

“Fan into flame the gift of God that is in you.”

2 Timothy 1:6

“Earning a Doctor of Ministry degree is not easy. It shouldn’t be. But it may be the most challenging and worthwhile thing that you have ever done. And it may ignite a fire that will blaze for the glory of God.”

Dr. J. Kent Edwards
Director, Doctor of Ministry Program
Professor of Preaching & Leadership



SPECIALTY TRACK:
**Effective Ministry
to Families**



Doctor of Ministry Program

Biola University
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La Mirada, CA 90639-0001

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Doctor of Ministry
Talbot School of Theology

The Goal

Families come in all sizes and shapes. So do their problems. Ministry has shown you that every phase of married life brings unique challenges. They start before a couple can say “I do,” and keep coming after children arrive, turn into teenagers, leave the nest, and the ‘golden’ years arrive. The seasons of life are an obstacle course that every family must navigate. But not all families are successful.

You long to help these families. You want to equip every family to meet the challenges of every stage of life. Talbot can help. This track is designed to help you help families.

The Strategy



Year One: Developing Transforming Communities (Johnson, Lehsten & Thurman)

Since no individual can do it alone, the first week of this residency will teach you how to establish communities that bring families genuine help, healing and support. During the second week you will learn how to provide the basic training and supervision required by the leadership of the Transforming Communities.

Year Two: Designing Healthy Churches

(Johnson, Oliver & Deal)

During the first week of residency you will learn how to create a “no person left-behind” family ministry. This developmentally oriented strategy encourages health and wholeness for people in every stage of life. Emphasis is given during the second week on how to adequately equip and oversee gifted lay counselors for significant counseling ministries. You will learn how to equip these individuals with an understanding of:

- › viable counseling models
- › non-traditional family structures
- › appropriate referral strategies
- › common ethical issues

Year Three: Developing Caring Outreach Ministries

(Strauss, Wright & Johnson)

Like Jesus, we want to reach out to our hurting world. We will show you how to reach out redemptively through family ministries. During the first week Gary Strauss will explain how to minister to people suffering from addictive bondage. The final week will feature Dr. H. Norman Wright teaching how to reach out to individuals and families in the wake of crisis, loss and trauma.

The Requirements

Qualified applicants will have a Master of Divinity degree (or its academic equivalent) with a minimum 3.0 GPA from an ATS-accredited school as well as three years of full-time ministry experience since graduation. Give us a call if you have any questions. The cost of the program is reasonable and designed to fit into your budget.

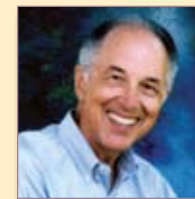
The Faculty Mentor



Dr. Rex Johnson

Dr. Rex Johnson is the Associate Professor of Christian Ministry and Leadership and Director of Pastoral Care and Counseling Programs at Biola University. A ministerial counselor, Dr. Johnson founded and for ten years directed Ministry Associates, Inc., a counseling ministry. He is actively involved in curriculum development and teacher training ministries in the former Soviet Union, Africa and the Pacific Rim. He conducts marriage and family workshops and ministries. Dr. Johnson has published several books including *Communication: Key to Your Parents* and has contributed to many Christian magazines, journals and texts.

Additional Faculty



Dr. H. Norman Wright

Dr. H. Norman Wright is one of America’s best known Christian counselors. He is a licensed Marriage, Family and Child Therapist and serves on the Executive Board for the American Association of Christian Counselors. He is the author of over sixty five books including *The Power of a Parent’s Words* and *Marriage Counseling*. Dr. Wright has pioneered Premarital Counseling programs throughout the country and conducts seminars on Parenting, Trauma and Crisis Counseling, and Marriage Enrichment.

Dr. John Thurman

Dr. John Thurman is a Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage and Family Educator, Speaker, and Writer. He has worked as a therapist, Army Reserve Chaplain and associate pastor. John is a frequent guest on local Christian television and radio programs discussing issues such as Depression, Domestic Violence, Anger Management and Pastoral Infidelity.

Wayne and Bev Lehsten

Wayne and Bev Lehsten serve as leaders / administrators of a well designed and functioning marriage mentoring ministry at Scottsdale Bible Church.

Dr. Gary J. Oliver

Dr. Oliver has over thirty years experience in individual, premarital, marital and family counseling. He is a university and seminary professor at John Brown University, as well as a psychologist and author. He is the Executive Director of the Center for Relationship Enrichment and serves on the Executive Board and national speaking team of the American Association of Christian Counselors.

Ron L. Deal

Ron L. Deal is Founder and President of Successful Stepfamilies, an organization that empowers remarried couples and stepfamilies. Ron serves as Family Life Minister for the Southwest Church of Christ and is a marriage and family therapist with Better Life Counseling Center, Inc. Ron is the author of *The Smart Stepfamily: Seven Steps to a Healthy Family*, and serves as Stepfamily Educational Consultant to Focus on the Family.

Dr. Gary Strauss

Gary Strauss is a licensed psychologist and Professor of Psychology at the Rosemead School of Psychology at Biola University. He is a member of the American Psychological Association and the Christian Association for Psychological Studies. Dr. Strauss has conducted sexual addiction seminars across the nation as well as in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea and the Philippines.

THE NEXT STEP

Take a look at our current specialty tracks by visiting our website at: www.talbot.edu/dmin. You may also contact our D.Min office at (562) 903-4822 for additional information.