

School of Practical Ministry Level I - Catalog

*“to prepare God’s people
for works of service,
so that the body of Christ
may be built up”
Eph. 4:12*

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INTRODUCTION

EVANGEL Theological Seminary was launched in September, 1982 with the mission of equipping those called to serve. Over thirty years later we remain firmly committed to that mission. We also recognize that the 21st century presents unique complexities and challenges. So, in 2007 the EVANGEL School of Practical Ministry was developed. The School is an entirely new program using an entirely new curriculum. Already it has been used to teach men and women here in the United States and pastors and leaders around the world.

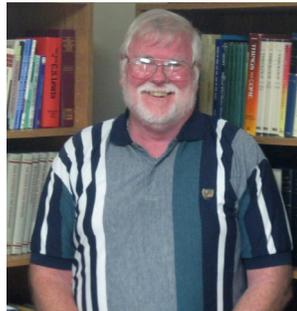
The School of Practical Ministry Level I is best described as a 24 week learning journey. To facilitate the learning process students will progress through the program as a group. This allows each one to be known and to know others, which creates a more intimate instructional environment than the traditional classroom.

The purpose of the program is threefold-

- ◆ **Encounter** - Throughout the program, students will be challenged to encounter God in a deeper, more intimate way.
- ◆ **Explore** - Students will be encouraged to explore and discover more about the unique person God has created them to be.
- ◆ **Equip** - With the completion of the program students will be better equipped to do the work of ministry within their local church setting.

For a good while, I have been looking for exactly this type of program. This is a relatively small class which makes the instruction more personal. Everywhere else I looked they wanted big, big money, plus I would have to spend 2-4 years of work to get a degree. That is not what I wanted.

When I heard about this program and called to get more information, everything that was mentioned is what I was looking for. By the time we finished that first conversation, I was ready to go to school that night!



John Allen

PROGRAM CONTENT

The curriculum for the School of Practical Ministry Level I is comprised of seven modules. The content of each module builds upon the previous one. Each module is designed so that students will have opportunities to practically apply the material that has been discussed.

- ◆ **Module 1: *What Do I Believe?*** This module provides students an opportunity to examine the Biblical absolutes that are the foundation of our Christian life and, when properly understood, allow us to live confidently and victoriously.
- ◆ **Module 2: *What Does the Bible Say to Me?*** This module examines the development of the Scriptures and gives students the opportunity to see God's hand at work in preserving His Word. In addition, each individual book will be discussed with regard to author, date of writing, and significant themes and characteristics.
- ◆ **Module 3: *What is my Spiritual Heritage?*** This module provides students with an historical understanding of the Church. Significant individuals, movements, and developments will be examined to allow students to gain a fresh perspective on the 21st century Church.
- ◆ **Module 4: *How do I Effectively Communicate the Gospel?*** This module examines the communication process and allows students to further develop their own communication skills and style.
- ◆ **Module 5: *What are my Spiritual Gifts?*** This module examines the Biblical concept of spiritual gifts. In addition, through the use of spiritual gift assessments, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the unique individual God created them to be.

Module 6: *What Role Does the Holy Spirit Play in my Life/Ministry?* This module examines the identity of the Holy Spirit and His role and ministry within the 21st century Church.

- ◆ During module sessions students will be given the opportunity to put into practice the concepts that were discussed.
- ◆ **Module 7: *What Strategies Will Make me a More Effective Leader/Minister?*** This module provides students the opportunity to learn about Biblical leadership. The module examines the call of God, Jesus' words to His disciples, Paul's charges to Timothy and Titus, dealing with conflict, and forgiveness. Finally, the module examines the book of Proverbs to determine leadership/ministry principles.



Taking the SOPM was a lot of fun! New to the faith or old timers - anyone could benefit and enjoy this setting of deeper learning, as it touches on a beneficial overview of the Bible, the Trinity, the spiritual history of our faith, and then opens up your eyes to see your own place in the redemptive history of God. So glad I did it!

Ellen Hopkins
Harrisonburg, VA

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Because the School of Practical Ministry Level I is a totally different kind of program there aren't the usual academic requirements or assignments. There will be no lengthy research papers to write or tedious textbooks to read. Rather the specific requirements are much more personal and practical.

- ◆ **Prayer Partners.** Students will become prayer partners. Each student will keep a prayer list, which will not only include personal prayer items but also the requests and needs of fellow students. This will allow students to rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep, and carry one another's burdens.

Learning Projects. During the 24 weeks of the program, students will complete 3 learning projects. First, students will chronicle their personal spiritual journey. Second, students

- ◆ will complete a self description. Third, students will identify significant things they have learned and develop a plan to practically implement this newfound knowledge.
- ◆ **Certificate of Completion.** With the successful completion of these simple requirements students will receive a Practical Ministry Certificate.

PROGRAM POLICIES

The following policies, which govern the School of Practical Ministry Level I, have been established.

- ◆ **Absences.** Because of the concentrated nature of this program, it is important that students attend as many module sessions as possible. If, because of extenuating circumstances, a student must be absent for a session the instructor should be notified before the session.
- ◆ **Grading.** The three projects will be graded using the pass/fail system. Any project that receives a failing grade will need to be redone.
- ◆ **Project Requirements.** All projects need to be submitted by the assigned due date as determined by the module instructor. However, because of extenuating circumstances, students may request an extension. To request an extension, a student must contact the module instructor before the due date. Extensions will be granted solely at the discretion of the instructor. All projects must be successfully completed for the student to receive the Practical Ministry Certificate.
- ◆ **Plagiarism.** Plagiarism is a serious issue and is treated as such. It is defined as an act of presenting someone else's argument, definition, interpretation, or factual information as though they were one's own, whether or not one uses the exact wording or source. If the module instructor suspects plagiarism, the matter will immediately be referred to the Evangel Seminary Administrative Council for disciplinary action.

PROGRAM INVESTMENT

The Board of Trustees of Evangel Theological Seminary has established the following financial fees and policies for the School of Practical Ministry Level I.

- ◆ **Tuition:** The tuition rate for the School of Practical Ministry program is \$395.00. This includes the 80 page SOPM Manual, plus all books and materials. (A discount is available to husbands and wives taking the course together)
- ◆ **Flexible Payment Option:** Because of budget constraints, some students may not be able to pay the tuition in full at the first session. To address that need, a Flexible Payment Option has been established. This plan will allow students to pay the tuition over the course of several months. The following information outlines this payment option.
 - * Prior to the start of Module One, a student must notify the Program Director of his/her intent to take advantage of the Flexible Payment Option.
 - * Each student will be required to make an initial payment of \$150 at or before the first class.
 - * Subsequent payments of \$61.25 will then be due once each month, for the next 4 months.

“If somebody asked me, would it be worthwhile to take the School of Practical Ministry, based on my experience I would say YES! Don’t wait, do it! The teaching is outstanding, the relationships that we built in the class were just wonderful. It was definitely worthwhile. It was so good, I am so glad I took it.”



David Mehagen
Linville, VA

- ◆ **Late Payment Policy** - We have seldom had any issues with payment for the SOPM. However in the unlikely event it is needed, the following is a policy established by Evangel to address this area.
 - * Any payment made after the scheduled due date may cause the student's account to be charged a \$25.00 late payment fee.
 - * If a payment is returned for insufficient funds, there will be \$35 fee assessed to the students account.
 - * Any **student** whose account is more than 30 days past due is subject to suspension from the School of Practical Ministry until such time as the account becomes current.
 - * All student accounts must be paid in full by the end of the program to receive the Practical Ministry Certificate.

GETTING STARTED



Due to the unique nature of the SOPM program, the admissions requirements are less stringent than a degree program, but they do require some challenging personal effort on the part of each prospective student.

- ◆ **Education** - Each student wishing to enroll in the School of Practical Ministry must have a minimum of a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- ◆ **Application** - Prospective students must submit a completed Application Form and a photograph of themselves.
- ◆ **Pastoral Recommendation** - As part of the admissions process, prospective students must submit a letter of recommendation from their pastor.
- ◆ **Interview** - Prospective students will have a personal interview with the Program Director. The interview will give the Program Director the opportunity to get to know the prospective students and assists with the process of identifying realistic goals for their personal learning journey.

- ◆ **Seeking God** - Before enrolling in the program prospective students are strongly encouraged to spend an extended period of time praying and seeking God for direction regarding the program. Students who clearly know that God has directed them to enroll will have a much more meaningful experience.



The Evangel School of Practical Ministry admits students of any race, gender, color, national and ethnic origin to the rights, privileges, programs, and activities available, and it does not discriminate in accordance with the above in the administration of its academic policies, admissions policies, scholarship awards, or any other school administered policy or program.

On-Line Distance Learning Option

Evangel is pleased to now be able to provide SOPM Level I students with the opportunity to take the course in real time, on-line. This would be done through a live, interactive video feed from the classroom while the course is being taught. Technology allows us to have full interaction between students in the classroom and the students taking the course on-line, with the latter even being able to ask and answer questions that are being addressed.



On-Line Eligibility - To be eligible for the On-Line Distance Learning, a student must either live far enough from Harrisonburg that driving to the class would not be feasible, or must have extenuating circumstances that would otherwise prohibit them from being able to attend class in person. We will be happy to discuss this with you if you have any questions about eligibility.

Technical Requirements - In order to take the SOPM Level I class on-line a student needs to have a desk top or lap top computer or a tablet. They should also have a web cam and microphone which is already built into many newer models. Finally, the student must have some form of high speed internet service (DSL, Cable, etc) so the live video stream can be viewed without interruption. (We have made this on-line option as simple as possible, so almost anyone can easily do this.)

Discover additional testimonies, information and resources on our web site at: www.ets.edu

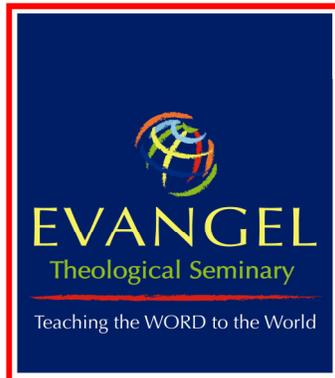
STATEMENT OF FAITH

We Believe:

- ◆ in the plenary inspiration and inerrancy of the Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments; that the Bible is the only sufficient rule of faith and practice.
- ◆ that there is one God, eternally existent in three persons: God, the Father; God, the Son; God, the Holy Spirit.
- ◆ in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, and in His personal future return to earth in power and glory to judge the living and the dead.
- ◆ in the Holy Spirit, God present with us for guidance, for comfort, and for empowerment.
- ◆ that the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.
- ◆ in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.
- ◆ that the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.
- ◆ in the Church as the fellowship for worship and service for all who are united to the living Lord.
- ◆ in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost, the one to everlasting life and the other to everlasting damnation



To apply to the School of Practical Ministry Level I or for the most current SOPM class schedule, simply click on the “Programs Tab” on the web site, print out the application and return it to Evangel Seminary.



EVANGEL School of Practical Ministry

**36 Southgate Ct.
Suite 201
Harrisonburg, VA 22801**

**(540) 433-7760
(888) 711-0066**

www.ets.edu

info@ets.edu