

**Developing the Missional Church**

PM 742

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Class meets on the following dates during Summer Term 2008

Wednesday, June 4

Wednesday, June 25

Wednesday, July 9

(There will be no on campus class due to my participation at the Oxford Roundtable and in Dr. Dale Johnson's Luther Study Tour. We will meet online asynchronously for the month of July).

Wednesday, Aug 13

Room Location:

Room 12 – Reid Hall

**Course Description**

This course is an analysis of the Biblical theme of mission and its significance for the development of a missional ecclesiology of ministry. Students are presented with a missional church model of ministry that is derived from a collaborative study of both Testaments as well as pertinent missional church studies. Implications of the missional church model for 21<sup>st</sup> century Church ministry in a variety of contexts are considered.

**PLEASE NOTE**

THIS IS A HYBRID COURSE WHICH MEANS THAT THERE ARE ON CAMPUS AND AN ONLINE REQUIREMENTS AND FEATURES TO THIS

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COURSE. Successful completion of the course is achieved when you participate in both delivery systems.

### **Course Learning Objectives**

1. Understand the theological and biblical concept of mission.
2. Explore the mission of God literature for common themes and rudimentary principles.
3. Examine the missional church model as a viable model of ministry for the 21<sup>st</sup> century church.

### **Course Components**

The purpose and objectives of this course will be achieved through five learning components:

1. **Presentation Component:** Critical course concepts and precepts will be presented by the professor, guest speakers, and students.
2. **Reading Component:** Exposure to the literature of the field relevant to the topic of this course will be accomplished through required readings as specified in this course syllabus.
3. **Reflection Component:** Students are expected to think critically and deeply about the subject matter of this course intellectually (theory) and pragmatically (practice). This is encouraged through a variety of written assignments.
4. **Online Component:** Students are expected to enroll in the online classroom for this course. In order to get a satisfactory grade for this portion of the course, you will need to make weekly postings of your own and respond to my questions and to other student postings. There are plenty of opportunities for you to interact with other students who are taking this course. You are required to post at least one weekly contribution and to respond to one other student's post each week. No post hoc contributions will count toward your grade for this portion of the course.
5. **Evaluation Component:** Students take a comprehensive final examination. The exam tests knowledge of core course concepts and reading by responding to a series of essay questions.

### **Course Readings**

**NOTE: The required textbooks may be purchased from the Erskine Theological Seminary virtual bookstore at [www.ecampus.com/erskine](http://www.ecampus.com/erskine).**

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*The Mission of God: Unlocking the Bible's Grand Narrative* (2006), Christopher J. H. Wright. Downers Grove: IVP.

*Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America* (1998), Darrell L. Guder (ed). Grand Rapids: Baker.

*Treasures in Clay Jars: Patterns in Missional Faithfulness* (2004), Lois Y. Barrett, et al.. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

Selected articles as assigned by the professor which will be made available in the online classroom for this course.

### **Recommended Literature on the Missional Church**

*The Ministry of the Missional Church*, Craig van Gelder.

*The Continuing Conversion of the Church*, Darrell L. Guder.

*Transforming Mission*, David J. Bosch.

*Shaped By God's Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*, Milfred Minatrea.

*Bible and Mission*, Wayne Stumme (ed).

*On Mission with God*, Avery T. Willis, Jr & Henry T. Blackaby.

*The Mission of the Church in the World*, Roger E. Hedlund.

*Bible and Mission*, Richard Bauckham.

*By My Witnesses*, Darrell L. Guder

*The Missions of Jesus and the Disciples According to the Fourth Gospel*, Andreas J. Kostenberger.

*Mission in the Old Testament*, Walter C. Kaiser, Jr.

*The Earliest Christian Mission to All Nations in the Light of Matthew's Gospel*, James LeGrand.

*Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A biblical theology of mission*, Andreas J.

Kostenberger & Peter T. O'Brien.

*The Church's Mission to the Gentiles*, Naymond H. Keathley.

*Christian Mission in the Modern World*, John R. W. Stott.

*The Gospel to the Nations: Perspectives on Paul's Mission*, Peter Bolt & Mark Thompson (eds.).

*The Meaning of "Fishers of Men,"* Wilhelm H. Wuellner.

*Perspectives on the World Christian Movement* (Third Edition), Ralph D. Winter (ed.).

*Discipling the Nations*, Richard R. DeRidder.

*Early Christology and Jesus' Own View of His Mission*, Marinus de Jonge.

*Yes, God of the Gentiles, Too: The Missionary Message of the Old Testament*, David Filbeck.

*Jesus' Promise to the Nations*, Joachim Jeremias.

*A Light Among the Gentiles*, Scot McKnight.

*Canon and Mission*, H. D. Beeby.

*From Every People and Nation: A biblical theology of race*, J. Daniel Hays.

*The New Testament Concept of Witness*, Allison A. Trites.

*New Testament Witness in Today's World*, Allison A. Trites.

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*Only to the House of Israel?*, T. W. Manson.

*Gospel and Mission in the Writings of Paul*, P. T. O'Brien.

*Where the Nations Meet: The Church in a multicultural world*, Stephen A. Rhodes.

*The Missionary Nature of the Church: A survey of the biblical theology of mission*, Johannes Blauw.

*The Salvation of the Gentiles: Studies in the Acts of the Apostles*, Jacques Dupont.

*The People of God in the Old Testament*, H. J. Kraus.

*Knowing Jesus Through the Old Testament*, Christopher J. H. Wright.

*A Biblical Theology of Missions*, George W. Peters.

*Out of Every Tribe and Nation*, Justo L. Gonzalez.

"Be a blessing" or "So that you will be a blessing:" Implications for Old Testament Missiology, Andrew Bowling. Unpublished article.

"Old Testament Missiology and the Eschatology of Bengt Sundkler and Joachim Jeremias," Andrew Bowling, ETS Regional Meeting, November 17, 1993.

### **Form and Freedom**

I have provided a syllabus for this course. However, you are free to modify it and tailor it to fit your own unique learning and ministry needs. Each individual student has a unique approach to learning something new and I'm giving you permission to adjust the course content to your own learning needs. In addition, each ministry setting is different and we all come from different theological and denominational traditions. You are free to modify the basic course content to fit your own unique needs in the church or churches you are currently serving or expect to serve upon graduation. I have outlined the material in the sequence in which I will present it in class and online below. I will also be providing supplemental material in the online classroom that can be used in any way you deem appropriate for you to meet your own learning needs while achieving the stated course objectives. You'll notice that I'm giving you a great deal of freedom as to when assignments are due on the assumption that summer term usually involves many folks involved in more intensive ministry activities like short-term mission trips and other projects. As long as you can demonstrate to me that you are meeting the stated course objectives, you are free to design your own assignments and projects rather than use the ones I have stipulated below.

### **Course Learning Sequence**

#### *Module I - Biblical and Theological Concept of Mission*

The first month of the course will be used to explore the biblical and theological concept of mission as it will be used in this course. We will be guided through this section by Christopher Wright's book, *The Mission of God* and my own presentation in class based upon a portion of a manuscript being prepared for publication. Part of our learning will take place in class and the remainder will take place via the online classroom for this course that will be housed on the EDEN section of the Seminary web site. **Students should begin reading Wright's book prior to the first class session. Especially Part I and Part II.** The remaining portions

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should be read after the first class. Once you have completed reading Wright's book, you should write a one page Memo to Myself in which you critically engage with the book highlighting positive and negative aspects. The Memo should be uploaded to the Memo Depot in the online classroom. You should also read one other student's Memo and react to it in the space provided. Due when you are finished reading the textbook.

### *Module II – Exploring the Literature of Mission*

The second month will be used to explore the vast literature on mission currently available in English. This will be done by reading selected articles related to the concept of mission. These articles will be housed in the online classroom. You will have several from which you may select three to read. Once you have read all three, write a two page critical reaction paper in which you seek to compare and contrast all of the articles around the theme of the Mission of God. Upload your critical reaction to the online classroom in the space provided. You will be required to read one other student's critical reaction paper and provide feedback and comments. Due when you are finished reading all three articles.

### *Module III – Considering a Missional Ecclesiology*

Read the *Missional Church* by Guder for this module in which we will explore the ecclesiology of mission as we move to the heart of the course. I want you to consider the implications of the missional perspective for the practice of church ministry and your view of the church. I want you to think about the theological components of a missional church view and master the chief characteristics of this perspective. When you are finished reading Guder, write a 3-5 page first draft entitled "My Emerging Ecclesiology of Mission." I would expect to find references to the required texts and the articles you selected to read in Module II. Upload your copy to the online classroom for others to read and select one other to read written by another student. Due when you are finished reading *Missional Church*.

### *Module IV – Implementing a Missional Model: Incremental and Transformational*

In this module we will wrestle with the practical applications and ministerial implications of the missional church model. To help us through this process we will read *Treasures in Clay Jars* which provides case studies of missional churches that are making a difference. How can one go about implementing a missional church perspective in an existing church and how can one use this model to plant a new church?

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**Grade Criteria**

I will use the following criteria to assess student work for this course. In order for a student to earn an "A" for course work submitted, it must reflect exceptional skill and mastery above the minimum requirement of fulfilling the assignment as stipulated in the course syllabus.

- A Level Work* = Exemplary ability to differentiate constituent parts; assess and critique theories, thoughts, ideas, concepts, proposals, and relevant literature; and the ability to reason in a logical and compelling manner.
- B Level Work* = Reflects above average grasp of the subject matter; displays a superior ability to use new knowledge in a creative manner; and can demonstrate an above average ability to discriminate among alternative viewpoints.
- C Level Work* = Adequate but not exceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; sufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and a satisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.
- D Level Work* = Inadequate and unexceptional ability to think cogently and clearly; insufficient ability to understand and comprehend subject matter; and an unsatisfactory ability to integrate and organize course concepts in a logical and coherent manner.

**Erskine Seminary Grading Scale**

95-100	A
93-94	A-
91-92	B+
88-90	B
86-87	B-
84-85	C+
80-83	C
78-79	C-
76-77	D+
72-75	D
70-71	D-
0-69	F

**Relevant Institutional and Class Policies**

(Please read carefully)

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1. From the Seminary Catalog, "the grade of 'I' or incomplete is given at the discretion of the professor. A grade of "I" normally is given when a student has substantially completed the requirements for a course but has been prevented by extraordinary circumstances from completing all course requirements. If a grade of "I" is given for a course the remaining course work must be submitted for grading prior to the final date established in the current Seminary Catalog. Otherwise, the grade of "I" automatically becomes a grade of "F." For further details, please read page 71 of the current Seminary Catalog.
2. Any missed class or portion of a class will adversely affect your grade. Attendance is expected unless prevented by illness or emergency. All late assignments will be lowered \_ letter grade for each day (or any portion of a day) late past the stated due date.
3. Inclusive Language Policy. The Seminary encourages all students to make use of language, in reference to human beings, that is inclusive rather than needlessly exclusive. It is the mark of a good communicator to build bridges rather than barriers; therefore, such language should be used in all written work and oral presentations. The Seminary Catalog stands as an example of recommended usage.
4. Once you have completed, signed, and submitted a registration to the Registrar for this class, it is a BINDING CONTRACT, and business office billing will be based on this registration. If you decide not to take this class, a drop/add form must be completed, including securing the appropriate signatures. Failure to properly withdraw from the class will result in receiving a grade of "F" for the course and full tuition charges will apply. NO EXCEPTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THIS POLICY.
5. Plagiarism, defined as the representation of the words or ideas of another as one's own in any academic exercise, is a clear violation of the Erskine Seminary Honor Code as set forth in the [Student Handbook](#) and *Seminary Catalog*. It is also a clear violation of the will of God in regard to taking something that belongs to someone else without his/her permission. The penalty for an infraction of the plagiarism policy is severe and may potentially result in the permanent dismissal of a student from the seminary. If you have any questions concerning the appropriate use of referenced sources, please contact me prior to submitting your work for grading.

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"Really? Someone told me it's not plagiarism if they're dead."