

## **An Introductory Course in the Theology of Mission For Overseas Bible Schools**

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### **ABSTRACT**

Protestant missionary activity continues to expand around the world and includes evangelizing, discipling, church planting, and humanitarian concerns. Non-western missionaries now outnumber western missionaries. Although the number of non-western Bible schools continues to increase, many of the curricular programs do not include a course in the theology of mission. The purpose of this project was to develop an introductory course in the theology of mission that could be adapted by Bible schools in the non-western world. The course is designed to give an overview of three areas: (1) a biblical theology of mission; (2) historical expressions of missions; and (3) contextual communication of mission.

The initiation phase of the project involved looking at a theology of mission through the lens of both the Old and New Testaments and examining the expressions of missions in biblical-theological literature. Research into related literature yielded insights into contextual communication of mission. The second phase of the project involved the creation of an introductory course in the theology of mission.

The third phase of the project integrated teaching and assessing the developed course at the new missionary school in Constanza, Romania. Pre-course survey questions garnered information about students' knowledge of missions, interest in missions, rationale as to why some Christians have a better understanding of missions than others, and home church ministries. Assessment of the project included a pre- and posttest on the content of the course to provide quantitative data as to whether the student's knowledge of theology of mission had increased during the learning process. All participants showed improvement on the posttest.

Two major implications evolved from this project. First, non-western believers can be challenged to participate in world evangelism, but need training in the theology and practice of missions. Second, an introductory course in the theology of mission can be instrumental in the equipping of non-western missionaries and should be included in the curricular programs of Bible schools.