



# pastoral leadership INSTITUTE

Spring 2010

PO Box 9127  
Ft Wayne, IN 46899

Email:  
[PLIadmin@mcusa.org](mailto:PLIadmin@mcusa.org)

Web:  
[www.PLionline.org](http://www.PLionline.org)

Phone: 281.361.6956

## P-Links

What do you do when you reach an impasse? If you work for the highway department, you build a bridge. If you're a diplomat, you discuss compromise. If you're a computer programmer, you create a workaround. If you sense God calling you to greater Kingdom commitment, perhaps even full-time vocational ministry, PLI could be the link you need to move from where you are today to where God wants you to be. With the convenience of PLI's online availability, you can take the first steps to prepare for ministry without quitting your current job or relocating your family closer to a Bible school or seminary.

Besides bridging the gap from pew to pulpit, PLI strives to connect students' heads to their heart and hands—not just knowing, but doing—by coupling academics with an intense hands-on internship supervised by a pastor/coach in the local home church. Iron sharpens iron as students interact with peers and eProfs too, both inside and outside the classroom, encouraging creativity and outside-the-box thinking as well as practical application. Starting with a foundation of basic Bible in Level One, we add significant leadership, management, and ministry skills in Level Two — everything one needs to be ordained in the Missionary Church. But why stop with the basics? Students can use PLI coursework as a stepping stone to higher education and ministerial degrees at accredited schools like Bethel College and Winebrenner Theological Seminary.

And how does one generation link to the next? Undoubtedly the best approach is one on one. Pastors reproduce pastors, leaders beget leaders, and church planters train church planters. If God is calling you to ministry, link up with a mentor of like calling to coach you through the PLI learning process. If you're already in ministry, ask God to help you recognize a "diamond in the rough" you could hand-tool and consider letting PLI partner with you in that Paul-Timothy relationship.

—Diana Boyer, PLI Administrator, [PLIadmin@mcusa.org](mailto:PLIadmin@mcusa.org)

## In this Issue

Congrats to Grads .....	2
Amazing Statistics .....	2
Meet the eProf .....	3
Cents-ible Support.....	3
Online Learning Tip .....	3
Summer Courses .....	4
Enrollment Notes .....	4
Recruit Pray-ers .....	4
Summer Schedule .....	4

## Summer Quarter Dates to Remember

**April 6**  
Enrollment Begins

**May 3**  
Enrollment & Tuition Deposit  
Deadline

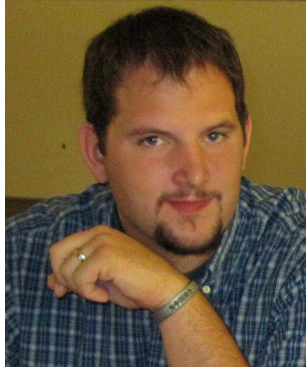
**May 31**  
Tuition Balance Pymt Deadline

**Week of June 1**  
Classes Begin

## Congrats to two new PLI grads!

### Ricky Hull

Ricky and Jami Hull had one 2-year-old son when Ricky first came to PLI the fall of 2007, but within a few months a daughter was added; and six weeks ago God blessed them with another son. Besides growing his family, Ricky has also



allowed God to grow him in many areas of his life. He's currently serving as youth intern and adult Sunday school teacher at his home church

(Pleasant Hill MC in Bronson, Michigan), but he senses God may have other plans for him in the near future. Please pray for clear leading and wisdom. To his eProfs, Ricky says, "Thanks so much for your investment of time and energy. God has used you as a tool to shape me into a better image of Christ, one more fit for Kingdom service. I look forward to thanking you face to face when we gather around His throne."

Ricky encourages other students to "Keep running the race! I wish had learned more quickly to depend on the Holy Spirit rather than my own power. A good question to ask at the end of every day is, 'Could I have accomplished what I did today *without* the Holy Spirit?' May the Holy Spirit refresh and strengthen you as you continue to be faithful to His call."

To prospective students, Ricky adds, "If you sense a call to ministry, first count the cost. It won't be easy. There *is* a price to pay, but the rewards far outweigh the struggles. Put your hand to the plow and don't look back. PLI is a great way to prepare for ministry!"



### Cliff Voss

Cliff and his wife Tammy, youth leaders at Faith Fellowship MC in Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, will take a team of young adults on a short-term mission trip to an Indian reservation in South Dakota this summer. As a family (including their teenage son and daughter) they're seeking God's direction for future ministry.

Cliff says, "Thanks, eProfs, for the many hours you spent sifting through papers, preparing for chats, and helping me mature in my walk with the Lord." To all new students, Cliff advises, "Prepare to read until your eyes hurt, interview people you never would have talked to (had it not been part of an assignment), and stretch to your limits. Expect testing and fiery darts from the enemy. If this is your calling, it won't be easy ... but IT'S ALL WORTH IT!"

## Amazing Statistics

- Today 61% of Protestant senior pastors and 58% of lay leaders are from the Boomer generation. (It's time to mentor!)
- There are nearly 100 million unchurched people in the US.
- More than 80% of Protestant church growth is biological or transfer growth, very little comes from penetrating the ranks of the unchurched.
- Even though young people are sometimes called the "Net Generation," every age segment is becoming dependent on the Internet.
- Only 34% of all adults (46% of born again adults) believe that moral truth is absolute and unaffected by circumstances
- Half of all adults firmly believe that the Bible is accurate in all the principles it teaches (not necessarily that the Bible is fact).
- Just 28% of all adults (47% of born again Christians) believe that it is impossible to earn one's way to Heaven through good behavior.
- A minority of adults (40%) believe Jesus Christ lived a sinless life on earth (62% of professing Christians).

(Excerpts from George Barna's Web site at <http://www.barna.org/>.)

## Meet the newest eProf



**Jon Swanson** likes Mirado number 2 pencils. He has worked for many years as a 2nd chair. And when he debuts with PLI this summer, he'll be the 2nd eProf of "Principles of Church Administration." These items may be related. =)

After spending several years as an assistant professor (communication) at Fort Wayne Bible College, Jon became assistant to the president. He spent time at Goshen College teaching management and leading an adult degree completion program and then moved to the University of Saint Francis where he was associate VP for academics. Later God and Steve Jones took Jon to First Missionary Church in Fort Wayne as administrative pastor, and now he's executive pastor at Grabill Missionary Church.

One of Jon's unpublished (and as yet unwritten) books is a study of leadership titled "Not Like Paul" for people God brings to leadership positions whose personalities differ from Paul's. In the meantime, he writes a daily devotional at [300wordsaday.com](http://300wordsaday.com) and writes about lots of things at [levite.wordpress.com](http://levite.wordpress.com). [These are both interesting blogs. Take a peek!] Jon and Nancy have been married for more than 25 years and have two children. The older is getting married in June, the younger is a freshman at Bethel College.

Jon has degrees from Wheaton College, Northern Illinois University, and The University of Texas at Austin. He is ordained in the Missionary Church. Fortunately, everyone still calls him "Jon."

## Cents-ible ways to support PLI

### Shop PLI's bookstore ... for more than just books!

You can contribute to PLI's coffers without deferring one cent from your bank account. Go to [www.PLIonline.org/bookstore](http://www.PLIonline.org/bookstore) and choose the link for your favorite vendor. PLI receives a kickback for everything purchased through our link without affecting your price.

### Referrals

Students generate tuition income ... which is what we need to survive. Will you help us get the word out to potential students? Refer them to our Web site ([www.PLIonline.org](http://www.PLIonline.org)) or have them contact PLI administrator Diana Boyer by phone at 281-361-6956 or by email at [PLIadmin@mcusa.org](mailto:PLIadmin@mcusa.org).

### Donations

To donate to PLI's scholarship fund, please send a check to: PLI Scholarship, PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899-9127. Thanks!

## Tip for Successful Online Learning

Although about half of chat room conversation is spontaneous, there is much you can do in advance to prepare for each class. Here's one idea to get you started:

As you work through weekly assignments, type out (in a Word document) questions and comments that come to mind—a separate paragraph for each one. Then open your document during chat time so you can quickly copy and paste your comments or questions at the appropriate time.

To copy-paste ...

- ▶ triple-left-click to highlight the paragraph you want,
- ▶ CTRL-c to copy,
- ▶ click in chat dialog window,
- ▶ CTRL-v to paste,
- ▶ and hit ENTER to post.

A side benefit to the above finger-saver is that your study skills will improve if you are generating comments and questions as you read. This interactive process increases comprehension and improves the learning curve.

The better prepared you are for chat, the more you will learn.

## Summer Courses

All PLI courses are open to any adult seeking spiritual growth and equipping for Kingdom service. Cherry-pickers may choose just the courses that interest them without enrolling in PLI's entire program of study. Those pursuing credentials must successfully complete at least 8 prescribed Level One courses for licensing and 8 Level Two courses for ordination.

Tuition for prerequisite courses is just \$200 each, and all Level One and Level Two courses cost \$400 each. Prices for **xPLI** courses vary since that rate is set by the course author/eProf. **xPLI** courses are not part of our certificate program, but are beneficial for spiritual growth and Kingdom equipping for pastors and lay people.

For a more complete description of each of the courses on the slate for the summer quarter click [here](#), or copy and paste the following URL in your Web browser:

<http://content.PLIonline.org/Files/1/2010-Summer-Courses.pdf>

## Enrollment Notes

It's time to register for the summer quarter. To do so, just go to [www.PLIonline.org](http://www.PLIonline.org) and use the links in the "Class Signups" box in the upper right corner.

A minimum deposit of \$100 is due no later than May 3 to secure your enrollment, and we reserve the right to cancel any course that does not meet minimum enrollment (8 students) by that date.

Tuition can be paid by personal check (mailed to: PLI Tuition, PO Box 9127, Fort Wayne, IN 46899) or credit card paid online through PayPal (link provided in "Class Signups" box at [www.PLIonline.org](http://www.PLIonline.org)).

If you have any questions or need to request scholarship assistance, please contact Diana at [PLIadmin@mcusa.org](mailto:PLIadmin@mcusa.org). Although we expect students to be good stewards of the resources God entrusts to them, finances should never prevent anyone from obeying God's call. He often provides when we take the first step of faith ... and the first step may be contacting PLI about costs for just the first quarter.

## Recruit Pray-ers

PLI students, we encourage you to enlist a prayer team of at least five people committed to pray for you daily. Be sure to devise a way to keep your team posted on your progress and praises. The world, the flesh, and the devil attack from all sides, and prayer is your primary defense!

## Summer Schedule

(June 1 thru August 31)

**PL010** (Prerequisite)  
Study Prep  
**eProf:** Joe Himes  
**Time:** Mondays, 8:00 pm\*

**PL510** (Prerequisite)  
Writing Skills Development  
**eProf:** Linda Oelze  
**Time:** Thursdays, 8:00 pm\*

**PL111** (Level One)  
Biblical Interpretation  
**eProf:** Steve Ganger  
**Time:** Tuesdays, 8:00 pm\*

**PL141** (Level One)  
New Testament Survey  
**eProf:** Allen Tyndall  
**Time:** Mondays, 8:00 pm\*

**PL221** (Level One)  
Systematic Theology 2  
**eProf:** Jim Carder  
**Time:** Thursdays, 8:00 pm\*

**PL331** (Level Two)  
Principles of Church Admin  
**eProf:** Jon Swanson  
**Time:** Tuesdays, 8:00 pm\*

**xPL911** (xPLI)  
Storytelling Evangelism  
**eProf:** Dominic Francese  
**Time:** Mondays, 8:30-10pm\*

**xPL921** (xPLI)  
Wounded Heart  
**eProf:** Linda Oelze  
**Time:** Tuesdays, 8:00 pm\*

**xPL922** (xPLI)  
Walking w/Wounded Heart  
**eProf:** John Oelze  
**Time:** Thursdays, 8:00 pm\*

\* **Eastern Daylight Time**  
(adjust for other zones)