

Child Advocacy and the Church (Summer 2008)

Credit (CE 3153--LPTS or MAS 575--Bellarmine)

Christian education general elective, 3 hours (open to D.Min. students as well)

Instructor

J. Bradley Wigger (bwigger@lpts.edu)

Time and Place

July 14-18, 2008. On the Former Alex Haley Farm, Clinton, Tennessee (in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Conference)

We will meet at 9:30 in the LPTS main parking lot on Monday July 14th.

This online syllabus should be used to gain a better understanding of the content and focus of a course. The syllabus given out in the class may differ from this online version and its content supersedes that of the online syllabus.

Description and Goals

The purpose of the Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Ministry is to gather religious leaders and other faith-based advocates for children for a week of continuing education, networking, and spiritual renewal. Participants will explore theologies related to children and advocacy, hear inspiring preaching on children's concerns, gain solid, up-to-date information on children's needs, and acquire new skills, models, and strategies to implement programs to help children and strengthen families. (From the CDF conference description)

The course will require attendance at the conference (a full week), reading materials (750-1000 pp.), reflection time with teacher/other students, and a journal and a final project.

Logistics

Students are responsible for their own enrollment in the conference and related costs, in addition to seminary tuition. Transportation to Clinton, TN can be provided. Registration forms and hotel information are available from the CDF website: <http://www.childrensdefense.org>

Grading

Conference attendance and discussions: mandatory

Times of discussion and reflection will be established with students.

Journal (readings and conference): 50%

Final project 50%

All work due by September 1st (unless otherwise negotiated)

Reading

Required by July 18th

All: Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1993.

Required by Sept. 1st

Either half of : Bunge, Marcia J., ed. *The Child in Christian Thought*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001.

Or all of : Thurman, Howard. *Essential Writings*. Edited by Luther Smith. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2006. (especially recommended to MAS students).

And: an additional 500 pages of material new to the student. This could also include the remainder of Bunge, for those reading it. Otherwise, students will choose remaining readings from the book list (below), and then have the readings approved for appropriate length and variety. Books written by or about conference leaders will be encouraged. If you read books not on the syllabus, please get instructor approval first. There is room for a variety, but they must feed the work of child advocacy in some way.

Journal

Students will keep a journal reflecting upon both the reading and the conference activities.

Reading Reflections: Please provide 1 to 2 pages of review for each book. In the case of the Bunge book, please provide at least half a page of review for each chapter you read. Reviews should summarize core ideas in the reading and your reaction to them. Reflections should reveal that you understood the reading and thought about it.

Conference journal: Please provide 1 to 2 paragraphs of reflection for each event/speaker. A typical day might look like:

morning devotion (Otis Moss Jr.'s sermon)

1-2 paragraphs

great teacher session (Fred Craddock)

1-2 paragraphs

movement and music (Dorothy Cotton)

1-2 paragraphs

theological reflections (Wyatt Tee Walker)

1-2 paragraphs

leadership development (your workshop, journey group or training track)

1-2 paragraphs

great preacher (William Sloan Coffin)

1-2 paragraphs

Project

The course is open to a wide variety of projects, but they must be directly relevant to child advocacy. The work must be roughly equivalent to the **time and energy** involved in a 20 page research paper, but practice-oriented projects often make more sense given the nature of the course. The time could be spent teaching, writing, planning, resourcing your project. (Typically a

20 page paper is calculated at approximately 20 to 30 hours of work.) I would strongly suggest running your project idea by the professor by phone or in person (not by email).

Examples:

- 1) Design a course in Child Advocacy for a congregation
- 2) Write a theology of child advocacy
- 3) Write a research paper on a relevant topic
- 4) Design a program for children, for congregations, for a community based on an idea from the Proctor Institute.
- 5) Other—talk with the professor

Book list

- Bunge, Marcia, ed. *The Child in Christian Thought (Religion, Marriage, and Family)*. Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 2001.
- Edelman, Marian Wright. *The Measure of Our Success: A Letter to My Children and Yours*. New York: Harper Paperbacks, 1993.
- Thurman, Howard. *Howard Thurman: Essential Writings*. Edited by Luther Smith. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 2006.

Supplemental (you may choose from this list or make other suggestions based on the conference):

- Andrews, Dale P. *Practical Theology for Black Churches: Bridging Black Theology and African American Folk Religion*. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2002.
- Bass, Dorothy. *Practicing Our Faith: A Way of Life for a Searching People*. San Francisco, Jossey-Bass, 1997.
- Benson, Peter J. *All Kids are Our Kids: What Communities Must Do to Raise Caring and Responsible Children and Adolescents*. 2d ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2006.
- Berry, Mary Frances. *The Politics of Parenthood: Child Care, Women's Rights, and the Myth of the Good Mother*. New York: Penguin, 1994.
- Brown, Teresa Fry. *God Don't Like Ugly: African American Women Handing on Spiritual Values*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Browning, Don, et. al., *From Culture Wars to Common Ground: Religion and the American Family Debate*. 2d ed. Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2000.
- Burghardt, Walter J. *Preaching the Just Word*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.
- Bushnell, Horace. *Christian Nurture*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1979.
- Canada, Geoffrey. *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun: A Personal History of Violence in America*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1995.
- _____. *Reaching Up for Manhood: Transforming the Lives of Boys in America*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1998.
- Childrens Defense Fund. *Children's Sabbath* materials.
- Coles, Robert. *The Spiritual Life of Children*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1990.
- _____. *The Moral Life of Children*. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1986.
- _____. *The Moral Intelligence of Children*. New York: Random House, 1997.

- Comer, James, and Alvin Poussaint, *Raising Black Children: Two Leading Psychiatrists Confront the Educational, Social and Emotional Problems Facing Black Children*. New York: Plume, 1992.
- Coontz, Stephanie. *The Way We Never Were: American Families and the Nostalgia Trap*. New York: Basic Books, 1992.
- _____. *The Way We Really Are: Coming to Terms with America's Changing Families*. New York: Basic Books, 1997.
- Curran, Dolores. *Traits of a Healthy Family: Fifteen Traits Commonly Found in Healthy Families by Those Who Work with Them*. Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1983.
- Edelman, Marian Wright. *Unfinished Symphony: Justice and Freedom for Children and Families*. Cleveland, OH: United Church of Christ Resources, Inc., 1997.
- Fass, Paula S., and Mary Ann Mason, *Childhood in America*. New York: New York University Press, 2000.
- Fuchs-Kreimer, Nancy. *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey: Deepening Ordinary and Extraordinary Events into Sacred Occasions*. Woodstock, VT: Jewish Lights Pub., 1998.
- Galinsky, Ellen, and Judy David. *Ask the Children: What America's Children Really Think About Working Parents*. New York: William Morrow, 1999.
- Garbarino, James. *Lost Boys: Why Our Sons Turn Violent and How We Can Save Them*. New York: Anchor Books, 2000.
- Garland, Diana R. *Family Ministry: A Comprehensive God*. Downer's Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1999.
- _____. *Precious in His Sight: A Guide to Child Advocacy*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope, 1996.
- _____. *Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families: Living the Faith in Daily Life*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.
- Gibbs, Jewelle Taylor, et al. *Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Culturally Diverse Youth*. 2d rev. ed. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.
- Harris, James H. *Preaching Liberation* Minneapolis, MN: Fortress Press, 1995.
- Hersch, Patricia. *A Tribe Apart: Into the Heart of American Adolescence*. New York: Ballantine Books, 1999.
- Hewlett, Sylvia Ann, and Cornel West. *The War Against Parents*. Boston : Houghton Mifflin, 1998.
- Kidder, Tracy. *Among Schoolchildren*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1990.
- Kindlon, Dan, and Michael Thompson. *Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys*. New York: Ballantine Books, 2000.
- Kotlowitz, Alex. *There are No Children Here: The Story of Two Boys Growing Up in the Other America*. New York: Anchor Books, 1992.
- Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. New York: HarperPerennial, 1996.
- _____. *Ordinary Resurrections: Children in the Years of Hope*. New York: Crown Publishers, 2000.
- Lindner, Eileen. *When Churches Mind the Children: A Study of Daycare in Local Parishes*. Ypsilanti, MI: High/Scope Press, 1983.
- Miller-McLemore, Bonnie J. *Also a Mother: Work and Family as Theological Dilemma*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1994.

- _____. *Let the Children Come: Reimagining Childhood from a Christian Perspective*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.
- Morgenthaler, Shirley K. *Exploring Children's Spiritual Formation: Foundational Issues*. River Forest, IL: Pillars Press, 1999.
- Nelson-Pallmeyer, Jack. *Families Valued: Parenting and Politics for the Good of All Children*. New York: Friendship Press, 1996.
- Olson, Richard P., and Joe H. Leonard, Jr. *A New Day for Family Ministry*. Bethesda, MD: Alban Institute, 1996.
- Paterson, Katharine. *The Great Gilly Hopkins*. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1978.
- Pipher, Mary. *The Shelter of Each Other: Rebuilding Our Families*. New York: G.P. Putnam's Sons, 1996.
- Schipani, Daniel. *Religious Education Encounters Liberation Theology*. Birmingham, AL: Religious Education Press, 1988.
- Thomas, David M. *Family Life and the Church*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press, 1979.
- Thompson, Marjorie. *Family the Forming Center*. rev. and expanded. Nashville: Upper Room Books, 1996.
- Tupper, Frank. *A Scandalous Providence: The Jesus Story of the Compassion of God*. Macon, GA: Mercer University Press, 1995.
- Westerhoff, John H., III. *Will Our Children Have Faith?* rev. and exp. ed. Harrisburg, PA: Morehouse Publishing, 2000.
- _____. *Bringing Up Children in the Christian Faith*. Minneapolis, MN: Winston Press, 1980.
- Wigger, J. Bradley. *The Power of God at Home: Nurturing Our Children in Love and Grace*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2003.
- Wigger, J. Bradley, and Shannon Daley-Harris. "Children, Wonder and Attention: Resources to support Raising and Working with Young People." *Family Ministry* 16 No. 4 (2002): 11-31.
- Wimberly, Anne. *Soul Stories: African-American Christian Education*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2005.
- Wimberly, Edward P. *Moving from Shame to Self-Worth: Preaching and Pastoral Care*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 1999.
- _____. *Relational Refugees: Alienation and Reincorporation in African American Churches and Communities*. Nashville, TN: Abingdon Press, 2000.
- Wright, Wendy. *Sacred Dwelling: A Spirituality of Family Life*. Leavenworth, KS: Forest of Peace Pub., 1994.
- _____. *Seasons of a Family's Life: Cultivating the Contemplative Spirit at Home*. San Francisco: John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2003.
- Yust, Karen-Marie. *Real Kids, Real Faith: Practices for Nurturing Children's Spiritual Lives*. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2004.