, House of Prayer now has a group of healthy and effective leaders who are an asset in the ministry and the kingdom of God.

Because individuals cannot give what they do not possess, House of Prayer is committed to reaching broken people whom society has discarded. We are committed to developing wholeness in the lives of people, so that when the mantle is passed to the next generation, it is handed to believers who are not broken but healthy, whole, and healed.



## **CRAIG A. GORC**

West Seattle Campus Pastor, Eastridge Church; Seattle, WA  
Adjunct Instructor, Northwest University; Kirkland, WA  
Leadership Coach, Vital Solutions Coaching and Consulting

### ***An Investigation into the Usefulness of a Coaching Approach along the Engel Scale to Assist People on Their Faith Journey at Cedar Park Church***

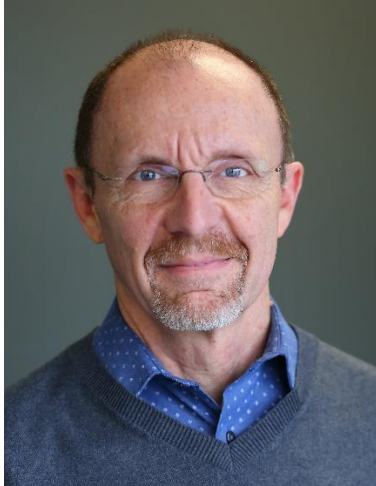
Project Adviser: Dr. Don Detrick

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Waldemar Kowalski

The transmission of the gospel relies heavily on the continuous and faithful proclamation of the gospel and on the positive response of the hearers to enter a life-changing relationship with Jesus Christ. Preaching serves as a primary means by which the gospel of Jesus moves forward. While the bulk of gospel proclamation is one-way communication, the ultimate result focuses on moving the hearer to accept the gospel message. This could take place in large rallies, small gatherings, or in one-on-one conversations.

This project examines the possibility of increased receptivity to the gospel by connecting with a spiritual coach to assist a person on his or her journey to understanding and positively responding to the gospel. It also pursues the biblical precedent of incorporating questions into the spiritual seekers' discovery process. This project sees the message of salvation as something the person must uncover, discover, understand, and then respond to. Coupling a spiritual seeker with a spiritual life coach can help guide the seeker to pursue and positively respond to Christ.

Four Christians and three non-Christians participated in six, one-on-one coaching sessions with me. The knowledge and awareness of their spiritual life was tracked and assessed. The goal was to test and measure how the coaching approach enabled the spiritual seeker to grow in understanding, accepting and advancing the gospel.



## **MARK W. JONES**

Pastor of Administration, RFA Church; Raleigh, NC

### ***Developing a Mentoring Process in the Local Church Context for Those Sensing a Call to Vocational Ministry***

Project Adviser: Dr. Mike Stewart

Biblical Adviser: Dr. David Clark

Assemblies of God USA statistics on credentialed ministers reveal an aging ministerial membership as well as a decline in the number of ministers under the age of forty—a trend that needs reversing. To address this problem, this project implements a mentoring process at Raleigh First Assembly in Raleigh, North Carolina for those sensing a call to vocational credentialed ministry. Experienced, credentialed ministers connect with thirteen ministry candidates for a six-month mentoring relationship to explore calling and provide direction in walking mentees through the steps of fulfilling their calling.

This project builds a solid biblical foundation for the mentoring process, which affirms both God's calling to ministry and individuals' responses to it. Further, the project's research of contemporary literature reveals that effective mentoring requires both relationship and intentionality for mentee transformation. A survey of new credential applicants in the past five years also reinforces the need for mentoring.

The resulting impact of the project brings together ministry candidates in relationship with experienced ministers, providing reciprocal benefits to both mentors and mentees. Further, the project demonstrates that a connection of an emerging leader with a seasoned mentoring minister within an equipping and empowering community remains critical to their ongoing development and long-term sustained impact.



## **JAMIE P. MORGAN**

Lead Pastor, Life Church; Williamstown, NJ

### ***Revival Cry: Creating a Church Culture That Hungers and Thirsts for Revival Utilizing Life Church in Williamstown, New Jersey as a Prototype***

Project Adviser: Dr. Carolyn Tennant

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Benny Aker

The declension of the Church remains undeniable; compromise and worldliness are ubiquitous in both pulpit and pew. The Church is in dire need of revival. Pastors have the responsibility to create a church culture where people hunger and thirst for revival, a task entrenched with prayer for revival. God's people, however, will not pray for something they do not grasp or perceive they need.

This project led the people of Life Church, Williamstown, New Jersey, in a thorough study of biblical, historic, and contemporary revivals. *Revival*, an eight-week sermon series, immersed Life Church in Holy Spirit outpourings. The series illustrated what fully alive Christians look like and how the Church has fallen far from God's original intention. The project embedded a culture of revival into the fabric of the church. At the conclusion of *Revival*, a twenty-four-hour prayer meeting for a worldwide awakening ensued, so congregants could embrace the urgent mandate to pray for revival.

The outcomes from this project produced compelling results and provided statistical support of the project's thesis: a Christian who understands the concept of revival and sees the need for it will hunger and thirst for revival and pray for it. Therefore, it proves possible to create a revival church culture by providing an extended, in-depth teaching on revival and opportunities to pray for revival. This project will assist local church pastors, prayer leaders, and seminary and Christian university administrators in creating a culture that seeks for revival in their ministry context.



**BRIAN W. PINGEL**

Lead Pastor, Cedar Rapids First Assembly; Cedar Rapids, IA

***Overcoming Spiritual Discontinuity and Perceived Abandonment: Partnering with Parents Raising Children with Mental Illness***

Project Adviser: Dr. Dan Nelson

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Allen Tennison

Having a child diagnosed with a severe illness is difficult for any parent. However, when the illness is a mental disorder, the symptoms are often masked as rebellious reactions, which can be interpreted as a lack of self-discipline brought on by poor parenting skills. This negative stigma causes many parents to hide the illness from others, struggle with their faith, and isolate their family from those who should be a great source of comfort—their church family.

In response to the challenge of supporting parents through this journey, I designed a project focusing on the research and development of a seminar to help parents feel empowered and equipped to grow in their faith and help support their children through the many challenges associated with having a mental disorder. After a thorough study on the biblical view of how God blessed the marginalized and those who felt abandoned by Him, I surveyed contemporary literature dealing with the challenges parents will face when they have a child who has a mental disorder. I then combined the research from the biblical and contemporary literature to form a five-session seminar that I presented to ten parents who have children with a mental disorder at the church where I currently serve as senior pastor. Those who participated in the seminar gained a new level of understanding and hope for the difficult journey their family is on.



## **STEPHEN J. POWERS**

Lead Pastor, Freedom Christian Fellowship; Jacksonville, FL

### ***Facilitating Assimilation and Discipleship at Freedom Christian Fellowship through Holistic Small Groups***

Project Adviser: Dr. Rob Carlson

Biblical Adviser: Dr. David Clark

Freedom Christian Fellowship, a church with two campuses, six pastoral staff members, and a host of ministries, provides outstanding ministry to the community in Jacksonville, Florida. Each week several guests attend, and people experience God's grace and salvation. However, assimilating those guests into the church body and effectively discipling individuals currently attending the church has been an ongoing challenge.

To meet these needs, this project cast vision for holistic small groups, trained staff, board, and leaders in the ministry of holistic small groups, and set up the plan to begin creative, effective and long-term small groups. These groups will provide an effective assimilation tool and a powerful discipleship ministry to assist people in discovering, developing, and demonstrating their gifts in holistic small groups.

The teaching and training on holistic small groups assisted Freedom Christian Fellowship to break the "65 hypothesis" of the Natural Church Development, giving a 99.4 percent chance of long-term growth for the congregation. The vision casting for holistic small groups also resulted in approximately 10 percent of the congregation being trained for leadership of these groups. The building of relational bridges through small groups has provided a long-term path for successful ministry for Freedom Christian Fellowship to continue to live the Great Commandment and fulfill the Great Commission.





## **IRENE LAVONNE RUNGE**

Pastor in charge of Adult Discipleship, Adult Ministries and Church Administration; Redeeming Love Church, Maplewood, MN

### ***Achieving the Mission of Redeeming Love Church: Aligning the Ministries in Conjunction with Whole-Life Discipleship***

Project Adviser: Dr. Charlie Self

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Roger Cotton

Redeeming Love Church, like most churches, endeavors to train and unite its ministries and its people to the mission of the church in order to enlarge the kingdom of God. Leadership perceived a disconnect between the stated mission—Growing Leaders to Love God and Love People—and the ministries and people in the church. Ministry leaders were setting their goals and planning within each of their realms with little to no communication or cooperation with other ministries. Members of the church expressed a desire to make a difference and help, but with varied work and family schedules, it was difficult to attend classes, trainings, and events at the church. The paradigm that ministry only happens at the church needed to be addressed. This project explored how to bring unity and alignment to the ministries of RLC. Additionally, it explored how to train and equip people through whole-life discipleship to integrate their faith into all aspects of their lives, so they could live out the RLC mission daily at their jobs, with their families, how they care for themselves and others, and how they contribute to the economy. Through this project, ministry leaders learned to connect and plan with other ministry leaders, learn about other ministries, and unite through fellowship and trainings. Leadership also developed trainings, classes, sermons, and digital resources to help equip people through multiple methods of discipleship. RLC began to make meaningful changes and will continue on this path, to bring unity and alignment to its ministries and people to the stated mission of the church in order to expand the kingdom of God.



## **SHYJU SATHYANESAN**

Web - Graphic Coordinator for Eurasia Region of Assemblies of God World Missions  
A Web Ministry to Reach Internationals at International Ministries, Springfield; Springfield, MO

### ***Internet Evangelism: A Web Ministry to Reach Internationals at International Ministries, Springfield***

Project Adviser: Dr. Jeremy Harris  
Biblical Adviser: Dr. David Clark

God's desire to communicate to humanity has never ended. Today's church has the unprecedented opportunity to communicate His message of salvation beyond the walls of the church to the ends of the earth through online media. Proceeding on the belief that the best and most effective means of communication for the church today could be online, this project contemplated the feasibility of online communication by a website. This website strategically incorporated efforts for evangelism, discipleship, and community at International Ministries of Central Assembly of God, in Springfield, Missouri, with the potential of reaching thousands locally and communicating to millions globally. Efficient communication inside the community of believers has this potential to go beyond the four walls of the church to all people and ultimately build an online community of believers to nurture relationships, grow in maturity, and edify one another with the power of the Holy Spirit.

This project evaluated (1) how God communicated in various ways as stated by the author of the Hebrews, (2) possible methods of online communication, and (3) technologically advanced online communications to connect more international students on the local level as well as people around the world.

As a result of this project, International Ministries acknowledged the power of online communication to reach more people with the good news of Jesus Christ.



## **ADAM C. SIKORSKI**

Assistant Professor of Youth Studies, North Central University; Minneapolis, MN

### ***Who is My Neighbor?: Preparing Vocational Ministry Students at North Central University to Increase Their Cultural Competency***

Project Adviser: Dr. Mark Hausfeld

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Jac Perrin

As American culture continues to morph, pastors face different complexities. The cultural climate in America today presents polarizing subject matter, manifested as societal pressures divide communities and impact families and churches. One of the main divisive issues is the topic of race and racism. To effectively minister to diverse people in American communities, current and future pastors must increase in cultural competency; unfortunately, many pastors do not know what steps to take to fulfill the quest.

This project utilizes the Intercultural Development Inventory (IDI) to leverage a key learning opportunity for five current vocational ministry students at North Central University in Minneapolis, Minnesota, by guiding them toward increasing their cultural competency. The IDI assessment provides metrics that can pinpoint specific areas of growth, in addition to providing a baseline to measure current and future culturally competent growth.

Students navigated eight sessions framed around the IDI's Ten Key Intercultural Learning Opportunities. Results documented in chapter 4, ranging from increased self-awareness to catalytic events, provide a framework for current and future pastors desiring to increase their cultural competency. By utilizing the project's tools, with an open heart and an awareness of the Holy Spirit, any current or future pastor could move toward more effective outreach to diverse populations in local communities.



## **JARED MATTHEW STEPP**

Lead Pastor, JourneyLifeChurch; Holt, MI

### ***Making the Supernatural Normal: Mobilizing the Local Church to Move in the Power of God outside Its Doors***

Project Adviser: Dr. David Lim

Biblical Adviser: Dr. David Clark

Many modern Western believers still practice supernatural ministry in strange ways that alienate unbelievers and too often only practice them inside their churches. Others have chosen not to engage with God's supernatural power, so God's miraculous works have become rare. The developing world, however, sees remarkable growth in converts and in supernatural ministry. Western believers need a new model for engaging in supernatural ministry. This project examines the model of Jesus and the first Christians for supernatural ministry. Then it synthesizes the modern literature from those who practice supernatural ministry in similar ways to Jesus and the first Christians. Finally, it examines the field test results for supernatural ministry in the model of Jesus and the first Christians for the local church. Jesus and the first Christians' model for supernatural ministry produces non-clergy believers who consistently see the supernatural works of God, who see those results outside the church, and who are received positively by nonbelievers because they approach them with compassion. For these believers, the supernatural has become normal.



## **ALAN JAMES WARNER**

Alan James Warner, Executive Director, Set Free, Inc.;  
Buffalo, NY

***Educating Transformational Urban Leaders: A Pilot Project to Integrate Faith and Work for Next-Generation Student Leaders in the Buffalo-Niagara Region of Western New York***

Project Adviser: Dr. Ray Bakke

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Jim Railey

Buffalo, New York is the quintessential Rust Belt city. The spirit of hope deferred has hovered over the city from the days when Buffalo seemingly fell from grace, hemorrhaging the population from nearly 600,000 in 1959 to less than 260,000 in 2018.

Buffalo is now rising from the ashes, with over \$9 billion worth of capital projects occurring. This research project centers on educating transformational leaders for the New Buffalo. In order to accomplish this purpose, the project piloted a university-level course that integrated faith and work for next-generation student leaders.

The background research explores the historical framework of Buffalo. Next is an assessment of biblical accounts of community transformational leaders establishing biblical order from chaos. Finally, a review is made of the writings on community transformation as well as marketplace ministry that are relevant to educating future transformational urban leaders to restore cities.

“Rebuilding the City,” the university course that is the implementation step of this research, examines God’s heart for the city. The class considers principles and best practices of community transformation, including the centrality of marketplace leaders.

The analysis of the pretest and posttest surveys of the course confirm that students realized positive results. The principles distilled from the Project Summary can be applied to other communities in similar circumstances. This will build on the past and expand the future beyond Buffalo.



## **JAMES W. WICKHAM**

Lead Pastor, Living Word Community Church; Mechanicsville, MD

### ***Reaching the Generations: Raising Awareness in Living Word Community Church to Facilitate the Necessary Changes for Reaching All Generations***

Project Adviser: Dr. Earl Creps

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Benny Aker

After years of successfully blending ministry for reaching the generations, a shift slowly occurred that eventually developed a gap in Living Word's ability to connect well with all generations. Though a plethora of material exists on the unique distinctions of each generation, the problem is far more complex than simply examining differing characteristics or personality quirks. One must consider how culture has shifted and how this shift impacts society and the church.

This project began with a limited perspective of the problem. Research provided a wider lens, delivering an unexpected perspective on what changes could be implemented at Living Word Community Church. The purpose of this project was to raise awareness among the leaders and influencers with the intention to facilitate necessary changes for reaching the generations. Two one-day seminars presented to leaders and influencers of Living Word Community Church conveyed the necessary knowledge for understanding the issues facing the church. The pre-assessments and post-assessments confirmed that the participants indeed benefited from helpful information needed to take steps to adjust their approach in reaching all generations.



**KRISTIN DENISE WILSON**

**Facilitator/Teacher of Church Leadership Development, St. Paul Church of God in Christ; Rockford, IL**

***Turning the Hearts of Mothers to Daughters and the Daughters to Mothers: Building Intergenerational Bridges to Discipleship***

Project Adviser: Dr. Mike McCrary

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Debbie Gill

Christian women must make disciples and leaders for future generations, but when older women in positions of leadership within the church fail to disciple younger women to lead and carry on the legacy of faith, a critical problem occurs in reaching younger generations with the gospel. One way to address women's generational divide in church leadership is by intentionally growing intergenerational relationships. Women can influence the development of next generation leaders by forging intergenerational relationships with each other.

This project addresses the need for women to disciple next generation leaders by developing and implementing a women's intergenerational conference that builds connections and relationships among diverse women of multiple generations, increases knowledge and support for intergenerational ministry in churches and the community, and creates an environment of hospitality in which women of multiple generations have fun together.

Further, this project helps women who work intergenerationally with other women to understand how the postmodern worldview has radically changed the way current younger generations view God's mission in the world. It creates a foundation for women to strategize ways for reaching today's postmodern youth, the "Nones," and the religiously unaffiliated by looking beyond the traditional methods of evangelism and discipleship.



## **YORIKO YABUKI**

Missionary in Residence, Central Assembly of God; Springfield, MO  
Director of National Japanese Fellowship Women's Ministries

### ***Equipping Japanese Women in America for Fruitful Ministry: Addressing the Opportunities and Challenges of a Shame-Based Culture***

Project and Biblical Adviser: Dr. Debbie Gill

This project examines the historical, psychological, and cultural challenges faced by Japanese women living in the United States of America and how these factors inhibit their effectiveness in ministry in the American Church. Many Japanese women who live in the U.S. carry unresolved cultural baggage such as high levels of shame and poor self-esteem. Furthermore, Middle Way and *Wa* thinking discourages Japanese women from becoming servant leaders in the church; many of them adhere to an unbiblical view of the value of women. This results in an unbalanced perspective of a wife's duty to submit to her husband and the cultural value that women cannot be leaders in the church.

The project's general literature review provides an historical underpinning for the unique challenges Japanese women face in America. The project's biblical-theological review serves as the foundation for building a biblical view of a woman's value in God's sight and role in the family and the church.

The project provided training to nine Japanese women over a period of six weeks. The intervention focused on the aforementioned challenges as they relate to inhibiting Japanese women from experiencing productivity in ministry. As a result of the intervention, participants experienced freedom from toxic shame, learned the difference between shame-based and guilt-based behaviors, and acquired a biblical perspective regarding the role of women in ministry and in the home. Participants acquired new freedom, basked in God's unconditional love, and chose to obey God's Word rather than bow to cultural teachings that inhibit fruitfulness in ministry.





## **MARK J. ZWEIFEL**

Lead Pastor, True North Church; Fairbanks, AK

### ***The Gospel Road System: A Seminar for Alaska Ministry Network Pastors on Building an Evangelism System for Their Local Church***

Project Adviser: Dr. Wayde Goodall

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Waldemar Kowalski

A high percentage of the Alaska Ministry Network (AKMN) churches have plateaued or are declining. The churches in the AKMN do not lack good theology, nor do the pastors lack the ability to interpret and exegete the Word of God. These churches are failing due to the lack of an evangelism system to attract and connect with those whom the Great Commission mandates the Church to reach. It remains imperative for Fellowship leaders to learn how to develop an evangelism system that attracts new people through their doors, or they will continue to experience a steady and slow decline.

This project entails the creation of an evangelism system that includes a seminar and a personalized systems map used for coaching five pastors in their individual communities. By completing the six steps of the Gospel Road System Map, pastors can build an effective evangelism system, which remains attractional, incarnational, and tailored for their churches and communities.

All five pastors involved in the personal coaching reported an increase in personal clarity and confidence and described tangible ministry direction. Collectively, the pastors who participated in the seminar reported significant quantitative results. The pastors conveyed an increased understanding of how to look at church growth and evangelism from a systems perspective and approach. Great anticipation continues to exist that God will use this project as a catalyst for church growth.