Introduction to Missions MS518 (June 4-8, 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: Developing Your Skills
• 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 is designed with three major components: 1) pre-class assignments, 2) classroom sessions on campus (June 4-8, 2007) and 3) post-class assignments. Classroom sessions may include: lecture (including guest lecturers), student reports and presentations, video presentations, self-study exercises, motivation activities, and small group interaction. Occasionally, individual and small group work sessions will be conducted during the class time. Group study outside of class is strongly encouraged.

IV. Course Texts

Required:


*Mission Reader*: A compilation of articles related to current issues and trends in contemporary missions (Available through the RTS Bookstore).

Highly Recommended:


**Recommended:**


V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation
   This course requires attendance and participation at all class sessions. Attendance and participation during all class sessions is especially important during an intensive summer session when lectures and learning activities are often condensed due to time constraints. Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed all of the assigned readings below by the required dates. Excessive tardiness, unexcused absence and/or lack of class participation will impact your final grade.

B. Reading Assignments (25%)
   You are required to read thoughtfully (not simply skim) the assigned Worldwide Perspectives and Mission Issues Reader (see Reading Assignments below). Your understanding of the Worldwide Perspectives readings can be evaluated by your answers to the study questions at the end of each lesson.

   You are not required to submit written answers to the study questions but some of the Final Examination questions will be drawn directly from these study questions and the Mission Issues Reader. You will also be asked on the Final Examination to indicate in writing the percentage of the assigned readings from Worldwide Perspectives and Missions Issues Reader you have read thoughtfully.

   • Worldwide Perspectives compiled by Meg Crossman (See Reading Assignments) (10%)
   • Mission Issues Reader—Compiled by Steven L. Childers (See Reading Assignments) (5%)

   In addition, you are required to write a one-page reading report on the following two books (see Reading Report Form attached to syllabus for style and format). Completion of the report signifies you have thoughtfully read each book in its entirety.

   NOTE: These two reading reports (below) are DUE on the first day of class, June 4. Reports not turned in by the due date and time will be considered late and assessed a grade penalty.

   • Let the Nations be Glad by John Piper (Report due June 4--the first day of class) (5%)
     NOTE: This book must be read in its entirety

   • Transforming Mission by David Bosch (Report due June 4--the first day of class) (5%)
     NOTE: 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 and critical to questions on the Final Examination. Please see the Reading Assignments below for a list of these readings. The Bosch reading assignments are listed in assignments #1 through #10.

C. Prayer for the Nations (10%)
   You will be required to pray for 30 consecutive days for the Unreached People Groups of the world before July 31, 2007, using the book Praying through the Window III: The Unreached Peoples as a guide (or a comparable prayer guide).

   You must design a Mission Prayer Plan that consists of:
   1) A Mission Prayer Schedule determining which people group you will pray for on each of the 31 days before July 31, 2007.
2) **A Mission Prayer Journal** for each of the 30 days. The 30 written journal entries must 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.”

3) **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, class mates, etc.), rather than merely praying alone.

**D. Mission Biography Reading & Report (15%)**

You are required to read eleven chapters (your choice) from parts I-III of Ruth Tucker's *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya* (a biographical history of Christian missions). You are then required to write a report (three pages, single-spaced, 12 pt font) on the selected reading detailing which chapters you read, why you read those chapters, and the most significant personal insights you gained from your reading. The **Mission Biography Report** is due July 31, 2007.

**E. Mission Project (30%)**

Complete one of the following mission projects and submit a 10-15 page paper (not including appendices), double-spaced, 12 point font, 1 inch margins, by July 31, 2007. The **Mission Project** must give evidence of the integration and application of course readings and lectures.

1. **Develop a mission course for a 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 (knowing, being and doing 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 mission 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 by the Association of Church Missions Committees (ACMC). See the Missions Resource Directory in the appendix for more information.
3. Develop a philosophy of mission statement.
Write a paper in which you interact with the material in the course lectures and readings. You will need to evaluate (not merely summarize) the material read and show how this class and various authors contributed to your understanding of missions. The emphasis should be on stating your personal philosophy of missions, citing the course lecture notes and reading materials as the basis for your conclusions.

4. Conduct a cross-cultural interview with a non-Christian.
Interview a non-Christian from a different culture than your own (such as an international student). Develop your own interview questions 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. Include a list of the resources you consulted.
*These assignments are from William David Taylor’s Introduction to Missions course.

5. Study a mission-minded local church (case study).
Conduct a case study analysis of a local mission-minded church, including an onsite visit and 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.

6. 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, Wycliff, Equipping Pastors International, 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.

7. Develop a theology/philosophy of missionary calling.
Do research and write an essay on the concept of missionary calling and guidance as these relate 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. Include a practical response to the question, “How can I know if God is calling me into full-time career missionary service?” List your resources.

8. Propose a Mission Project.
- Be creative! (For example, “The use of the internet in world missions: web resources, support, etc.”)
- Submit the proposal to me in writing with a description similar to the others.
- Pray that I will be open to your idea.
F. Final Examination (20%)

The Final Exam will be comprehensive and essay in format, including all class reading assignments and lectures.

Location of Final Exam: For RTS resident students, the Final Exam (3 hours max) will be proctored by the RTS Library Staff at the student’s resident campus (Jackson, Orlando, Charlotte, Wash. D.C., Atlanta) and must be taken in the campus library no later than Monday August 4, 2003. Those students unable to take the exam at one of the RTS resident campuses should contact the course Teaching Assistant, Clay Nettles at Claynettles7@yahoo.com.

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.

Late Assignments Policy

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 the assignment on time (such as a death in the immediate family), turn in a written request for waiving the late penalty with the assignment. No assignments will be received after July 31, 2007

Introduction to Missions Grading Percentages (Chronological Sequence)

Reading Assignments (25%)
- Piper Reading Report: Due June 4–First day of class (5%)
- Stott Reading Report: Due June 4–First day of class (5%)
- Worldwide Perspectives Reader (Questions on Final) (10%)
- Missions Issues Reader (Questions on Final) (5%)

Final Examination (20%)
- Due by July 31 (5%)

Mission Projects (55%)
- Mission Biography Report: Due July 31 (15%)
- Mission Prayer Plan: Due July 31 (10%)
- Mission Project Paper: Due July 31 (30%)
VII. Mission Course Reading Assignments

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

**The Biblical Perspective**

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

**Reading #2**  
Topics: *The Glory of God in Mission* & *The Goals of God in Mission*  
Perspectives: Piper 17-20, (New Testament) Verkuyl 68-71, Piper 76-78  
Bosch: 393-408  
Reader: Edwards-*Concerning the End for Which God Created the World*

**The Historical Perspective**

**Reading #3**  
Topics: *Five Epochs of Mission History & Early Eastern Missions*  
Perspectives: Blincoe 99-111, Miller 112-118  
Bosch: Bosch 262-302 (*Enlightenment Part 1*)

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

**The Strategic Perspective**

**Reading #5**  
Topics: *The People of God*  
Perspectives: Dayton 161-166, Winter 168-172, McGavran 176-185, Johnstone 186-196  
Bosch: 511-519 (*Modes of Mission*)  
Reader: Pratt-*To the Jew First* and Hiebert Case Study-*A Group Conversion*

**Reading #6**  
Topics: *The Church of God*  
Perspectives: McGavran 216-219, Garrison 220-228  
Bosch: 368-89, 457-74 (*The Missional Church*)
Reading #7  
Topics: Poverty and Persecution  
Perspectives: Dayton 230-232, Myers 242-244, Pickett & Hawthorne 245-249,  
Moffitt 249-252  
Bosch: 474-489, 498-510 (Mission’s Witness Nature & Time Frame)  
Reader: The Persecuted Church

The Cultural Perspective

Reading #8  
Topics: Contextualization (Part 1)  
Perspectives: Perspectives: Kwast 272-275, Hiebert 276-285, Richardson 286-291  
Bosch: 420-432 (Contextualization), 432-447 (Liberation)

Reading #9  
Topics: Contextualization (Part 2)  
Perspectives: Kraft 292-295, Hiebert 296-299, 314-316, Hesselgrave 322-326  
Bosch: 447-457 (Inculturation)  
Reader: Parshall, Going too Far, Winter, Going Far Enough

Mission Trends & Issues

Reading #10  
Topics: Urban World and Global Migration  
Perspectives: McClung & Filidis 233-237, Flidis 238-239  
Bosch: 349-367 (Enlightenment Unraveled, Church & Mission in Flux)  

Reading #11  
Topics: Modalities and Sodalities  
Reader: Winter-Two Structures, Johnstone-Who Sends Missionaries?, Butler-Power of Partnership, Christian Aid-Indigenous Missions, McQuilken-Should We Stop?, Schwartz-Dependency

Reading #12  
Topics: Charting Your Journey and Joining the Movement  
Perspectives: Moore & Crossman, 375-380  
Reader: Hoke & Taylor-Charting Your Journey, Winter-Join the Movement, Walker-Seven Dynamics, The Call of God
Please limit your report to one single-spaced page. Write approximately one paragraph per topic (Overview, Critique, & Application). Reports are due on the first day of class.

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.
# Reading List

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<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th># Pages Read</th>
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Total Pages Read _________________

Signed __________________________

Date_____________________________