



Discipleship is at the heart of our approach to ministry. In practice, this translates to a deliberate effort to raise new and able leaders, who in turn are charged with continuing the pattern. We seek to follow this principle in all our exertions in the Lord's vineyard, by progressively working ourselves out of one assignment, so others can fill such roles. The result is that we are able to pursue initiatives on many fronts.

The August 2015 School of Practical Ministry fully exemplifies this strategy. After running three editions in August 2012, 2013 and 2014 with Bob Reichard, the 2015 School was entirely run by a team of Cameroon-based trainers. Lawrence Kang, Sam Monono and John Neba demonstrated great skill and devotion to the Lord's work. HOIM partners and supporters of Evangel Seminary made it possible for each participant to receive the same high quality training, material and a very supportive learning environment.

## **SPM August 2015 REPORT**

A total of 30 candidates were selected for the 27<sup>th</sup> July to 4<sup>th</sup> August 2015 edition of the School of Practical Ministry, with twenty men and ten women. Borstal Institute, the cradle of SPM Cameroon (2012) again played host to this event. Participants arrived the night before, and lectures were fully in session by 8 am on Monday July 27, following the distribution of course materials including pencils, pens, highlighters, notebooks, and the coursepacks. In addition to these items, over the course of the training, and upon completion, each one was blessed with a New King James version of the Holy Bible, and a personal copy of Strong's Exhaustive Bible Concordance. Food and lodging was also provided freely to the students.

Pastor John Suh Neba taught Modules 1, 3, and 6. Lawrence Kang taught Modules 2, 4 and 5, while Sam Monono handled Module 7, and Julius Esunge addressed vexing questions from the participants, and provided a strong charge to each at the graduation service.

**Module 1: What do I Believe** about scripture, God, Jesus, The Holy Spirit, Man, salvation, Church and last things.

**Module 2: What Does the Bible Say to Me?** It is a scan through the Bible. OT and NT Survey.

**Module 3: What is My Spiritual Heritage?** It is a run through 2000 years of Church History.

**Module 4: How Do I Effectively Communicate the Gospel?** It is on communication, preparing and presenting a message, devotion or sermon.

**Module 5: What Are My spiritual gifts?** This has to do with Identifying and understanding one's spiritual gifts.

**Module 6: What Role does the Holy Spirit Play in my life and Ministry?** It is based on knowing who the Holy Spirit is and seeing His role in the OT, the NT, the Church and the Believer's life and Service.

**Module 7: What Strategies will make me a Better Leader/ Minister?** It focuses on the Call of God, Jesus' words, Paul's Charge to the ministers, Living our lives, Dealing with Conflicts /Forgiveness and scaling through some principles from the Book of Proverbs.

In addition to the wonderful Praise, Worship and Intensive Prayer moments, SPM 2015 students benefited a bonus lesson on Goal Setting by Sam Monono, who is a Professional Career Counselor.

The most practical part of the school this time was the lesson and application on the quiet time, and the opportunities to engage the community with the gospel message.

Another transforming practical exercise was dividing the class into 12 Groups. Biblical Passages were given and each group had to bring out:

- What is the Context?
- What are the key words or phrases?
- What is the central message of this passage?
- What is the Title for this Message?
- What are some practical applications?

This exercise was aimed at helping identify Biblical sermons from unbiblical sermons that can lead to false teachings and false doctrine. We could literally read regrets on faces as participants were asked to make an honest evaluation of the sermons they have been preaching or preachers they have been following. Well, Praise to the Lord who gives a makeup opportunity, errors can be corrected even if we can't erase the past ourselves.

### **Projects:**

As part of the SPM course, each participant must complete three projects were completed. Of the 30 in attendance, 29 successfully completed all requirements for the Certificate from ETS. The projects include:

**Project 1- on Personal Spiritual Journey.** It was intended to ensure that every participant briefly describes their life before accepting Jesus, their experience of giving their heart to Jesus and how their life has changed after surrendering to Jesus. An effective communication of this is foundational to a life of Christian service.

**Project 2 - on Self-Description.** It dealt with self-awareness of personality, spiritual gifts, outlook on life and how we deal with life circumstances. It equally helped in determining a 5-year vision plan of each participant, and what they believe God is calling them to accomplish. This project also sought to know others' perspective on us; what 3 close relations sincerely wished we could start, continue and stop doing. The responses have been great discoveries and a great blessing to many.

**Project 3 - on Significant Learning** and had to do with Identifying 3 significant things gleaned during the program, telling what impact they have made in the life of the participant and explaining how they will use the newly learned ideas.

### **Comments from some participant:**

"Praise God for SPM. I have learnt that any true Biblical preaching should be Christo-centric i.e. centered on the redemptive work of Christ on the Cross.

In a practical manner, I have learnt how to have a personal quiet and devotional time. I can now better grow in my day-by-day communication and intimacy with God which is essential for an effective preaching and teaching ministry.” NG

The School of Practical Ministry has been very influential to me from the very first day I set my legs into Borstal Institute. I saw service and humility in the life of Pastor Lawrence as he came to carry my bag. I saw him carrying water and flushing the toilets in the dormitory. The devotions, prayers and especially the worship sessions he led equally moved me. I was really touched. Again I saw humility, cooperation and service (servant leadership) in the lives of the facilitators. Their submissiveness, the way they serve, their loyalty, their teaching skills and their way of interaction is a blessing to me. Because I have seen their fruits I will love to emulate their example in the way I will serve and relate with others. I have really learnt lessons from their characters and interactions. **TRE**

“I used to be worried about my calling; how things will all work out from the start to end. But from the way I have seen how He provided for and directed those He called in the Bible; the assurance of the call of God in my life has increased greatly. Now, I am confident in all His promises in my life. I am getting into my calling immediately, regardless of surrounding natural barriers and what people will say negatively to discourage me. During SPM, I saw that all the people whom God called, some still had personal limitations and verbally turned down the call or opportunity, for example, Moses, Gideon and Jeremiah. He promised to be with them. “ **NR**

“There is so much I have learnt during this time and only eternity will fully reward the sponsors of SPM for their labour of love. I learned to be more sacrificial. That SPM galvanized these resources for us to take this training free of charge is something to write home about. That aspect apart, I was so challenged to meet a young person like Pastor John Neba earnestly contending for the faith (Jude 3) in his explanations. This was indeed wonderful to me. Mr Lawrence and Monono were no exceptions. They all followed suit in their emphasis. “ **NDF**

#### Conclusion

Our sincere thanks to the Lord Almighty and to each of you who made investments in time and treasure towards the success of SPM and other HOIM initiatives. Special thanks to our friends of Evangel Theological Seminary. We are trusting the Lord to have the following sessions in the coming months:

Level 1: 30 participants in each  
December 6 to 15 - in Limbe  
February 21 to March 1/ 2016 - in Bamenda  
May 22 to 31/ 2016 - in Douala  
October 23 to November 1 - in Kumba

Level II – 40 participants  
March 13 to 26/ 2016 - in Buea

