

Nazarene Theological Seminary
MSS620 Global Evangelism and Church Expansion
Spring Semester 2010
Syllabus

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Monday PM Block
1:30-4:30 PM

1. Course description

Introduction to the major strategies of evangelism and church growth that are being used in world areas. The use of existing strategies as a platform to assist the student to devise new strategies. The development of movements of Christianity through multiplication and multilevel structures. (*NTS Catalog*)

2. Course Narrative

The Church of Jesus Christ continues to embrace the mandate of making disciples among all nations (peoples), experiencing tremendous growth in some areas and encountering great difficulties in others. To form a foundation for understanding current and future development and the strategies (complex or simple) throughout Christ's Church, this course will first look at the expansion of Christianity from its beginning days. The beginning and development of missions in the Church of the Nazarene will provide both familiarity with this more specific history and provide an understanding and comparison for considering current and future strategies. Current, specific, strategies will be explored and evaluated.

3. Course Objectives

- A. To familiarize you with the history of the expansion of the Christian church historically and currently.
- B. To introduce you to the persons who have been significant in the expansion of Christianity.
- C. To familiarize you with the history of the growth of missions in the Church of the Nazarene.
- D. To give opportunity for you to learn how the Church of the Nazarene is carrying out witness to Jesus Christ and developing the church in specific contexts.

4. Course Outcomes

- A. The student have read and considered the expansion of the Christian church.
- B. The student will have read and thoughtfully considered the biographies of persons who have been significant in the expansion of Christianity, particularly in cross-cultural contexts.
- C. The student will have been introduced to an overview of the history of the expansion of the Church of the Nazarene.
- D. The student will have researched the evangelism and church development strategies of a specific area of the world other than North America (or other than one's own home area).

5. Texts

The following are the texts for the course. Other sources will be identified for your reference in dealing with the requirements of this course.

- A. Bevens, Stephen B., and Roger P. Schroeder. 2004. *Constants in Context: a Theology of Mission for Today*. Maryknoll, NY USA: Orbis Books. ISBN 978-1-57075-517-0

- B. George G. Hunter III. 2000. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West . . . Again*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. ISBN 0-687-08585-3
- C. Jenkins, Philip. 2002. *The Next Christendom: the Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press. ISBN: 0-19-514616-6

Supplemental texts:

Aikman, David, 2003. *Jesus in Beijing: How Christianity Is Transforming China and Changing the Global Balance of Power*. Washington, D.C.: Regnery Publishing Co. ISBN 0-89526-128-6

Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, NY USA: Orbis Books, 1996. ISBN 978-0-88344-719-2

David Garrison. 2004. *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World*. Midlothian, Virginia: WIGTake Resources.

Walls, Andrew F. 2002. *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books. ISBN 978-1-57075-373-3

Tucker, Ruth. *From Jerusalem to Irian Jaya: a Biographical History of Christian Missions*. Grand Rapids: The Zondervan Corporation, 1983. ISBN: 0-310-45931-1

6. Course requirements

A. Reading

The readings are an important and central part of this course.

B. Research the development of one of the Regions in the Church of the Nazarene

Research the origin, and development to this point, of one of the six regions of the Church of the Nazarene. Learn how the region began, the persons instrumental in its beginning, the countries and peoples represented by that Region, church development, and other topics pertinent to witness to Jesus Christ and the growth of the church in this region.

Present your findings in a brief report of 1200 -1500 words. Be prepared to serve as a resource to the rest of the class by giving a brief report of 15-20 minutes. These reports will be given before reading and research week.

The due date for this assignment is March 19.

C. Participation in Moodle discussion boards

Participate in a discussion on Moodle covering the areas noted below:

- There will be a starter question or topic to which you are to make a thoughtful response.
- Make an additional response within the topic in response to what another student has said.
- Give a third response either in response to what someone else has said or begin a new thought.
- The responses to the particular topics are to be completed within the time frame in the following schedule.
- The three responses per topic are worth a possible 5%, or a total of 15% for this requirement.

1. **Starter question:** What has been your experience in hearing and responding to the gospel?
Who were the significant persons in your coming to faith in Christ and being incorporated into the Body of Christ? Are there aspects of your coming to faith that are significant in your development of a model in your own witness?
Time frame: All three responses are to be completed by February 22.
2. **Starter question:** *Who is responsible for witness to Jesus Christ beyond the local community? How should this be accomplished?*
Time frame: All responses to be completed by March 22.
3. **Starter statement:** *The unregistered house churches in China should seek to reconcile with the Three Self Patriotic Church in order to present a solid witness to Jesus Christ.*
Time frame: All responses are to be completed by April 12.

D. Evangelism/church expansion study of a particular field.

Identify a particular field (country, area) and learn how witness to Jesus Christ is carried out in that context.

Some aspects to determine are:

- What is the role of the local congregation, the district, the field/region?
- Is there a specific strategy or plan that guides the church?
 - How was this strategy determined?
 - Who are the persons responsible for promoting this strategy?
 - How is the strategy evaluated?
 - How does the strategy take into consideration cultural issues such as worldview, leadership styles, and customs?
 - How does this strategy take into consideration other religions including both formal and folk religious beliefs and practices?
 - How do believers become part of a local congregation?

You may also want to learn what strategies are used for the growth of the church. Some areas to be discovered are:

- How do churches in this area grow?
- How are new churches started? (methods may include missionary-planted, parent/daughter churches, local churches send out church-planting teams, church planting movements, *et al*)
- Who is responsible for church development?
- How are new churches funded?
- How are pastors identified and trained?

Present your findings in a well thought-out written document properly formatted according to Turabian. Include verbatims of personal interviews, tables, photographs, maps, and any other items pertinent to what you discover in your research. The due date for this written report is the last day of the semester, April 30. Your presentation as a resource to the rest of us may be in whatever form you determine is most appropriate. (Note: The final written report is not due at the time of the report although it may be submitted at that time.)

D. Oral Report

In the second half of the semester you will be given approximately 20-30 minutes to relate to the class what was discovered about evangelism and/or church expansion in various world areas.

E. Growth of Christianity

Read one of the supplemental texts listed above. (Please note that the text by David Garrison, *Church Planting Movements: How God is Redeeming a Lost World* is also acceptable for this assignment.) Following your reading write a thoughtful essay of at least 1000 words (three to five double-spaced pages) that addresses the author's theses and their implications for a denominational missions board such as that of the Church of the Nazarene. The essay is due by the last day of the semester, April 30.

F. Final Exam

The final exam will be on Tuesday, May 4, at 1:30. The exam will cover assigned reading materials, class lectures and discussions, videos, and other materials. Prior to the exam the instructor will indicate which materials will be used as a basis for the exam. *Request to take exams at other than the posted times require permission from the Registrar's office.*

2. Due dates

The written summary of your research into the development of a Region is due by March 19. All other written assignments are due by the last day of the regular semester, April 30. All written assignments are to be submitted through the Assignment section in Moodle (except if material is included that is in other than digital form).

If you are unable to complete the course work in the time indicated a request for an incomplete must be submitted to the Registrar by April 30. An In-Progress (IP) is not available for this course.

3. Grading

The grade for the course will be determined as follows

A. Research and report of the development of a Region	15%
B. Discussion boards	15
C. Research paper on world evangelism strategy	25
D. Class presentation of evangelism strategy	5
E. Book review	20
F. Final exam	20
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	100%

The course grade will be determined according to the following scale:

- 100-90 – A
- 89-80 – B
- 79-70 – C
- 69-60 – D

Please note: A course grade of (A) is possible only if all assignments have been completed and submitted (no assignment may be submitted after the last day of classes, May 1).

4. Plagiarism.

Be sure to read and understand the content and implications of the Plagiarism statement in the NTS Student Handbook. All assignments in this course are made with the expectation that the work you submit is your own work. Failure to adhere to these requirements will result in a failing grade for the course. Give careful attention to the use of Internet sources. While the Internet

provides easy access to a wealth of resources, as with all other resources, Internet resources must be carefully selected and properly cited and referenced.

5. Bibliography

The following brief bibliography may be helpful in considering the topics of this course.

Anderson, Gerald H., ed. 1961. *The Theology of the Christian Mission*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Blauw, Johannes. 1962. *The Missionary Nature of the Church: A Survey of the Biblical Theology of Mission*. Cambridge: The Lutterworth Press.

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

Gilliland, Dean S.. 1983. *Pauline Theology & Mission Practice*. Grand Rapids: Baker Book House.

Hiebert, Paul G., and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. 1995. *Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Hunter, George G. III. 2000. *The Celtic Way of Evangelism: How Christianity Can Reach the West . . . Again*. Nashville: Abingdon Press.

Jenkins, Philip. 2002. *The Next Christendom: the Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Kirk, Andrew. 2000. *What Is Mission?: Theological Explorations*. Minneapolis, Minnesota USA: Fortress Press.

Logan, James C. 1994. *Theology and Evangelism in the Wesleyan Heritage*. Nashville: Kingswood Books (Abingdon Press imprint).

Guder, Darrell L., ed. 1998. *Missional Church: a Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*. Grand Rapids, Michigan USA: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company

Knitter, Paul F. 1985. *No Other Name? A Critical Survey of Christian Attitudes Toward the World Religions*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

McGavran, Donald 1966. *A. How Churches Grow*. New York: Friendship Press.

_____ 1970. *Understanding Church Growth*. Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

McGavran, Donald A., ed. 1965. *Church Growth and Christian Mission*. New York: Harper and Row.

Netland, Harold A. 1991. *Dissonant Voices: Religious Pluralism and the Question of Truth*. Vancouver: Regent College Publishing.

Newbigin, Lesslie. 1989. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

_____ 1995. *The Open Secret: An Introduction to the Theology of Mission*. Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Nussbaum, Stan. 2005. *A Reader's Guide to Transforming Mission*. Maryknoll, NY USA: Orbis Books, 2005. ISBN 978-1-57075-594-9

Okholm, Dennis L. and Timothy R. Phillips, eds. 1995. *Four Views on Salvation in a Pluralistic World*. (Previous title: *More Than One Way?*) Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Parker, J. Fred. 1988. *Mission to the World: a History of Mission in the Church of the Nazarene through 1985*. Kansas City: Nazarene Publishing House.

Peters, George W. 1972. *A Biblical Theology of Missions*. Chicago: Moody Press.

Rommen, Edward and Gary Corwin, eds. 1996. *Missiology and the Social Sciences: Contributions, Cautions, and Conclusions*. (Evangelical Missiological Society Series Number 4) Pasadena, California: William Carey Library.

Rommen, Edward and Harold Netland, eds. 1995. *Christianity and the Religions: a Biblical Theology of World Religions*. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

Scherer, James A. and Stephen B. Bevans, eds. 1992. *New Directions in Mission & Evangelization: Basic Statements 1974-1991*. Maryknoll: Orbis.

Scherer, James A. and Stephen B. Bevans, eds. 1999. *New Directions in Mission & Evangelization 3: Faith and Culture*. Maryknoll: Orbis.

Scherer, James A., and Stephen B. Bevans, eds. 1994. *New Directions in Mission and Evangelization 2: Theological Foundations*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

Senior, Donald C.P. and Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P. 1983. *The Biblical Foundations for Mission*. Maryknoll: Orbis Books.

Tippett, Alan R. 1987. *Introduction to Missiology*. Pasadena: William Carey Library.

Van Engen, Charles and Jude Tiersma. 1994. *God So Loves the City: Seeking a Theology for Urban Mission*. Monrovia, California: MARC (a division of World Vision International).

Van Gelder, Craig. 2000. *The Essence of the Church: a Community Created by the Spirit*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books.

Van Rheenen, Gailyn, 1996. *Missions: Biblical Foundations and Contemporary Strategies*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.