

BIBLICAL GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

VOCATION, WORK AND MINISTRY

MM101, 3 credits

Adjunct Lecturers: Prof Paul Stevens & Mr Clive Lim

Email: bgst@pacific.net.sg

Day/Time	:	Year 2009, 7.15 – 10.15pm
Dates	:	Nov 19, 23, 25, 30 (Weekdays) Nov 21 & 28 (Saturdays) 9.30am – 4.30pm
Venue	:	31 Tanjong Pagar Road, Singapore 088454 Tel: 62276815
Fees	:	\$300 (for credits); \$210 (by audit)



ABOUT THE LECTURERS

R. Paul Stevens

Marketplace Ministry Mentor

Professor Emeritus, Marketplace Theology, Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.

Paul has been a pastor for 20 years (Montreal and Vancouver), a student counselor with IVCF, a business person (Habitat Woodcraft) and a professor in an interdisciplinary theological college for the whole people of God. From 1999 until 2005 Paul was the David J. Brown Family Professor of Marketplace Theology and Leadership at Regent College, Vancouver, BC. His mission is to empower ordinary people to integrate their faith and life from Monday to Sunday. He does this through teaching, coaching, advocating and publishing. He is married to Gail, has three married children and eight grandchildren. Gail and Paul have resided in Vancouver since 1969 and travel to all continents to teach, learn and contribute.



Clive Lim

Business person, Singapore

Clive serves on the board of TeleChoice International Ltd, and is the managing director of Leap International. He was the founding President and CEO of TeleChoice Group, a leading mobile telecom value-added services and equipment provider listed in the Singapore Stock Exchange. Prior to being an entrepreneur he worked as a senior manager in Fuji Xerox, then Motorola Electronic.

Clive holds a Master of Business Admin from the Asian Institute of Management, a Master of Christian Studies from Regent College (Canada) and is pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Workplace Leadership at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary (U.S.A.). He worships at Mount Carmel BP Church. He is married with three kids age 20, 18, and 15.

1. DESCRIPTION:

This course aims to help students answer two fundamental questions about themselves:

1. Who am I?
2. What should I do with my life?
3. How am I to go about discerning my calling?

Combining biblical exposition, theology, cultural analysis, self assessment tools, counseling, and discussion groups, the course is a reflective experience in discernment concerning the way you have been made and the path to which the Creator and Shepherd of your life is leading. While some of the application will concern finding or remaining in suitable employed work, the emphasis will be larger and deeper than finding the right job. In today's world most people are in fairly continuous vocational transition. But the approach of the course will be to take the largest understanding of calling or vocation: the invitation of God to live and work wholeheartedly and fruitfully before Him. There will be a balance of teaching, small group interaction and guided reflection. Handouts, inventories and work sheets will be provided.

2. EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES:

The participant will gain a deeper self-knowledge, practical steps in discerning appropriate vocational expressions, a theological basis for life whether one enters a Christian service career or chooses a societal career, and spiritual foundations for vocational decision-making. It is ideal for people in vocational transition and those considering a church vocation. Married couples are encouraged to take this course together.

3. LEARNING PLAN:

The following experiences are planned for participants:

- 3.1 Inventories and personal assessment instruments.
- 3.2 Lectures representing a wide spectrum of perspectives, both theological and practical.
- 3.3 Small group discussions and vocational interviews.
- 3.4 Reading, prayer and reflection
- 3.5 Interviews
- 3.6 Theological investigation and research.
- 3.7 A Prayer Retreat

4. SCHEDULE:

See course notes and resources

PART ONE: BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS

Day 1 Thursday November 19 7.15-10.15 p.m.

1. Does God Really Have a Wonderful Plan for My Life? Toward a Theology of Vocational Guidance (Stevens)
2. Introduction to the Course Process (Stevens)
3. Small Groups
4. Vocation: Calling in a Post-Vocational Era (Stevens; Response: Lim)

Prepare for Saturday: “My Work; God’s Work”

Text Reading: “A People without Laity and Clergy” and “Calling in a Post-Vocational Age” (*The Other Six Days*, chaps 1-4)

STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO HAVE READ THE MATTSON/MILLER TEXT AND DONE THE INVENTORIES AT THE END OF THE TEXT IN PREPARATION FOR THE SECOND CLASS (Mattson and Miller, 177-192 or Miller and Hendricks, 223-247).

Day 2 Saturday November 21 9.30a.m.-4.30 p.m.

1. Work: So Whose Work Really Matters to God? (Lim)
2. Small Groups: “My Work; God’s Work”
3. Work In Singapore (Lim)
4. The “Calling Circle” introduced

Prepare for Afternoon: “The Calling Circle” (using inventories provided)

Text Reading: “Doing the Lord’s Work” (*The Other Six Days*, chap 5)

5. Guest Interview : [*Dr Tan Peng Kok*] (Lim)
6. Ministry: The Universal Priesthood of the People of God (Stevens)
7. Ministry: Prophets, Priests and Princes in Church and World (Stevens; Response, Lim)
8. Small Groups: “The Calling Circle”

Prepare for Monday: “My Personal Lifeline” and “System for Identifying Motivated Abilities” (Mattson) or “Discover Your Design” (Miller) – (handouts provided for those without these texts)

Reading in Text: “Ministry-Transcending Clericalism,” (*The Other Six Days*, chap 6)

PART TWO – VOCATIONAL DISCERNMENT

Day 3 Monday November 23 7.15-10.15 p.m.

1. Guidance: A pagan or a Christian Idea? (Stevens)
2. Small groups: “Sima: Biographical Form” (part 1)
3. Gifts and Talents (Stevens; Response, Lim)
4. Unpacking a life experience (sample interview, Stevens)

Reading in Text: “Prophets, Priests and Princes in the World,” “Mission-A People Sent by God” (*The Other Six Days*, chaps 7-8)

Day 4 Wednesday November 25 7.15-10.15 p.m.

1. Integrating Work and Ministry (Lim)
2. Small Groups: “Sima: Biographical Form” (part 2)
3. Guest Interview: [*Mr Steven Lau*] (Lim)

Prepare for Saturday: “Unpacking a Life Experience” (handout)

Reading in Text: “Resistance” (*The Other Six Days*, chap 9)

Day 5 Saturday November 28 9.30 a.m.- 4.30 p.m.

1. Work as a Spiritual Discipline (Lim)
2. Small Groups: “Unpacking a Life Experience”
3. Work Stress in Singapore (Lim)

Prepare for Saturday afternoon: “My Personal Lifeline”
Reading in Text: “Epilog” (*The Other Six Days*, chap 6)

PART THREE: VOCATIONAL INTEGRITY

4. Guest Interview : [*Mr Yap Poh Keng*] (Lim)
5. Small Groups: “My Personal Lifeline”
6. Kingdom Work and Kingdom Resistance (Stevens, Response, Lim)
7. The Soul of Work: Dealing With Ourselves (Stevens)

Prepare for Monday: “Connections” (handouts)

Day 6 Monday November 30 7.15-10.15 p.m.

1. God’s Providence in Our Lives (Stevens)
2. Listening to the Voice of God (Stevens)
3. Small Groups: “Connections”
4. Discussion (Stevens and Lim)
5. Vocational Holiness (Stevens)

5. ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:

5.1 Lectures, Small Group Discussions and Inventories 35 hours (including time undertaking the inventories)

5.2 Readings and Book Reviews - Four books required, with two from 5.2.1 (the required texts – Stevens and Miller), and one from 5.2.2 and 5.2.3). A formal book review (1) will be written on one of these books from 5.2.2 and 5.2.3 (750-1000) other than Mattson, Miller and Stevens. A list of books read should accompany the submission of the final paper. Indication of your interaction with the other two books will be given in one or both of the papers. These should not be books you have read for another course.

5.2.1 Text Books (required)

R. Paul Stevens, *The Other Six Days* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999, available in Korean translation) – to be read during the course but no book review.

And either:

Mattson, Ralph and Miller, Arthur, **Finding a Job You Can Love** (Nashville: Nelson, 1983/reprinted).

- outlines their basic philosophy that we have a central motivational thrust which should find expression in our daily work--with helpful outline on how to write a biography of our lives to discover what we enjoyed doing and did

successfully.

OR

Miller, Arthur F, with Hendricks, Arthur, **Why You Can't Be Anything You Want to Be** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1999).

- an updated version of the above with a deeper focus on personal/spiritual giftedness

In either case students are expected to do the inventories at the end of the book in advance of the course and not later than the second class. (Mattson and Miller, 177-192; Miller and Hendricks, 223-247). No book review will be undertaken.

5.2.2 In Vocational Decision Making

RECOMMENDED LIST:

Banks, Robert, and Stevens, R. Paul, eds. **The Complete Book of Everyday Christianity** (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997). Reading any 15 articles from this book is equivalent to one full-length book. Recommended articles are: Ambition, Calling/Vocation, Career, Drivenness, Failure, Financial Support, Guidance, Homemaking, Integrity,, Leadership, Ministry, Mission, Money, Power-workplace, Principalities and Powers, Professions and Professionalism, Protestant Work Ethic, Retirement, Service-Workplace, Spiritual Gifts, Stewardship, Success, Talents, Tentmaking, Unemployment, Vocational Guidance, Volunteer Work, Wealth, Work, Workplace. IF YOU ELECT TO WRITE A BOOK REVIEW ON THIS, YOU MAY SELECT TWO ARTICLES AND WRITE 250-325 WORDS ON EACH.

Guinness, Os. **The Call: Finding and Fulfilling the Central Purpose of Your Life** (Nashville: Word, 1998).

- a classic reflective work crafted in the form of daily meditative readings and drawing on a rich tradition of Christian literature. The book focuses on the purpose of God rather than on a plan.

Jones, Gordon and Rosemary. **Naturally Gifted: A Self-Discovery Workbook** (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1991/93).

- considers interests, values, aptitudes and personality with tests, inventories and worksheets--a Christian perspective on the use of "secular" tests

Bolles, Richard. **The Three Boxes of Life** (Berkeley: Ten Speed Press).

- looks at the balance of work, leisure and rest and considers how we can live a more balanced life

Friesen, Garry. **Decision Making and the Will of God: A Biblical Alternative to the Traditional View** (Portland: Multnomah Press, 1980).

- argues persuasively that there is not "centre of God's will"--but weak on the guidance of the Spirit.

Levoy, Gregg, **Callings: Finding and Following an Authentic Life** (New York: Three Rivers Press, 1997).

Peterson, Eugene. **Under the Unpredictable Plant: An Exploration in Vocational Holiness** (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1992).

- a brilliant exposition of the story of Jonah as it relates primarily to pastoral ministry

_____. **Leap Over a Wall: Earthy Spirituality for Everyday Christians** (San Francisco: Harper, 1997), a brilliant exposition of the life of David with many evocative passages that explain an ordinary, everyday spirituality.

Reccord, Bob, and Singer, Randy, **Made to Count: Discovering What To Do with Your Life** (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 2004).

Smith, Gordon T. **Listening to God in Times of Choice: The Art of Discerning God's Will** (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997). -The former Dean of Regent College explores a spirituality of discernment and decision-making.

Waltke, Bruce. **Finding the Will of God: A Pagan Notion?** (Gresham, Oregon: Vision House, 1995)--offers a six step of guidance, a rare combination of biblical interpretation and common sense.

Young, Michael and Schuller, Tom, **Life After Work: The Arrival of the Ageless Society** (London: HarperCollins, 1991).

5.2.3 Theology of the Whole People of God

Babcock, Gary D. **The Way of Life: A Theology of Christian Vocation** (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998)--a rich theological essay ranging through Scripture and modern theology on the subject of vocation.

Banks, Robert. **God the Worker: Journeys into the Mind, Heart and Imagination of God** (Sutherland, Australia: Albatross Books, 1992).

Banks, Robert. **All the Business of Life: Bringing Theology Down-to-Earth** (Tring, Eng.: Lion Publishing, 1987), republished under the title, **Redeeming the Routines** (Victor).

Bernbaum, John A. and Steer, Simon M. **Why Work? Careers and Employment from a Biblical Perspective** (Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1986).

Gibbs, Mark and Morton, Ralph. **God's Frozen People** (London: Fontana, 1964).

Kraemer, Hendrik. **A Theology of the Laity** (Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1958).

Martin, Gilbert and Richards, Lawrence. **Lay Ministry: Empowering the People of God** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981).

Mouw, Richard J. **Called to Holy Worldliness** (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1980).

Neill, Stephen, and Hans-Ruedi, eds. **The Layman in Christian History** (London: SCM Press, 1963).

Ogden, Greg. **The New Reformation: Returning the Ministry to the People of God** (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990).

Peck, George and Hoffmann, John S., **The Laity in Ministry: The Whole People of God for the Whole World** (Valley Forge: Judson, 1984).

Rademacher, William J. **Lay Ministry: A Theological, Spiritual and Pastoral Handbook** (New York: Crossroad, 1991).

Schuurman, Douglas J. **Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life** (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2004).

Stevens, R. Paul. **Liberating the Laity: Equipping All the Saints for Ministry** (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1985/reprinted Regent Publishing).

_____. **The Other Six Days: Vocation, Work and Ministry in Biblical Perspective** (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1999).

45 hours 33%

DUE DATE:

5.3 Theology Paper

Students will select a single theme in the theology of the people of God from either the lecture topics or topics provided by the instructor and will write a formal 1500 word theological paper with not less than 5 citations from books (including any read for the reading requirement) and 2 journal articles showing reflection, integration with the course and lectures, and independent judgement. Allusions and quotations will be indicated by following proper scholarly reporting (see Turabian). The paper should include a bibliography.

20 hours 33%

DUE DATE:

5.4 Interviews

Each student will undertake three interviews with people concerning their discernment of calling in their lives. Students are free to choose anyone outside of the class but are encouraged to select people that are involved in a life path that is of interest to them, which may be professional Christian service, tentmaking or being a Christian in a profession. A brief report of these interviews must be incorporated into the reflection paper either in the body of the text or at the end.

5 hours

5.5 Prayer Retreat

Using a prayer guide based on The Lord's Prayer, students will undertake a short prayer retreat

for vocational discernment in one or two blocks of time. Some reference to this experience should be made in the reflection paper.

5 hours

5.6 Reflection Paper

Students will gather up their learning and experiences in the course in a single 1500 word paper. This paper may take the form of a written prayer, an extended first-person reflection, a journal of learning, or an extended devotional commentary on a portion of Scripture as it applies to the process of vocational discovery. It should incorporate the following:

- (a) Experience of the lectures
 - (b) Reading above
 - (c) Interviews with at least three people outside of the course participants, preferably people who are already serving God in an occupation or service you are considering
 - (d) Reflections on the psychological assessments and interviews as it pertains to vocational decision making
 - (e) The Prayer Retreat, Bible study and reflection including reflection on your experience
- Allusions and quotations should be indicated through the use of proper scholarly reporting style.

20 hours 33%

DUE DATE:

FINAL GRADE:

Book Review	33%
Theology Paper	33%
Reflection Paper	33%

BASIS OF EVALUATION (for each of the above):

Evidence of Research	25%
Integration	25%
Independent Judgement	25%
Style	25%

Articles on Reserve in the Library or available in CD Rom:

- “The Academic Life” (Matthew Anstey)
- Advanced Techniques for Work Search* (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)
- “All Are Called: The Universal Vocation of the People of God” (Stevens)
- “An Approach to Workplace Ministry for Christian Physicians” (Jeff Greenman)
- “Anyone for Ordination? A Contribution to the Debate on Ordination” (Paul Beasley-Murray)
- “Banking as Ministry: A Christian Review and Theological Consideration” (Michael Baird)
- “Beyond Vocation: New Theologies of Work” (Christopher White) Zadok Papers
- “Both Sides of the Technological Coin: Informational Technology both from a Theoretical and Every-Day Perspective (Audrey Williams)
- “A Business Owner’s Mission: Working as a Christian in a Car Sales Firm” (Don Flow)
- “Business: Is There a Christian Perspective?” (Richard Chewing)
- “Call to Ministry” (Roy Fairchild)

“Call to the Ministry: A Discussion Document” (Paul Stevens)
 “The Calling to the Marketplace: The Challenge of Vocation, Identity and Work in the World of Business” (Gordon Smith)
 “The Career Circle”(Gray Poehnell)
 “Christian Editing: Integration of Faith and Profession” (Ginimi Chan)
 “A Christian Minister” (William Carey)
 “The Concept of Vocation” (G. Wingren)
 “Conductor or Virtuoso? A Historical and Theological Look at the Presbyterian Ministry of the Word and Sacrament with a View to its Implications for Lay Ministry” (David Montgomery)
 “Confessions of a Christian Professional” (J.V.Larsen)
 “Creation, Covenant and Work” (William Dumbrell)
 “Dilemmas of a Christian Professional Performer,” (Keith Binns)
 “Discerning Your Call and Your Gifts for Ministry” (United Presbyterian Church)
 “Discover Your Design: A Step-by-Step Guide (Miller)
 “The Distorted Mirror: Reflections on the Unintended Consequences of Advertising” (Richard Pollay)
 “The Doctors and Ministers of the Church: Their Election and Office” (John Calvin, *Institutes*)
 “Equipping Equippers Cross-Culturally: An Experiment in the Appropriate Globalization of Theological “Education” (Paul Stevens & Brian Stelck)
 “Equipping’ Ministry in Ephesians 4?” (David Gordon)
 “Examining For Skills” (Richard Bolles)
Finding Your Spiritual Gifts (Wagner Modified Houts)
 “Function or Office? A Survey of the New Testament Evidence” (Ronald Fung)
 “Gifts of the Spirit or Spiritual Gifts: Discussion Guide” (Paul Stevens)
 “The History of the Word Vocation” (Karl Holl)
 “Householding: The Creation of a Home within the Chaos of Society” (Mary Ruth Wilkinson)
 “Is There a Secret Call?” (Philip Collins)
Inventory of Spiritual Gifts (Richard Houts)
 “The Keirsey Temperament Sorter”
 “The Kingdom of the Therapeutic and the Kingdom of God” (Judith McBride)
Laborem Exercens, Encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II
 “The Laity in Biblical Perspective” (Thomas Gillespie)
 “Laos and Leadership Under the New Covenant” (Gordon Fee)
Lasting Gifts: Parents, Teens and the Career Journey (Canadian Career Development Foundation)
 “Leadership Motivational Needs Survey” (Carey Hall)
 “Luther on Vocation” (Marc Kolden)
 “Marketing the Faith: A Reflection on the Importing and Exporting of Western Theological Education” (Paul Stevens)
 “The Marketplace: Mission Field or Mission?” (Paul Stevens)
 “The Meaning and Place of the Voluntary Clergy” (Roland Allen)
The Ministry in Historical Perspectives (Richard Niebuhr and Daniel Williams)
 “Ministry, Profits, and the Schizophrenic Tentmaker” (Steven Rundle)
 “Models of the Pastor in the History of the Church” (James Houston)
 “Normal Process of Vocational Decision Making” (Paddy Ducklow)
 “Personal Reflections on the Contemporary Practice of Law” (Peter Mogan)
 “Personality & Emotional Factors in Christian Ministry” (Paddy Ducklow)
 “Politics as a Means of Service” (Paul Marshall)
 “Principalities and Powers: An Examination of the Twentieth Century Discussion of the

Supernatural Powers Mentioned by Paul”(Gerry Schoberg)

“Principles of Biblical Decision Making” (Paddy Ducklow)

“The Projectionist: A Brief Spiritual Memoir” (Ivan Kovaks)

“The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Capitalism” (Max Weber)

“Quotables on ‘Career Decision-Making’” (Marketplace Resource)

“Reawakening Your Passion for Work” (Richard Boyatzis, Annie McKee and Daniel Goleman)

“Recovering Vocation Today” (Klaus Bockmuehl)

Self-Employment: Is It for Me? (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)

“The Role of Christianity on the Development and Prospect of Western Medicine”(Dr. E. C. Cameron)

“Sima: Biographical Form”

Sima: The System for Identifying Motivated Abilities: Theory and Research Handbook

“Skills Inventory”

Skills Plus Handbook: Discovering Your Personal Career Assets (Alberta Human Resources and Employment)

“Some Personality and Emotional Factors in Vocational Decision-Making” (Paddy Ducklow)

“Spiritual Gifts” (Gordon Fee)

“A Strategic Career Worksheet” (Norm Amundson and Gray Poehnell)

“The Struggles and Challenges of Tentmaking” (Danny Martin)

“Tension in Mission: The Dilemma of Western Energy” (Al Bussard)

“Tentmaking” (Paul Stevens)

“Tentmaking: The Case for the Voluntary Christian Worker” (Paul Stevens)

“A Theology of Ministry” (Roy Bell)

“Theology of Work: Some Preliminary Considerations” (Charles Ringma)

“The Three Fold Call: A Trinitarian and Reformed Theology of Vocation” (Gordon Preece)

“Tough Business: In Deep, Swift Waters,” (Steve Brinn)

“Toward a Marketplace Missiology” (Neal Johnson)

“A Treatise of the Vocations or Callings of Men” (William Perkins)

“The Upbuilding and Upholding of the Church for Ministry” (Karl Barth)

“Values Inventory”

“Values Sort” (Jones and Jones)

“The Viability of the Vocation Tradition in Trinitarian, Credal and Reformed Perspective” (Gordon Preece)

“Vocation in a Post-Vocation Age” (Louis Almen)

“Vocation in a Post-Vocational World: Re-Meaning Work in a Demeaning Society” (Gordon Preece)

“What Makes a Job Christian: Five Myths” (HIS)

“Women and Vocational Discernment” (Angela Hwang)

“Work and Calling” (Jacques Ellul)

“Work/Life Planning” (Peter Mogan)

“Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work” (Miroslav Volf)

“Your Place in the Body of Jesus Christ” (Sima, Miller)

<p>Students are advised that BGST strongly discourages plagiarism. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.</p>
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