



SOMA PROGRAM

SOMA is a non-formal theological curriculum that is built upon a philosophy of cohort learning and Socratic discussion. It is aimed at equipping pastors with essential knowledge and skills for faithful ministry.



SOMA
NON-FORMAL PASTORAL
THEOLOGICAL TRAINING

Soma is for...

Pastors who:

- Do not have access to theological resources
- are unable to pursue formal theological education
- Want to become better preachers
- Want to grow in their walk with God
- Want to shepherd their flock more faithfully

Christians who:

- Are considering becoming pastors
- Want to learn theology but are unable to pursue formal theological education
- Want to grow in their walk with God
- Desire to handle God's word more faithfully

Problem

In sub-saharan Africa, healthy books are hard to come by and when found, the cost and their language are usually not accessible.



Research shows that 9 out of every 10 pastors on the African Continent have no access to formal theological training.

Solution

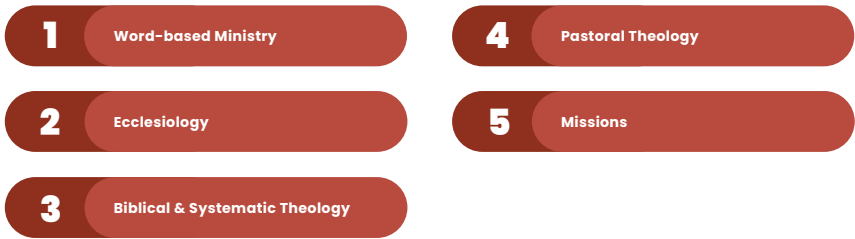
Through the process of getting copyrights, printing locally, translating into Swahili, and organizing the books into a 4-year curriculum, the SOMA program helps the African Pastor with good resources that would aid in establishing healthy churches, while also building a healthy accountability base for the pastors.

Course Length



Areas of Study

Each year has been divided into 5 units that focus on:



Mode of Study

SOMA utilizes a cohort learning structure that makes use of the socratic method of discussion under the direction of a cohort leader. Each month the pastor receives:

- A book
- A study guide developed to help him get as much as possible out of the book and apply what is learnt in the African context.
- A report writing guide that helps him meaningfully engage with what he has read.

He is then required to read the book, write and submit a book report, and then take part in a structured socratic discussion with the rest of the cohort in their local area.

COHORT LEARNING

Cohorts are local gatherings of 6–12 pastors within a small geographical area, which allows them to learn together while still serving their congregations. Learning requires pastors to meet for at least 90 minutes per month. The cohort also encourages accountability among the pastors in their life and ministry from the discussions held in the group.

SOCRATIC DISCUSSION

This method helps pastors think through a series of questions intended to help them discover their own beliefs on various theological topics, while having their point of view questioned and needing to defend it from the Scriptures. This helps to stimulate critical thinking while drawing out the underlying assumptions and ideas with the aim of applying the principles learned from Scripture to their contexts of ministry.

Curriculum Outline

		Developing: Basics YEAR 1	Deepening YEAR 2	Discerning YEAR 3	Discipling, Missiology, Replication YEAR 4
Word-Centered Church	January	<i>What is the Gospel</i> , Gilbert	<i>Word Centered Church</i> , Leeman	<i>Biblical Theology in the Life of the Church</i> , Lawrence	<i>Discipling</i> , Dever
	February	<i>Stop Reading, Start Studying</i> , Jackson	<i>Preach</i> , Dever	<i>Biblical Preaching</i> , Robinson	<i>Gospel and Personal Evangelism</i> , Dever
	March	<i>Expositional Preaching</i> , Helm	<i>The Whole Counsel of God</i> , Patrick & Reid	<i>Don't Fire your Church Members</i> , Leeman	<i>Compelling Community</i> , Jamieson & Dever
Ecclesiology	April	<i>Nine Marks of a Healthy Church</i> , Dever	<i>Church: The Gospel Made Visible</i> , Dever	<i>Going Public</i> , Jamieson	<i>Evangelism</i> , Stiles
	May	<i>Church Basics (Congregation's Authority & The Great Commission)</i> , Leeman & Dever	<i>Deliberate Church</i> , Dever	<i>Surprising Offense</i> , Leeman	<i>The Christian Ministry</i> , Bridges
	June	<i>Church Basics (Baptism & The Lord's Supper)</i> , Jamieson	<i>Church Elders</i> , Rinnie	<i>Brothers we are not Professionals</i> , Piper	<i>Trellis and the Vine</i> , Marshal & Payne
Pastoral Theology	July	<i>The Gospel</i> , Ortlund	<i>On Being a Pastor</i> , Prime & Begg	<i>Instruments in the Redeemer's Hand</i> , Tripp	<i>Pleasures of God (part 1)</i> , Piper
	August	<i>Dangerous Calling</i> , Tripp	<i>The Pastor and Counseling</i> , Reju & Pierre	<i>Everyone's a Theologian</i> , Sproul	<i>Pleasures of God (part 2)</i> , Piper
Theology (Systematic & Biblical Theology)	September	<i>Biblical Theology</i> , Roark & Cline	<i>Christian Beliefs</i> , Grudem	<i>Prosperity</i> , Mbugua	<i>Biblical Manhood and Womanhood</i> , Piper & Grudem
	October	<i>The Whole Message of the Bible in 16 Words</i> , Bruno	<i>Delight in the Trinity</i> , Reeves	<i>Spiritual Gifts</i> , Schreiner	<i>Churches Partnering Together</i> , Bruno
Missions	November	<i>Missions</i> , Johnson	<i>Radical Together</i> , Platt	<i>Let the Nation be Glad</i> , Piper	<i>Reaching & Teaching</i> , Sills
	December	<i>What is the Mission of the Church?</i> , DeYoung & Gilbert	<i>The Discipling Making Pastor</i> , Hull	<i>Center Church</i> , Keller	<i>Planting Churches Cross-Culturally</i> , Hesselgrave



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