



What Is MERGE?

“Leadership is not a position, but a process.”

Thank you for inquiring about The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith and “MERGE”.

This information packet will help you understand the “why” and “what” of MERGE.

MERGE is a Bible College offered through The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith during the months of August through May. It’s a comprehensive, hands-on college which provides the opportunity for students to receive ministry training and accredited courses (see MERGE Courses & Studies page).

MERGE is a discipleship program for young adults between the ages of 18 and 30. It is a one (1) or two-year (2) program of servant-leadership, world changers and history makers. God has given us a mandate to not only train and raise up a generation, but to take it one step further. It is the call to “MERGE” in the next leaders of the church.

Please read through the following pages of information to gain a better idea of what we are about and various other specifics about MERGE.

Effective leaders help others to understand the necessity of change and to accept a common vision of the desired outcome.

In Christ,

The MERGE Leadership Team

School President:

Rev. Kelly Ward

Administrator:

Dr. Alicia Tinsley

Advisory Committee:

Rev. Kevin Vogeles

Rev. Joe Edmonson

Rev. Drew Killingsworth



About MERGE

MERGE is not a typical Bible college. It is an extension of The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith (COGAF). It is based in one of the local COGAF churches and can be adapted to the vision of COGAF, whether that vision is evangelism, missions, ministry, community outreach, leadership training, or politics. The purpose is to build character, personal disciplines, and skills that will be foundational to the rest of the students' lives.

We strongly encourage each student to draw near to their pastor's side as they return to the local church to become their armor-bearer and develop a greater depth of faithfulness.

MERGE is not an isolated ministry. These students will be used for all COGAF functions and conferences. Also, students will be available for any COGAF church function.

Housing will be provided by available home openers for those students who need a place for the school year. These homes become an environment where the Lord continues to mold, shape, and transform both the students and the families all year. Students will have a curfew and will abide by the home opener's rules. This is not a reform school or a correction program. But this is for those who are serious about their commitment to Christ and want to grow and mature and be prepared for what their calling may be.

MERGE is an opportunity for each student to deepen their relationship with Jesus Christ by abandoning themselves to the pursuit of the Kingdom of God, expressed through the disciplined lifestyle of prayer, worship, Bible study, and practical service.

The leadership of the Holy Spirit in each believer's life is of paramount concern. Time will be spent on the discovery and maturing of spiritual gifts and the ability to follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

"Where there is no hope in the future, there is no power in the present."



Goals for MERGE Students

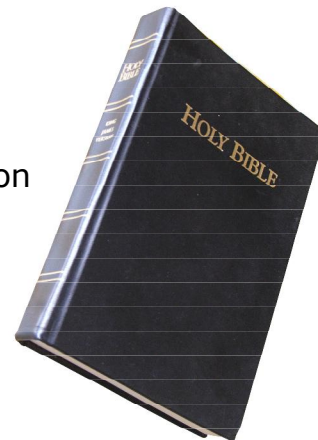
- ✓ To have a Christ-centered, rather than self-centered lifestyle
- ✓ To have an undistracted relationship with the Lord that is real, life-giving, intimate, and daily
- ✓ To form and maintain covenant relationships with the Lord and other believers
- ✓ To be equipped in basic theology through Bible College classes
- ✓ To have a love for God's Word and God's way
- ✓ To be expressive worshipers and see worship as a lifestyle
- ✓ To have a conviction and a desire to represent the Lord accurately in every situation
- ✓ To have a correct view of who God is as a loving, caring Father and as ruling King
- ✓ To deal with any performance mentalities in their life and to be the person God created them to be no matter what others may do
- ✓ To have the heart of a servant
- ✓ To have a vision and revelation of joining the generations together and equipping future generations
- ✓ To be transformed more into the image and character of Christ and develop a love for transformation
- ✓ To be self-examining, self-revealing, and a self-feeder
- ✓ To become a self-disciplined person, where all procrastination, apathy, and laziness are dealt with
- ✓ To have a Godly work ethic with a pursuit of excellence
- ✓ To understand the principles of a Christian Worldview and know how to apply it to current issues
- ✓ To be equipped to speak publicly about the Gospel through personal testimony and the teaching of Biblical truths
- ✓ To have practical ministry experience
- ✓ To build a Biblical foundation in their life upon which they can launch into their God-given destiny
- ✓ To be trained and equipped to be a leader of people
- ✓ To have the desire to give their heart continually to the Lord and to the leaders in their lives
- ✓ To have a desire to be a reformer and problem solver in our culture and our world



MERGE Courses and Studies

First Year Subjects

Synoptic Gospels: The Life and Teachings of Christ
 Acts: The Holy Spirit at Work in Believers
 Prison Epistles: Ephesians, Colossians, Philippians, and Philemon
 Introduction to Hermeneutics: How to Interpret the Bible
 The Local Church in Evangelism
 Relationships and Ethics in Ministry
 Beginning Ministerial Internship
 Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine
 COGAF "Articles of Faith"



Second Year Subjects

New Testament Survey
 Old Testament Survey
 Romans: Justification by Faith
 Introduction to Homiletics
 Effective Leadership
 Introduction to Theology: A Pentecostal Perspective
 Eschatology: A study of things to come
 Intermediate Ministerial Internship
 Conflict Management for Church Leaders
 COGAF- review of history, missions, and governance



Accredited Courses

All study courses can be transferred as credits through Berean Bible College by simply paying the tuition fee for Berean Bible College. Costs per credit vary with the studies. Please contact the MERGE administrator for more details on costs for accreditation.

Berean School of the Bible courses are not offered for degree-level. The courses are designed for ministry preparation and for personal enrichment. Students who are interested in undergraduate or graduate level work should contact us for information on those programs. Berean School of the Bible courses can be transferred into Global University's undergraduate program with certain limitations. Global University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of the Distance Education and Training Council (DETC), a nationally recognized agency under the auspices of the U.S. Department of Education.



MERGE Schedule

Daily Schedule

9:00-10:00 – Morning Worship

Our primary motivation is to develop intimacy with the Father and grow in relationship with Him, we start the day with an hour of prayer and worship.

10:30-12:00 – Morning Teaching

Students will have assigned studies during this time. Class discussion follows each teaching to insure life application. At times we will have guest speakers, or teaching videos. COGAF ministers will also be invited to come and talk on assigned topics.

Lunch 12:00 – 1:00

Students are free to leave and get lunch or bring a sack lunch. Also, on certain days lunch will be provided. We encourage students to use this time to build relationships with one another.

1:00 – 3:00 - Afternoon Schedule

Tuesday and Thursday – Hour long classes focused on different ministry areas.

(Worship, Media, Drama, & Arts) Students will be required to pick a subject area to participate in.

Wednesday and Friday – Class time with assigned projects and discussion.*

*Some days will be used for mission projects or community service.

3:00 – School is dismissed

Off Time

Students and Staff have Monday off.

Additional Information/Scheduling

Students will be able to have a part-time job in the evenings and some Saturdays. Each student is responsible for working with employers to ensure that they have the time off for assigned trips and special days. Students are required to have Wednesday and Sunday off.

If a student is living in an assigned home, they will need to help out with chores. We will have a close relationship with house parents and will be monitoring the progress and status of students. We will encourage house parents to be honest about their student's progress and to let us know of any serious problems.

Curfew for students should be followed by all students. (Weekdays – 11:00 p.m. & Weekends – 12:00 a.m.)



MERGE Financial Information

Financial Breakdown

The total cost of the MERGE program for the year is **\$3200.00**.

10% (\$320) is due at the beginning of the school year and the student may make monthly payments. The first payment must be a minimum of \$500. Following payments must be a minimum of \$320 per month. The balance should be paid in full by May 15th.

Included in this cost:

Application Fee: \$100*

Books & Study Guides: \$1000

Ministry trips, transportation costs,
food allowance, administration,
matching traveling t-shirts: \$2100

Tuition Total: \$3200.00**

* Non-refundable (secures your spot in the program).

**Prices subject to change due to student enrollment.

*If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master's use, [and] prepared unto every good work.
2 Timothy 2:21 (KJV)*



2009—2010 Academic Calendar

FALL SEMESTER 2009

August 22nd: Registration & Check-in 12:00 p.m.
(Happy Hill Church-Ramona, OK)

August 24th: Classes Begin

September 7th: Labor Day

October 22nd & 23rd: Fall Break

Classes Resume: October 27th

November 23rd—30th: Thanksgiving Break

Classes Resume: December 1st

December 17th—January 4th: Christmas Holiday Break

SPRING SEMESTER 2010

Classes Resume: January 5th

March 15th—19th: Spring Break

Classes Resume: March 22nd

Good Friday: April 2nd

Classes Resume: April 6th

May 16th: Commencement and Certificates
(Happy Hill Church—Ramona, OK)



Student Application

First-Year Second-Year

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name _____

SS# _____

Gender: Male Female

Current Address

Telephone

Home(_____)_____

Cell (_____)_____

Email Address _____

Date of Birth Month: _____ Day: _____ Year: _____

US Citizen? Yes No

If no, list country of
citizenship_____

Have you ever been arrested, charged or convicted of anything other than parking or traffic violations?

Yes No If yes, explain on a separate page.

Do you wish to comment on any relevant medical or psychological history that may help us accommodate your needs?

Yes No If yes, explain on a separate page.

Are you now or have you ever been treated for substance abuse/addiction?

Yes No If yes, explain on a separate page.

Instructions for Applying for Admission to MERGE

1. Complete this application and return it to COGAF with your \$100 (U.S.) application fee and photograph.
2. Enclose official High School transcript/GED scores
3. Enclose ministerial and personal recommendation forms
4. Enclose a page autobiography, including your conversion, spiritual growth, and involvement in Christian service.

****Please type or print all information requested****



Student Application (Cont.)

SPIRITUAL/CHURCH INFORMATION

Are you a born-again Christian as described in John 3:1-7?

Yes No Year you were born again? _____

Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as described in Acts 2:4?

Yes No

What church do you presently attend or serve?

Name of Church and City: _____

Name of Pastor: _____

Do you hold any credentials with any denomination? Yes No

If yes, with whom? _____

Briefly describe your past and present involvement in ministry.

Describe your goals in ministry?

EDUCATION

List chronologically ALL schools attended (high school and after high school)

School	City/State	Dates	Degree Obtained
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

How do you plan to finance your educational studies? Monthly Quarterly

Pay in full at registration

10% is due at beginning of school year and student may make monthly payments.

Balance should be paid in full by May 15th

The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith, Inc.
 P.O. Box 691745, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74169-1745
 office@cogaf.org • (918) 437-7652 • Fax: (918) 438-5633



Student Application (Cont.)

RECOMMENDATIONS

Please provide the following information on the persons you will be using as references for admission to MERGE. Please include each reference with application.

Ministerial Recommendation

(credentialed clergy person, non-relative who has known you for at least three years)

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

Work Telephone (_____) _____

Personal Recommendation

(friend, employer, instructor/teacher, non-relative who has known you for at least three years)

Name _____ Title _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Home Telephone (_____) _____

Work Telephone (_____) _____

General Information

How did you hear about MERGE? _____

Will you need a home-opener? Yes No

If you need a home-opener for housing, application needs to be turned in before July 1st.

Formal Agreement

By signing this form you certify that, to the best of your knowledge, all responses on this application are true and correct, and if approved for admission to MERGE you are willing to submit to all the regulations of The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith. Also, you will be responsible for all financial responsibilities to The Church of God of the Apostolic Faith.

Signature _____ Date _____