

**West Virginia Extension Course of Study**  
**COS #423**  
**Missions**  
**Summer Term 2023**  
**Zoom Session: August 12, 2023 from 9am – 11am**  
**In Person: October 20-22, 2023**  
**Spring Heights Education Center**

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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**

**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 Come*, Tyndale House Publishing, 2015: 978-1-4143-9187-8
5. McGlothlin, Jake, *The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships*, Abingdon Press, 2017:978-1-5018-4136-1
6. Outler, Albert C. and Heitzenrater, Richard, *John Wesley's Sermons: An Anthology*, Abingdon Press, Nashville, 1991; Print 068720495: E-book 9780687204953

*Each assignment for this class is a piece of mosaic that will be combined in your final project. In order for the process to work well, I am asking you to do each piece in sequence. They build upon one another. The only exception to this process is the Hearts of Hope Workshop to be held on September 9, 2023, at Life UMC in Fairmont. Attendance of the workshop is one option. If attendance is not possible, videos of some of the material will be posted by the end of August.*

**Prior to our Zoom call in August:**

- **Before anything else, write your 1-page definition of the church in mission. (Please email this to me so I have your current email address)**
- *Read Christian Mission*
  - View Lecture 1 – Christian Community (21 minutes)
  - View Lecture 2 - Early Mission of the Church (25 minutes)
  - Write a 4–5-page paper describing how the historical past shapes our understanding of missions today.
  - **Email or mail to me so I have by August 1, 2023**

- Read *Kingdom Come*
- Visit Reggie McNeal Podcasts and listen to following podcasts. (They are at the bottom of the launch page.)
  - Why Kingdom Come (1/15/21) *26 minutes*
  - Kingdom and God's Mission (1/20/21) *(18 minutes)*
  - Kingdom and Jesus (1/27/21) *(26 minutes)*
  - Kingdom and the Church (2/3/21) *(26 minutes)*
  - Kingdom and You (2/17/21) *(26 minutes)*
  - In the other podcasts, Reggie interviews people who are engaged in Kingdom work. Please select two whose topics appeal to you and listen.
- Read *Public Faith*
  - View Lecture 3 – The Ascent *(17 minutes)*
  - View Lecture 4 - The Return *(17 minutes)*
  - View Lecture 5 - The Malfunctions of Faith *(21 minutes)*
- **Zoom Session is on Saturday, August 12 from 9am – 11am. The invitation will be sent to you on August 7<sup>th</sup>.**
- **Following the Zoom session, write a 6–8-page paper defining your theology of mission. This should include material from all the resources discussed to this point in the class. This paper is due September 15<sup>th</sup>.**

#### **In Preparation for the second weekend together:**

- Read *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*
- View the following videos.
  - What is Poverty *(4 minutes)*
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U5qig9HIJ7k>
  - Amy Jo Testimony *(6 minutes)*
    - <https://youtu.be/5-q584bITIk>
  - Self Sufficiency Standard *(3 minutes)*
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iKoLVm-a3L8>
  - Ted Talks: Jessica Sharpe: Brain on Poverty *(11 minutes)*
    - [https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica\\_sharpe\\_the\\_brain\\_on\\_poverty](https://www.ted.com/talks/jessica_sharpe_the_brain_on_poverty)
  - Poverty trap: *(2 minutes)*
    - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D9N7QaIOkG8>
  - Two generational approach *(13 minutes)*
    - [https://www.ted.com/talks/caren\\_bright\\_a\\_path\\_out\\_of\\_poverty](https://www.ted.com/talks/caren_bright_a_path_out_of_poverty)
- From *John Wesley's Sermons* read:
  - 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)
- Read *The Mission-Minded Guide to Church and School Partnerships*
  - If you were not able to participate in the workshop on July 22, 2023, then view the following.
    - Dr. Donna Heston "Issues facing children and schools *(60 minutes)*
    - Rev. Jake McGlothlin "Building a partnership with schools *(60 minutes)*
    - Ms. Andrea Trio – Impact of partnerships and how to start *(60 minutes)*

**During the October 20-22, 2023, weekend we will:**

- Friday evening: improve our understanding of what poverty is, how it impacts life and why this is a mission for the church
- Saturday morning: working with Rev. Wesley's sermon's and how it shapes our understanding of mission.
- Saturday afternoon: moving beyond the food pantry, developing transformational ministry in our community.
- Sunday morning: church and school partnerships
- **Your final project will be to write a 7–8-page paper describing a project your congregation could partner with your local school to address.** The paper is about a new project and must include:
  - A description of the issue you will be addressing.
  - Process you will use to help the church understand the concern and build consensus for addressing it; answer the question of why
  - How you will build the partnership with the local school and others
  - What will the project look like as it operates?
    - What will you do?
    - Time frame for working.
    - Funding, volunteers
    - How will you evaluate?
    - Building sustainability
  - **Paper is due to me by November 13th.**