

## A Prospectus for *The Experience*, the River's internship program

Revised August 2009

*The Experience* is designed to provide a fixed study curriculum, self-directed goals, leadership opportunities in the church and community with individual and group reflection. The following nine core areas will be addressed. Book summaries will be required for those areas with a \* (a sample sheet for summaries is below, and will be used in group meetings).

### **Bible**

\*One overview of The Bible (Gordon Fee, Mears, Kay Arthur, etc)

\*Read the Gospels twice over the course of *The Experience*.

A primer on Bible study tools (concordance, lexicon, cross-references, etc) – we'll do this in a day conference and purchase these resources later based on whether we want to buy them in paper or online.

Download a Bible study tool (I use PC Study Bible and e-sword, which is the less expensive of the two) by Sept.

### **Theology**

\*One Wayne Grudem's 'Bible Doctrine', abridged version of Systematic Theology

[http://www.amazon.com/Bible-Doctrine-Wayne-Grudem/dp/0310222338/ref=sr\\_1\\_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1250619313&sr=8-4](http://www.amazon.com/Bible-Doctrine-Wayne-Grudem/dp/0310222338/ref=sr_1_4?ie=UTF8&qid=1250619313&sr=8-4)

Identify and seek to resolve specific areas of theological tension

### **History**

\*Justo Gonzalez 'The story of Christianity'

[http://www.amazon.com/Story-Christianity-Justo-L-Gonzalez/dp/1565635221/ref=sr\\_1\\_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1250623567&sr=8-3](http://www.amazon.com/Story-Christianity-Justo-L-Gonzalez/dp/1565635221/ref=sr_1_3?ie=UTF8&qid=1250623567&sr=8-3)

\*Biographies: Read three spiritual biographies of your choice over nine months.

### **Spiritual Formation (3 total, 2 optional)**

\*Required: 'Inside Out' book and study guide (Crabb) plus two other of your choosing ... answering the question, "how do we develop/disciple/mature ourselves and others?"

Crabb: [http://www.amazon.com/Inside-Out-Larry-Crabb/dp/1600060994/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1250625266&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Inside-Out-Larry-Crabb/dp/1600060994/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1250625266&sr=8-1)

### **Leadership (4 total, 2 optional)**

\*Required: 'The Ascent of a Leader' (Bill Thrall, *et al*) and 'Spiritual Leadership' (J. Oswald Sanders)

Thrall: [http://www.amazon.com/Ascent-Leader-Relationships-Extraordinary-Character/dp/0787947660/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1250620454&sr=8-1](http://www.amazon.com/Ascent-Leader-Relationships-Extraordinary-Character/dp/0787947660/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1250620454&sr=8-1)

Sanders: <http://www.amazon.com/Spiritual-Leadership-Commitment-Growth/dp/0802467997>

### **Character**

You will identify (and have identified) strengths and weaknesses, threats and opportunities in your character.

### **Finances**

Monthly meetings with logistics coordinator will outline a core plan for increasing your own knowledge (and personal management) of personal finances.

### **Gifts assessment**

Over the course of the year, you will take at least two gifts assessment tools; affirmation of your gifts will occur in your involvement in the Body, group process meetings and individual mentor appts.

### **Future direction/options**

It is likely that you will have a MUCH better idea of what you should do after this year. There may be some specific text or discernment tool here (including of course the Holy Spirit and discernment of others in the Body).

*Books and gifts tests will be paid for with raised funds. A reading schedule will be determined by program start.*

### **Practical application of learning goals:**

Minister within The River (evangelism, discipleship, community groups, youth, worship, prayer, administration, front door (promotion, etc); this can be one ministry, several projects over the course of the year, etc.

Be involved in one ministry in the community.

Lead an aspect of Sunday morning (prayers, readings, testimony, worship, etc) and at least ONE teaching opportunity (Bible study, series, etc) within The Experience.

Attend individual and group meetings/experiences with other *Experience* members and mentors (JT-Bible, theology and personal development; Charly-ministry coordinator; Pat-logistics coordinator).

## Sample Year:

June: Determine budget, send out fund-raising letters, secure local employment (max 2 days) and housing  
July: Send out fund-raising letters, secure local employment (max 2 days) and housing, finalize budget  
August: Finalize budget, finances, employment and housing; meet with JT to determine the following:  
    Self-directed personal goals for nine (or twelve) months; area of ministry involvement/leadership in church  
    Area of involvement/leadership in community; ideas for leadership on Sunday mornings  
    Regular meeting time for 1-1 with JT (2x month), logistics coordinator (1x month) *et al*  
    Set group processing time around work schedules (prefer Tues for personal, Fri for ministry)  
September: 3-day orientation incl group process rules, sharing of self-directed goals, Gifts assessment 1: MBTI  
October: Gifts assessment 2: DISC and Navigators (called 'self-discovery').  
November: Thanksgiving Break (one week); gifts assessment 3: Kubler-Ross.  
December: Mid-experience evaluation of program, and self-directed goals; Christmas break (one week)  
January: AMiA winter conference, January term at Trinity Seminary  
February:  
March: Spring break (one week)  
April:  
May: end of nine-month program; evaluation of program and self-directed goals  
June: cycle begins for next year interns

*I anticipate we will attend at least TWO major conferences in the year (Trinity Seminary class and AMiA in January) plus short-term trips to visit other types of ministries and leadership models.*

**Vacation time:** Thanksgiving break plus two week-long breaks. One agreed-upon missed Sunday per month.

**Policies:** no dating others in the program, no drinking with anyone under 21 and no getting drunk unless it is in the Spirit. Dress on Sunday mornings (when up front) is "business casual" ... no jeans, shorts or t-shirts when up front. You must take a full day-off every week (on an open day), miss process meetings only rarely (and call me with a good excuse), mentor appts (never) and keep up with all readings according to our reading schedule.

**Finances:** The goal is that you can fund the entire year through (a) raising funds and (b) work in the community (2 days max). The more you raise the less time you have to spend working a "day job", however it is an important part of the program that you do work in the community. Any deficit to meeting your budget will, within reason, be met through The River funds. The less money the River has to pay into members' living expenses, the more money can go towards special trips and experiences throughout the year. You must build 10% savings, 10% tithe into your budget.

### **Sample Week (will adjust dependent upon your community work schedule):**

Monday: reading, prep meetings for week related to ministry  
Tuesday: whatever  
Wednesday: whatever  
Thursday: whatever  
Friday: firm group process meeting 9-11am (ministry goals), individual mentor appt  
Saturday: whatever  
Sunday: involvement at The River then whatever

*Final note: Being a PILOT program, we're very much building the bridge as we cross it. Your feedback on this is appreciated. I anticipate that once we determine how this experience will look, as much as 20% could change.*

### **Book Summaries:**

Author and title of book \_\_\_\_\_

Please summarize the content of each chapter, including any notes, graphs, illustrations, etc that would be helpful for you to remember and others to know).

Any references (websites, ezines, conferences, further reading, etc) that the book recommends?

## TENTATIVE READING SCHEDULE

### SEPTEMBER *(est hours for 1<sup>st</sup> month only)*

Gospel of Matthew (3)  
Bible Overview Ch 1 (1)  
Grudem 1-4 (4)  
Gonzales section 1 (6)  
Spiritual bio 1 (2)  
Crabb 1-2 (2)  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> spiritual formation book here (3)  
Thrall 1-3 (3)  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> leadership book here (3)

### OCTOBER

Gospel of Mark  
Bible Overview Ch 2  
Grudem 5-8  
Gonzalez section 1  
Spiritual bio 1  
Crabb 3-4  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Thrall 4-6  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> leadership book here

### NOVEMBER

Gospel of Luke  
Bible Overview Ch 3  
Grudem 9-12  
Gonzalez section 2  
Spiritual bio 1  
Crabb 5-6  
Thrall 7-9  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> leadership book here  
  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> spiritual formation book here

### DECEMBER

Gospel of John  
Bible Overview Ch 4  
Grudem 13-16  
Gonzalez section 2  
Spiritual bio 2  
Crabb 7-8  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Thrall 10-12  
Your 1<sup>st</sup> leadership book here

### JANUARY

Gospel of Matthew  
Bible Overview Ch 5  
Grudem 17-20  
Gonzalez section 3  
Spiritual bio 2  
Crabb 9-10  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Sanders 1-4  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership book here

### FEBRUARY

Gospel of Mark  
Bible Overview Ch 6  
Grudem 21-24  
Gonzalez section 3  
Spiritual bio 2  
Crabb 11-12  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Sanders 5-8  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership book here

### MARCH

Gospel of Luke  
Bible Overview Ch 7  
Grudem 25-28  
Gonzalez section 4  
Spiritual bio 3  
Crabb 13  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Sanders 9-12  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership book here

### APRIL

Gospel of John  
Bible Overview Ch 8  
Grudem 29-32  
Gonzalez section 4  
Spiritual bio 3  
Sanders 13-16  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership book here

### MAY

Bible Overview Ch 9  
Grudem 33-34  
Spiritual bio 3  
Sanders 17-22  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> spiritual formation book here  
Your 2<sup>nd</sup> leadership book here

### Needs to happen within the year:

A primer on Bible study tools (concordance, lexicon, cross-references, etc) – we'll do this in a day conference and purchase these resources later based on whether we want to buy them in paper or online. We'll also purchase a few book (Gordon Fee's 'NT Exegesis', Hayes and Holladay's 'Exegesis').  
Learn to use online study tool (I use PC Study Bible and e-sword); download by September 1.  
Spiritual gifts test(s)  
MBTI and DISC test