

Philosophy of Ministry

VILCD-1030

Course Credits: 1 Semester Unit
Course Professor: Alexander Venter

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About Alexander Venter

Alexander is a Vineyard pastor in South Africa and team leader of *Following Jesus*, a Vineyard church in Northriding, Johannesburg. He is the author of three companion books, *Doing Church*, *Doing Reconciliation* and *Doing Healing*. He is on the national leadership of the Association of Vineyard Churches in South Africa. Since 1975, he has pastored churches in Zimbabwe, Cape Town, Johannesburg and Soweto. Alexander and his wife Gill have two grown up children, Zander and Misha-Joy.



Course Description

Major topics covered in the course are: evaluating an organisation; beliefs; mission; vision; values and characteristics of a leader; long term planning; developing and implementing priorities; and developing and implementing an infrastructure. Leaders need to discern where God is taking the people He has called them to lead and how they are going to get there. The concept of vision will be defined, described and illustrated. The concept of church will be defined, described and illustrated. You will learn how to build a church from the bottom up: purpose, values, priorities, practices, personnel and programs.

In addition, you will learn how to write a mission statement for ministry and how to make action plans to accomplish the vision God has given. All through an understanding of a 'Philosophy of Ministry' with a view to developing a 5-year plan for church growth.

Course Aims

The purpose of this course is to equip you with a thorough understanding of the mission of God's church.

General Learning Outcomes/Objectives

On completion of this course, you will know how to:

- build a church from the bottom up;
- write a mission statement for ministry; and
- plan in order to implement and accomplish a vision for ministry.

You will find a more detailed learning objective section for each lecture in the *Course Study Guide*.

Course Resources

- *Course Descriptor/Syllabus*
- *Course textbook*:
 - ***Doing Church: Building from the Bottom Up*** by Venter, Alexander. South Africa: Vineyard International Publishing, 2000. Print.
 - It is available on Amazon.com¹ in both kindle and paperback formats, amongst other bookstores. *Note*: Kindle files can be used by anyone who has a computer. A kindle tablet or reader is not necessary. The kindle reader application is free, and installs on all platforms.² The paperback is also available from numerous other bookstores. *Students will not be able to achieve high grades in this course without carefully studying the appropriate, indicated sections in this textbook.*
- *Video, Audio, and Power Point* downloads of the lectures.
- *Course Study Guide*, which equips both students and leaders for the interactive components, notional hour breakdown, each lecture's outcomes, reading plan for the lectures, and possible further reading suggestions.
- *Course Outline*, designed for use as a compliment to viewing/listening to the video/audio lectures.
- The *Online Forum*, where student-to-student and student-to-teacher/mentor communication takes place, and where the timetable exists. All student instructions come via this forum.

¹ <http://www.amazon.com/> Simply type in the authors first and last name in the search area.

² <http://www.amazon.com/gp/feature.html?ie=UTF8&docId=1000493771> To purchase a book through Kindle, you need to setup an Amazon account. Amazon's automated system will take you through these steps as you install the software.

- The *Student Evaluation Survey*. Please take the online survey found in the course at the end of the term.

Course Assessment

Each course has learning outcomes/objectives that specify what you must know for the course's exams. Pay careful attention to them!

Your grade for this course will be comprised of a series of short *multiple-choice examinations* and a *Special Assignment*.

The multiple-choice exams will be OPEN BOOK. Note that their aim is to test your understanding, not your memory.

All exam submissions, for all stages, must be made before the end of week 12 from beginning of the module.

- **No extensions** will be granted.

Your *Special Assignment* must be submitted before the end of week 12. As before, **no extensions** will be granted.

Refund Policy

If you withdraw from VI within the first seven days of the start of the quarter, you will receive a *full refund* of your tuition. After seven days, there is *no refund*.

Suggested Reading Plan

Students are encouraged to find their own rhythm in handling all the course objectives. For those looking for a suggested reading plan, please review the *Course Study Guide*. *Read each weeks material before meeting for class or viewing lectures online.*

Video and Virtual Support

If you experience any issues with the online classroom, streaming videos or MP3 audio, please contact the tech department by opening a ticket which can be done by clicking the "Give Feedback" link at the bottom of the vineyardtraining.org page.