

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
MHT 529 / PTH527 / THE 545
THEOLOGY OF MISSION

R. Paul Wood, D.Min.

Summer I - May 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

An examination of the mission of the Church and various models of Christian missions from Biblical, theological, and historical perspectives. This interdisciplinary study, integrating theory and praxis, is designed to move the student toward a more responsible understanding, imaging, and proclamation of the Kingdom of God in the diverse cultural milieus of our global village.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

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

1. Present the Biblical and theological basis of the mission of the Church in the world.
2. Understand and explain basic paradigms in the theology of mission.
3. Understand and analyze contemporary challenges in the theology of mission.
4. Understand and respond to a personal role in the mission of the Church.
5. Define and articulate clearly the missionary task.
6. Understand and develop biblically sound guidelines for the fulfillment of the mission given to the Church.

TEXTBOOKS

Van Engen, Charles, Nancy Thomas, and Robert Gallagher, eds. *Footprints of God: A Narrative Theology of Mission*. Monrovia, CA: Marc: World Vision, 1999.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven C. Hawthorne, eds. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*, Third edition. Pasadena: William Carey Library, 1999.

York, John V., *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*. Springfield: Logion, 2000.

METHODOLOGY

The teaching-learning approach will blend pedagogical and andragogical principles. The methodology will include lectures, guest presenters, class discussions, small group discussions, collateral reading, and applied research.

COURSE CONTENT

SECTION ONE: An Introduction to the Study of Mission

SECTION TWO: The Covenants and Mission

- The Older Covenant
- The New Covenant

SECTION THREE: Theological Issues and Mission

SECTION FOUR: Changing Historical Paradigms in Mission

SECTION FIVE: Contemporary Challenges to Mission

- Universality versus Universalism
- Proclamation versus Dialogue
- Contextualization versus Syncretism
- Salvation Theology versus Liberation Theology
- Evangelism and Social Concern
- The Urban Challenge
- The Islamic Challenge
- Women in Mission

SECTION SIX: The Missionary and the Mission

- The Local Church
- The Sending Agency
- The Missionary
- The Assemblies of God World Mission

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Attendance, preparation, and consistent participation in class activities.
- B. *Missions in the Age of the Spirit*: Read and write a two (2) page evaluative interaction of the book. On the cover page of the evaluation state clearly how thoroughly you read the assigned book. **(Due: May 12, 2003)**
- C. *Footprints of God: A Narrative Theology of Mission*: Read and write a two (2) page evaluative interaction of the book. On the cover page of the evaluation state clearly how thoroughly you read the book. **(Due: May 19, 2003)**
- D. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement*: Read the assigned articles in each of the four major divisions of the reader. Write a two (2) page evaluative interaction with the articles in each major divisions. On the cover page of each evaluation state clearly how thoroughly you read the assigned articles. **(Due: May 27, 2003)**

- Division One: “The Biblical Perspective”
Assigned Articles: 1,2,4,5,9,13,14,17, 20,21,25,26,27.
- Division Two: “The Historical Perspective”
Assigned Articles: 33, 35, 37, 40, 44, 45, 50.
- Division Three: “The Cultural Perspective”
Assigned Articles: 54, 55, 56, 59, 61, 62, 65, 66, 68, 69.
- Division Four: “The Strategic Perspective”
Assigned Articles: 72, 77, 78, 81, 85, 87, 89, 91, 94, 95, 96, 102, 103, 107, 109, 111, 112, 115, 119, 120, 123.

Each report should be typed and double-spaced.

- E. A 12 - 15 page scholarly paper written **exclusively** for this course. Good research, careful documentation, and Turabian format are expected. **(Due: June 11, 2003)**
- F. Satisfactorily complete the final examination. **(May 30, 2003)**

DUE DATES FOR COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

| DUE DATE | ASSIGNMENT |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| Monday - May 12 | First Textbook Interaction |
| Monday - May 19 | Second Textbook Interaction |
| Tuesday - May 27 | Third Textbook Interaction |
| Friday - May 30 | Final Examination |
| Monday – June 11 | Scholarly Paper |

NOTE: Assignments submitted after class time on the due date will receive a grade reduction of 5 points per day or any part thereof.

GRADING PROCEDURE

| ASSIGNMENT | GRADE VALUE |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Class Preparation and Participation | 5% |
| Textbook Interactions | 30% |
| Scholarly Paper | 25% |
| Final Examination | 40% |

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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- Blauw, Johannes. *The Missionary Nature of the Church*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans, 1974.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*: Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1994.
- Coleman, Robert E. *The Master's Way of Personal Evangelism*. Wheaton, Illinois: Crossway Books, 1997
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- Kaiser, Walter C., Jr. *Toward an Old Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishing House, 1991.
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- Kane, Herbert. *Christian Missions in Biblical Perspective*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.
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SPECIFIC DATA

Prepared by Dr. R. Paul Wood, April 2003.