

**Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
and Bellarmine University**

**Child Advocacy and the Church (Summer 2013)
CE 315-3 and MAS 575**

Credit

Christian education general elective, 3 hours (open to D.Min. students as well); elective course for the Master of Arts in Spirituality program at Bellarmine University.

Instructor

Dr. Dianne Reistroffer (dreistroffer@lpts.edu, 894-2294, Schlegel 103)

Time and Place

July 15-19, 2013. On the CDF-Haley Farm, Clinton, Tennessee (in conjunction with the Children's Defense Fund's Proctor Institute for Child Advocacy Conference)

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 pages), reflection time with teacher/other students, and a journal and a final project. Since this is a general elective course, Master of Divinity students are advised that this course is a general elective and does not fulfill the CE requirement.

Logistics

Students are responsible for their own enrollment in the conference and related costs, in addition to seminary tuition. Transportation to Clinton, TN will be provided. Registration forms and hotel information are available from the CDF website: <http://www.childrensdefense.org>. These arrangements are your responsibility and I encourage you to find other students with whom to share expenses (and rooms). In recent years, many of us have stayed at the new Holiday Inn Express in Clinton, TN, which is very close to the Farm. Other (less expensive) motels are also nearby and the list is on the CDF website.

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

Reading:

Required by July 15th

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

Required by Sept. 1st

Option 1: Read half of Bunge, Marcia J., *The Child in Christian Thought* (Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2001), and 500-700 pages of additional material new to you. This could also include the remainder of Bunge. Otherwise, you should 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 are also encouraged.

Option 2: Read Frank McCourt's *Angela's Ashes: A Memoir* (NY: Scribner, 1996) and *'Tis: A Memoir* (New York: Scribner, 1999), two autobiographies about his life as a poor child in New York and Ireland and as a young man.

Journal:

Students will keep a journal reflecting upon both the reading and the conference activities. This experience will offer you opportunities to explore ideas, wrestle with new insights, and provide for integration of reading, experiences in your ministry and on the Farm, as well as your theological studies. Creativity is encouraged.

Reading Reflections:

Option 1: 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.

Option 2: Please provide 2 to 3 pages of review for each book. In the case of *Angela's Ashes*, try to capture the experience of a child living in poverty and the scars it leaves. In the case of *'Tis*, what obstacles from his past did McCourt have to overcome in order to become a healthy and happy adult? How does your reading and learning about the personal experience and effects of childhood poverty inform your work as a child advocate in the church?

Conference journal: Please provide 1 to 2 paragraphs of reflection for each event/speaker. A typical day from a past year would look like:

morning devotion (Otis Moss Jr.'s/Otis Moss III's sermon)

1-2 paragraphs

great teacher session (teachers to be announced)

1-2 paragraphs

movement and music (Resurrection Choir/Others)

1-2 paragraphs
theological reflections (Marian Wright Edelman/Eileen Lindner)
1-2 paragraphs
leadership development (your workshop, journey group or training track)
1-2 paragraphs
great preacher (Kenneth Carter/Kanyere Eaton/Freddy Haynes/Jacqui Lewis/Janet Wolf)
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). I would prefer some preliminary conversation with you by the last day at the Farm.

Examples:

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

D.Min. students are expected to do additional reading assignments (another 200 pages) connected to their program of study and in consultation with the professor, and to design and lead one of the “check-in” lunchtime/dinner discussions during the week at the Farm.

Book list

Required:

Marian Wright Edelman, *The Measure of Our Success*

Marcia Bunge (Editor), *The Child in Christian Thought*

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

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs, et. al., *Children of Color*

Dale P. Andrews, *Practical Theology for Black Churches*

J. Bradley Wigger and Shannon Daley-Harris, “Children, Wonder and Attention: Resources to support Raising and Working with Young People,” in *Family Ministry*, Winter, 2002.

Sylvia Ann Hewlett and Cornel West, *The War Against Parents*

Don Browning, et. al., *From Culture Wars to Common Ground*

Mary Pipher, *The Shelter of Each Other*

Frank Tupper, *A Scandalous Providence*

Geoffrey Canada, *Fist, Stick, Knife, Gun,*

Eileen Lindner, *When Churches Mind the Children*
Walter J. Burghardt, *Preaching the Just Word*
Marian Wright Edelman, *Unfinished Symphony*
Stephanie Coontz, *The Way We Really Are*
The Way We Never Were
Robert Coles, *The Spiritual Life of Children*
The Moral Life of Children
The Moral Intelligence of Children
Dolores Curran, *Traits of a Healthy Family*
Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, *Families Valued*
Nancy Fuchs-Kreimer, *Parenting as a Spiritual Journey*
Patricia Berry, *The Politics of Parenthood*
Katharine Paterson, *The Great Gilly Hopkins*
Marjorie Thompson, *Family the Forming Center*
Peter Benson, *All Kids are Our Kids*
Wendy Wright, *Sacred Dwelling*
Seasons of a Family's Life
J. Bradley Wigger, *The Power of God at Home: Nurturing Our Children in Love and Grace*
Anne Wimberly, *Soul Stories: African-American Christian Education*
John Westerhoff, *Will Our Children Have Faith*
Bringing Up Children in the Christian Faith
Daniel Schipani, *Religious Education and Liberation Theology*
Horace Bushnell, *Christian Nurture*
Olson and Leonard, *A New Day for Family Ministry*
Children's Sabbath materials by Childrens Defense Fund
David Thomas, *Family Life and the Church*
Dorothy Bass, *Practicing Our Faith*
Jonathon Kozol, *Amazing Grace or Ordinary Resurrections*
Tracy Kidder, *Among Schoolchildren*
Alex Kotlowitz, *There are No Children Here*
Diana Garland, *Family Ministry*
In His Presence
Sacred Stories of Ordinary Families
Patricia Hersch, *A Tribe Apart*
Ellen Galinsky, *Ask the Children*
Shirley K. Morgenthaller, *Exploring Children's Spiritual Formation*
James Comer and Alvin Poussaint, *Raising Black Children*
Paula S. Fass and Mary Ann Mason, *Childhood in America*
Bonnie Miller-McLemore, *Also a Mother*
Let the Children Come
Karen-Marie Yust, *Real Kids/Real Faith*
Dan Kindlon and Michael Thompson, *Raising Cain*
James Garbarino, *Lost Boys*
Edward Wimberly, *Relational Refugees*
Moving from Shame to Self-Worth

Teresa Fry Brown, *God Don't Like Ugly*,

James Harris, *Preaching Liberation*

Howard Thurman, *Jesus and the Disinherited*

With Head and Heart

Deep is the Hunger

Jim Wallis, *God's Politics*

Eileen Lindner, *Thus Far On the Way*

Rita Hays, *The Children's Minister*

Beverly D. Tatum, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria*

Janice E. Hale, *Black Children*