

**Assemblies of God Theological Seminary
SOUTHEASTERN BRANCH CAMPUS
1000 Longfellow Blvd.
Lakeland, Florida
August 29-Dec. 12, 2002**

MHTB 529/PTHB 527/THEB 545 THEOLOGY OF MISSIONS

Rodney White, D. Min.

Fall 2002

COURSE SYLLABUS

I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course follows the diachronic methodology of biblical theology to establish a foundation throughout Scripture for a theology of missions. This theology centers on God's mission (*Missio Dei*) to bless all nations. Attention is given to the importance of both the church response and individual response to *Missio Dei*. The power of the Holy Spirit outpoured upon the worldwide church is emphasized as God's means for accomplishing His mission.

II. OBJECTIVES

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

- A. Develop a summary statement of the mission of God as revealed diachronically throughout both Old and New Testaments.
- B. Demonstrate the relationship of each successive grouping of biblical books to the mission of God.
- C. Relate the New Testament missions textual themes to their Old Testament antecedents.
- D. Construct a meaningful statement of church participation in *Missio Dei*.
- E. Demonstrate a biblical position statement on God's mission incorporating the "four pillars": *Reaching, Planting, Training, Touching*.
- F. State the relationship between one's own calling to ministry and the mission of God.
- G. Present a biblical rationale for linking the progress of the worldwide expansion of the church with the end of the age.
- H. Choose to approach missions with the objective of participation in fulfilling the mission of God.

III. REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Kaiser, Walter, C., Jr. 2000. Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

McLaren, Brian. 1998. Reinventing your Church. Grand Rapids:Zondervan.

Steyne, Philip M. 1997. In Step With the God of the Nations. Columbia, SC: Impact International, rev. ed.

Van Gelder, Craig. 2000. The Essence of the Church. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

IV. COURSE OUTLINE

- A. Introduction
 - 1. Historical development of the concept of biblical theology
 - 2. The diachronic approach with its analogy of antecedent Scripture

- B. *Missio Dei* and the *Kingdom of God* as themes of biblical theology
 - 1. In the Pentateuch: God announces His mission
 - 2. In the Historical Books: God's Mission as Kingdom
 - 3. In the Poetical Books (Wisdom Literature): The fear of the Lord as the mark of the Kingdom
 - 4. In the Prophets: Covenant lawsuit and *Missio Dei*
 - 5. In the Gospels: The mission of Christ and the transferred apostolate
 - 6. In Acts: The mission of the church
 - 7. In the Epistles: God's missionary people; completing the mission
 - 8. In Revelation: Triumph of the Kingdom

- C. Choosing a life of commitment to *Missio Dei*
 - 1. Discipling the nations: Reaching the unreached, church planting, training, and mobilizing the church to accomplish the mission of God
 - 2. Responding to human need
 - 3. Counting the cost: Living intentionally within a community of faith

V. METHODOLOGY

The course will be taught using lectures, class discussion, reaction papers, and multimedia presentations.

VI. COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Critique of the Texts:
 - 1. Book Critique - Reinventing your Church by Brian McLaren.

McLaren offers 13 strategies for “reinventing your church.” Brian is a church planter in Maryland and really can provoke both agreement and disagreement with his suggested strategies. Your assignment to choose *three of McLaren’s proposed strategies* and interact (agree/disagree) with his suggestions, based on your understanding of what McLaren says, your own experience and your understanding of the biblical mission of the church. Your response should be 2 pages per strategy (6 pages for the entire assignment).

2. Book Critique - Mission in the Old Testament: Israel as a Light to the Nations by Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.
 - a. Evaluate Kaiser's overall thesis that the Old Testament is a foundational document for God's mission to the nations.
 - b. Evaluate any two of Kaiser's major textual areas (bold headlines) answering the question: How does this text inform the New Testament concept of mission? (Approximately 600 words each)
 - c. Summarize the contribution of this volume to the Biblical Theology of Missions.
3. Book Critique - In Step With the God of the Nations Philip Steyne. Give a brief summary and then critique the book.
4. Book Critique - The Essence of the Church by Craig Van Gelder. Give a brief summary and then critique the book.

B. Synthesis Paper - Write a 12-15 page paper on “Completing the Task: A Response to the Biblical Theology of Missions.” The paper must be divided into three sections: a synopsis of the biblical theology of missions, the churches response to the biblical theology of missions, and a personal response to the biblical theology of missions.

C. Midterm Exam - October 24

D. Final Exam - December 12

VII. GRADING

A.	Book Critiques - (4) - 10% each	40%
B.	Synthesis Paper -	20%
C.	Midterm Exam -	20%
D.	Final Exam -	20%

NOTE: Work received after the post-session due date specified in the syllabus will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

VIII. SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Theology of Missions and Practical Theology

Anderson, Ray, Theological Foundation for Ministry. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1979.

_____ Ministry on the Fire Line. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1993.

_____ The Soul of Ministry. Louisville: Westminster/John Knox, 1997.

Browning, Don Ed. Practical Theology: The Emerging Field in Theology, Church & World. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1983.

Glasser, Arthur, and Donald A McGavran. Contemporary Theologies of Mission. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1983.

Gordon, Adoniram Judson. The Holy Spirit in Missions. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship, 1988.

Hesselgrave, David J., ed. Theology and Mission. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1978.

Poling, James & Miller, Donald. Foundation for Practical Ministry. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1985.

Scherer, James A. Gospel, Church and Kingdom: Comparative Studies in World Mission Theology. Minneapolis, Augsburg, 1987.

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Senior, Donald, and Carroll Stuhlmueller. The Biblical Foundations for Mission. MaryKnoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1983.

Smart, James. The Rebirth of Ministry. Philadelphia: L Westminster Press, 1960.

Tidball, Derek. Skillful Sheperds. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1986.

Wagner, C. Peters. On the Crest of the Wave: Becoming a World Christian. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1983.

Whitehead, Evelyn & James D. Method in Ministry: Theological Reflection in Ministry. New York: The Seabury Press, 1983.

Pentecostal Perspectives On Theology of Missions and the Church

Burgess, Stanley and McGee, Gary. Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, Nov., 1988.

Dayton, Donald. Theological Roots of Pentecostalism. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1988.

Ervin, Howard. Conversion Initiation and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1988.

Fee, Gordon. Gospel and Spirit – Issues in N.T. Hermeneutics. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.

_____ Paul, The Spirit and the People of God. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1996.

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Horton, Stanley. What The Bible Says About the Holy Spirit. Springfield: Gospel Publishing House, 1976.

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Mansfield, M. Robert. Spirit and Gospel in Mark. Peabody: Hendrickson Publisher, 1987.

McGee, Gary. Initial Evidence. Peabody: Hendrickson Publisher, 1991.

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- Schatzmann, Seigfried. A Pauline Theology of Charismata. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1987.
- Shelton, James. Mighty in Word and Deed. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Smail, Thomas. Reflected Glory. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1975.
- Spittler, Russell, ed. Perspectives on the New Pentecostalism. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.
- Stronstad, Roger. The Charismatic Theology. St. Louis: Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.
- _____. The Prophethood of the Believers. Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.
- Suenens, Leon. A New Pentecost. New York: Paulist Press, 1978.
- Wimber, John. Power Evangelism. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1986.
- _____. Power Healing. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.
- _____. Power Encounters. San Francisco: Harper & Row, 1987.

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Hawthorne, Steve & Winter, Ralph. Perspectives on the World Christian Movement. Revised Edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1992.

Hedlund, Roger. The Mission of the Church in the World. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

McClung, Grant. Azusa Street and Beyond. Bridge Publishing, 1986.

Newbiggin, Leslie. Sign of the Kingdom. Eerdmans Publishing, 1980.

Pomerville, Paul. The Third Force in Mission. Peabody: Hendrickson Publishers, 1986.

Van Engen, Charles. God's Missionary People. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1991.

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SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus compiled by Dr. Rodney White, February 2002