

6MS518 Missions (2 credits)

RTS Washington DC, Fall 2009

Dr. John Hutchinson

Purpose of the Course

This course examines issues in church planting, mercy ministry and the world mission enterprise in light of today's challenges, opportunities, and obligations. The call to missions is examined, the theological mandate for missions is clarified, the historical advance of the Church through missions is reviewed, and strategies for effective contemporary missions are considered. There will be a number of guest lecturers for this course.

Course Format

The course will be taught in 6 four-hour sessions on Monday afternoons from 1:00pm to 5:00pm on Sept 21, 28, Oct 5, 19, 26, Nov 9 at McLean Presbyterian Church. Classroom sessions will include lecture (including guest lecturers) and class interaction.

Course Schedule

September 21 – Dr. John Hutchinson, Introduction to Missions

September 28 – Rev. Scott Seaton, the Theology of Church Planting

October 5 – Rev. Glen Hoburg and Rev. Duke Kwon, Center City Church Planting

October 19 – Dr. Amy Sherman, Mercy Ministry

October 26 – Kurt Nelson, World Missions

November 9 – TBA, World Missions

Course Texts

Required:

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

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

Keller, Tim, *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*, P&R Publishing, 2nd edition, 1997

Redeemer Church Planting Manual

<http://www.redeemer2.com/rstore/category.cfm?Category=23>

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 1:00 PM.

Tardiness, unexcused absence and lack of class participation will impact your final grade.

B. Reading Assignments (20%)

1. *The Drama of Scripture: Finding Our Place in the Biblical Story* by Craig Bartholomew and Michael Goheen (Due September 21st) (5%)

You are required to read this book thoughtfully (not simply skim) and write a 1-2 page reading report using the format found below.

2. *Redeemer Church Planting Manual* (Due October 19th) (5%)

You are required to read this book thoughtfully (not simply skim) and write a 1-2 page reading report using the format found below.

3. *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*, by Tim Keller (Due October 26th) (5%)

You are required to read this book thoughtfully (not simply skim) and write a 1-2 page reading report using the format found below.

4. *Let the Nations be Glad* by John Piper (Due November 9th) (5%)

You are required to read this book thoughtfully (not simply skim) and write a 1-2 page reading report using the format found below.

NOTE: These reading reports should be turned in on the due dates in person or by email to Jenny McGahey (jmccahey@rts.edu) at the RTS Washington DC office.

Reading Report Format

Please limit your report to one to two typed pages (single spaced, 12 pt. font). Write approximately one to two paragraphs per topic (Overview, Critique, and Application).

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.

Please include the following statement at the end of each reading report filled out and signed:

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

C. Final Examination (40%)

The Final Examination will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments and lectures (including visiting lecturers). The final examination study questions will be made available at the last class. The final exam will consist of three questions and will be open book, open notes and open bible with a 3 hour time limit. The answers to the final exam questions may be hand written or typed. The exam must be proctored by a Pastor, Elder or RTS employee. **(Due December 18th)**

D. Project Paper (40%)

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 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 (Jenny McGahey) asking to waive the late penalty with the assignment.

Professor

Dr. John Hutchinson, senior pastor of McLean Presbyterian Church

John Hutchinson was born in 1952 and grew up in Columbus, Mississippi, in a firmly grounded and active religious family, long-time members of the First Presbyterian Church (PCUS) (now Main Street Presbyterian Church PCA). He graduated from Mississippi State University in 1974 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. It was during this time that John came to faith in Christ through the witness of his roommate and the ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ. Four years later, with Masters of Divinity and Christian Education degrees from Reformed Theological Seminary, John accepted the call to serve as Assistant Pastor, then Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Augusta, Georgia. In 1984, John moved to Jacksonville, Florida to plant what became Christ Church (PCA) where he served as Senior Pastor for thirteen years. In 1998, John accepted the call to serve as Senior Pastor of McLean Presbyterian Church, McLean, Virginia. In 2005, John was awarded the Doctor of Ministry degree from Reformed Theological Seminary. John and his wife, Cynthia have three grown children: Catherine in New York City, Helen in Charlotte, NC, and John Jr. and his wife, Kathryn in Memphis, TN.

Guest Lecturers

Rev. Scott Seaton, senior pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church

Scott Seaton is the pastor of Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, a new church plant in Arlington which was organized in April, 2009. Prior to his role as a church planter, Scott served as the International Director for PCA missionaries serving in the Muslim world, an Assistant Pastor at Intown Community Church in Atlanta, and a missionary in Japan with the PCA's Mission to the World. Scott has been married to his wife Chris for 17 years, and they have three children, Claire, David and Audrey.

Rev. Glenn Hoburg, Senior Pastor

Glenn Hoburg came to Washington, DC in the summer of 2003 to assist with the planting of Grace DC. Their previous ministry experience working with the Presbyterian Church in America's campus ministry (RUF) at Harvard University, and on the staff of Christ the King Presbyterian Church, Cambridge, MA, encouraged their love of cities and vision for ministry. Glenn had also lived in Boston during the age of spandex while attending Berklee College of Music. Prior to that they attended Covenant Theological Seminary and served on the staff of two

churches, Christ Presbyterian in Nashville, TN (1990-1993) and Kirk of the Hills in St. Louis (1993-1997).

Rev. Duke Kwon, Associate Pastor

Duke is a graduate of Brown University (A.B., political science) and Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, where he received his Master of Divinity and Master of Theology (New Testament) degrees. Before coming to Washington, D.C., Duke served on the staffs of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at Brown University and the Rhode Island School of Design and Trinity Presbyterian Church in Providence, RI.

Dr. Amy Sherman, Senior Fellow at the Welfare Policy Center of the Hudson Institute, and Urban Ministries Advisor at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Amy is the founder and former Executive Director of Charlottesville, Abundant Life Ministries (CALM), a holistic, cross-cultural, whole-family, church-based outreach in an urban neighborhood of approximately 380 lower-income, single-parent families. From its Abundant Life Family Center in the heart of the neighborhood, CALM offers educational programs for children, mentoring for teens and Biblically-based job training programs for adults. Dr. Sherman is the author of three books: *Restorers of Hope: Reaching the Poor in Your Community with Church-based Ministries That Work* (Crossway Books, 1997); *The Soul of Development: Biblical Christianity and Economic Transformation in Guatemala* (Oxford University Press, 1997); and *Preferential Option: A Christian and Neoliberal Strategy for Latin America's Poor* (Eerdmans, 1992). Her articles and essays have appeared in such diverse publications as *Policy Review*, *First Things*, *Christianity Today*, *The Chronicle of Philanthropy*, *The American Enterprise*, *World*, *the Christian Century*, *The Washington Times*, *Christian Scholar's Review*, *Reason*, and *Books & Culture*. In 1996, Dr. Sherman was named by *Christianity Today* as one of the "Top 50 Evangelical Leaders Under Forty."

Dr. Sherman is a frequent speaker at church and public policy conferences on welfare reform, and provides on-site consulting services to churches starting or enhancing their community ministries. Her two most recent booklets for church leaders are *Establishing a Church-based, Welfare-to-Work Mentoring Ministry: A Practical "How-to" Guide* and *Sharing God's Heart for the Poor: Meditations for Worship, Prayer, and Service* (both available from Hudson Institute). She is also the author of the first major national study of the "Charitable Choice" provisions of the 1996 welfare reform law (the report, *The Growing Impact of Charitable Choice*, is available from the Center for Public Justice in Annapolis, MD.) She received her undergraduate degree from Messiah College in 1987 and her Ph.D. in foreign affairs/economic development from the University of Virginia in 1994.

Kurt Nelson, Executive Vice-President for Field Ministries, East-West Ministries International

Kurt and his wife Pat Nelson are long term missionaries working through East West Ministries International. Kurt has helped start churches and has been actively involved in mission work in Kazakhstan, China, Russia, Spain and India. This year Kurt will be working a great deal in Cuba.

Kurt is ministry leader for all of the East-West fields and serves as Executive Vice-President for

Field Ministries. In this capacity Kurt works alongside all East-West's field leaders to actively establish churches, equip leaders, and evangelize the lost in over 30 nations of the world.

East-West Ministries is involved in evangelism, training of nationals, and enabling nationals to establish grace-oriented churches. Their goal is to evangelize 1% of the world's un-reached people groups. East-West Ministries approach is on developing nationals who in turn become the trainers of church planters and leaders, so that ultimately the entire ministry can become nationalized. Effort is made to identify leaders with a strong work ethic to avoid an entitlement attitude. The goal is for each church to become self sustaining by the national church. Nationals are better equipped to plant churches and develop leaders in any nation or ethnic group as, they understand the language and culture.