Introduction to Missions MS518 (Fall 2007)

I. Purpose of the Course
This course is designed to give you an introductory overview of the world missionary enterprise. The emphasis will be on developing perspectives that inspire and motivate you to action on behalf of world missions. We will study biblical, historical, cultural, and strategic perspectives relative to world missions.

II. Course Objectives

A Mind for Truth: Deepening Your Understanding
• To understand and articulate a biblical theology of world missions.
• To understand the priority of world missions in Christian life and ministry.
• To understand the biblical nature and mission of the Church, especially as it relates to starting, growing and reproducing churches as a vital part of the Mission of God (Missio Dei).
• To understand the biblical, theological, historical, and cultural roots from which contemporary missions have developed.
• To be aware of the varied models and structures used today for the advancement of cross-cultural evangelism.
• To be acquainted with the extensive literature relating to the world missionary enterprise and to think through how it can be used in your life and ministry.
• To understand critical issues and trends in contemporary missions.

A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affections
• To be a World Christian and have a broken heart for the lost, especially for the unreached people groups (nations), the poor and the persecuted of the world.
• To develop a life-long commitment to pray for missionaries and for the lost.
• To be motivated to take personal action—giving time, talents and treasures, sacrificially and joyfully—toward the advancement of the cause of world missions.

A Life for Ministry: Changing Your Behavior
• To lay a strong foundation for further study and personal involvement in cross-cultural missions, especially for those planning to become cross-cultural missionaries.
• To lay a strong foundation for understanding, guiding, and promoting missions from a local base, especially for those planning to assume leadership roles in a local church.
• To obtain a set of criteria for evaluating modern missions programs, issues, trends, proposals, and organizations.
III. Course Format
The course will be taught in 13 three–hour sessions beginning Wednesday, August 22, 2007, and ending Wednesday, November 28, 2007. Classroom sessions will include lecture (including guest lecturers), class interaction, student presentations and reports, video presentations, self-study exercises, and small group interaction. Individual and small group work sessions will be conducted during the class time. Group study outside of class is required.

Office Hours: You can schedule an appointment with Dr. Childers through his administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler, at 407-366-9493 x219 or jsisler@rts.edu. Appointments are normally scheduled on Wednesday from 1:15 p.m. - 3:15 p.m. and Thursday from 10:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m. Additional times may be arranged by contacting Joyce. Your teaching assistant is Clay Nettles (claynettles7@yahoo.com) at 321-277-4765. Please contact Clay first for all issues regarding the course. He will refer you to Dr. Childers if appropriate.

IV. Course Texts
Required:


Mission Reader: A compilation of articles related to current issues and trends in contemporary missions.
Highly Recommended:


**Recommended:**


V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation

This course requires attendance and participation at all class sessions. Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed all of the assigned readings by the required dates. Class will begin promptly at 8:00 AM. Tardiness, unexcused absence and lack of class participation will impact your final grade. You are required to read thoughtfully the assigned Class Articles (See Course Assignment Due Dates below) before attending class each week.

NOTE: Your personal class notes must be dated and typed (or legibly hand-written) for every class period you attend. Designate the class periods you attend as August 22—Class One, October 24—Class Three, etc. followed by the personal class notes you made during that period. These notes will be included as a significant part of your missions portfolio (20% of your grade) turned in at the end of the class.

B. Reading Assignments (20%)

1. *Let the Nations be Glad* by John Piper (Due October 3) (5%)
You are required to read this book thoughtfully (not simply skim) and write a 1 page reading report (single spaced, 12 pt. font) using the format found in the Reading Report found toward the end of this syllabus.

2. Mission Biography Report—*From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya (a biographical history of Christian missions)* by Ruth Tucker (Due October 24) (10%)
You are required to read any eleven chapters from Parts I-III of this book. You are then required to write a report (three pages, single-spaced, 12 pt. font) expounding the most significant personal and practical insights you gained from your reading.

Selected readings have been assigned from Bosch’s important book. It will not be read in its entirety. These readings are foundational to the course. Please see the Course Assignment Due Dates (below) for a list of these readings. You are also required to write a 1 page reading report (single spaced, 12 pt. font) using the Reading Report form found toward the end of this syllabus.

4. Mission Reader (Graded as part of Final Examination)
These articles and case studies will be referred to in class and are necessary for a complete understanding of the course content. You are required to read the assigned weekly articles and case studies (See Course Assignment Due Dates below) from the Mission Reader before class. While you will be responsible for all articles on the final examination, Dr. Childers may ask you to focus on a particular article for each week. You will be asked on the Final Examination to indicate in writing the percentage of the Mission Reader assignments you have read thoughtfully (not merely skimmed).

NOTE: These reading reports above will not be turned in on the due dates but must be dated on or before the due date (and included in the student’s portfolio notebook due on the last day of finals week) in order to receive full credit.
C. Prayer for the Nations (15%)  
You are required to pray for 30 consecutive days for the Unreached People Groups of the world before November 28, 2007, using the book Johnstone, Patrick, Operation World, 21st Century Edition as a guide (or a comparable prayer guide). In addition, you must complete a Mission Prayer Report by November 28, 2007. While there are no minimum page requirements this report must consist of the 3 components below.

**Mission Prayer Report Components:**

- **Mission Prayer Plan** developed in advance, determining which people group(s) you will pray for on each of the 30 days. This plan must be completed no later than October 24, 2007 and is to be dated and turned in with the other two sections (below) as part of the student’s portfolio (described below) that is due on the last day of finals week.

- **Mission Prayer Journal** for each of the 30 days. The 30 written journal entries must also be dated and consist of a minimum of 2 or 3 sentences indicating something similar to, “Today (today’s date and time listed) I prayed for the Thai people who are in the midst of cultural shift. I prayed that the government would become active in solving the morality problems in Bangkok and that Christians would be a part of that solution.”

- **Mission Prayer Reflections** on ways in which this period of prayer has helped you to grow spiritually and in your commitment to prayer for the Nations.

**NOTE:** Students are strongly encouraged to fulfill this assignment by praying with others (friends, family, classmates, etc.), rather than merely praying alone.

D. Group Discussions & In-Class Reports (30%)

On the first day of class the students will sign up to be in a group of 6 people. These groups will then determine: 1) the group leaders for the 12 meetings (every student is required to lead two meetings) and 2) the time and place of the weekly meetings (lunch immediately after class is suggested). The group leader for the first weekly meeting is required to submit to the professor at the end of the first class the names of the group members. The requirements for this assignment include:

1. **Weekly Individual Preparation (10%)**
   - Read thoughtfully the assigned weekly Group Articles. (See Course Assignment Due Dates below). Sometimes the professor may ask you to concentrate on one of the articles. In this case the other articles are still to be read but may not be discussed.
   - Formulate your answers to the following 3 questions:
     1. **Summarize**: What are the major ideas (themes, perspectives, etc.) found in these articles?
     2. **Evaluate**: What are the strengths and weaknesses of these major ideas (critiques)?
     3. **Apply**: What is the practical value or relevance of these ideas to your ministry?

2. **Weekly Group Meeting Participation (10%)**
   - Meet weekly with all group members at a mutually agreed upon time and location for a minimum of 1 hour. Note: Students are required not to meet during the chapel time.
   - Discuss your answers to the 3 questions above.
   - Formulate your mutually agreed upon answers and method of reporting to the class (see below).
   - Pray together for: 1) a deeper understanding and application of these concepts to your lives and ministries, and 2) the shared needs of group members.
3. **Group Leadership Participation (5%)**
   All group members are required to lead the group periodically. Leadership of the group should be rotated as evenly as possible among all members of the group. Each group member should lead the group at least 2 times (thus 6 maximum members). The group leader’s responsibility includes:
   - Facilitating the group meeting by leading the discussion/prayer time and helping the group start and end on time.
   - Helping the group attain a satisfactory consensus in answering the 3 questions above.
   - Selecting appropriate group members to assist the leader in making an in-class report of the group’s 3 answers when assigned (See below).
   - Submit to the professor in the portfolio (these must be dated according to due date to get full credit):
     a) The group leader’s name
     b) The names of the group members in attendance at that weekly meeting
     c) A written summary (1-2 pages max) of the groups’ mutually agreed upon answers to the 3 questions (above)

4. **In-Class Reporting (5%)**
   All groups are required to lead an in-class report and discussion of the group’s answers to the 3 questions:
   (1) What are the major ideas (themes, perspectives, etc.) found in these articles?,
   (2) What are the strengths and weaknesses of these major ideas (critiques)?
   (3) What is the practical value or relevance of these ideas to your ministries?

Each group will be assigned classroom dates to give their report. These reports should be designed to stimulate discussion by highlighting the group’s perspectives, concerns and questions. Following the group’s report, the group’s designated leader(s) will facilitate a class discussion. Creative learning exercises that will facilitate class discussion and wide participation are encouraged. The other groups must be prepared to respond (rebut, affirm, amplify, etc.) to the weekly reports. The purpose of this in-class exercise is to facilitate a time of peer learning under the oversight of the professor.
   - The class hour of the report (8:00, 9:00 or 11:00 AM) will be determined by the professor each week so please be ready to present in the first hour.
   - The class report/discussion should be 25-30 minutes long.
   - The weekly group leader is responsible for the overall in-class report, including starting and ending the report on time.
   - The reports may include a handout for class members but this is not required.
E. Group Mission Project (15%)  
Each group (not each student as in the summer intensive course) is required to complete one of the following mission projects and submit a 15-20 page paper, not including appendices, (double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) and a PowerPoint Presentation (12 slides minimum) by December 5 at 11:00am.

The final project (the paper and PowerPoint presentation) must be submitted in both hardcopy (printed on 6 slides per page format) and softcopy (Microsoft Word and PowerPoint files burned on a CD).

The Group Mission Project must give evidence of the integration and application of course readings and lectures. You are strongly encouraged to see this assignment as an opportunity to develop a project that will be truly useful to you and others in developing strong, missional ministries in the future.

Group Projects receiving an “A” may be posted on the professor’s website as model projects for other students and Christian leaders to download.

1. Develop a mission course for an Adult Sunday School class.*
   You have just been invited to teach a 12-week mission course in your local church Sunday School. You have been selected because of your commitment to missions, your growing expertise in the field and your teaching abilities. You may choose the format in which it is presented, but it should include the following:
   • A one-paragraph course description.
   • A brief set of course objectives (knowledge, affection and skill objectives).
   • A detailed outline for each class period (listing main and sub-points, including Scripture, assume a 45-minute class period).
   • A list of teaching resources (books, tapes, etc.).

2. Design a missions program for a local church.*
   Design a missions program for a church. You may choose the format in which it is presented, but it should include the following:
   • A description of the church–urban/rural, independent/denominational, new/old, etc. (You may assume any reasonable church model, real or hypothetical.)
   • A statement of mission vision, philosophy of ministry, values, strategy, etc.
   • A description of the organizational oversight of the program (e.g., staff, elders, etc.).
   • Key components of the program—giving evidence of options and/or creative approaches.
   • Missions conference basic program outline.
   • A list of the resources you consulted. You must include materials from Advancing Churches in Mission Commitment (ACMC) https://www.gospelcom.net/acmc/www/index.pl

3. Conduct a cross-cultural interview with a non-Christian(s).
   Interview a non-Christian(s) from a different culture than that of those in your group (such as an international student from UCF). Before the interview, develop interview questions with your group focusing on the topic of cultural barriers, practices, and religion. Keep a record of your questions, responses, and observations to include as part of the written report. Do the necessary research to provide a written summary of this person’s unique religious history, beliefs, worldview, etc. As part of your research, identify a mission agency or organization that is working with this or a similar culture. Interview someone from that agency/organization to validate and further explore the issues of bringing the Gospel to that culture. Include a summary of the lessons learned regarding how best to reach that culture and a list of the resources you consulted.
4. **Study a mission-minded local church (case study).**
   Conduct a thorough, case study analysis of a local mission-minded church, including an onsite visit, attendance at a committee meeting and an interview with a missions leader of the church. Describe the church’s mission vision, philosophy, values, and strategy. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the mission policy/program in light of the concepts learned in this course. List practical ways/reasons the church has supported the cause of global evangelization. Describe how the church could strengthen its present missions program.

*These assignments are adapted from William David Taylor’s *Introduction to Missions* course.

5. **Study a local international mission agency (case study).**
   Conduct a case study analysis of a local international mission agency, including an onsite visit and an interview with a mission agency leader. Describe the mission agency’s vision, philosophy, values, and strategy. Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the mission policy/program in light of the concepts learned in this course. List practical ways/reasons the agency has supported the cause of global evangelization. Describe how the agency could strengthen its present missions program. To date, only New Tribes Mission, Pioneers, Wycliffe, Great Commission Ministries, and Campus Crusade’s international ministries (like the Jesus Film Ministry) are approved for study. If you would like to study another organization, please submit your request in writing.

6. **Develop a Missionary Calling Workbook.**
   Do research and develop a theology/philosophy regarding the concept of missionary calling and guidance as this relates to knowing the will of God for one’s life vocation. How does God call or direct people into missionary service today? Give a biblical basis for your conclusion and scriptural explanations for the process involved. Develop a Workbook that helps an individual answer the question, “How can I know if God is calling me into full-time career missionary service?” You must include materials from *Send Me! Your Journey to the Nations* by Steven Hoke and Bill Taylor (on reserve in the library) and list all your resources.

7. **Worldwide Perspectives Integration Project.**
   Identify four to six of the most significant chapters in the *Worldwide Perspectives Workbook*. For each chapter, write an introduction that better integrates the lecture materials, assigned readings, group discussions and your group’s perspective on the chapter’s topic. Then offer at least two paragraphs of critique for each article in the chapter (including elements of strengths and weakness). Include a bibliography for each chapter, listing articles and/or resources that you have looked at for your research of this topic (Use the same format as the bibliography in this syllabus). Finally, provide an existing article (or write an original one) for addition to (or replacement of) the articles provided by *Worldwide Perspectives*. This article should be included in the introduction, critique and bibliography mentioned above.

8. **Propose a Mission Project—Be Creative and Innovative!**
   - Be creative and come up with your own Mission Project! (For example: “The Use of the Internet in World Missions: Web Resources, Training, Support, Communication, etc.” or “Youth and Children’s Curriculum for a Weekend Missions Conference”.)
   - Submit the proposal to my TA in writing with a description similar to the others above.
F. **Missions Portfolio and Open Book Final Examination (20%)**

1. **Missions Portfolio**

You are required to assemble all your course work into one organized, single notebook for grading purposes and so that you will have a personal mission resource to draw from in the future. Your portfolio must be organized into the categories outlined below and include properly dated assignments (on or before the due date) in order to get full credit. These portfolios must be turned in to RTS (Joyce Sisler will have a box near her desk) by 5:00PM, Tuesday, December 11 (the last day of finals). These portfolios will be returned to you.

**I. Mission Course Notes**

   A. Course Syllabus (Not turned in for grading)
   B. Course Lecture Notes (Not turned in for grading unless including handwritten notes)
   C. Personal Class Notes (Dated)
      - must be dated and typed (or legibly hand-written) for every class period attended
      - designate class periods as August 22—Class One, October 24—Class Three, etc.

**II. Mission Reading Reports**

   A. *Let the Nations be Glad* by John Piper (Dated)
   B. *Transforming Mission* by David Bosch (Dated)
   C. Mission Biographies: *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* by Ruth Tucker (Dated)

**III. Prayer for the Nations**

   A. Mission Prayer Schedule (Dated)
   B. Mission Prayer Journal (30 Dated Entries)
   C. Mission Prayer Reflections (Dated)

**IV. Group Discussions & Reports**

   A. 12 Group Reports (Dated)
      1. Group leader’s name
      2. Group members in attendance
      3. Written summary of group answers to the 3 questions
   B. Notes on Group & Class Discussions (Dated)

**V. Missions Project**

   A. Hardcopy
   B. Softcopy (on CD)

**VI. Final Examination**

The Final Examination will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments, lectures (including visiting lecturers), and videos. The final examination questions will be made available in class toward the end of the semester. The exam will be open book, open notes and open bible with no time or length limit. The answers to the final exam questions must be typed and included in your portfolio.

You will be asked on the exam to indicate in writing the percentage of the assigned 1) *Mission Reader* and 2) *Perspectives Reader* you have read thoughtfully (not merely skimmed). You will also be asked to do an anonymous Peer Evaluation to evaluate the participation and preparedness of the other members of your group.

**NOTE:** Students are required to prepare for the exam independently. Therefore all exam review questions must be answered solely by the student. Preparing for the final exam by reading answers written by others to the review questions below is considered cheating.
VI. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

A. Late Assignments Policy

All assignments are due before class begins on the appropriate date. Please do not ask my teaching assistant or me for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), please email a written request (to my teaching assistant) asking to waive the late penalty with the assignment. Please also discuss any such special circumstances with my teaching assistant. No assignments will be received after December 5. We trust you to be honest in the dating of your assignments since they will not be graded until after the last day of the semester.

B. Missions Course Grading Percentages:

1) Mission Reading (20%)
   • Piper Reading Report (5%)
   • Tucker Mission Biography Report (10%)
   • Bosch Reading Report (5%)

2) Mission Prayer Report (15%)

3) Group Discussions & Presentations (30%)
   • Individual Preparation (10%)
   • Group Membership Participation (10%)
   • Group Leadership Participation (5%)
   • In-Class Reporting Participation (5%)

4) Group Mission Project (15%)

5) Missions Portfolio and Final Examination (20%)

Note: Class attendance and participation will impact the final grade.
M518 Fall 2007 Course Assignment Due Dates

Perspectives: *Worldwide Perspectives* edited by Crossman
Reader: *Mission Reader* edited by Childers

**Introduction**

August 22
(Course Introduction & Orientation)

**The Biblical Perspective**

August 29
Group Articles: Bosch 389-393, Bosch 492-496, Perspectives: Stott 3-7
Group Topics: *Nature of God in Mission* (Missio Dei) & *Word of God in Mission*
Class Articles: Perspectives: (Old Testament) Verkuyl 13-16, Stott 21-26,
Reader: Winter-*The Meaning of Mission* (1 page)

September 5
Group Articles: Bosch 393-408, Perspectives: Piper 17-20
Group Topics: *The Glory of God in Mission & The Goals of God in Mission*
Class Articles: Perspectives (New Testament) Verkuyl 68-71, Piper 76-78,
Reader: Edwards-*Concerning the End for Which God Created the World*

**The Historical Perspective**

September 12
Group Articles: Perspectives: Blincoe 99-111, Miller 112-118
Group Topics: *Five Epochs of Mission History & Early Eastern Missions*
Class Articles: Bosch 262-302 (*Enlightenment Part 1*)

September 19
Group Articles: Perspectives: Winter 125-134, Crossman 135-144
Group Topics: *4 Men, 3 Eras, 2 Transitions & Pioneers of the Movement*
Class Articles: Bosch 302-345 (*Enlightenment Part 2*)

**The Strategic Perspective**

September 26
Group Articles: Perspectives: Dayton 161-166, Winter 168-172, McGavran 176-185
Group Topics: *The People of God*
Class Articles: Bosch 511-519 (*Modes of Mission*), Perspectives: Johnstone 186-196,
Reader: Pratt-*To the Jew First* and Hiebert Case Study-A *Group Conversion*

October 3
Group Articles: Perspectives: McGavran 216-219, Garrison 220-228
Group Topics: *The Church of God*
Class Articles: Bosch 368-89, 457-74 (*The Missional Church*)

Piper Reading Report Due (5%)
October 10  
(Week 8)  
Group Articles: Perspectives: Dayton 230-232, Myers 242-244, Pickett & Hawthorne 245-249, Moffitt 249-252  
Group Topics:  *Poverty and Persecution*  
Class Articles: Bosch 474-489, 498-510 (*Mission’s Witness Nature & Time Frame*), Reader: *The Persecuted Church*  

October 17  
Fall Break (Reading Week)  

**The Cultural Perspective**  

October 24  
(Week 9)  
Group Articles: Perspectives: Kwast 272-275, Hiebert 276-285, Richardson 286-291  
Group Topics:  *Contextualization (Part 1)*  
Class Articles: Bosch 420-432 (*Contextualization*), 432-447 (*Liberation*)  
**Mission Biography Report Due (10%)**  
**Prayer Plan Completion Deadline (Mission Prayer Report Due November 30)**  

October 31  
(Week 10)  
Group Topics:  *Contextualization (Part 2)*  

**Mission Trends & Issues**  

November 7  
(Week 11)  
**Mission Speakers & Leaders**  

November 14  
(Week 12)  
Group Articles: Perspectives: McClung & Filidis 233-237, Flidis 238-239  
Group Topics:  *Urban World and Global Migration*  

November 21  
(Week 13)  
Group Topics:  *Modalities and Sodalities*  
Class Articles: Reader: Christian Aid-Indigenous Missions, McQuilken-Should We Stop?, Schwartz-Dependency  
**Bosch Reading Report Due (5%)**
November 28 (Week 14)  Group Articles: Reader: Hoke & Taylor-Charting Your Journey, Winter-Join the Movement, Walker-Seven Dynamics
Group Topics: Charting Your Journey and Joining the Movement
Class Articles: Perspectives: Moore & Crossman, 375-380, Reader: Case Study—The Call of God

Prayer for the Nations – Missions Prayer Report Due (10%)

December 5  Mission Group Project Due (20%)

December 11  Mission Portfolio & Final Examination Due
  • Mission Reader reading (Question on Final Exam)
  • Perspectives Reader reading (Question on Final Exam)
READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Title of Book
Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer some specific application to your own ministry—demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

I read the entire book thoughtfully (not merely skimmed)? Yes ___ No ___ % Read (0-100%) ___
Personal Student Information

Please fill this out and turn it in during the first class.

Name:

Spouse name:

Children, name(s) and age(s):

RTS degree program/emphasis:

Years at RTS-Orlando:

Church presently attending:

Denomination background (Southern Baptist, PCA, etc.):

Desired future ministry role (pastor, church planter, missionary, counselor, etc.):

What are your expectations of the course? What would you like to learn?

What is a specific, personal prayer request you would like the professor to be remembering in prayer for you this semester?