



## **JEFFREY SCOTT ALEXANDER**

Assemblies of God Nationally Appointed US Missionary; Indianapolis, IN  
Chi Alpha Director, Indiana University; Indianapolis, IN

### ***Untangled: Safeguarding Chi Alpha from Enmeshment and Unduly Influencing the Vocational Call in University Students***

Project Adviser: Dr. Harvey Herman

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Robert Eby

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries (XA) serves as a vital missionary pipeline for Assemblies of God World Missions, yet its emphasis on community and discipleship has inadvertently fostered unhealthy enmeshment. This environment pressures students to view vocational ministry as the primary demonstration of their faithfulness to Christ, narrowing their understanding of God's calling and stifling personal exploration and autonomy.

To address this issue, this project developed and implemented a training seminar for Chi Alpha staff to minimize unhealthy enmeshment in the discipleship process. Participants were equipped with strategies to balance nurturing discipleship with respect of individual autonomy. It also employed a pretest and posttest methodology to assess the seminar's effectiveness in promoting a healthier understanding of vocational paths.

The seminar results revealed significant improvements in participants' awareness of enmeshment and its impact on vocational decision-making. Leaders reported a greater commitment to ethical discipleship practices that honor individual autonomy. This project ultimately empowered Chi Alpha staff to support students in exploring their God-given purposes, fostering a culture that values personal growth and diverse callings rather than enforcing uniformity through relational pressure. The implications suggest a constructive direction for Chi Alpha to cultivate a healthier ministry environment that encourages authentic faith journeys.



## **ENG ENG ANG**

Regional Care Minister, Victory Family Center; Singapore

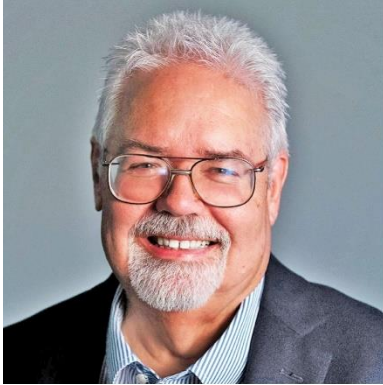
### ***Teaching “Introduction to Biblical Archaeology” at Asia Theological Center***

Project Adviser: Dr. Mark Jenkins

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Wave Nunnally

Many students at Asia Theological Centre (ATC) in Singapore grapple with interpreting the Bible accurately due to a lack of knowledge of the Israel’s topography and historical background. This has resulted in misinterpretations and uncertainty about the Bible’s authenticity. The original biblical writers were recording stories of real people, real places, and real events. As such, one ought to first step into the writers’ worlds, understanding their cultures, languages, and historical contexts, before interpreting the original intent of their writings. Biblical archaeology as a discipline should inform students of the Bible concerning the world of the writer.

This project researched the archaeological sites, inscriptions, and artifacts in their historical and cultural contexts as referenced in the Bible and developed an accredited course for ATC titled, “Introduction to Biblical Archaeology.” The course provided students with the essential skills to better understand and teach Scripture through the perspective of archaeology and geography. As a result, students learned how archaeological evidence supports and illuminates Scriptures and the project assessments demonstrated they were more confident in interpreting the Bible with greater accuracy and theological depth.



**JAMES GARY BUTLER**

Adjunct Faculty, University of Valey Forge; Phoenixville, PA

Adjunct Faculty, Ascent College; Gainesville, VA

Instructor, Potomac School of Ministry; Gainesville, VA

Consultant, Church Leadership Coaching; Martinsburg, WV

***Holy Spirit-informed adaptive church leadership: A seminar for pastors, staff, and church leaders***

Project Adviser: Dr. Charlie Self

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Vince Medina

Today, pastors find themselves in a strange new world marked by rapid and volatile change often characterized by an anti-church and anti-Christian shift in societal values. Many strategies from past church ministry and leadership models no longer seem to work well. Seminary, Bible college, and certificate-level district/network schools of ministry have often fallen short in adequately preparing pastors for ministry, leadership, or even survival in this challenging post-pandemic world. Too many discouraged ministers do not know what to do, and many have resigned from pastoral ministry.

There is a better option. Rather than quitting altogether or gritting one's teeth and doggedly doing what no longer works, pastors must creatively adapt for effective ministry in a constantly changing culture. Accordingly, this project created a Holy Spirit-informed adaptive church leadership seminar designed to encourage pastors to develop new skills needed to seize opportunities and sidestep dangers by learning the principles of adaptive leadership and spiritual discernment in a group context. A final goal of the project involved helping pastors become resilient, non-anxious leaders who can endure sabotage, stay calm, stay connected, and stay the course while leading change.

Well over one hundred ministers participated in the seminars. A comparison of pre-seminar and post-seminar surveys indicated that significant learning took place, and anecdotal comments confirmed that the content was timely, practical, helpful, and something every minister needs to experience.



**DAVID R. JEFFERY**

Lead Pastor, Freedom Church Assembly of God; Thousand Oaks, CA

***Whoever Has Ears, Let Them Hear: A Storytelling Workshop for Ministers  
of the Southern California Network of the Assemblies of God***

Project Adviser: Dr. Randy Walls

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Paul Lewis

Jesus is the master communicator and frequently used storytelling as the medium to convey profound spiritual truth. There is a growing scholarly consensus that one of the most effective means to lead people to listen, learn, and change their behavior is through the ancient art of storytelling, yet many in pulpit ministry do not see the value of communicating via stories or simply lack the ability to tell an engaging, compelling story. Research, however, proves that stories remain the most effective means of engaging listeners and communicating information.

The Storytelling Workshop addressed the need for compelling and transformative preaching by providing the training necessary for incorporating stories into biblical teaching. It established a biblical theology of storytelling and examined what narratology, neurology, and psychology reveal about storytelling's impact on listeners. Participants learned how to set the scene of a story, develop characters, and adapt simple story structures for preaching and teaching. As a result of the six-hour workshop, participants exhibited a notable improvement in crafting and delivering stories in the classroom and in ministry settings. It successfully equipped ministers in the Southern California Ministry Network with the skills, tools, and habits to communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ more effectively.



## **BRENT SHANNON JOHNSON**

Lead Pastor, CrossPoint Assembly of God; Portage, WI

### ***Demonized: Aiding Leaders and Laity of the Wisconsin Northern Michigan Ministry Network in Identifying Practices that Invite and Thwart Demonic Oppression***

Project Adviser: Dr. Randy Walls

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Roger Cotton

Humanity's persistent sin fuels demonic forces, whose mission is to separate souls from God. Each sinful act invites increased demonic influence, leading to bondage and enslavement. Often unnoticed, everyday choices can either open or close the door to demonic engagement. Believers must be fully aware of their need to engage in spiritual warfare. Changing habits, relinquishing soul sites, and renouncing past oaths and affiliations are essential to severing demonic spiritual connections and will fortify one's soul from the demonic gaining influence.

Believers may remain resistant to demonic influence. Research provides a biblical foundation with examples of demonic engagement from both the Old and New Testaments that illustrate justified and unjustified demonic influence and how biblical characters responded to temptation, testing, and torment. It addresses areas where people may unknowingly invite demonic influence and outlines steps to thwart these influences.

Two seminars were conducted to aid leaders and laity identify practices that invite or thwart demonic oppression. Participants include ministers from the Wisconsin Northern Michigan Ministry Network and congregants of the CrossPoint Assembly of God in Portage, Wisconsin. Survey data revealed significant changes after the teaching and underscored the importance of knowledge in combating demonic influence. The seminars effectively raised awareness of how the enemy can inadvertently enter and dramatically influence lives and what to do when these spiritual attacks occur.



## **ELLY MARROQUIN**

National Director of Christian Education & Discipleship, Family Ministries, Assemblies of God; Springfield, MO

### ***Transformation and Multiplication: Foundations for Deepening Faith***

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Allen Tennison

The process of making disciples is neither neat nor easy. Many local pastors and churches work tirelessly yet often see limited results. Unfortunately, without a clear understanding of what a disciple looks like or what the end goal is, many default to defining discipleship success in terms of activities, rather than life change. Churches need a discipleship framework—one that clearly delineates a profile of maturity and a pathway with measurable outcomes.

This project was developed as a blueprint for constructing the foundational components necessary for effective disciple-making across all ages. Drawing from Scripture, the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and personal examples, it provides spiritual building blocks for developing an outcomes-based discipleship framework that nurtures believers toward the likeness of Christ. It articulates seven dimensions of discipleship—the Bible, the Holy Spirit, missions, prayer, worship, service, and generosity—and serves as an invitation for believers to partner with the Holy Spirit in the process. The Spirit empowers disciples for the mission of multiplication—making disciples who make other disciples. He brings transformation and enables disciples to be on mission with Christ. This labor of love creates a pathway that equips spiritual leaders, ministers, mentors, and laypeople to make disciples who, in turn, make disciples. This is how we advance the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20) and fulfill the Great Commandment (Matthew 22:34-40).



## **CRYSTAL MARTIN**

Global Worker Northern Europe, Author, Speaker

### ***Mission Critical: Why Side-By-Side Ministry Matters in the Church and Home Today***

Project Adviser: Dr. Joy Qualls

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Lisa Millen

Women and men walking side by side in the church and home is mission critical for the harvest of this present generation. Church growth and expansion of God's Kingdom on earth depends on deploying every available empowered and commissioned individual to fulfill their God-given calling. However, to fully commission women, especially in those places where men have primarily served in the past, requires concerted effort and imagination to ensure that they too can fulfill their ministerial call.

This project, *Mission Critical: Why Side-by-Side Ministry Matters for Men and Women in the Church and Home Today*, addresses the needs of the almost ten thousand women credential holders of the Assemblies of God and women exploring a calling into ministry. Building from the findings of a listening tour of female ministers, it developed a strategic plan for advocating, collaborating, and training women leaders. A framework was then created to identify how the Fellowship and beyond can grow intentionally toward launching women in all aspects of church leadership, paying close attention to places held mainly by men in the past. *Mission Critical* asserts that, in the end, mission-critical side-by-side ministerial leadership can happen when the Church grows its imagination, leans into change management, and examines and aligns its belief paradigms.



## **RICHARD DENNIS OLIVER**

Lead Pastor, First Assembly of God; Senath, MO

### ***Encouraging Bivocational Ministers in the Bootheel: A Seminar with Instruction and Prayer***

Project Adviser: Dr. Charlie Self

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Robert Eby

Pastors in rural areas such as the Bootheel of Missouri often must rely on outside sources of income. Bivocational pastors face pressures different from fully funded ministers and need practical encouragement. This project prepared and presented a seminar to develop hope for overcoming challenges and to foster a positive attitude in the hearts of bivocational ministers in the Bootheel and the surrounding area.

The seminar had three parts. First, it dealt with the challenges of identity, time issues (including family matters and ministerial isolation), and burnout. This included the concept of vocation as any work to which God has called an individual, the idea that everyone is multivocational, and an emphasis on developing a covocational attitude—a strategic approach to ministry that views all vocations as given by God to accomplish the ministry needed in each setting. Second, the example of Paul provided reasons for covocational ministry: to reach as many people for Christ as possible, to set an example for both work and ministry, to avoid being a burden to those being reached for Christ, and not to become a hindrance. Third, beyond financial benefits, bivocational ministry presents opportunities to the pastor, to the church, and for outreach and evangelism.

Though attendance was lower than expected, those who came found the seminar helpful. Surveys taken before and after showed significant positive changes in attitude. Efforts to encourage bivocational ministers should continue, though a six-hour seminar may not be the best approach to reach busy ministers.





## **JOSIAH MANUEL PAREDEZ**

Lead Pastor, Hope House; Lynwood, CA

### ***Developing Spiritual Wholeness: Evaluating Deficiencies and Increasing the Maturity Among Members of Hope House***

Project Adviser: Dr. Randy Walls

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Frank Macchia

Church health is something that is not given priority in American culture today. As a result, the brokenness that exists in the outside world also exists within the church. When a believer is burdened by the same hopelessness the world carries, true hope gets discarded. Furthermore, when faith and practice do not match, it opens the door to spiritual deficiency. Spiritual immaturity begins to overtake the believer, and the concept of spiritual wholeness loses its value. God wants His church to live in spiritual maturity and experience spiritual wholeness.

This project explored how to address the issue of spiritual maturity and wholeness in the face of spiritual deficiency and hopelessness in the context of Hope House, a six-year church plant in Lynwood, CA. The project initiated a twelve-week sermon series entitled, “Living in God’s Shalom” designed to promote spiritual maturity through discipleship and spiritual formation.

Prior to the series, members were given an assessment pertaining to spirituality. At the end of the series members were given another spiritual assessment containing the same questions to measure the effectiveness of the implementation. The project proved to be an effective method for inspiring members at Hope House to pursue spiritual health as a church community. Hope House seeks to take this inspiration of hope and spiritual wholeness to the outside world that is without hope and lives in brokenness.



## **EDNA RUTH QUIROS**

Spiritual Director and Congregational Care Pastor, Passion Center; Pembroke Pines, FL  
Grief Facilitator/Intake, Children's Bereavement Center-Lift from Loss; Miami, FL

### ***The Need To Cultivate Consciencia: Integrating And Prioritizing Self-Care and Soul Care In Latino Leaders***

Project Adviser: Dr. Manuel Cordero

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Robert Berg

This project sought to address the struggle that exists with burnout and stagnation within the Latino ministry community. Many Latino leaders burn out because they genuinely believe they are doing God's will when they sacrifice themselves for the sake of ministry. In addition, Latino ministry leaders face cultural pressure to remain silent about burnout and stress, which leaves them to struggle alone. However, prioritizing the nurturing of one's soul is essential for effective care of others, and the lack of emphasis on self-care and soul care is detrimental to the spiritual growth of Latinos, including future leaders. This project helped open the door to making previously taboo discussions culturally acceptable.

Through the development of three focus groups consisting of Latino pastors, chaplains, and ministers, as well as the development of the Latino/a Soul and Self-Care Assessment and the teaching seminar *Renewing the Spirit: A Masterclass in Personal Soul Care* for Latino Faith Leaders, Latino ministers learned about God's expectations of self-care and soul care as demonstrated by both the Old and New Testaments, and learned how to recognize the enemies of the minister's soul. Participants also learned how to prioritize and assess their own self-care and soul care and acquired new tools for doing so, which aim to prevent ministry burnout and ensure the health of ministers and their ministries for the sake of the Kingdom.



## **DARLA RAKES**

Ambassador to Students and Donors, Evangel University; Springfield, MO

### ***The Real You***

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Allen Tennison

In a world that moves at a relentless pace, it is all too easy to build an identity on superficial measures like social media validation, academic achievements, or material success. When all these external markers are stripped away, though, who are you, really? This project delves into the societal issue of identity confusion, particularly the dearth of a solid biblical-theological understanding in modern discussions on gender and identity.

At a time when leaders, parents, and educators are pressured to affirm thoughts, feelings, and false identifications for fear of mental health repercussions, this work attests to how affirming non-reality only deepens confusion. The writer argues that without a foundation of biblical knowledge and religious experiences, individuals are prone to unconsciously agree with unorthodox perspectives that fail to satisfy the soul. Rooted in the biblical narratives and illuminated by the life of Jesus Christ, this study guides readers through the complexities of identity, inviting them into a divine interaction.

As beings created in God's image, humans have both physical and spiritual needs. Neglecting the spiritual aspect of life leaves a void that nothing satisfies. The human soul longs for divine love, peace, and joy only found in spiritual connection. By surrendering to and aligning with the divine reality of Christ, people can experience new creation. This journey of self-discovery promises to challenge, inspire, and transform as readers uncover the reality of their identity, crafted and cherished by the Creator.



**DANIEL RYAN TIDMORE**

Lead Pastor, Vulcan Assembly of God; Vulcan, MO

***Spiritually Formed and Empowered: Utilizing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit  
in the Spiritual Formation of the Believer***

Project Adviser: Dr. Carolyn Tennant

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Allen Tennison

Classical Pentecostals emphasize the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, when Spirit-empowered people do not display the character and love of Jesus, they hinder their witness. To remedy this, Pentecostals can become intentional in pursuing and understanding the spiritually formative nature of Spirit baptism. When realized, Pentecostals can keep their identity and distinctive doctrine and become Spirit-empowered and spiritually formed. This project aims to provide a biblical and historical overview of spiritual formation in light of Spirit baptism.

This project's methodology included conducting research to create two four-hour seminars for pastors explaining the topic of spiritual formation, laying a biblical foundation for the intentionality of Spirit-empowered leaders' formation, discussing views on formation from early twentieth-century Pentecostals, and providing tools for today's Pentecostals to become both empowered and spiritually formed.

The project helped participants understand the topic of spiritual formation in light of Spirit baptism. Statistical results from the seminar indicated that local pastors gained knowledge on the intricacies of spiritual formation and its connection to Spirit baptism. This project has the potential to help Pentecostals become more like Christ as they walk in the power of the Holy Spirit.



## **STEVEN THOMAS WICHERN**

Chaplain, 42d Air Base Wing; Maxwell Air Force Base, AL

### ***Helping Airmen Build Spiritual Fitness: Training Military Members in Niceville, Florida on Spiritual Formation through Retreat***

Project Adviser: Dr. Scott McCrystal

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Vince Medina

The possibility of another major world war in the near future remains quite high. Ensuring military members are spiritually resilient and ready for war is essential. The lack of spiritual resilience has led to a force that does not understand how to develop spiritually. This lack contributes to hopelessness and a higher suicide rate.

The following project develops and implements a five-part curriculum to train military personnel stationed near Eglin Air Force Base on spiritual fitness through a faith-based spiritual retreat. This project is grounded in a biblical-theological framework and informed by contemporary literature on spiritual fitness and resilience and emphasizes experiential and transformative learning. The retreat includes structured sessions on Sabbath practices, solitude, devotion, and reflection, with the aim of fostering spiritual growth and resilience. The Special Operations Command Spiritual Fitness Scale (SSFS) was used for pre- and post-retreat assessments, including a 30-day follow-up, to measure the effectiveness of the retreat interventions. The findings indicate a positive shift in participants' spiritual fitness, demonstrating the retreat's potential as a model for future applications in military and civilian contexts.

The project contributes to the broader discourse on spiritual resilience, offering practical resources for chaplains and religious leaders seeking to enhance spiritual fitness within their communities. Chaplains and clergy members can use the included curriculum as a guide for engaging military members needing to develop their spiritual fitness.



## **ROBERT WILLIS**

Discipleship Pastor, Link Church; Clarksville, AR

### ***Liberation and Integration: Equipping Pastors to Help People Distressed by Demonic Influence or Mental Illness***

Project Adviser: Dr. Carolyn Tennant

Biblical Adviser: Dr. Rick Wadholm

Healing and deliverance from evil spirits have been catalysts for church growth throughout history. Most Assemblies of God ministers still believe in deliverance ministry, but the growing body of evidence related to mental illness has resulted in a hesitancy to associate psychological symptoms with demonization. This does not necessarily represent a theological shift, but it does signal an acknowledgement that ministers may not be adequately equipped to discern between mental health issues and demonic influence. Those seeking help from members of the clergy for psychological distress may suffer from demonic activity, the internal effects of personal sin, trauma-based reactivity, mental illness, or a combination of factors. Without a nuanced understanding of the potential impact of these various struggles, pastors may wrongly assess the cause of a congregant's distress.

This project focused on equipping pastors to help people with spiritual and psychological struggles. It incorporated principles drawn from substantial research to develop a one-day seminar aimed at assessing the sources of spiritual and emotional distress. The information presented can be applied in various contexts, but the seminar primarily focused on its applicability to pastoral counseling. Research drawn from various disciplines was presented in the form of lectures, a participant's manual, case studies, and peer interaction. Seminar participants demonstrated a marked increase in understanding and confidence related to helping distressed individuals.