

ME-590: Mission of the Church in Global Context
Methodist Theological School in Ohio
Fall 2013

Tuesdays 2:00 PM–3:30 PM
Weekly Online (60 minutes)
G 133
3 Semester Hours

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COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course will explore the mission of the church in global context with an eye for its paradigm shifts. It will carefully examine the historical development of the missionary movement as well as the current issues and challenges facing mission today. Special attention will be given to the future of the missionary movement in light of the demographic shift of the center of gravity of Christianity toward the Southern continents. Furthermore, mission theories of some major thinkers in missiology—in particular, Lesslie Newbigin and Andrew F. Walls—will be studied.

This course will be taught in a hybrid format: 90-minute face-to-face and 60-minute online. Online learning will take place through presentations and participation in focused conversations.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To examine the historical development of Christian mission, exploring the cross-cultural process in the transmission of the Christian faith
2. To reflect upon the future of Christian mission in light of the massive demographic shift in the composition of Christianity
3. To be able to articulate a Wesleyan understanding of mission
4. To comprehend the current issues and challenges facing mission in Africa, Asia, Europe, and Latin America
5. To construct an integral view of mission that could shape and affect current missional practices of the church

REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Borthwick, Paul. *Western Christians in Global Mission: What's the Role of the North American Church?* Downers Grove, Ill.: InterVarsity, 2012.
- Donovan, Vincent. *Christianity Rediscovered*. Mary Knoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 2003.
- Driver, John. *Images of the Church in Mission*. Scottdale, Pa.: Herald, 1997.
- Gornik, Mark R. *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Open Secret*. Rev. ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.
- Parratt, John, ed. *An Introduction to Third World Theologies*. Cambridge, U.K.: Cambridge University, 2004.

SUPPLEMENTARY TEXTS:

Sanneh, Lamin. *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1989.
 Walls, Andrew F. *The Missionary Movement in Christian History*. Mary Knoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1996.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**(1) Class Attendance and Participation:**

Attendance at all sessions is expected. Unexcused absences will adversely affect the grade.

Much of the value of this course will come from interaction among the participants. Students are, thus, to prepare for each class session by carefully reading the assigned texts and to take an active part in the discussions.

(2) Weekly Online Participation and Response:

- Students are expected to be fully present online.

Weekly online participation and response is an essential and vital aspect of learning. In this hybrid format, the student's role requires more active and self-disciplined participation. Online participation in each weekly topic may include: e-mailing to class members, turning in an assignment, posting *an initial response* to the discussion board mid-week and then *subsequent postings through Sunday*, and other communication reflecting ongoing learning in the course. If no student response occurs during a week of the term, the student is considered absent. Lurking (reading only) does not earn credit, nor does it contribute to the class learning and community.

- It is important to manage your time.

Because hybrid courses move quickly and require self-discipline, it is important to efficiently manage time. It would include not waiting until the last minute to turn in assignments or responses. Technology is not fail-proof; you would need to allow time for unforeseen problems.

- Each student will belong to a Missional Formation Group.

Most focused discussions will take place within one or two Groups. Groups are also designed to serve as Wesleyan class meetings, providing mutual support in a journey toward missional formation.

(3) Critical Reviews:

Students are required to complete **two reviews**, critically reflecting on the text for implications for mission in global context. Each review is to be 2 pages (1.5–spaced) in length; and to use parenthetical citations, if necessary—e.g., (Newbigin, 73). Name and save the reviews as “Review1 (Last Name)” and “Review2 (Last Name).”

The following is the quote from "How to Write a Book Review" by Joel Green, which I believe provides excellent guidelines:

"First, the review should indicate a thorough knowledge of the book as a whole, read on its own terms. . . . with an eye to several important questions, including: What is the book's fundamental aim? Central theme(s)? Presuppositions? Method(s)? Second, the review should engage the book critically and personally. . . . Is its argument cogent? How has the reading of this book shaped you? . . . Whenever possible, you should situate your critique of the book within the larger discussion of the subject [that is, for us, mission in global context]."

Given the limited length of your review, it is to be **succinct** and **to the point**. You would thus need to be very **selective** of the themes and topics to critically reflect on. What I would hope to see are indications of **your thorough reading of the text** and of **your critical engagement with it**. Also you are to briefly share how the text would shape and affect your own understanding of mission.

(4) Group Presentation on a Particular Missional Context:

Each Missional Formation Group (of 4 or 5) would work together to prepare a 30-minute presentation on one “Missional Context”: Africa, Asia, Europe, or Latin America. They are to provide a survey of distinct features of a particular missional context, with (a) a brief history of Christian mission and of indigenous Christianity and (b) current issues and challenges facing mission.

Of the two presentations on each missional context, one will be presented online and the other in-class. The more inventive and insightful the presentation, the more likely the class will be interested and responsive. Each presentation will be concluded with a brief time for prayer for a particular missional context. A grade will be given for each group.

For general questions and technical support regarding online presentation, please contact Mr. Jeremy Huffer, Director of Instructional Design, at jhuffer@mtso.edu.

(5) Research Paper:

A carefully researched paper of 2,500 words (single-spaced), not counting notes and bibliography, on one of the following:

- a. Christianity and its mission in a particular country, region, or among a particular ethnic group.
- b. a particular missional issue (colonialism, inter-religious dialogue, indigenous religions, Western wealth, translation, contextualization, etc.)
- c. a missionary or a missionary thinker
- d. a particular missionary movement or a milestone event in Christian mission

Regardless of the chosen topic, students are to briefly reflect on their own understanding of mission.

The paper is **due by noon on Monday, December 9.**

WRITTEN WORK:

All written work must be typed with 12-point font. It will be evaluated on the basis of (1) clarity of the writing, (2) critical interaction with the text, and (3) the student’s own integrative reflection. There will be a penalty for late papers commensurate with the degree of lateness and the adequacy of the excuse. Students are expected to use inclusive language in all their written work.

PLAGIARISM:

Plagiarism is a serious matter of academic, professional, and personal integrity. All students at the masters level are expected to understand the requirement to provide attribution when the work of others is used. Students are also expected to be familiar with and understand the school’s policy on Academic Misconduct found in the Student Handbook. If a student has questions about attribution, citation, and how to avoid plagiarism they should consult the course instructor, the school’s writing instructor, or library staff. When in doubt it is better to provide attribution even if one is uncertain about the proper citation form. Please note that *plagiarism includes self-plagiarism*—that is, students may not utilize work submitted for one class in another class. Plagiarism is a form of academic misconduct that results in disciplinary actions per the Student Handbook that may range from failing an assignment or course to expulsion.

EVALUATION:

- 10% Class Attendance and Contribution
- 25% Online Assignments
- 20% Critical Book Reviews (10%x2)
- 10% Group Presentation on a Missional Context
- 35% Research Paper

GRADING STANDARDS:

- A (94%), A- (90%):
Superlative work that demonstrates a profound commitment to the course material, and excellence in thinking and performance as well as depth of insight.
- B+ (87%), B (84%), B- (80%):
Very good work that completely fulfills all the requirements of the course in a conscientious and dedicated manner, and that demonstrates good mastery of the course content.
- C+ to C-:
Satisfactory work that fulfills all the requirements of the course in an acceptable manner, but that falls short of demonstrating rigor and mastery.
- D+ to D-:
Unsatisfactory work that reflects poor thinking and performance as well as lack of clear comprehension and understanding of the subject.

COURSE SCHEDULE:

- **August 27** (Week 1)
 - Overview of the Course
 - Introduction to Mission of the Church

Assignments:

Online (8/27 – 9/1)

- Discussion on “Pilgrim Images” in Driver, *Images of the Church in Mission*

- **September 3** (Week 2)
 - What Is Mission of the Church?
 - Issues and Challenges in Cross-Cultural Mission

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of & Discussion Questions on Donovan, *Christianity Rediscovered* (the entire book)

Online (9/3 – 9/8)

- What Is Your Understanding of Mission?
- Discussion on “New-Order Images” in Driver, *Images of the Church in Mission*

- September 10 (Week 3)
 - Mission as Participation in the Life of the Triune God: Missiology of Leslie Newbigin

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- **Critical Review** of Leslie Newbigin, *Open Secret*—2 pages (1.5 spaced)

Online (9/10 – 9/15)

- Discussion on **Lamin Sanneh, *Translating the Message* (chap. 1)**

- September 17 (Week 4)
 - Mission as Translation and Conversion: Missiology of Andrew F. Walls
 - The Missionary Impact on Culture

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of Andrew F. Walls, “**The Gospel as Prisoner and Liberator of Culture**” and “**Culture and Coherence in Christian History**”

Online (9/17 – 9/22)

- **What Is the UMC Understanding of Mission?**
- Discussion on “**Peoplehood Images**” in *Driver, Images of the Church in Mission*

- September 24 (Week 5)
 - United Methodist Understanding of Mission
 - The Worldwide Nature of the United Methodist Church

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of “**Grace upon Grace: The Mission Statement of the United Methodist Church**”
- Reading of Borthwick, *Western Christians in Global Mission* (pp. 11– 101)

Online (9/24 – 9/29)

- **Video Watching and Discussion: “Edinburgh 2010” & “Lausanne III”**

- October 1 (Week 6)
 - Christianity as a World Religion
 - Edinburgh 1910 & 2010
 - Lausanne III

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- **A Critical Reflection Paper** on “**The Cape Town Commitment: A Confession of Faith and a Call to Action (Lausanne III)**” and “**Together Towards Life**” (WCC Affirmation on Mission and Evangelism)—2 pages (1.5 spaced)

Online (10/1 – 10/6)

- **Video Watching and Discussion: “Restore” (1–3)**

➤ **October 8 (Week 7)**

—Ministry with the Poor

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of & Discussion Questions on Gornik, *To Live in Peace* (entire book)

Online (10/8 – 10/13)

- Discussion on **“Images of Transformation”** in Driver, *Images of the Church in Mission*

➤ **October 15 (Mid-Term Recess)**

➤ **October 22 (Week 8): no class**

Assignments:

Online (10/21 – 10/25)

- **Models of Short-Term Mission: Strengths and Weaknesses**

➤ **October 29 (Week 9)**

—Western Christians in Global Mission

—Short-Term Missions with Integrity

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of Borthwick, *Western Christians in Global Mission* (pp. 103– 200)
- Reading of Robert Priest, **“Short-Term Missions as a New Paradigm”** in *Mission after Christendom*

Online (10/29 – 11/3)

- Discussion on **Presentation on Africa**

➤ **November 5 (Week 10)**

—Christianity in Africa

—*Group Presentation* on Africa as a Missional Context

Assignments:

Due Prior to the Class Session

- Reading of
 - ✓ Diane Stinton, **“Africa, East and West”** in *Introduction to Third World Theologies*
 - ✓ Isabel Apawo Phiri, **“Southern Africa”** in *Introduction to Third World Theologies*
 - ✓ Esther Mombo, **“Missiological Challenges in the HIV/Aids Era,”** *Theology Today* 62 (2005)
 - ✓ Kwame Bediako, **“Five Theses On The Significance Of Modern African Christianity: A Manifesto”** in *Landmark Essays in Mission and World Christianity*, eds. Robert Gallagher and Paul Hertig (Orbis, 2009)

Online (11/5 – 11/10)

- Discussion on **Presentation on Latin America**

➤ **November 12 (Week 11)**

—Christianity in Latin America

—*Group Presentation* on Latin America as a missional context

Assignments:**Due Prior to the Class Session**

- Reading of
 - ✓ Jose Miguez Bonino, “Latin America,” in *Introduction to Third World Theologies*
 - ✓ J Samuel Escobar, “A Missiological Approach to Latin American Protestantism,” *IRM* 87 (April 1998)
 - ✓ Ana Langerak, “The Witness and Influence of Pentecostal Christians In Latin America,” *IRM* 87 (April 1998)

Online (11/12 – 11/17)

- Discussion on **Presentation on Asia**

- **November 19** (Week 12)
 - Christianity in Asia
 - Group Presentation* on Asia as a missional context

Assignments:**Due Prior to the Class Session**

- Reading of
 - ✓ Kirsteen Kim, “India” in *Introduction to Third World Theologies*
 - ✓ Edmond Tang, “East Asia” in *Introduction to Third World Theologies*
 - ✓ Kenneth J. Dale, “Why the Slow Growth of the Japanese Church?” *Missiology* 26/3 (1998)
 - ✓ Joon-Sik Park, “Korean Christianity: A Missiological Reflection,” *IBMR* 36/2 (April 2012)

Online (11/19 – 11/24)

- Discussion on **Presentation on Europe**

- **November 26** (Thanksgiving Break)
- **December 3** (Week 13)
 - Christianity in Europe
 - Group Presentation* on Europe as a missional context

Assignments:**Due Prior to the Class Session**

- Reading of
 - ✓ Darrell Jackson, “Europe and the Migrant Experience: Transforming Integration,” *Transformation: An International Journal of Holistic Mission Studies* 28 (January 2011): 14-28
 - ✓ Philip Jenkins, “Godless Europe?” *IBMR* 31/3 (2007)
 - ✓ Lamin Sanneh, “Can Europe Be Saved? A Review Essay,” *IBMR* 31/3 (2007)

Online (12/3 – 12/8)

- **1-page Summary of the Research Paper**

- **December 10** (Week 14)
 - Sharing of Research Papers
 - Conclusion
 - Evaluation

Assignment: Final Research Paper due by Noon, December 9

SELECT BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bediako, Kwame. *Christianity in Africa: The Renewal of a Non-Western Religion*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Bevans, Stephen B. and Roger P. Schroeder. *Constants in Context: A Theology of Mission for Today*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2004.
- Bonk, Jonathan J. *Missions and Money: Affluence as a Western Missionary Problem*. Rev. ed. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2007.
- Bosch, David. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Mary Knoll, N.Y.: Orbis, 1991.
- Corrie, John, ed. *Dictionary of Mission Theology: Evangelical Foundations*. Down Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2007.
- Dempster, Murray A., Byron D. Klaus, and Douglas Petersen, eds. *Called and Empowered: Global Mission in Pentecostal Perspective*. Peabody, MA: Hendrickson, 1991.
- Escobar, Samuel. *Changing Tides: Latin America and World Mission Today*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Hiebert, Paul G. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker, 1994.
- Irvin, Dale T. and Scott W. Sunquist. *History of the World Christian Movement: Earliest Christianity to 1453*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2001.
- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. Rev. ed. New York: Oxford Univ. Press, 2007.
- Kirk, J. Andrew. *What Is Mission? Theological Explorations*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2000.
- Kritzinger, J. N. J. and Willem Saayman, eds. *Mission in Creative Tension: A Dialogue with David Bosch*. Pretoria: Southern African Missiological Society, 1990.
- Müller, Karl, et al, eds. *Dictionary of Mission: Theology, History, Perspectives*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
- Neely, Alan. *Christian Mission: A Case Study Approach*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
- Robert, Dana L. *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*. Chichester, UK: Wiley-Blackwell, 2009.
- Saayman, Willem and Klippies Kritzinger. *Mission in Bold Humility: David Bosch's Work Considered*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Sanneh, Lamin and Joel A. Carpenter, eds. *The Changing Face of Christianity: Africa, the West, and the World*. Oxford, UK: Oxford Univ. Press, 2005.
- Schreiter, Robert. *The New Catholicity: Theology between the Global and the Local*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1997.
- Shenk, Wilbert R. *Changing Frontiers of Mission*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 1999.
- Walls, Andrew F. *The Cross-Cultural Process in Christian History*. Mary Knoll, NY: Orbis, 2002.
- Yates, Timothy. *Christian Mission in the Twentieth Century*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge Univ. Press, 1994.
- Yung, Hwa. *Mangoes or Bananas*. Carlisle, UK: Paternoster, 2002.

Journals:

International Bulletin of Missionary Research

International Review of Mission

Journal of Asian Mission (available online at <http://www.aps.edu/jam>)

Missiology

Mission Studies

Please See Student Handbook for Sections Providing Policy Details on the Following:

ADA—MTSO seeks to remove barriers to inclusion in its learning communities. Students who feel they may need an accommodation based on the impact of a documented disability should contact the instructor privately to discuss their specific needs at the beginning of the semester. Please contact the Director of Student Services to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities. Any accommodation must be agreed upon prior to the due date of the affected course requirement.

Electronic Devices—Turn mobile devices off or “vibrate only” during class. Browsing the Internet or engaging in email or social network conversations during class is discouraged. Instructors have the right to impose grading penalties for disruptions due to electronic devices.

Human Subjects Research—Research by MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel that collects non-public information from and/or about living individuals or contemporary organizations/groups for purposes of publication or public presentation (including class assignments) must be approved by the Human Subjects Research Committee. MTSO faculty, students, or affiliated personnel should err on the side of caution and apply for committee approval of any activity that may fit this description.

Inclusive Language—In accordance with MTSO’s policy on inclusive language, all students are expected to use gender inclusive or gender neutral language in their writing and in the classroom discussions when referring to human beings.

Incompletes—To receive a course grade of Incomplete, students must submit the petition form from the Registrar with all signatures to the Dean’s Office before the last day of regularly scheduled classes. See Student Handbook for intensive term deadlines. Any petition submitted without a due date for outstanding work will be denied. If work is not complete by the due date the Registrar will record the grade of F for the course.

Pass/Fail—The decision to exercise this option must be made before the end of the second week of the course by completing the appropriate form available through the Registrar. To receive a grade of “pass” the student must do at least the equivalent of C minus work in the course.