



NORTHEAST CAMPUS

MID-AMERICA BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

2018-19 Witness One:Seven Handbook

Welcome to the practical missions programs of the Northeast Campus!

Evangelism and community service—two of the most important expressions of the Christian life, are an inseparable part of our institutional DNA. As a student of God’s Word, you know that our Lord Jesus commanded us to be involved in this world, in people’s lives, shining the light of His love and proclaiming the gospel.

Sadly, most Christians spend very little time, if any, doing either. At the Northeast Campus, there are two practical missions programs designed to help students develop the skills and habits of sharing their faith, discipleship, and serving their community: the Witness 1:7 Program for seminary students and the GO! Program for college students.

I encourage you to schedule time each week for participation in these programs. Sharing your faith, discipling others and serving others not only fulfills the Great Commission but prepares the heart for a lifetime of fruitful ministry. Evangelism and service defines who we are as an institution—may it soon define who you are as a believer in Jesus Christ.

In Him,

Michael S. Haggard, PhD

Director

A Brief Description of Witness One: Seven

Witness One: Seven is the demonstration of what the student learns in the classroom. Students are expected to fulfill the biblical command to witness and thus are required to meet mission assignments each week, share their faith, and report on the work completed. By witnessing regularly and engaging in missions ministries, the student connects the classroom and the practical aspects of ministry and evangelism.

Witness One: Seven Requirements

Witness One: Seven involves three specific opportunities and responsibilities for MABTS students: serving at a Witness One: Seven Mission Site, engaging in personal witnessing, and attending report hour/chapel. No academic credit is given for these three Witness One: Seven requirements. However, if a student does not report (see “How to Report” on page 5) that he/she has met the minimal requirements each semester, he/she will lose academic credit for all courses taken during that semester. Additionally, students who fail to complete these requirements are subject to probation or dismissal by action of the faculty.

The first-year full-time student is to participate in one evangelistic ministry through the local church and one non-church related ministry. The first-year part-time student is to participate in one evangelistic ministry through the local church or community. During their first semester, new students are only required to meet requirements for 14 of the 15 weeks.

Serving at a Witness One: Seven Mission Site

Witness One: Seven is accomplished by serving through an approved mission site such as a local church or non-profit.

Each full-time student (4-5 courses in a regular semester) must serve at two different mission sites per week during the semester. Each part-time student (1-3 courses in a regular semester) must serve at one mission site per week during the semester. Service consists of approximately 1 to 1 ½ hours in duration on the field (not counting commuting to or from the field). Ministry activities lasting 3 hours or more in a day may be counted as 2 assignments. No activity may count as more than 2 assignments per day in fulfillment of basic requirements. All Witness One:Seven site hours should be chosen with a view for it being a platform for personal evangelism.

The following list indicates the categories of Witness One:Seven activities from which mission sites may be chosen.

- Vocational Staff Positions. These assignments include the regular weekly evangelism ministries and responsibilities associated with paid church staff positions such as: pastor, minister of education, minister of music, minister of youth, minister of outreach, or various combination staff ministries.
- Intern Positions. These opportunities include the following: evangelism, witnessing, visitation, and follow-up work, and various approved church internship programs.
- Volunteer Positions. These assignments include regular weekly evangelism ministries at a local church or participation at a non-profit. Note: Merely teaching a Sunday School class,

decision counseling and other similar volunteer church activities do not fulfill the ideals of a Witness One:Seven activity.

Engaging in Personal Witnessing

Each student is expected to witness personally to at least 15 persons during each 15-week semester. Ideally, the student will witness at least once a week. Distribution of tracts, preaching a sermon, teaching a Sunday School/Discipleship Group lesson, or general visitation of church members will not satisfy this requirement. To constitute a personal witness, the student will present the plan of salvation to a person believed to be unsaved and invite that person to receive Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Witnessing activities are reported through the Witness One:Seven online reporting system.

Students should always use the Scriptures in witnessing. If possible, arrange for a church to follow up with persons who accept Christ. For further explanation on how to engage in personal witnessing, read the article by Dr. B. Gray Allison on page 8.

Attending Report Hour/Chapel

Each student is expected to participate in the Report Hour during the first 15 minutes of chapel on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. Participants have a wonderful opportunity to share their witnessing activities of the previous week.

Semester Requirements for Witness One:Seven

Students unable to attend Report Hour due to a schedule conflict with essential outside work responsibilities must obtain a Chapel Exemption Request form from the Director's office and submit it for approval. Only after obtaining an approval of this request may the student be exempt.

Semester Requirements for Witness One:Seven

Full-Time 4-5 courses per semester: 30 Missions, 15 Personal Witnesses

Full-Time New, (1st Semester) 28 Missions, 14 Personal Witnesses.

Part-Time 1-3 courses per semester: 15 Missions, 15 Personal Witnesses

Part-Time New (1st Semester) 14 Missions, 14 Personal Witnesses

How to Register

1. Register for Witness One:Seven during online registration at the beginning of each semester by following these steps: After logging in to SonisWeb and clicking on “Registration” at the top of the screen, one of the “Holds” that will need to be removed is “Practical Missions.” Practical Missions is the SonisWeb term for Witness One:Seven. Click on “Practical Missions.”
2. Click on “Complete Practical Missions” at the bottom of the screen and read the entire Practical Missions statement. In reading this statement, students are providing an electronic signature, agreeing to abide by the terms, conditions, and penalties of Witness One:Seven.
3. Next, under “school year,” select the correct academic year and semester.
4. From the drop down menu under “Mission 1” and “Mission 2” select "other" and type the name of the ministry and a brief description of the ministry under the “memo field.” If you are a full-time student, you must select two Missions. If you are a part-time student, select “part-time student” under “Mission 2.”
5. Make sure all information is correct (once it is submitted, the information may only be edited by the Witness One:Seven administrative assistant).
6. Click “add.”
7. Click on the “Registration” to continue the process of course registration.

How to Report

Reporting Witness One:Seven activities is accomplished by attending Report Hour on Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. and by reporting your service hours online. Any student who does not log-in and complete his/her Witness One:Seven requirements correctly each semester may be placed on Witness One:Seven Probation for the following semester. The final date for reporting the completion of Witness One:Seven requirements is 4:00 p.m. on the third business day following the last exam day. Graduates must report 14 weeks of requirements instead of 15 weeks by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday preceding the week of graduation.

To Report Online

1. Go to www.mabtsne.edu.
2. Click on “LOGIN” at the top right corner of the page.
3. Scroll down to “Witness One:Seven Report” and click on “Login.”
4. Under “Username,” enter your Student ID Number.
5. Under “Password,” enter your PIN and click, “Submit.”
6. Click on “Enter Reports.”
7. Select the correct campus and click “Submit.”
8. Select the correct semester/term.
9. Using the “Legend” at the bottom to identify the categories on the top line, fill in the appropriate field. For example, H1 stands for “Hour 1” and H2 stands for “Hour 2.” Full-time students must put a whole number in the field for H1 and H2 to represent the number of hours spent at their two required mission sites. Part-time students must put a whole number in only the H1 field to represent the number of hours spent at their one required site. Both full-time and part-time students must enter the number of times they share the Gospel each week by putting a whole number in the “PW” field.
10. Report Hour/Chapel attendance is logged by clicking on “yes” or “no” under RHA (Tues/Wed).
11. Other fields may be entered but are not required.
12. Click “Save Changes” and then click “Logout.”
13. To access progress throughout the semester, click “View Reports.” By the end of a 15-week semester, a full-time student should have a total of 30 hours logged and 15 personal witnesses logged; a part-time student should have a total of 15 hours logged and 15 personal witnesses logged.

Report Hour Testimonies

The testimonies below are a sample of the type of encouragement students hear weekly during report hour.

“I remember when I came to Mid-America, I had led one person to Christ my whole life. I was scared to death at the notion I had to witness to one a week to get my grades. Then, I went into report hour and heard the testimonies and got excited. My ears had never heard anything like what I heard in chapel. God has changed my life through this school.”

“I witnessed to four people this past week and sadly none of them received Christ. I wish you would pray for a young man named John. He is 22 years old, is already an alcoholic, separated from his wife and he is really struggling with his decision about Christ. “

"This last week I had the privilege to witness to dozens of people. Witnesses just came in over and over again. But the one thing that stood out was an opportunity I had to go to the rescue mission. I saw 14 saved. And we had a revival kind of come down. Wednesday night, we had a big packed group, and God allowed me to share the Gospel and God seemed to make it clear. Some men were weeping, and there was some real repentance, I believe, taking place. There were over a half-dozen men saved just that night."

Common Questions

Q. "Can I get in my 15 witnesses and/or 30 Witness One:Seven hours right before the last day?"

A. Do you just want to get by or develop skills and habits that will benefit you for a lifetime? Witnessing weekly will reach people for Christ, provide you with countless blessings, and keep you from scurrying around at the lastminute during exam week.

Q. "Do I have to witness to 15 different people per semester?"

A. Not necessarily. You may witness to the same person several times during a 15-week semester, but each witness should be a complete witness in accordance with this handbook.

Q. "Is preaching considered a personal witness?"

A. No. However, you may have the opportunity to witness one-on-one during the invitation counseling, which would constitute a personal witness.

Q. "Can I sign up for what sounds good and then serve at whatever ministry site I want?"

A. You must complete at least 75% of your Witness One:Seven hours at site for which you registered. If a legitimate emergency occurs that prevents you from continuing in the activity for which you registered, you should contact the Director of Witness One:Seven to change to another location.

Q. "Do I only have to complete 75% of my Witness One:Seven hours?"

A. You must complete all of your Witness One:Seven hours (30 for a full-time student and 15 for a part-time student, plus witnesses and report hour attendance).

Q. "If I preach a revival this semester, will that count for all my practical missions for the semester?"

A. No. A revival (visitation, preaching, etc.) may count as no more than two Witness One:Seven hours per day, and then only as an "extra" mission. Remember, you must complete 75% of your assignments at the mission site for which you registered.

How to Engage in Personal Witnessing by Dr. B. Gray Allison, President Emeritus

How does one make an approach to a lost person so that you can use the Word of God and witness? It cannot be said too often that there is no substitute for the use of the written Word of God in witnessing. This truth does not mean that the Bible is a charm or something magic, but it does something to a person to see written down in God's Word the truth about himself, his need, what can be done about it, and how to do it. So, use a Bible or a New Testament in witnessing. How does one begin the interview to witness to a lost person? There is a good method which has proved successful. It works with a person whom you know well or a person you have never seen before. Start a casual conversation. Talk about something pleasant. Get on a friendly basis but do not let the conversation stay casual. You can start anywhere in any conversation and use four simple things. One: "Have you been thinking much spiritual things?" It does not matter what you are talking about, you can just start. Whatever he answers you would say "What is a person's greatest spiritual need?" Whatever he says you can go immediately to the third thing. "The Bible says that it is a salvation experience. Have you had a definite experience with Christ sometime in the past?" Notice what was said. "Have you had a definite experience with Christ sometime in the past?" Now suppose he says "yes" to that question, what would you say? "Tell me about it! I like to hear people tell about what Jesus has done for them." If he answers "no" or does not say, then ask, "May I talk with you about this for a few minutes?" Start right then. Go to the Scripture and talk with him.

Another way to begin is to ask: "Have you come to the place in your life that you know for certain that if you died today you would go to Heaven?" If he says yes, ask him how he knows. If the answer is not clear, ask, "May I show you what the Bible says?" If his answer is "no," ask: "May I show you what the Bible says?"

Another approach that really opens the door is to ask the person, "Have you ever been to a doctor? If you go to the doctor and are not well, what does he do? First, he tries to find out what is wrong with you. When he finds out what is wrong with you, he prescribes for you. He tells you what to take and how to take it. This is what God does in the Bible. He tells us what is wrong with every one of us. He tells us what to do about it, He tells us how to do it, but He never makes us do it. It is up to us to do the thing which will make us right with Him. May I show you what God says is wrong with every one of us?" Then go immediately to the Scripture. I would suggest that you mark your Testament or Bible so that you can turn immediately to the scriptures. Let me suggest an outline of the plan of salvation.

. The first verse is Romans 3:10, "As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one." Nobody is perfect. Go to the second verse, Romans 3:23, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." The word all means every person in the world has sinned. Talk with this person about specific sins. For instance, "Have you ever told a lie? Have you ever stolen anything? Did you always obey your parents?" Questions like that to make him realize that he personally has sinned against God. Then, turn to the third verse and tell him that God says sin does something to us. Isaiah 59:2, "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hidden His face from you, that He will not hear." "So, 'iniquities,' that is warped, twisted, crooked things, or sin, separates us from God. It will keep us separated forever unless it is taken away." You may illustrate this by putting a piece of paper between your fingers and saying, "This piece of paper separates my fingers from each other. How can my fingers get together? They can get together only if the thing which separates them is removed. Sin separates you from God and you cannot get to God until the sin which separates you from God is removed. Sadly, we cannot remove our own sins."

The next verse is Romans 6:23 which says, "The wages of sin is death..." Sin has a payday. One day sin will pay off and it will pay off in death, spiritual death, eternal separation from God. So that is what sin does. But God has done something for us that we cannot do for ourselves. John 3:16, "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." You can make that personal. Where it says the "world," put his name in there. Where it says "whosoever," put his name in there. It means that God so loved this particular person that he sent Jesus to die for his sins.

Just tell him that if you go to the doctor and he tells you what is wrong and tells you the remedy but does not tell you how to take the remedy, that is not enough. For God to tell us that sin separates us from God and will keep us separated forever unless it is taken away, and that Jesus is the one who can take away sins through his death on the cross is not enough. We must know how to have Jesus in our lives.

The next Scripture is Acts 20:20-21. Paul wrote, "And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you, but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." Explain to him that repentance means a change of mind that leads to a change of direction. So, a person must realize he has sinned, that he is moving away from God, and willingly, deliberately, knowing what he is doing, choose to turn from sin and turn to God. When he does this, he runs into that wall of sin which he has created between himself and God. Demonstrate that with that paper between the fingers. Then tell him that the

second thing is faith. Faith means commitment. A person commits himself to Jesus Christ the Lord. That is, he gives his life to Jesus so that it is never his again and so that he is never the ruler of it again. He makes Jesus Christ Lord of his life to be Lord forever, and then Jesus takes away the sin. This is the place to draw the net and ask the person if he realizes he has sinned against God, if he understands what sin does, if he desires to turn from sin and give his heart and life to Jesus Christ. Then you may lead him in a prayer to God. You surely do not want to leave him without explaining to him what he needs to do after he has committed his life to Christ. I suggest that you use the little tract that the seminary has, "God Wants You to Know." On the back of it are six things that a person should do after he has trusted Christ. If you go through these with him and get him to agree to do these six things, he will be off to a good start in his Christian life.

- Make an appointment to meet the ministry coordinator. Be punctual and dress nicely.
- Ask questions; be sure you understand and can agree to the responsibilities.
- Learn your job.
- Be faithful to be there when you are supposed to be there. Do not take the people at the ministry for granted. Just because you are a volunteer does not mean that you can go or not go whenever it suits you.
- Be a good witness for the Lord and a good ambassador for Mid-America.
- Be Christ-like in spirit, nice, and polite.
- Do a good job.
- Look for opportunities to minister to others and to share the Gospel.
- Say, "thank you," to those with whom you are working and those to whom you are ministering.
- Be sure to report your Witness One:Seven activities each week.

