

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MCS 920: Biblical Perspectives on Issues of Social Justice
Doctor of Missiology Degree Program

COURSE SYLLABUS

December 14-18, 2009

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Dr. Butrin has 33 years of mission's experience, spending 14 years working in rural health/community development in the Democratic Republic of Congo. She also worked with HealthCare Ministries for 18 years, traveling globally and at present serves on the Executive Committee of the Assemblies of God World Missions as the director of International Ministries. Dr. Butrin has written a number of publications on HIV/AIDS and health in the developing world.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course investigates issues of social injustice, inequality and the exploitation of vulnerable groups in society. The course will seek to lay a solid biblical foundation for the church's involvement in these issues, particularly from a Pentecostal perspective. The course looks at the reasons why "justice" is not often a primary focus of the evangelical's approach to "outreach". Particular attention will be paid to international issues such as poverty, children at risk, racial discrimination, AIDS and international sex trafficking. The course will seek to evaluate the intervention strategies of local, federal and international agencies (both religious and secular) from an integrated, biblically-based development framework.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

The specific learning outcomes for the programs of the Global Missions Department at AGTS include that the student will be able to:

1. make decisions, live and serve according to revealed truth and the will of God

2. develop biblical theology of missions which addresses the contemporary missional context
3. utilize the tools of the social sciences to develop a plan to communicate the gospel in word and deed to persons of another culture
4. facilitate the ongoing process of contextualization as missional leaders and communities of faith in specific settings
5. articulate a Spirit driven missiology and praxis
6. identify, exemplify and foment biblical leadership

**THE PURPOSE, PROGRAM GOALS, SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES
FOR THE DOCTOR OF MISSIOLOGY DEGREE**

1. The purpose of the D. Miss. is to prepare persons for denominational and interdenominational leadership roles in cross cultural ministries both in the United States of America as well as around the globe; to educate persons with specialized expertise in missiology and its cognate disciplines; and to train persons for research and teaching in those disciplines.
2. The D.Miss. program goals are to enrich the practice of missionaries serving with our denomination and other agencies through :
 - a. mastery of missiological and cognate disciplines
 - b. an advanced understanding of theological disciplines and their relationship to missiology
 - c. enhanced ability to provide leadership in cross-cultural ministries, and the capacity to engage in research and teaching
3. The specific learning outcomes for the D.Miss. program are that the upon completing the program the student will be able to:
 - a. express a deepening biblical and theological understanding of *Missio Dei* and the kingdom of God
 - b. articulate a distinctively Pentecostal theology of intercultural ministry
 - c. describe the historical development of the Christian movement and the participant's role in the contemporary world
 - d. discern the Holy Spirit's direction in the fulfillment of the mission of God in diverse cultural settings and to contextualize effective expressions of the Gospel
 - e. establish priorities of evangelism, church planting, leadership formation, and compassion ministries
 - f. model a continuing commitment to personal spiritual formation and growth as a member of God's missionary people
 - g. illustrate the close relationship between the local church and missions; and
 - h. make a scholarly contribution to the understanding and practice of intercultural ministry.

OBJECTIVES

When you finish this course you should be able to:

1. Articulate a cogent, biblically-based argument for social engagement and particularly social justice as a Christian and church responsibility.
2. Evaluate social inequities as they relate to social injustice and the church's role in addressing injustice.
3. Evaluate social intervention strategies from an integrated, biblically-based development framework.
4. Identify Pentecostal distinctives which would enable strategies of intervention for social justice issues
5. Evaluate the programs of a church or mission's agency to determine if their activities address "root problems" of injustice.
6. Relate theoretical and practical strategies of addressing social justice issues to your own life and ministry

METHODOLOGY

The course will include lectures, class discussions, videos and group analysis of case studies with presentations from the small groups.

CLASS TOPICS

- The Biblical basis for seeking "justice"
- Pentecostalism in justice issues
- Reasons for non-involvement of the church with justice issues
- Patterns of superficial aid of the Christian and the Church
- Inequities related to Justice:
 - Poverty
 - Gender inequality
 - Women and Children's issues
 - Health and Epidemics
 - Racial Inequalities
- Strategies of Intervention in justice issues

COURSE LITERATURE

Students should read all the required textbooks (make arrangements to acquire and read all texts prior to the beginning of class).

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS AND READING

Dempster, M.A.H. & Klaus, B.D. (Eds.) (1991). *Called and Empowered: Global mission in Pentecostal perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.

Enrichment Journal Spring 2004: A revival of compassion. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House. <http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org>

Gordon, G. (2003). *What if you got involved: Taking a stand against social injustice.* Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Books.

Myers, B. (1999) *Walking with the poor: Principles and practices of transformational development.* Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books.

Samuel, V. and Sugden, C. (Eds.) (1999). *Mission as transformation: A theology of the whole Gospel.* Oxford: Regnum Books.

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

Stearns, Richard, (2009). *The hole in our gospel: What does God expect.* Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

You will need to obtain several documents from The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, referred to as the Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOP).

1. “Evangelism and Social Responsibility: An Evangelical Commitment” (Lausanne Occasional Paper 21). <http://www.lausanne.org/grand-rapids-1982/lop-21.html>
2. “Holistic Mission” report (Lausanne Occasional Paper #33, 70 pp) http://www.wheaton.edu/intr/faculty/Campbell_Lausanne/HMIG%20Book%20Edited1.pdf

NOTE: IF PARTICIPANT HAS READ ANY OF THE REQUIRED TEXTS FOR CREDIT IN ANOTHER CLASS, PLEASE SUBSTITUTE ANOTHER BOOK FROM RECOMMENDED READING LIST BELOW AT THE END OF THE SYLLABUS.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session: 1. Read the required textbooks listed in this syllabus. Write and submit brief electronic summary cards for all course readings. 2. Based on the reading of the literature and each student’s ministry context, write 8-10 page critical reflection paper include responses to the following questions:

- What specific reading most impacted your life? Why?
- What are the most significant social justice issues raised by the reading? Which are most germane to your ministry context? Why?
- How has the reading influenced your missions thinking or future ministry?
- What mission’s statement or perspective in the reading did you disagree with most?

- Quote what you consider the most significant or impacting citation and describe why this citation is significant.

Session:

- Actively participate in class discussions. Be prepared to comment on the required reading as it relates to the subjects being presented in class.
- Prepare a ten minute informational presentation on the “special issues” topic which will be assigned at the beginning of the session. Media such as powerpoint may be used.

Post-Session

Prepare a 10-15 page report on defending the inclusion of social justice as a viable platform for mission’s efforts and the ways in which a mission’s agency can incorporate the issues of social justice into their mission’s strategy.

ALL Post-session work must be submitted within 90 days of the last day of class (March 18, 2010)

General Guidelines for Formal Writing Assignments: Each writing assignment should be typed, double-spaced in a 12 point font. It should contain your name and should conform to Turabian, APA, or other formal academic style manual. The paper must be well-structured, clearly written, and grammatically correct. Make sure someone proof reads your paper before you submit it to avoid typographical, grammatical and editorial errors. Papers which do not engage the appropriate bibliographic resources will be returned for rewrites (In future courses papers which have not done so will be rejected.)

****All work must be submitted electronically as Word Document attachments to JoAnn Butrin, (jbutrin@ag.org). Please include your last name as the first word in the file name.**

Students with Disabilities: If you anticipate the need for reasonable accommodations to meet the requirements of this course, you must register with the Office of Student Services. Contact Student Services, 1435 N. Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO, 65802, (417) 286-1081 or email: studentservices@agts.edu. Students are required to provide documentation of disability to Student Services prior to receiving accommodations.

Non-Discriminatory Language. All AGTS students, employees, and faculty members are urged to use non-discriminatory language in both verbal and written communication at the Seminary. While AGTS does not endorse the following websites, they provide more information on non-discriminatory language:

General Principles: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

Gender: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/workshops/hypertext/apa/gender.html>
 Racial and Ethnic Identity: <http://www.apastyle.org/race.html>.
 Disabilities: <http://www.apastyle.org/disabilities.html>.
 Age Discrimination: http://www.randomhouse.com/words/language/avoid_guide.html

GRADING PROCEDURE

Final grades will be assigned according to the following calculus:

General class participation	10%
Reflection report	15%
Special topics presentation	10%
Final report	65%
Total	100%

GRADING SCALE

A+ (100)		A (96)	100-94	A- (93)	93-90
B+ (89)	89-87	B (86)	86-84	B- (83)	83-80
C+ (79)	79-77	C (76)	76-74	C- (73)	73-70
D+ (69)	69-67	D (66)	66-64	D- (63)	63-60
F	59 or below				

Recommended Reading:

1. Ajulu, Deborah. (2001). *Holism in development: An African perspective on empowering communities*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
2. Anderson, Mary B. & Olson, Lara. (2003). *Confronting war: Critical lessons for peace practitioners*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
3. Anderson, Mary B. (1999). *Do no harm: How aid can support peace or war*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
4. Belshaw, Derreck, Calderisi, Richard & Sugden, Chris. (2002). *Faith in development: Partnership between the World Bank and the churches of Africa*. Oxford: Regnum Books & World Bank Publications. 200pp.
5. Brandt, Don (Ed.). (2004). *Inheriting the earth: Poor communities and environmental renewal*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
6. Budziszewski, J. (2006). *Evangelicals in the public square*. Baker Books.

7. Burch, G.W. (2005). *Community children: A ministry of hope and restoration for the street dwelling child*. Miami: LAM.
8. Bussau, David & Mask, Russell (2003). *Christian microenterprise development: An introduction*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
9. Christian, J. (1999). *God of the empty-handed: Poverty, power and the kingdom of God*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
10. Claerbaut, David. (2005). *Urban ministry in a new millennium*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
11. Claiborne, Shane. (2006). *Irresistible revolution: Living as an ordinary radical*. Zondervan.
12. Cox, Harvey. (2001). *Fire from Heaven: The Rise of Pentecostal Spirituality and the Reshaping of Religion in the 21st Century*. Cambridge, MA: Da Capo Press.
13. Dean, Judith M., Schaffner, Julie & Smith, Stephen L.S. (2005). *Attacking poverty in the developing world*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
14. Dempster, M.A.H. & Klaus, B.D. (Eds.) (1991). *Called and Empowered: Global mission in Pentecostal perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson Publishers.
15. Donaldson, Dave and Stanley W. Carlson-Thies (2003). *A Revolution of Compassion*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2003.
16. Dortzbach, Deborah & Long, W.Meredith. (2006). *The AIDS crisis: What we can do*. Downers Grove, Il.: Intervarsity Press.
17. *Enrichment Journal Spring 2004: A revival of compassion*. Springfield, MO: Gospel Publishing House. <http://enrichmentjournal.ag.org>
18. Fong, Rowena (Ed.). (2004). *Culturally competent practice with immigrant and refugee children and families*. New York, NY: The Guilford Press.
19. Hall, Jyl. (2006). *A guide to acting on AIDS: Understanding the global AIDS pandemic and responding through faith and action*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
20. Haugen, Gary A. (1999). *Good news about injustice: A witness of courage in a hurting world*. Downers Grove, Il.: Intervarsity Press.
21. Hoksbergen, Roland & Ewert, Lowell M. (Eds.). (2002). *Local ownership*

- global change*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
22. Jayakumar, C. (1999). *God of the Empty-Handed: Poverty, Power and the Kingdom of God*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 23. Jayakumar, Samuel. (2002). *Mission reader: Historical models for wholistic mission in the Indian context*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
 24. Kilbourn, Phyllis & McDermid, Marjorie (Eds.). (1998). *Sexually exploited children: Working to protect and heal*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 25. Kilbourn, Phyllis (Ed.). (1995). *Healing the children of war: A handbook for ministry to children who have suffered deep traumas*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 26. Kilbourn, Phyllis (Ed.). (1996). *Children in crisis: A new commitment*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 27. Kretzmann, J.P. & McKnight, J. (1993). *Building communities from the inside out: A path toward mobilizing a community's assets*. ACTA Publications: Chicago.
 28. Lewis, R. (2001). *The Church of Irresistible Influence*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
 29. Linthicum, R.C. (1991). *Empowering the poor*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 30. Linthicum, R.C. (2003). *Transforming power: Biblical strategies for making a difference in your community*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.
 31. Lupton, R. (2005). *Renewing the city: Reflections on community development and urban renewal*. InverVarsity Press.
 32. McDonald, Patrick & Garrow, Emma. (2000). *Children at risk: Networks in action*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
 33. Messer, D.E. (2004). *Breaking the conspiracy of silence: Christian Churches and the global AIDS crisis*. Augsburg Fortress: Minneapolis, MN.
 34. Miles, Glenn & Wright, Josephine-Joy. (2003). *Celebrating children: Equipping people working with children and young people living in difficult circumstances around the world*. Waynesboro, GA: Paternoster Press.

35. Miller, D. & Yamamori, T. (2007). Global pentecostalism: The new face of Christian social engagement. Berkely, CA: The University of California Press
36. Myers, Bryant L. (Ed.). (1999b). *Working with the poor: New insights and learnings from development practitioners*. Monrovia, CA: MARC Publications of World Vision International.
37. Myers, Bryant, L. (1999). *Walking with the Poor: Principles and practices of transformational development*. Orbis Books: Maryknoll, NY.
38. Nash, R. (2002). *Social justice and the Christian church*. Lima, OH: Renewal Press.
39. Petersen, Doug. (1996). *Not by Might nor by Power: A Pentecostal Theology of Social Concern in Latin America*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
40. Sach, J. (2005) *The end of Poverty*. New York: Penguin Press.
41. Samuel, Vinay & Sugden, Christopher. (2003). *The church in response to human need*. Eugene, OR: Wipf and Stock Publishers.
42. Sider, R. J. (2005). *Rich Christians in an age of hunger: Moving from affluence to generosity*. Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson.
43. Sider, Ron J. (1999). *Just generosity*. Baker Books.
44. Sugden, Christopher. (2000). *Gospel, culture and transformation*. Oxford: Regnum Books.
45. The aWake Project: *Uniting against the African AIDS Crisis* (2002). W. Publishing Group: Nashville, TN. www.wpublishinggroup.com

The Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization, Lausanne Occasional Papers (LOP)

46. “At risk people” (LOP 34, 49 pp.)
http://community.gospelcom.net/lcwe/assets/LOP34_IG5.pdf
47. “Business as Mission” report (LOP 59, 88 pp.)
http://www.lausanne.org/lcwe/assets/LOP59_IG30.pdf
48. “Evangelism and Social Responsibility” (LOP 21)
<http://www.lausanne.org/Brix?pageID=14748>
49. “Holistic Mission” report (LOP 33, 70 pp)
http://www.lausanne.org/lcwe/assets/LOP33_IG4.pdf
50. “Reconciliation as the Mission of God” (LOP 51, pp 58.)
http://community.gospelcom.net/lcwe/assets/LOP51_IG22.pdf
51. Yamamori, T., Myers, B. & Conner, D. (Eds.). (1995). *Serving with the poor in Asia: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.

52. Yamamori, T., Myers, B. & Luscombe, K.. (Eds.). (1998). *Serving with the urban poor: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
53. Yamamori, T., Myers, B., Padilla, C.R. & Rake, G. (1997). *Serving with the poor in Latin America: Cases in holistic ministry*. Federal Way, WA: World Vision Resources.
54. Yoder, J.H. (1984). *The priestly Kingdom: Social ethics as gospel*. Notre Dame, IN: University of Notre Dame Press.

SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by JoAnn Butrin, PhD, May 14, 2009