

# Good Samaritan Ministries

## Certified Christian Counselor Training Program 2024-2025

### Program Overview:

Good Samaritan Ministries' Certified Christian Counselor Training Program is an intensive three-year course of study that equips Christians to offer biblical, Holy Spirit-led counseling with the oversight of licensed supervisors. Good Samaritan Ministries (GSM) adopted its name from the parable of Jesus in Luke 10:25, where Jesus tells of a man beaten and left for dead, who receives love and compassion from a fellow traveler on the road. The instruction at the end to those gathered around Jesus is to "go and do likewise." We take this as the mandate for our ministry through training compassionate Christians to join the broken-hearted along their life journey, tending to them with foundational truths from the Word of God, coupled with the spirit of love shown by Jesus through the New Testament.

To graduate our program with a certificate in Christian Counseling, one must demonstrate the skills, compassion, and wisdom to work with the vulnerable. This training comes with our staff team's supervision, who all bring years of ministry and therapeutic training to their work. All are welcome to train and therefore receive great spiritual insight, learn the best practices in evidence-based modalities, and participate in an exciting, experiential learning environment.

### Program Description:

The Certified Christian Counselor Training Program consists of three levels, the first two each represent one year (two semesters) of training, that includes a Biblical training in the Healing Miracles and Parables of Christ.

**Level I** – This foundational year explores topics around hearing the voice of God in the counseling office, studying Christ as the counselor in scriptures, learning about family systems and Erickson's stages of development, how to build a Case History, and more. All are welcome to take the Level I Training, whether they intend to move on to becoming a Certified Christian Counselor or not. This course is a scriptural exploration of ministry and personal development, appropriate for all Christians who want to be equipped to love others, inside and outside of the Church.

**Level I class is held on Monday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm in our Shiloh group room from September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2025. This is an in-person class.**

**To register:**

**Level II** – The second year of study is built on the foundations set in the first year and is only open to those who have completed the first level of training. Level II dives deeper into psychological barriers to healing such as adverse childhood experiences, trauma, addictions, and disorders, as well as modalities of counseling to address these barriers. There is still strong Biblical teaching through the study of Christ as the Great Counselor in the New Testament, and experiential learning through in-person practice.

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Level II class is held on Thursday evenings from 6:00-8:00pm in our Shiloh group room from September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024, through May 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025. **This is an in-person class.**

To register: contact Nick Ward at [nick.ward@gsmusa.org](mailto:nick.ward@gsmusa.org).

**Level III** – The third level is considered an “internship” or practicum year. It is a personally directed year of counseling practice and ongoing study in connection with the GSM supervisors. Level III students do not meet in a class regularly, instead, they will be assigned their first clients and participate in peer-supervision as well as monthly personal supervision with the Level III trainer. This year is a wonderful opportunity for both observation and supervision as a counselor.

**The Healing Miracles & Parables** – As part of the first two years of training, students participate in once-per-month group sessions where certain miracles and parables of Christ are examined through role-play. This is a one-of-a-kind learning experience where students act out the scriptures together to understand the lessons Jesus taught in a personal, Holy Spirit-inspired way. Over the thirty years that the healing miracles and parables have been taught in this manner, we have seen tremendous personal healing and insight for many hundreds of students. The Bible truly comes alive for everyone in the room. These teachings are foundational to who we are as Good Samaritans. All are welcome to come to these classes and do not have to be enrolled in the training program. Level I students are required to participate in six healing miracles throughout the year. Level II students focus more on parables and some healing miracles. Students need to participate and submit a written synopsis on 17 healing miracles and parables to graduate.

#### **Our Staff Team:**

##### **Teresa Stroup, MSW, LCSW**

Teresa Stroup is the International Executive Director of Good Samaritan Ministries. She brings both a degree and licensure in counseling and over thirty years of experience to the training. She is the supervisor of all three levels of the Counselor Training at GSM. Teresa is an exceptional Bible Teacher and group leader - she oversees the yearly Bible Study, Domestic Violence group, as well as the Men’s Group at Good Samaritan Ministries.

##### **Nick Ward, MSW, LCSW, CAD III, MAC**

Nick Ward is in charge of the Level II and III portions of the lay Christian Counselor Training Program. Nick is a skilled mental-health therapist and addictions counselor who also trained with Good Samaritan Ministries for many years. Nick recently authored a book about the Christian mandate for living in the trying times we are facing. He will meet one-on-one with students as they work to become counselors through our program.

##### **Bethany Black**

Bethany Black is responsible for Level I Counselor Training. Bethany brings almost twenty years of ministry and counseling experience with GSM, having graduated from the program when she was seventeen years old. Bethany blends her scriptural knowledge alongside her understanding of philosophy and psychology to aid in understanding deep truths about the human condition. She is a life-long student and voracious reader who will bring a keen insight into the foundational first year of training.

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**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**1. How does lay Christian Counseling at GSM differ from other types of counseling?**

Lay Christian Counseling is different from other counseling in a few ways. The first major difference is that we believe that God has a plan for healing each person that walks through the door. Rather than treat symptoms, we look at the whole person and believe in profound healing for each area of wounding in his or her life. We are willing to walk with our clients for as long as sometimes this can continue for years. Our counselors are trained to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit and ask questions that lead the client towards Christ, where they will encounter healing. This approach does not exclude important modalities such as trauma informed care and cognitive behavioral therapy, instead we teach our counselors to partner these important psychological approaches with our both our Biblical knowledge and spiritual connection with the Living God.

**2. Do GSM counselors need to subscribe to a certain dogma, church, or theology?**

GSM is not or church, nor do we preach a certain vein of Christian theology. We have counselors and trainers from many different types of churches.

**3. Do clients who come to GSM need to be Christians?**

Our counseling is available to all who come to our door. We neither require faith to be a topic of counseling, nor do we seek to convert people to becoming Christians as part of their counseling journey. Instead, we believe that an encounter with truth in the counseling session is an encounter with Christ. We are seed-sowers, and we believe in God's timing for a great harvest!

**4. How do I know if this training is right for me?**

Level I Certified Christian Counselor training is a wonderful year full of personal development and ministry training for all who are interested. We believe that all Christians are called to be Good Samaritans: people who pay the whole price for the healing of another as we see in the example that Christ set for us. The first year will train and equip you for all types of Christian ministry, however, the call to be a counselor is a unique call that is not for everyone. Therefore, individuals may choose not to continue the program into the second and third levels to become equipped as counselors.

For more information about Good Samaritan Ministries – visit [gsmusa.org](http://gsmusa.org).