

## GMSAM Youth Ministry

### Curriculum Outline

#### Courses: History of the Apostolic Church

##### *I. Introduction*

- a. While knowing our place in world history is vitally important in the creation and maintenance in the pride of our culture, the fact that we have been saved and born again in the body of Christ gives us something worth cherishing even more.
- b. The “Apostolic Church” as we know it was born on the day of Pentecost after the death and resurrection of Christ (Acts 2:1-4,37-38,42). These saints were part of the Early Church (AD 30).
- c. The New Testament text concludes during the period of the Persecuted Church (AD 35-311), after Stephen became the first Christian martyr (Act 7:54-60).
- d. The conclusion of this period led to the Imperial Age, the Dark Ages, and the Reformation of the Church (AD 312-1890s).
  - i. Imperial Age (AD 312-476): Constantine leveraged the large Christian population and included them in a war against an enemy. Under Constantine, the church and government stopped persecutions under the edict of Milan. Under Constantine in 312 AD, Christianity was adopted by Rome. In 325 AD, Constantine held the Council of Nicaea to address two different views of the Godhead. What resulted was a “Trinitarian” view of God in three distinct entities, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. There were those that still baptized in the name of Jesus up until the eighth century, but they were seen as heretics and died for the truth.
  - ii. Dark Ages (AD 476-1453): The period after the fall of Rome in 476AD until there was a restored sense of political stability. During this period, it became unlawful for common people to read the Bible and images of the saints and martyrs began to appear in the churches, first as memorials, then eventually worshipped.
  - iii. Reformation Age (1453-1648): The period when reformers boldly denounced the Catholic church and began reforming to standards closer to the Bible and giving the Bible to the laity. John Wyclif opposed the Roman Catholic church and translated the Bible into English in 1380. Later, in 1517, Martin Luther later opposed the Roman Catholics and the Pope, especially for the sale of sin offerings. The commonly used King James version of the Bible was later translated in 1611.

## **II. The Modern Apostolic Age**

- a. During the last 21 days of 1899, a band of ministers and Christian workers of the Bethel Bible College in Topeka, KS called a fast, praying for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which many received on New Years Day (Jan. 1, 1900). Among those that received the spirit was Charles F. Parham, who became known as the “Father of Modern Pentacostalism.” This revival spread to the state of Texas, and west to Los Angeles, CA.
- b. In 1906, William Seymour rented an old building on Azusa St to hold a revival. Many came from all over the country to experience the move of God. Services were held morning, afternoon, and evening and continued for three years with great wonders and miraculous healings. From this great revival, people returned to their homes spreading the word. Clarification on the baptism in Jesus’ name also followed in approximately 1913/14.
- c. The Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (P. A. of W.) was first incorporated in 1919, with the original incorporators being D.C.O. Opperman, E.W. Doak and G.T. Haywood. The P. A. of W. remains the oldest Oneness organization of the modern era.
- d. From this “Mother” organization (P. A. of W.), many other organizations have been birthed including but not limited to the United Pentecostal Church (UPC), Pentecostal Churches of the Apostolic Faith (PCAF), Church of Our Lord Jesus Christ (COOLJC), Bible Way, Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus Christ, etc.

## **III. Fathers of the P.A. of W.**

- a. Bishop G.T. Haywood: considered one of the greatest pioneer contributors of the Oneness Pentecostal heritage. He was known as a pastor, evangelist, teacher, and prolific writer of tracts, journals, books and songs.
  - i. He founded Christ Temple Apostolic Faith Assembly in 1908 in Indianapolis, IN.
  - ii. In 1913, a great controversy arose within the organization regarding the revelation that water baptism was to be administered in the Name of Jesus Christ, rather than the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Pastor Haywood accepted the Oneness doctrine and was rebaptized in the name of Jesus. He then rebaptized his entire congregation of about 460 members.
  - iii. On Sept. 9, 1925, the office of Presiding Bishop was created and Bishop Haywood became the first.
  - iv. He wrote many well-known hymns, authored numerous books and published various publications including The Christian Outlook.
- b. Bishop Samuel Grimes: greatly influenced by Bishop G.T. Haywood, he was the P.A. of W’s longest standing Presiding Bishop from 1932-1967.
  - i. In 1931, many of the P.A. of W’s leaders merged with the Apostolic Churches of Jesus Christ to form the Pentecostal Assemblies of Jesus

