

# ME 504

## Introduction to Missions

Lecturer: Dr. Don M. McCurry

### Online Course Syllabus

#### Course Description

Foundational to this course is the revelation of the heart of God for his lost children from the time of the fall of man in Genesis three to the final judgment in Revelation twenty. There will be a thorough treatment of both Old and New Testament texts that reveal our God as a “Missionary God.”

In addition to the Biblical material, we will also look at the history of Protestant missions from the time of the Reformation to the Present.

Material will be presented that also discusses the issues of cross-cultural barriers, the importance of getting the Word of God into other languages, the relationship of the missionary to the shifting phases of the work through evangelism, church planting, partnering, and the place of development projects as an expression of missions.

The final section will be on the roles of various persons in the local church involved in the recruiting, training, sending, supporting and care of missionaries.

#### Course Objectives

1. To demonstrate that the missionary theme has always been the centerpiece of God’s redemptive activity as He has displayed his glory from the beginning of time until now.
2. To introduce the student to the awareness of the competing worldviews of his or her own culture and the cultures of the unreached peoples to whom God send them in the light of a Biblical worldview in Kingdom of God thinking.
3. To help the student understand the role of the pastor and the elders of the local church in nurturing and sustaining a commitment to missions in the congregation and to give practical tools and resources for doing so.

#### Course Requirements

1. **Time Limit:** You have up to fifteen weeks to complete this course.
2. **Lectures:** View the lecture for each module and submit a detailed outline for each lecture with at least three levels of subordination (e.g., I. A. 1.). Conclude with a one-paragraph response to the lecture contents.

#### Broad Lecture Topics

1. The Study of Missions Throughout The Bible.
  2. A Review of Protestant Missions from the Reformation to Today.
  3. The Problems of Communicating the Gospel Transculturally.
  4. The Interface of Western and Non-Western Missions and Churches.
  5. An In-depth Study of the Unreached Peoples of The World.
  6. How the Local Church Finds Its Place in the Mission Mosaic Today.
3. **Reading:** Read each of the three required texts (456 pages total) and write a 1500-word book review for each text. The review should include a description of the contents of the book (75%) and your own evaluation of these contents (25%).
  4. **Strategy Paper:** Select a people group from a country of your choosing and write a 2500-word paper, drawing upon principles found in the course lectures and reading, that describes the group and outlines a

strategy for doing missions among that people group. The Joshua Project is a great online resource for identifying people groups in the country of your choice: <http://joshuaproject.net/>

### **Grading Scheme**

- Lecture Outlines and Responses (12): 30%
- Book Reviews (3): 30%
- Strategy Paper: 30%
- Course Interactions (Mentor Report, Conferencing, Discussions): 10%

### **Required Reading**

Crossman, Meg, Editor. *Pathlight: Toward Global Awareness*. Seattle, YWAM Publishing, 2008. (132 Pages)

Greenway, Roger A. *Go and Make Disciples: An Introduction to Christian Missions*. Phillipsburg, NJ, Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing, 1999.(190 Pages)

Murray, Andrew. *The Key to the Missionary Problem*. Fort Washington, PA, CLC Publications, reprint, 2007. (134 pages)

### **Supplementary Reading (Optional)**

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Missions*. Maryknoll, NY, Orbis Books, 1991.

Piper, John. *Let the Nations Be Glad: The Supremacy of God in Missions*. Grand Rapids, MI, 2001.

Parole, Neal. *Serving As Senders: How to Care for Your Missionaries*. San Diego, CA, Emmaus Road International, 1991

Van Rheezen, Gailyn. *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*. Grand Rapids, MI, Zondervan Publishing House, 1996.