

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

HIS 642 HISTORY OF SIGNS AND WONDERS IN MINISTRY

Gary B. McGee

Fall 2001

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In the last two hundred years, radical evangelicals and Pentecostals have sought to minister in miraculous “signs and wonders” to achieve the evangelization of the world before the imminent return of Christ. This course examines the emergence of the “radical strategy” in mission as adapted by movements in the 19th Century, as well as the later Pentecostal and charismatic movements, to the recent signs and wonders movement with its teachings on “strategic-level” spiritual warfare. Key personalities, publications, theological perspectives, and results will be analyzed.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

As a result of this course, each student should be able:

1. To discuss the origins of the contemporary interest in supernatural manifestations of power for ministry at home and abroad.
2. To trace the development of movements that have emphasized different aspects of the supernatural in ministry.
3. To analyze the contributions of key personalities who have promoted the need for signs and wonders in evangelism.
4. To analyze the connection of miracles to ministry and mission endeavors.

TEXTBOOKS

- Kydd, Ronald A. N. *Healing through the Centuries: Models for Understanding*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1998.
- Mullin, Robert Bruce. *Miracles & the Modern Religious Imagination*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1996.
- Rommen, Edward, ed. *Spiritual Power and Missions: Raising the Issues*. Evangelical Missiological Society Series #3. Pasadena, Calif.: William Carey Library, 1995.
- Wagner, C. Peter. *Confronting the Powers: How the New Testament Church Experienced the Power of Strategic Level Spiritual Warfare*. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 1996.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Consistent classroom attendance.
2. Mastery of the textbooks and other assigned readings.
3. Two written classroom presentations on assigned personalities/topics.
4. Successful completion of a comprehensive examination.

GRADING

1 st Presentation	25%
2 nd Presentation	25%
Comprehensive examination	30%
Reading evaluation	20%

CAUTIONS

1. Late work may be penalized.
2. Incompletes will only be given due to exceptional circumstances.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. The nature of miracles
2. Signs and wonders in ministry to 1800
3. Impact of the Enlightenment and scientific thinking in the West on ministry/mission
4. The emergence of the “radical strategy” in the 19th Century
5. Related developments in the 19th Century
6. Pentecostal perspectives
7. Charismatic perspectives
8. Third Wave perspectives
9. New Apostolic Reformation perspectives
10. Reflection

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Aker, Benny C., and Gary B. McGee, eds. *Signs & Wonders in Ministry*. Springfield, Mo.: Gospel Publishing House, 1996.

Allen, David. *The Unfailing Stream: A Charismatic Church History in Outline*. Tonbridge, U.K.: Sovereign World, 1994.

Anderson, Allan H., and Walter J. Hollenweger. *Pentecostals after a Century: Global Perspectives on a Movement in Transition*. Sheffield, U.K.: Sheffield Academic Press, 1999.

Burgess, Stanley M. *The Holy Spirit: Ancient Christian Traditions*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1984.

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- Burgess, Stanley M., ed. *New International Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Chappell, Paul G. "The Divine Healing Movement in America." Ph.D. diss., Drew University, 1983.
- Dawson, John. *Taking Our Cities for God*. Lake Mary, Fla.: Creation House, 1989.
- _____. *Healing America's Wounds*. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 1994.
- DeArteaga, William. *Quenching the Spirit: Discover the Real Spirit Behind the Charismatic Controversy*. Orlando: Creation House, 1996.
- Deere, Jack. *Surprised by the Power of the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1993.
- _____. *Surprised by the Voice of God*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1996.
- Dempster, Murray W., Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Petersen, eds. *Called & Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1991.
- Faupel, D. William. *The Everlasting Gospel: The Significance of Eschatology in the Development of Pentecostal Thought*. Sheffield, U.K.: Sheffield Academic Press, 1996.
- Goff, Jr., James R. *Fields White Unto Harvest: Charles F. Parham and the Missionary Origins of Pentecostalism*. Fayetteville: University of Arkansas Press, 1988.
- Goldingay, John, ed. *Signs, Wonders and Healing: Seven prominent Christians debate today's issues*. Leicester, U.K.: Inter-Varsity Press, 1989.
- Greig, Gary S., and Kevin N. Springer, eds. *The Kingdom and the Power*. Ventura, Calif.: Regal Books, 1993.
- Haggard, Ted. *Primary Purpose*. Orlando: Creation House, 1995.
- Harrell, Jr., David Edwin. *All Things Are Possible: The Healing and Charismatic Revivals in Modern America*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1975.
- Hyatt, Eddie L. *2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity*. Tulsa: Hyatt International Ministries, 1996.
- Hiebert, Paul G. "The Flaw of the Excluded Middle." In *Anthropological Reflection on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
- Hollenweger, Walter J. *Pentecostalism: Origins and Developments Worldwide*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1997.
- Kraft, Charles H. *Christianity and Power*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine Books, 1989.

- Ma, Wonsuk, and Robert P. Menzies, eds. *Pentecostalism in Context: Essays in Honor of William W. Menzies*. Sheffield, U.K.: Sheffield Academic Press, 1997.
- Martin, Ralph, and Peter Williamson, eds. *John Paul II and the New Evangelization: How You Can Bring Good News to Others*. San Francisco: Ignatius Press, 1995.
- McAlpine, Thomas H. *Facing the Powers: What are the Options?* Monrovia, Calif.: MARC, 1995.
- _____. *By Word, Work and Wonder*. Monrovia, Calif.: MARC, 1995.
- McClung, Jr., L. Grant, ed. *Azusa Street and Beyond: Pentecostal Missions and Church Growth in the Twentieth Century*. South Plainfield, N.J.: Bridge Publishing, 1986.
- McConnell, C. Douglas, ed. *The Holy Spirit and Mission Dynamics*. Evangelical Missiological Society Series #5. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1997.
- McGee, Gary B. "Pentecostal Phenomena and Revivals in India: Implications for Indigenous Church Leadership." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 20 (July 1996): 112-17.
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- _____. "Miracles and Mission Revisited." *International Bulletin of Missionary Research*. 25 (October 2001 forthcoming).
- Murphy, Ed. *Handbook of Spiritual Warfare*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1992.
- Nienkirchen, Charles W. *A. B. Simpson and the Pentecostal Movement*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1992.
- Otis, Jr., George. *The Last of the Giants*. Tarrytown, N.Y.: Chosen Books, 1991.
- Pomerville, Paul A. *The Third Force in Missions*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson Publishers, 1985.
- Pousson, Edward K. *Spreading the Flame: Charismatic Churches and Missions Today*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992.
- Riss, Richard M. *Latter Rain: The Latter Rain movement of 1948 and the Mid-Twentieth Century Evangelical Awakening*. Mississauga, Ont.: Honeycomb Visual Productions, 1987.
- Ruthven, Jon. *On the Cessation of the Charismata: The Protestant Polemic on Postbiblical Miracles*. Sheffield, U.K.: Sheffield Academic Press, 1993.
- Saldanha, Julian. *Patterns of Evangelisation in Mission History*. Mumbai: St. Paul Publications, 1988.

Shibley, David. *A Force in the Earth: The Move of the Holy Spirit in World Evangelization*. Orlando: Creation House, 1997.

Swartley, Willard M., ed. *Essays on Spiritual Bondage and Deliverance*. Occasional Papers No. 11. Elkhart, Ind.: Institute of Mennonite Studies, 1988.

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White, Tom. *Breaking Strongholds: How Spiritual Warfare Sets Captives Free*. Ann Arbor, Mich.: Vine Books, 1993.

Wimber, John, with Kevin Springer. *Power Evangelism*. San Francisco: Harper and Row, 1988.

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Wink, Walter. *Engaging the Powers*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1995.

SPECIFIC DATA

Syllabus prepared by Gary B. McGee, August 17, 2001.