

JOSEPH P. DIVELBISS

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EDUCATION

The Master's University – Santa Clarita, CA. M.A. Degree in Biblical Counseling (in progress)
The Master's Seminary – Sun Valley, CA. M.Div. Degree
Eastern Michigan University – Ypsilanti, MI. B.S. Degree in Communications

EXPERIENCE

FEB 2020 – Present: Chaplain - Bristol Hospice - Bakersfield, CA.

- Assure spiritual assessment of patients, families, and caregivers in the hospice program
- Provide direct spiritual care to patients, families, and caregivers
- Provide consultation, education, and support to interdisciplinary group members concerning spiritual care
- Coordinate for, and officiate funeral or memorial services for patients and families as requested

SEP 2019 – Present: Battalion Chaplain (Captain) - Army National Guard - Inglewood, CA.

- Provide the commander and unit leadership advice in matters pertaining to religion, morals, ethics and unit morale
- Officiate, pray, and speak at official events such as military parades, formal balls, ceremonies, funerals, and memorials
- Conduct counseling, suicide prevention and ethics classes, worship services, Bible studies and prayer meetings, which may include worship in music, singing, preaching, teaching, communion, and baptism

JUL 2017 – FEB 2020: Intern Pastor - Grace Bible Church - Bakersfield, CA.

- Preached/Taught 45-55 minute adult Sunday school lessons in various topics related to discipleship and sanctification
- Lead small group Bible study of approximately 8-10 adults in various topics related to practical theology and holiness
- Attended and contributed to weekly pastoral staff meetings and monthly church leadership meetings
- Preached 45-55 minute sermons for Sunday services as needed
- Served the church in various capacities (scripture reading and prayer, communion, baptism services, usher, greeter, etc.)

OCT 2014 – SEP 2019: Brigade Operations Officer (Captain) - Army National Guard - Long Beach, CA.

- Assisted a Brigade operations section in staff procedures, orders production, and operational working groups
- Served as the Brigade Engineer by providing Army engineering consultation to the brigade staff and commander, coordinating for engineer support, in order to enable and enhance logistics operations

JAN 2012 – OCT 2014: Company Executive Officer (1st Lieutenant) - Army National Guard - Long Beach, CA.

- Supervised the headquarters, operations, logistics, and maintenance sections of a 107 Soldier unit conducting route clearance operations in Afghanistan, and coordinated for all of the company's personnel, logistical, and operational needs

AUG 2010 – JAN 2012: Platoon Leader (2nd Lieutenant) - Army National Guard - Long Beach, CA.

- Responsible for the welfare, morale, discipline, training, and professional development of 6 non-commissioned officers and 29 enlisted Soldiers, and the maintenance, employment, and accountability of approximately \$6 million of equipment

DEC 2005 – JUL 2010: Fire Support Specialist/ROTC Cadet - Army National Guard - Flint, MI.

- Planned and coordinated for indirect fire support, and taught fire support tactics, techniques, and procedures to personnel
- Mentored by Officers, and assisted in operations, administration, logistics, and contributed to the unit's planning process

DEC 2001 – DEC 2005: Field Radio Operator (Corporal) - United States Marine Corps - Kaneohe Bay, HI.

- Ensured the welfare and professional development of 10 subordinates through training, monthly counseling, and direct supervision, and conducted training and routine maintenance on digital and analog communication equipment

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ordained by the elders of Grace Bible Church of Bakersfield www.gbcob.org
- Received ecclesiastical endorsement by the Bible Churches Chaplaincy of the IFCA International www.ifca.org
- Veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom: Ghazni, Afghanistan (Aug 2013 – May 2014)
- Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom: Fallujah, Iraq (Sep 2004 – Mar 2005)

PHILOSOPHY OF MINISTRY

There are four overarching biblical principles from which all the particular ministries within the context of the church must be carried out. If a local community church is to be a biblical ministry which honors and glorifies God, while answering the real needs of His people, it must hold fast to...

1.) A High View of God

Every church, every minister, and every believer ought to strive to understand and view God as He really is, as He proclaims Himself to be in His Word (Isa 66:1-2). To view God in any way which is not in accord with the revelation of His Word, is to misrepresent Him at best, and at worst to make an idol within one's own mind. If the end state of all ministry is worship, then we must first and foremost understand Who we are to worship, and what He deems as acceptable worship, through the correct interpretation of His Word, by utilizing a consistent, literal grammatical historical hermeneutic.

2.) A Biblical View of Man

An accurate view of God consequently results in a biblical view of mankind. The closer one gets to God, the more accurately they view themselves, and see their own depravity and inability to please God in and of themselves, which brings them to repentance and a humble and willing submission to the will of God (Isa 6:1-5).

3.) A Humble Submission to the Lordship of Jesus Christ

When one sees Who God is, and who they are in light of Who God is, they are naturally drawn to Christ for salvation, because none of this is possible apart from the work of God (John 6:37-44, Rom. 10:9-10). As slaves to the Lordship of Christ, believers ought to strive to honor Him as Lord, seeking to obey all of His commands (Rom 6:16-23).

4.) A Loving Commitment to the Church of Jesus Christ

As one submits themselves to the Lordship of Christ, they should also commit themselves to serving His body, the church, and love one another, as they love Him. In doing so, one will strive to minister according to the desires and commands of Christ, and not their own desires and opinions, those of the world, a particular culture, or others (Eph. 4:1-13).

In filtering the practice of church ministry through these four principles, and the texts of Scripture which specifically address them, and each aspect of ministry, we can then develop a philosophy behind every practice and methodology of church ministry.

The Purpose of the Local Community Church

The church of Jesus Christ exists to be a pillar and support of the truth in a world full of lies, it exists to proclaim the truth of God, mankind, the universe, salvation, and everything pertaining to life and godliness. The church is to be a city set on a hill, a community of righteousness and holiness, shining as a bright light in a dark and decaying world. The local community church is to be all of this, but it is distinct from the universal church body, which consists of all believers on earth, in that it is a representative of the universal church within a specific location and community. Every believer is called to be a committed member of a local community church, in which they live out their Christian lives, striving to obey all of the LORD's commands, in order to glorify God in the specific place, time, and circumstances in which He has placed them. The exclusive purpose of the church is to be and do all things to the praise of God's glory and grace (Eph 1:6, 12). This happens as the church is used of God to glorify Himself by bringing people to Christ, redeeming them through His life, death, and resurrection, regenerating and sanctifying them through the Holy Spirit, uniting them in the body of Christ, and transforming them into His image and likeness (Col 1:28). In order to fulfill its purpose, there are three main objectives which the church must intensely pursue.

1. Exalt God

Everything that the church does must exalt and honor Jesus Christ as LORD, by proclaiming to the world that Jesus Christ is LORD not only of His church, and its individual members, but also every aspect of creation. The church exalts God by gathering to worship according to biblical commands and principles, and by living their lives in a worshipful manner (1 Cor 10:31, Eph 4:1)

2. Equip the Saints

Equipping is the primary way in which believers are sanctified and conformed into the image of Christ. This happens as each individual believer exercises their spiritual gifts according to God's designs and decrees, guided by Christ's appointed officers of His church, instructed by His Word, and empowered by the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:1-11, 1 Cor 12, Eph 4:11-16, 2 Tim 3:16-17).

3. Evangelize the World

Evangelism is the faithful proclamation of the biblical gospel, irrespective of the hearer's response, or the results. When the gospel is proclaimed within the church, believers are encouraged, sanctified, and equipped to live lives worthy of the gospel, as they take that message out into the world. When the gospel is proclaimed outside of the church, unbelievers are convicted and further condemned by it, the church distinguishes itself amongst the world by it, and the elect are called out from the world, converted, and united to the church by it, all to the glory of God (Is 55:1-11, Matt 5:14-16, 28:19-20, Acts 1:8, Rom 1:16, Col 4:3)

PREACHING

<https://www.gbco.org/sermon/how-to-practice-the-knowledge-of-god>

<https://www.gbco.org/sermon/the-way-my-savior-leads-me>

<https://www.gbco.org/sermon/how-to-run>

<https://www.gbco.org/sermon/the-paradox-of-a-partial-faith>

ADDITIONAL MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

2015-2017: 4th - 6th Grade Children's Sunday School (Grace Community Church – Sun Valley, CA)

- Preached/Taught 30-35 minute Bible lessons from OT/NT narrative utilizing power point and fill-in-the-blank handouts to approximately 60-80 boys and girls
- Led small discipleship group of approximately 5-8 6th grade boys in lesson application

2014-2017: Neighborhood Outreach (Grace Community Church – Sun Valley, CA)

- Led small teams of 2-3 persons in door-to-door evangelism for 2-3 hours on Sunday afternoons, 1-2 times per month
- Passed out Bible tracts and engaged strangers in cold contact evangelism at metropolitan subway/bus station 1-2 times per month

2014-2015: 2nd Grade Children's Sunday School (Grace Community Church – Sun Valley, CA)

- Preached/Taught 25-30 minute Bible lessons from OT/NT narrative utilizing power point and fill-in-the-blank handouts to approximately 30-40 boys and girls
- Supervised and assisted children in games and crafts pertinent to the lesson

2013-2015: Hope Bible Study (Grace Community Church – Sun Valley, CA)

- Preached/Taught 50-70 minute Bible lessons on sanctification and worship to approximately 4-12 men and women struggling with life-dominating sins, 1-3 times per month
- Provided resources, referrals, and informal counseling to attendees

2010-2012: 1st - 6th Grade Children's Sunday School (The Bridge Bible Fellowship – Reseda, CA)

- Preached/Taught 20-minute Bible lessons from OT/NT narrative utilizing props and fill-in-the-blank handouts to approximately 15-30 boys and girls
- Led small discipleship group of approximately 5-8 6th grade boys in sermon application
- Supervised and assisted children in games and crafts

2010-2012: AWANA TnT (The Bridge Bible Fellowship – Reseda, CA)

- Preach/Teach 20-minute Bible lessons from OT/NT Narrative utilizing props and fill-in-the-blank handouts to approximately 15-30 boys and girls
- Led small discipleship group of approximately 5-8 4th - 6th grade boys in lesson application
- Supervised and assisted children in games and crafts

MAY 2010-SEP 2010: Bible Study Leader (Warm Springs Re-Habilitation Center – Castaic, CA)

- Taught 50-70 minute Bible study to approximately 4-20 individuals who are struggling with substance abuse and other life-dominating sins, 2 times per month
- Provided resources and informal counseling to attendees

2008-2012: Member of Gideon's International (Ypsilanti, MI and North Hollywood, CA camps)

- Attended weekly prayer meetings
- Distributed Bibles in nursing homes, hospitals, and schools approximately once a month
- Engaged in cold contact evangelism while distributing Bibles

2008-2009: Bible Study Leader (Army ROTC, Eastern Michigan University)

- Taught weekly evangelistic Bible study to approximately 3-5 young men and women, both believers and unbelievers

HOBBIES AND INTERESTS

- Outdoors – Camping, Backpacking, Hiking, Hunting, Fishing
- Exercise – Running, Weightlifting, Swimming
- Shooting – Rifle, Pistol, Shotgun, Skeet, Archery, Slingshot
- Reading – Theology, Church History, Christian Biographies, Military History
- Travel – National Parks, Historical Landmarks, Cultural Points of Interest