

Introduction to Missions MS518 (Fall 2008)

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 14 three-hour sessions beginning Wednesday, August 20, 2008, and ending Wednesday, November 26, 2008. 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 3:15pm--4:45pm. Additional times may be arranged by contacting Joyce. Your teaching assistant is Clay Nettles (claynettlles7@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:

Bartholomew, Craig G. and Goheen, Michael W., *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story*, Baker Academic, 2004.

Crossman, Meg, ed., *Worldwide Perspectives: Biblical, Historical, Strategic, and Cultural Dimensions of God's Plan for the Nations*. Seattle: YWAM Publishing, 2003. The student is responsible for specific articles (see Course Assignment Due Dates below).

Johnstone, Patrick, *Operation World, 21st Century Edition (When We Pray, God Listens.)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2002.

Piper, John, *Let The Nations Be Glad! (The Supremacy of God in Missions)*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books, 2003.

Tucker, Ruth A., *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya (A Biographical History of Christian Missions)*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1983.

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

Highly Recommended:

- Allen, Roland, *Missionary Methods, St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962.
- _____. *The Spontaneous Expansion of the Church and the Causes Which Hinder It.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1962.
- Bavinck, J. H., *An Introduction To the Science of Missions.* Philadelphia: Presbyterian and Reformed, 1960.
- Bosch, David J., *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission.* Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1996.
- Chaney, Charles L. *Church Planting at the End of the Twentieth Century.* Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., 1993.
- Conn, Harvie M., *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology and Mission in Dialogue.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1984.
- Guder, Darrell L., et. al. (eds.). *Missional Church: A Vision of the Sending of the Church in North America.* Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, 1998.
- Hiebert, Paul G., *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1985.
- _____. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues.* Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1994.
- Hoke, Steven and Bill Taylor, *Send Me! Your Journey to the Nations.* Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999.
- Johnstone, Patrick, *Operation World, 21st Century Edition (When We Pray, God Listen.).* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.
- Johnstone, Patrick, *The Church Is Bigger Than You Think.* Great Britain: Christian Focus, 1998.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott, *A History of the Expansion of Christianity.* New York: Harper & Brothers, 1938.
- Lovelace, Richard. *Renewal as a Way of Life.* Downers Grove: Intervarsity Press, 1995.
- Moreau, A. Scott, Corwin, Gary R. and McGee, Gary B. *Introducing World Missions: A Biblical, Historical and Practical Survey.* Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2004.
- Miller, Darrow L. *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures.* Seattle: YWAM, 1999.
- Miller, C. John (Jack). *Outgrowing the Ingrown Church.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan Publishers, 1999.
- Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions.* London: Penguin Books, 1990.
- Nevius, John, *Planting and Development of Missionary Churches.* Philadelphia: Reformed and Presbyterian Publishers, 1958.
- Newbigin, Lesslie, *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.
- _____. *The Open Secret: Introduction to a Theology of Missions.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Patterson, George and Richard Scoggins, *Church Multiplication Guide: Helping Churches to Reproduce Locally and Abroad.* Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1993.
- Siewert, John A. and Edna G. Valdez, eds., *Mission Handbook 1998-2000: U.S. and Canadian Christian Ministries Overseas 17th Edition.* Monrovia, CA: MARC.

Winter, Ralph D. and Steven Hawthorne, eds., *Perspectives On The World Christian Movement, Third Edition*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999.

Recommended:

Clowney, Edmund. *The Church: Contours of Christian Theology*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 1995.

Brock, Charles, *The Principles and Practice of Indigenous Church Planting*. Nashville: Broadman Press, 1981.

Greenway, Roger S. *Urban Evangelism in Latin America*. Philadelphia: Westminster Press, 1973.

_____. *Guidelines for Urban Church Planting*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1976.

_____. *Discipling the City*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1979.

Hesselgrave, David J. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: A Guide for Home and Foreign Missions*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House, 1980.

Silvoso, Ed, *That None Should Perish: How to Reach Entire Cities for Christ Through Prayer Evangelism*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1994.

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.

NOTE: Your personal class notes must be dated and typed for every class period you attend. Designate the class periods you attend as *August 20—Class One, September 3—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 1) (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 22) (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.

3. ***The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen (Due November 26) (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.

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.
- You are required to read thoughtfully the assigned **Class Articles** (See *Course Assignment Due Dates below*) before attending class each week.

C. Prayer for the Nations (20%)

You are required to pray for 30 consecutive days for the *Unreached People Groups* of the world before November 26, 2008, 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 26, 2008. 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 (NOT the report) must be completed no later than October 22, 2008. Your Prayer Plan is to be dated and submitted to your portfolio (with the other two sections below) on the due date.
- **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/Discussions (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 **Discussion Readings** (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 & Discussion Leading (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 this reading?,
- (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 (and engagement with) 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 maximum—including at least 10-15 minutes of class discussion/interaction.
- 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. Missions Portfolio and Open Book Final Examination (30%)

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 9 (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. 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. *The Drama of Scripture* by Craig Bartholomew & Michael Goheen (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. 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 3. 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%)
- Bartholomew & Goheen Reading Report (5%)

2) Mission Prayer Report (20%)

3) Group Discussions & Presentations (30%)

- Individual Preparation (10%)
- Group Membership Participation (10%)
- Group Leadership Participation (5%)
- In-Class Reporting Participation (5%)

4) Missions Portfolio (20%)

5) Final Examination (Take Home) (10%)

Note: Class attendance and participation will impact the final grade.

M518 Fall 2008 Course Assignment Due Dates

Perspectives: *Worldwide Perspectives* edited by Crossman

Reader: *Mission Reader* edited by Childers

Introduction

August 20
(Week 1) Course Introduction & Orientation

The Biblical Perspective

August 27
(Week 2) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 11-27, Perspectives: Stott 3-7
Group Topics: *The Bible & Story* and *The 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 3
(Week 3) **Missions Speakers**
Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 29-40, Perspectives: Piper 17-20
Group Topics: *Creation, the glory of God & the goals of 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 10
(Week 4) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 41-45, Perspectives: Blincoe 99-111, Miller 112-118
Group Topics: *The Fall, Epochs of Mission History*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Miller 112-118

September 17
(Week 5) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 47-59, Perspectives: Winter 125-134
Group Topics: *A People, 4 Men, 3 Eras, 2 Transitions & Pioneers of the Movement*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Crossman 135-144

The Strategic Perspective

September 24
(Week 6) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 59-79, Perspectives: Dayton 161-166, Winter 168-172, McGavran 176-185
Group Topics: *Israel, The People of God*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Johnstone 186-196,
Reader: Hiebert Case Study-*A Group Conversion*

- October 1
(Week 7) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 79-88, Perspectives: McGavran 216-219
Group Topics: *The Land, The Church of God*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Garrison 220-228
Piper Reading Report Due (5%)
- October 8
(Week 8) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 88-100, Perspectives: Dayton 230-232, Myers 242-244, Pickett & Hawthorne 245-249
Group Topics: *Kings, Poverty and Persecution*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Moffitt 249-252 Reader: *The Persecuted Church*
- October 15
Fall Break (Reading Week)
- The Cultural Perspective**
- October 22
(Week 9) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 100-112, Perspectives: Kwast 272-275, Hiebert 276-285
Group Topics: *Prophets & Contextualization (Part 1)*
Class Articles: Perspectives: Richardson 286-291
Mission Biography Report Due (10%)
Prayer Plan Completion Deadline (This is in preparation for the Mission Prayer Report Due November 26)
- October 29
(Week 10) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 113-127, Perspectives: Kraft 292-295, Hiebert 296-299, 314-316, Hesselgrave 322-326
Group Topics: *Waiting* (Intertestamental Period) & *Contextualization (Part 2)*
Class Articles: Bosch 447-457 (*Inculturation*), Reader: Parshall, *Going too Far, Winter, Going Far Enough*,
- Mission Trends & Issues**
- November 5
(Week 11) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 129-158, Perspectives: McClung & Filidis 233-237, Flidis 238-239
Group Topics: *Redemption, Urban World and Global Migration*
Class Articles: Reader: Phillips & Norsworthy-*World at Your Door*, Engle--*Getting Beyond Numbers, Greenway-Challenge of Cities*.
- November 12
(Week 12) Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 159-181, Reader: Winter-*Two Structures, Johnstone-Who Sends Missionaries*
Group Topics: *Kingdom, Modalities and Sodalities*
Class Articles: Reader: Christian Aid-*Indigenous Missions*, McQuilken-*Should We Stop?*, Schwartz-*Dependency*

- November 19
(Week 13)
- Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 182-206, Reader: Hoke & Taylor-*Charting Your Journey*
Group Topics: Church & World,
Class Articles: Perspectives: Moore & Crossman, 375-380, Reader: Case Study—*The Call of God*
- November 26
(Week 14)
- Discussion Readings: Bartholomew & Goheen: 207-213, Reader: Winter-*Join the Movement*, Walker-*Seven Dynamics*
Group Topics: Redemption: Accomplished, Your Story & God's Story
Bartholomew & Goheen Reading Report Due (5%)
Prayer for the Nations – Missions Prayer Report Due (10%)
- December 9
- Mission Portfolio & Final Examination Due (30%)**
- *Mission Reader* reading (Question(s) on Final Exam)
 - *Perspectives Reader* reading (Question(s) on Final Exam)

READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Please limit your report to one to two typed pages (single spaced). Write approximately one to two paragraphs per topic (*Overview, Critique, and Application*).

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?