

# *Completing Your Call*

An Advance Learning Course  
offered by the  
**Paul Tournier Institute**

A Division of the  
Christian Medical & Dental Associations

2007-2008 Academic Cycle  
Preliminary Course Description and Syllabus

**Paul Tournier Institute for Advanced Learning**  
***Completing Your Call***  
**2007-2008 Academic Cycle**

**The Need**

In increasing numbers, Christian healthcare professionals are asking God, *What's next?* Many have arrived at a point in their life when they dream of making a more strategic investment of themselves in “something that really matters”—but they’re not sure what. Doctors who are asking *What's next?* need a way to sharpen their vision for what could be the most influential years of their lives.

Healthcare has never so desperately needed men and women committed to make a Kingdom difference. Though God may call a few men and women to leave their original career pursuit, He wants to use most of them to impact the fields they love and have invested themselves in—medicine and dentistry. Healthcare faces a number of impending crises—ethical, educational, economic, political, and community crises, world-health crises, as well as moral crises. A number of critically important issues must be considered by serious followers of Christ.

- ▶ Who will shape the next generation of healthcare professionals?
- ▶ How will costs be contained?
- ▶ How will we provide care to those who can't afford it?
- ▶ How can we stem the spread of behavior-related diseases—e.g., smoking and AIDS?
- ▶ How do we stop the insidious erosion of ethics?
- ▶ How can we prevent the transformation of healthcare from a moral endeavor into a strictly economic enterprise?
- ▶ How can faith and medicine be reunited in the healing arts?

Over the next few years CMDA seeks to train hundreds of doctors to reprioritize their lives in order to *complete their call*. We believe God is calling men and women to become mentors of the next generation, servants of the poor and effective volunteer missionaries. We believe God is raising up experts in faith/health issues who can write lectures and curriculum, develop speaking skills, and are willing to present workshops and grand rounds across the country. The estimated 90,000 Christian doctors practicing medicine and dentistry in the United States and 10,000 Christian students need guidance to enhance their practice, deepen their walk with God, and use the influence they have for Kingdom impact. By equipping doctors through this course, CMDA can not only aggressively shape the next generation of health-care professionals but also provide Godly influence to some of the most critical problems our communities and culture are facing.

Whether God calls you to serve nationally or internationally, in your own practices or in some other capacity, you as a Christian doctor need to be equipped for the struggle for the soul of medicine.

**General Course Description**

The purpose of the *Completing Your Call* Advanced Learning Course is to equip doctors to use their exceptional place of influence to shape the world for God's Kingdom. The course involves substantial study, reading, reflection, discussion, and action. Participants will be expected to

attend three residency weekends, keep current on reading assignments, and participate in periodic teleconferences. In addition, through this course, each participant will develop an action plan outlining the way he or she feels God has called and equipped them via this course.

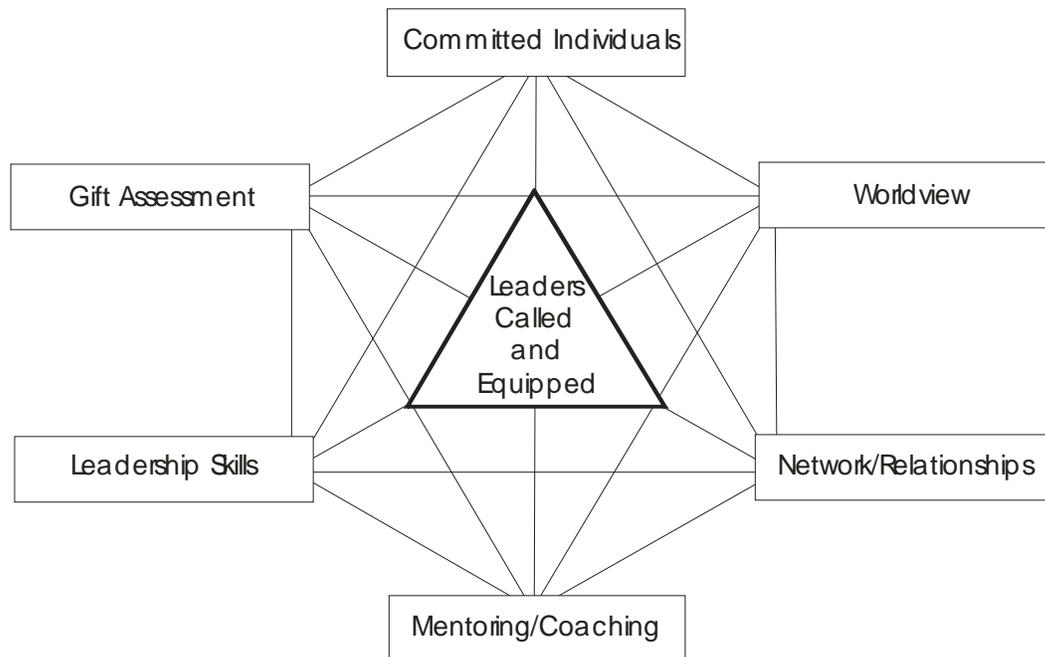
### **Outcomes**

- ▶ Participants will be prepared to articulate and defend the elements of a Christian worldview and to think through worldview issues for personal application, particularly as these issues that impact healthcare.
- ▶ Participants will explore and gain a clearer understanding of their own design, their role in God' Kingdom, and the unique contribution they can make with the rest of their lives.
- ▶ Participants will develop leadership skills to engage in important initiatives involving healthcare, both on the individual and cultural level.
- ▶ Participants will be committed to teach what they have learned to others.
- ▶ Participants will be linked to one another as part of a community of learning, accountability, and mutual encouragement.
- ▶ Participants will demonstrate spiritual growth and maturity, effective worldview living, and a desire glorify God and introduce people to him.
- ▶ Participants will develop an action plan for their lives to carry them into their future as God's servants

### **Course Components and Methodology**

- ▶ **Independent Study** will include reading books and articles, viewing films, listening to audio presentations, completing written assignments, and interacting with people in the church and community.
- ▶ **Weekend Residency Conferences** will be held three times during the course at CMDA National Conference Center in Bristol, Tennessee and will include lectures, as well as active and relational learning in small groups.
- ▶ **Web/or Tele- Conferences** will be held regularly to provide input from experts.
- ▶ **Accountability Partners** will arrange to meet in person or by phone monthly for prayer and discussion to monitor each other's progress.
- ▶ **An On-Line Community** will be established to include a private message center, discussion forum, and document repository.
- ▶ **Personal Gift Assessment** will define participants' God-given gifts and calling, and will be used to assess and determine God's will for investing time, energy, and resources.
- ▶ **Coaching/Mentoring Relationships** will be established for on-going personal and ministry development.

The following diagram shows components for advanced learning



### **Applicant Requirements**

- ▶ Living faith in Jesus Christ and commitment to his Lordship over all of life
- ▶ Open heart and commitment to allow God's Word to inform and shape every area of life
- ▶ Commitment to life-long pursuit of learning
- ▶ Commitment to study God's Word, seek biblical solutions, and let Scripture address the knotty problems facing healthcare in our culture
- ▶ A passion to influence the lives of others spiritually and provide a positive influence on healthcare
- ▶ Commitment to eighteen months of formal learning and completion of all course assignments
- ▶ Active membership in an organized Christian fellowship or church
- ▶ Two letters of prayer support: one from your pastor or accountability partner and one from spouse if married.[GR1][\*2]
- ▶ Completion of application, including acceptance of CMDA's Statement of Faith

## Course Outline

### Module One: Worldview/Truth of Life

Study, assignments, and discussion during Module One will revolve around answering the three worldview questions from a biblical perspective:

- ▶ Why are we here?
- ▶ What happened to our world?
- ▶ What can be done about it<sup>[GR3][\*4]</sup>?

How people answer these questions has direct bearing on healthcare. Christians serious about following Jesus must be able to discuss them with wisdom, cultural awareness, and biblical insight.

January – July	
<b>Topic</b>	The Crisis of Truth and the Clash of Worldviews
<b>Core Topics</b>	What is a worldview? What is truth? Clash of worldviews Critical thinking The historical contribution of Christianity to culture, especially healthcare Worldview and ethical decision-making
<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>January:</b> Armand Nicholi, <i>The Question of God</i> <b>February:</b> Harry Blamires, <i>The Christian Mind: How Should a Christian Think</i> <b>March:</b> C.S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> ; <b>April:</b> Ken Boa, <i>I'm Glad You Asked</i> <b>May:</b> Robert Spitzer, <i>Healing the Culture</i> <b>June:</b> R. Swenson, <i>More Than Meets the Eye</i> <b>July:</b> <i>Pick one of these novels:</i> George MacDonald, <i>Paul Faber, Surgeon/The Lady's Confession</i> C.S. Lewis, <i>That Hideous Strength</i>
<b>Residency One February 16-18, 2007</b>	The first weekend residency will be held on February 16-18, 2007, with faculty from the Augustine Institute, including Dr. John Patrick
<b>Teleconference<sup>[*5]</sup>s</b>	<b>January:</b> Armand Nicholi <b>April:</b> Ken Boa <sup>[*6]</sup> <b>June:</b> Richard Swenson Other possible presenters: John Patrick, Robert Spitzer, Nigel Cameron; Glen Sunshine (historical perspective)
<b>Lead Mentor</b>	Al Weir

## Module Two: Calling and Gifts Assessment

The work in Module two will revolve around an understanding of The Cultural Mandate with particular emphasis on understanding both our collective and unique individual responsibilities in God's Kingdom.

Although we can send a man to the moon and map the human genome, our culture has failed to grasp a view of human design that gives any reliable certainty to answer the question, "What shall I do with my life?" Sadly, the church has the answers at its finger tips, but has been of equally marginal help. Participants will learn that God's purpose is discoverable. They will learn how to uncover their own design, recognize God's design in others, and encourage God's purpose in their lives.

August – December	
<b>Topic</b>	Calling and Giftedness
<b>Core Topics</b>	The Cultural Mandate Human design What is a giftedness? Calling
<b>Reading Assignments</b>	<b>August:</b> Os Guinness, <i>The Call</i> <b>September:</b> Art Miller and Bill Hendricks, <i>The Power of Uniqueness</i> <b>October:</b> Bill and Kathy Peel, <i>Discover Your Destiny</i> <b>November:</b> Dennis Bakke, <i>Joy at Work</i> <b>December:</b> William Carr Peel and Walt Larimore, <i>Going Public with Your Faith</i> (or <i>The Saline Solution</i> )
<b>Residency Two: October 29-31, 2007</b>	The second residency will be held on October, 2007. Leaders need to understand their own giftedness and motivation, as well as understand others, thus this residency will include a sophisticated gift assessment process based on a biblical model of giftedness more fundamental to our calling than spiritual gift inventories can offer.
<b>Teleconferences</b>	<b>August:</b> Os Guinness[*7] <b>September:</b> Bill Peel <b>November/December:</b> Individual telephone consultation
<b>Lead Mentor</b>	Al Weir

### Module Three: Leadership

Module Three will focus on the development of leadership philosophy and skills. This module will include universal leadership training, but will also custom-tailored to fit the interests and calling of individual participants including:

- ▶ Personal Growth of the Leader
- ▶ Understanding Political Process
- ▶ Communication and Public Speaking
- ▶ Dealing with the Media
- ▶ Understanding Your Community
- ▶ Recruiting and Managing Volunteer
- ▶ Small Group Dynamics
- ▶ Working with Institutions
- ▶ Running a Successful Meeting
- ▶ Fund Raising
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Mentoring
- ▶ Transition and Change Management
- ▶ Strategic Planning
- ▶ Building a Team
- ▶ Local ministry for CMDA
- ▶ Effective volunteer missions, foreign missions

<b>January – June</b>	
<b>Topic</b>	Leadership
<b>Core Concepts</b>	Definition of Leadership Core Leadership Skills Special interest skills
<b>Key Books</b>	<b>January: Ken Boa, <i>Conformed to the Image of Christ</i></b> <b>February: Jim Collins, <i>Good to Great</i></b> <b>March: Malcolm Gladwell, <i>The Tipping Point</i></b> <b>April: Skill specific reading based on student's interest</b> <b>May: Skill specific reading based on student's interest</b>
<b>Residency Three June ??, 2008</b>	The third residency will be held on June 2008 in conjunction with CMDA National Convention and will involve leadership workshops as well as graduation.
<b>Teleconferences</b>	<b>February: Ken Boa (Leadership/Spiritual Life)</b> <b>April: Stacy Rinehart [*8](Mentoring)</b>
<b>Lead Mentor</b>	Al Weir

**Program Costs**

The course fee is \$2000 fee (subject to change)/\$1000 for spouse. and includes all program costs, teleconferences<sup>[GR9]</sup>, speaker fees, materials, and supplies. Additional participant expenses include meal, lodging, and transportation expenses for three weekend residencies and purchase of books for required reading.

**Registration Information**

**Registration will be by invitation or application. Please address queries to Dr. Al Weir at [al.weir@cnda.org](mailto:al.weir@cnda.org). or call him at 1-800-844-1000.**