

Hermeneutics & Communications

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August 21, 2023

Professor

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### Assignment #1 Core Essential Elements

1. Write a three-paragraph essay responding to the following question:

When have you noticed your pre-judgments influencing your interpretations? How have you experienced a "fusion of horizons" in your learning experiences?

Prior to learning about Business As Mission (BAM), I thought of church as a place to go to worship, where people got married, where we went for funerals, and where my boys could learn about Jesus.

When I took a BAM class with Dr. C. Neal Johnson, my entire worldview changed toward church and business. The class taught me about missionaries that started businesses overseas and held bible study at night to share the gospel. I read case studies about Christian businesses in the United States that helped people just released from prison. In 2015, I joined doTERRA as a Wellness Advocate. doTERRA is a BAM company that invests in the communities wherever they buy their essential oils, often in the poorest parts of the world. Most recently, I started working for an organization to train missionaries before they go out to the mission field.

What does all this have to do with church? It never occurred to me that the church was a business. Studying BAM connected God, to business, and the church. Earlier this year, God said to connect with churches to help people. I did not understand what he meant until now, ten years after taking that BAM class. God has brought BAM back into my life in a big way. First, Dr. Johnson wrote a second BAM book and asked me to market it, essentially passing me the torch to continue his legacy. Then through several divine appointments I found OMEGA Graduate School and am now a DSL student. As I have prayed about BAM and missionaries and social research, I heard God say "help churches change their worldview to help My people broaden theirs". This is the first time in my life that I have felt God call me to missions to encourage more people to consider being sent. At the same time, God said to me to work with youth before they finish high school to help them discover their godly design; and equip retirees with opportunities to serve Him. My heart has always been to help others, but now God has said help churches reach the lost through BAM.

