

West Virginia Extension Course of Study
COS #423
Missions
Summer Term 2021
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Course Objectives:

- **To develop a solid biblical and theological foundation for missions**
- **To review the history of the church in mission**
- **To gain understand of community needs**
- **To develop a community approach to missions**
- **To incorporate missions as an integral part of ministry**
- **To motivate congregational participation in missions**

This class is divided into 5 separate modules. There will be reading and work to be done prior to each module. The required work must be completed. The supplemental items may be incorporated at this time or you may use it at a later date. It is designed to help broaden your understanding of missions. The time we spend together via Zoom will be designed to reflect on the work you have been doing prior to the module. Therefore, it is essential that you discipline yourself to have the reading/work completed prior to the time we are together.

As part of the final module, you will prepare a project to be shared with the class. The project is for you to design a process of leading your congregation/charge into a missional ministry. It will need to incorporate aspects from each of the prior modules. I would suggest looking at the final assignment in Module #5 to see all of the expectations. Then, build your final project as you move through the first 4 modules. This will allow you to incorporate all of the required aspects and prevent the project from becoming overwhelming at the end.

Required Texts:

1. Robert, Dana, *Christian Mission: How Christianity Became a World Religion*, Blackwell Publishing, West Sussex, 2009; 9780631236207.
2. Volf, Miroslav, *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*, Brazos Press, Grand Rapids, 2011; 9781587433436
3. Jennings, Theodore W., *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*, Abingdon Press, 1990; 9780687155286.
4. McNeal, Reggie, *Kingdom Collaborators: Eight Signature Practices of Leaders Who Turn the World Upside Down*, InterVarsity Press, 2018: 9780830841431

Supplemental Texts:

5. Outler, Albert C. and Heitzenrater, Richard, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1991; Print 068720495; E-book 9780687204953
6. Francis, Leah Gunning, *Ferguson and Faith: Sparking Leadership and Awakening Community*, Chalice Press, St. Louis, 2015; 9780827211056
7. Romero, Oscar, Carolyn Kurtz, ed., *The Scandal of Redemption: When God Liberates the Poor, Saves Sinners and Heals Nations*: Plough Publishing House, Walden, NY, Print 978-0-87486-141-9, E-book 978-0-87486-142-6
8. McNeal, Reggie, *Mission Renaissance*, Jossey-Bass, San Francisco, 978-0-470-24344-3

Module #1 – For August 21st 9:00-11:00am

Required:

- Prior to doing anything else; write a one-page paper outlining your understanding of mission and its role in the life of the church. Send a copy to Mike and keep one for yourself.
- Read *A Public Faith: How Followers of Christ Should Serve the Common Good*
- Write a 3-4 pages paper developing a biblical/theological understanding of missions incorporating the ministry of ascent, the ministry of prophecy and the importance of community as integral parts of the understanding. **This paper should be mailed or emailed to Mike no later than August 2, 2020**

Supplemental:

- Read *The Scandal of Redemption: When God Liberates the Poor, Saves Sinners and Heals Nations*:
- Watch the movie “Romero” with particular attention to church response to the poor as a priority

Module #2 –For September 11th 9:00-11:00am

Required:

- Read *Christian Missions: How Christianity Became a World Religion*
- From the text select two ideas/events/aspects of missions that changed the church’s concept or practice of missions. Then write a paper describing the event, its historical impact and a similar impact for today and our current mission work. I would like for you to select one that had a positive impact and a second that had a negative impact. A simple example was the development of the printing press. Allowed Bibles, tracts, books to be easily printed and distributed. Help develop literacy and make the Gospel more attainable. Current applications would a similarity to internet access, multimedia, and other forms of communication. So, you can’t use that one. The paper should be 3-4 pages in length. **The paper should be mailed/emailed to Mike no later than September 7th**. Be prepared to present one of your selections during our Zoom class.
- View the video “The case for Biblical Stewardship” <https://vimeo.com/524336349>
- Read *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley’s Evangelical Economics*

Supplemental:

- Some of *John Wesley’s Sermons* that may prove helpful are:
 - Upon our Lord’s Sermon on the Mount, VIII (1748)
 - The Use of Money (1760)
 - The Good Steward (1768)
 - The Dangers of Riches (1781)
 - The New Creation (1787)

Module 3 and 4 will be held on the same day. Module 3 in the morning and Module 4 in the afternoon.

Module #3 – For September 25th 9:00-11:00am

Required:

- Look up the Federal Poverty Guidelines for 2021
- Look up the Self-Sufficiency Standard for your particular county. It may 2009/13 may be the most current you can find.
- You will be sent a packet with 3 exercises and the items necessary for the completing the exercise. You need to do the exercises for yourself. You are encouraged to lead a small group in completion of the exercises and debrief the experience with them. You are free to copy the exercises, but will need to purchase the additional candy, and buttons/markers. Make notes regarding the experience; how you felt, can also do this if you use a small group, what was their experience.

- View the following videos
 - What is Poverty
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5qig9HIJ7k>
 - Amy Jo Testimony
 - <https://youtu.be/5-q584bITIk>
 - Self Sufficiency Standard
 - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKoLVm-a3L8>
 - Ted Talks: Jessica Sharpe: Brain on Poverty
 - https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_sharpe_the_brain_on_poverty
 - Have the Homeless Become Invisible
 - <https://www.facebook.com/Upworthy/videos/have-the-homeless-become-invisible/392744081534009/>
 - You will have to copy this one to your browser, could not get it to link automatically
 - Videos from a school perspective
 - Andrea Trio – principle - <https://youtu.be/hCI4GUSMp4Y>
 - Jessica Watt – counselor - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1-zU8qN0m9dETfOGrW0tQmybAZDOnii_A/view?usp=sharing
- Watch the movie “Hillbilly Elegy”
 - Realize this is not the story of everyone in Appalachia, nor is it to be viewed as pull yourself up by your bootstraps type story. This is one man’s account of his journey.
 - What you are looking for are patterns, experiences, challenges that are familiar to all people and those that are specific to poverty.

Supplemental:

- Read *Ferguson and Faith* to begin to explore the issues of race and how this influences individuals and community

Module #4 – September 25th 1:00 – 3:00pm

Required:

- Read *Kingdom Collaborators*
- From Lewis Center for Church Leadership read:
 - To the Point: Doing Community in the Small Church
 - 50 ways to engage schools
 - Spiritual Growth through Mission Participation
 - Your Community is your congregation

Supplemental:

- If after reading *Kingdom Collaborators*, you feel the need for a more how to book, read *Mission Renaissance*. It discusses shifting from an internal to an external focus, changing the score card for the church (what gets measured is what gets done) and the role of development of people over programs

Module #5 – October 9th 9:00-11:00am

Required:

- As you work on the project, review the 1-page paper you wrote at the beginning of the class.
- As part of the final project:
 - How has your understanding of missions changed during our journey together?
 - How this learning/experience alters your understanding of how congregation approach missions
 - Design a format to introduce your congregation to this concept and any implications this may make in ministry/missions. This could be done via:

- Bible Study
 - Preaching series
 - Work team project
 - Engagement with local mission and reflection
 - Myriad of other options
- Make a list of areas of need within your community such as poverty, addiction, education, transportation, medical care, etc.
 - Determine one area of specific need within your own community that speaks to you
 - What could your congregation/charge do as a faith community to address the need
 - Design a process for guiding the church to:
 - Understand the need
 - Embrace it as a mission
 - Engage with the community
 - A time line for completion
 - The final product should be 7-10 pages in length. **This paper should be mailed/emailed to Mike non later than October 2nd.**
 - Be prepared to present your project as part of Module #5 meeting