

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
Continuing Education Course
Springfield, MO
September 8-12, 2003

MSSM 639/PTHM 640 CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO HUMAN SUFFERING
(3 Credits)

JoAnn Butrin, PhD, MS

Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is designed to provide an overview on the Christian response to human suffering throughout the world. It will focus on an international response but much of what is presented can also be applied domestically. The four topic areas include: a) The Theology of Suffering and the Biblical Response; b) Priorities in Compassionate Care; c) How to Implement a Compassion Program; and d) Principles of Economic Development. The course will also focus on specific needs of Hunger, Health, AIDS, Children at Risk, Education, and Emergencies/Disasters. At the end of the course the student should have a Biblical and practical foundation about compassion ministries.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Explain the Biblical mandate for whole person ministry
2. Explain the Pentecostal perspective in response to human suffering
3. Define relief and development
4. Describe when and why relief and/or development are appropriate responses
5. Describe the importance of assessment, monitoring and evaluation
6. Define sustainability and its importance in any compassion ministry response
7. Define best practice – in general and in a Christian context

REQUIRED TEXT

Myers, Bryant. (1999). *Walking with the Poor*. New York: Orbis Books.

Sider, Ronald J. (1999). *Good News and Good Works*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books. 1999.

RECOMMENDED READING

- Aaker, Jerry, Shumaker, Jennifer. (1997). Looking Back Looking Forward, A Participatory Approach to Evaluation. *Little Rock, AR: Heifer Project International.*
- Booth, B., Martin, K., Lankester, T. (2001). *Urban Health & Development.* TALC.
- Brislin, R. & Yoshida, T. (1994). *Improving Intercultural Interactions.* CA: Sage Publications.
- Cheyne, John R. (1996). *Incarnational Agents: A Guide to Developmental Ministry.* Birmingham, AL: New Hope.
- Dempster, A. Murray, Klaus, Byron D. and Peterson, Douglas. (1995). *Called and Empowered; Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective.* Peabody, MA: Hendrickson.
- Ewert, M. (1990). *A New Agenda for Medical Mission.* Brunswick, GA: MAP International.
- Gosling, Louisa, with Edwards, Mike. (2002). *Toolkits. A Practical Guide to Assessment, Monitoring, Review and Evaluation.* London: Save the Children Development Manual No. 5.
- Goudzwaard, Bob and de Lang, Harry. (2000). *Beyond Poverty and Affluence.* Grand Rapids, MI: WCC Publications.
- Grigg, Viv. (1999). 'The Urban Poor: Who are We?' In *Perspectives of the Christian Movement.* Eds., Winter, Ralph D. and Hawthorne, Steven, pp. 581-585. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.
- Hoksbergen, R. & Ewert, Lowell M. (ed) (2002). *Local Ownership of Global Change.* CA: MARC Publications.
- Johnson, George S. (2001). *Beyond Guilt.* Cambridge, MN: Adventure Publications.
- Kilbourn, Phyllis. (1996). *Children in Crisis: A New Commitment.* Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications.
- Mason, Mike. (2002). *The Gospel According to Job.* Crossway Books.
- Myers, Bryant. (1999). 'What is Poverty Anyway?', in *Perspectives of the Christian Movement.* Eds., Winter, Ralph D., and Hawthorne, Steven. Pp. 578-580. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library.
- Myers, Bryant (ed) (1999). *Working with the Poor.* CA: World Vision.
- Peterson, Douglas. (1988). *Not By Might Nor By Power; A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America.* Irvine, CA: Oxford.

- Rieger, Joerg. (2002). *Remember the Poor*. Harrisburg, PA: Trinity Press International.
- Rowland, Stan. (2001). *Multiplying Light and Truth*. GLS Publishing: India.
- Samuel, V. & Sugden, C. (1999). *Mission as Transformation*. CA: Regnum Books.
- Sevillano, M. (1997). *Evangelizing the Culturally Different*. PA: Destiny Image Publishers, Inc.
- Yancey, Philip (2001). *Where Is God When It Hurts?* Zondervan.

COURSE OUTLINE

Monday, September 8, 2003

1. The Theology of Suffering and the Biblical Response – Rick Salvato/Ron Drye/Cindy Calla – (8 hours)
 - a. Suffering and Injustice
 - b. Christian Response to Poverty
 - c. Biblical Mandates for Response
 - d. Pentecostal Distinctive in Compassionate Care
 - e. Whole-Person Ministry
 - f. Case Study – Combining Theory and Praxis

Tuesday, September 9, 2003

2. Priorities in Compassionate Care – JoAnn Butrin/Peggy Johnson (8 hours)
 - a. Who, What and Where
 - b. Church/Community-based Methodologies
 - c. Relief and Development Principles
 - d. Best Practice Models – CHE, Community-based Initiatives
 - e. Cultural Issues in Partnership Response
 - f. Case Study – Combining Theory and Praxis

Wednesday, September 10, 2003

3. How to begin a Compassion Project – Cindy Hudlin/Paula Mickley (8 hours)
 - a. Purpose, Objectives, Goals
 - b. Community Ownership and Organization
 - c. Participatory Assessment
 - d. Monitoring and Evaluation
 - e. Sustainability – economic, spiritual, physical
 - f. Budget/Funding Issues/Incorporating Sustainability
 - g. Panel Discussion

Thursday, September 11, 2003

4. Principles of Economic Development – Carol Young/Paula Mickley – 8 hours

- a. Sustainability Issues
- b. Assessment
- c. Monitoring and Evaluation
- d. Best Practice – micro-enterprise, micro-loans, matching grants, agriculture
- e. Appropriate Technology
- f. Case Study – Combining Theory and Praxis

Friday, September 12, 2003

- 5. Responding to Specific Needs – 8 hours (JoAnn, Cindy C., Cindy H., Ron, Rick)
 - a. Hunger - JoAnn
 - b. Health Issues – Cindy C.
 - c. AIDS - Ron
 - d. Children at Risk – Cindy H.
 - e. Educational needs – Cindy H.
 - f. Emergencies/Disasters – Rick
 - g. Panel Discussion

METHODOLOGY

The methodology will be primarily lecture, video, Power Point presentations, case studies and panel discussion. Each student is expected to participate in class discussions. Because this is a one-week seminar all students are required to attend each class session and complete the course requirements.

Guest Lecturers include:

Cynthia Calla, MD, MPH
 Ron Drye, NP
 Peggy Johnson, MA
 Cindy Lopez Hudlin, MPH Candidate
 Paula Mickley, PT, MPH
 Rick Salvato, PA
 Carol Young

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Students are required to read both required textbooks prior to the beginning of the course.
2. Students are required to read any handouts prior to the next day of class.
3. Choosing one of the five main topic areas discussed, students are required to write a 5-page reflection paper on that topic.

4. Students are required to write a 15-20 page position paper for you and/or your ministry on compassion ministries. Include theology, philosophy, practical approaches to what needs to be done if implementing a compassion ministry.
5. Active participation by the student in class discussions.
6. Attendance at all class sessions.

GRADING

1. Class Discussions, Attendance & Completed Reading – 30%
2. First 5-page written assignment – 25%
3. Second 15-20 page written assignment – 45%

All written assignments must be mailed to Dr. Butrin no later than **December 12, 2003**. If not submitted by this date, a \$15.00 change of grade fee will be charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

MAIL TO:
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Syllabus prepared by Dr. JoAnn Butrin, April 2003.