

OLFORD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

THE INSTITUTE FOR BIBLICAL PREACHING

OUR PURPOSE AND GOALS

The Institute for Biblical Preaching program exists to provide practical instruction and personal encouragement, especially for those who preach and teach the Word of God. We desire to be a “help” to those who want to interpret and proclaim the Word of truth rightly in the power of the Holy Spirit. The various programs are designed for preachers and teachers who are seasoned in ministry, starting in ministry, or just seeking to understand the preaching and teaching ministry. People attend who have had various educational backgrounds and experiences. By God’s grace over the years many have benefitted from the Institute program.

Depending upon the Lord’s enabling grace, we seek to encourage people spiritually to refocus on their God-given ministries to the glory of God and under the Lordship of Christ. We seek to teach personal faithfulness to the Word of God balanced with genuine dependence upon the Holy Spirit of God. Our concern is that those who preach or teach the Word of God do so faithfully as well as fervently with a passion to impact lives for now and eternity. We want to encourage and bless those who are needing to break away from the pressures of ministry. At the same time, we are also committed to equipping those who want to train others to be faithful expositors of God’s Word. **Ultimately we desire to see the church renewed and revived and the world reached with the saving Word of Christ. Our slogan for many years has been “ministry to ministers is ministry to multitudes.”**

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A BRIEF HISTORY

Under the leadership of Dr. Stephen Olford (1918-2004), Olford Ministries International, Inc. was founded with its present incorporation dating back to 1976. Dr. Olford had a deep burden to encourage and equip preachers, and this burden developed into the Institute for Biblical Preaching (1980). This "Institute" included training events and resources. After many years of evangelistic, pastoral, and preaching ministry, this burden and vision led Dr. and Mrs. Olford to Memphis, TN. in 1985 to establish a center for preachers. Dr. and Mrs. Olford were joined by their son, Dr. David Olford, and in 1988 by God's grace and the generosity of God's people the Stephen Olford Center for Biblical Preaching was established at the present location. Dr. David Olford has been the President of Olford Ministries International, Inc. since 1994, and he is the director of the Institutes and the Certificate Program. Dr. Stephen Olford "still speaks" by way of video instruction that is part of the Institute program.

Joining the ministry team in 2004 and continuing his ministry as Resident Minister and Professor with OMI is Dr. Ted Rendall. Dr. Rendall brings forty-three years of pastoral ministry experience with him. He is also Chancellor Emeritus of the Prairie Bible Institute in Alberta, Canada, where he served for over forty years. Dr. Rendall is not only a gifted teacher, but a prolific writer, editor and author, and international Christian statesman. Dr. Rendall has preached and taught widely across North America and overseas. He continues teaching and preaching, and is also available to provide wise counsel for those in ministry.

The Institute for Biblical Preaching (Olford Ministries International) is headquartered on the East Campus of the Brown Missionary Baptist Church – 4000 Riverdale Rd., Memphis, TN. 38115.

BASIC CONVICTIONS

The Scriptures, the 66 books of the Holy Bible, are indeed God's written inerrant special revelation to mankind. These books together are God's self-revelation to us; a revelation that is purposeful, powerful and profitable. His "words" lead to salvation, sanctification and service. These "words" reveal God's glorious plan of redemption and provide everything we need to know in order to have a vital and eternal relationship with the One True God.

These "words" are to be read, believed, obeyed, taught and proclaimed. Indeed the preaching and teaching of the Gospel and the Scriptures themselves are both necessary and critical aspects of the Great Commission and the outworking of God's plan of building the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit. Ultimately we must preach and teach the Word because we are commanded to do so, and because such preaching and teaching bring God glory. God's glory and His redemptive mission are not only made known through the activities of preaching and teaching, but God is glorified through the results of preaching and teaching in people's lives.

INSTITUTES AND THE CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

The Biblical Preaching Institutes comprise a flexible but intense series of instructional courses that seek to “stir up the gift” and develop the practical skills of those who would seek to communicate faithfully the truth of the Word of God. The various Institutes and the full program are designed to offer personal attention and practical assessment to strengthen and advance the preaching and/or teaching ministry of each participant.

These Institutes are the results of many years of teaching and training in the art and practice of expository preaching. Over the years these “equipping events” have been used to encourage and equip pastors, evangelists, teachers and interested laypeople to be faithful communicators of Biblical truth, rightly dividing the Word of truth in the power of the Holy Spirit. Indeed, our stated purpose is to “encourage and equip pastors, preachers, and lay leaders in the art of expository preaching and exemplary living in the power of the Holy Spirit to the end that the Church will be revived and the world will be reached with the saving word of Christ.”

We are fully committed to the accuracy, the authority and the sufficiency of the Word of God in all that it affirms, and to the necessity of preaching and teaching the Word of God as we seek to fulfill the Great Commission of our Lord. This commitment has led not only to the ongoing Institute and Certificate programs, but to related ministry across the United States and in many foreign countries.

Right now Biblical Preaching Institutes are offered at various times in the year. At times, two or three Institutes are offered back-to-back especially for our overseas participants. This provides an intensive educational and equipping experience.

A full Certificate Program in Expository Preaching brings together the various Institutes into a full program of study and assessment. Focused reading assignments, preaching and writing assignments, and various practical assessments are a part of this program. This program can be completed over time as various Institutes are attended, or the whole program can be undertaken in an intensive multi-week training experience.

BROADER MINISTRY

The ministry of O.M.I. continues to involve ministry away from the Center as well. Numerous training events and preaching engagements have taken place over the years not only in the U.S.A., but in such countries as Australia, Canada, Columbia, England, Ghana, India, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, The Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, and Trinidad. It has been our privilege to partner with many ministry friends and Biblical/Theological Institutions as we seek to encourage and equip God’s servants to “rightly divide the Word of truth” in the power of the Holy Spirit. One and two-day “Preaching seminars” have been a specific way that we have been able to provide instruction and encouragement to many preaches over the years.

INSTITUTE AND CERTIFICATE PROGRAM DETAILS

The core instructional sessions in the Institutes and the Certificate Program are presented by Dr. David Olford, Dr. Ted Rendall, and Dr. Stephen Olford (Recorded). Guest speakers at times assist in presenting various sessions. The reading, writing, and preaching assignments along with personal interaction and assessments are all part of the Certificate Program.

Registration for Individual Institutes

Individual Institutes can be attended by contacting us directly or online in order to register for the specific Institute that you desire to attend. Just consult the schedule and select the event and dates that work for you and register accordingly. The Institutes themselves are usually three and a half day events, and the registration fee includes all the sessions, notes, refreshments, and meals. Other training formats may be available. Consult our websites for further information (www.olford.org).

Brief Institute Descriptions – 2023

Expository Preaching and Teaching Essentials: The focus of this foundational Institute is the faithful clear exposition of God’s Word delivered in the power of the Holy Spirit. Those seeking to develop their expository preaching and teaching ministries will receive practical and personal training that will help in the preparation and delivery of messages and/or lessons that have the priority of “rightly dividing the word of truth.” Details and processes related to sermon/lesson preparation and delivery will be addressed as well as the essential spiritual dynamics that are a part of a faithful preaching and/or teaching ministry.

Practical Preaching and Teaching Workshop: This special and intensive workshop offers a small-group atmosphere designed to improve the preaching or teaching skills of the participant. The participants will preach or teach God’s Word and receive constructive personal feedback and critique. Each participant will submit a sermon/lesson manuscript besides actually preaching and/or teaching. Helpful peer interaction is an important aspect of this workshop.

Strengthening Expository Preaching: Go deeper and appreciate more fully the different genres of the Word of God and key issues in Biblical proclamation. The goal is sharpening our understanding of the diversity of Scripture as we seek to be faithful to the text and to the unity of Scripture and its fulfillment in Christ. Specific aspects of sermon development and delivery will be addressed also, such as illustration and application. The purpose is to help participants develop deeper and richer message content while maintaining clarity and simplicity in sermon delivery.

Evangelistic Expository Preaching: The purpose of this institute is to ignite evangelistic zeal and to equip participants to proclaim the Gospel faithfully. Special attention is given to the content of the Gospel

message, the preparation of evangelistic messages, and to the essentials of evangelistic proclamation and invitation. Guidelines for follow-up work, discipleship training and biblical church growth round out the course.

Expository Preaching and Spiritual Growth: Growth into Christ-likeness is a fundamental purpose when preaching to and for Christians. Emphasis will be given to applying the Word of God to lead the people into spiritual growth, maturity and activity. Key issues in the growth from immaturity to maturity will be addressed. This Institute is not only instructional, but a time for personal spiritual encouragement and renewal. Preaching is often viewed separately from Discipleship; not at this Institute!

Biblical Leadership: This institute is designed to present and explore Biblical principles related to Christian incarnational leadership. The personal life, development, and qualifications of the leader will be discussed. Critical and relevant aspects of leadership practice will be studied. Such issues as leadership training and developing leadership in the local church will be addressed. This Institute is applicable to those in the local church context, but it is also relevant to those who want to engage with Biblical truth and principles related to leadership practice and skills.

The Certificate Program

Complete an Application/Personal Information

There is an application process for the Certificate Program. This application must be completed to “enroll” in the Certificate Program and to be a candidate for becoming a “Stephen Olford Fellow.” The Certificate Program information can be provided upon request.

An applicant completing the Certificate in Expository Preaching Program will be recognized as a “Stephen Olford Fellow.” This “Fellowship” will indicate the person’s commitment to expository preaching and a desire to promote expository preaching in the future. The simple goal of the program is to strengthen the individual teaching and/or preaching gift of each person so that the Word of God is communicated faithfully in the power of the Holy Spirit for the glory of God. It is our desire that each Institute participant as well as each “Fellow” be committed to “rightly dividing the Word of Truth” as they are:

- Motivated by the Glory of God
- Surrendered to the Lordship of Christ
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Committed to Faithful Biblical Exposition
- Burdened to Impact People’s Lives for Eternity

OUR COMMITMENTS AT OLFORD MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL, INC.

As a ministry we are promoting the faithful interpretation and proclamation of the Word of God. To encourage and equip servants of the Lord to “rightly dividing the Word of truth in the power of the Holy Spirit” is our “instructional” objective in the light of our concern for revival and evangelism. Is this needed today? The short answer is “yes,” and this type of teaching and training is always needed. To “lift high” the gospel and the Word of God, to combat error, to correct imbalance, and to confront many sins and “lacks” that hinder dynamic Christian living, serving, witnessing and preaching there will always be the need to train and teach people in the Word of God and for the communication of Biblical truth.

There are a few other distinctive aspects of our ministry and our location that need to be underlined to explain not only what we do but why we do what we do. These non-negotiable characteristics are in keeping with the priorities of the Founder of the ministry, Dr. Stephen F. Olford.

- **INSPIRATIONAL** – It is our desire and prayer that through the ministry lives will be touched and changed through the Word of God and by the power of the Holy Spirit. It is our ultimate concern and expectation that God will work in people’s lives for His glory.
- **INSTRUCTIONAL**- Having said what we have said about “inspiration,” we do seek to provide helpful instruction from the Word of God to strengthen the lives and ministries of those who attend Institutes, seminars, courses, meetings and events. Our training can be delivered in various formats so that we can adjust to the needs and schedules of pastors, preachers and lay leaders.
- **INCARNATIONAL**- What we do in ministry must be authentic and comes from lives that are committed fully to Christ. The “walk” needs to match the “talk.” More than that, the servant of the Lord must be enabled by the Spirit of the Lord to engage in incarnational redemptive ministry. So, we emphasize the importance of the personal walk with God in our training.
- **INTER-DENOMINTIONAL** - Although we acknowledge and applaud the good purposes of Christian denominations, we value what can be gained from fellowship across denominational lines. In addition to the great historic creeds of the church, a doctrine that is critical to this ministry is the authority and inerrancy of the Word of God.
- **INTERNATIONAL** - O.M.I., Inc. has had an international ministry vision since its beginnings. We are concerned for the fulfillment of the Great Commission, which necessitates a global concern. Our teaching and training is not limited to this country; indeed much of what we do impacts ministry in other parts of the world.
- **INTER-RACIAL** - It may appear to be obvious that we are inter-racial, but our ministry must be inter-racial by conviction. We state specifically that we are inter-racial to emphasize our commitment to assist pastors, preachers and church leaders from various ethnicities and backgrounds. Also, we want to be a place where people of various races, cultures, and backgrounds can meet, interact and gain from fellowship together.

As Christians we must all be surrendered to the Lordship of Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Also, we must be committed to obeying the great commandment and fulfilling the great commission. This is true for all of us involved with Olford Ministries International, Inc. So, we acknowledge our basic responsibility as believers in Christ to live as He has called us to live in the strength that He supplies.