

God's World Mission, WM310
Dr. Nelson Jennings
Covenant Theological Seminary

Course Information

I. Course Description

God's World Mission is a biblical, theological, and historical consideration of God's redemption of His world, including integration with other course work and unavoidable personal involvement. This course is designed for students to "...Be gripped in a personal and integrated way by 'World Mission' as 'the triune God's redemption of the cosmos wherein He grants, among all the world's peoples, faith in Jesus Christ, maturing of the Church and foretastes of the new heavens and the new earth.'"

II. Course Objectives

When students have completed this class they will have...

- Developed a deeper awareness of the "world," God's "mission" and the church therein.
- Grasped afresh the biblical meaning of world mission—and of the Gospel.
- Integrated our understanding and practice of world mission with a Reformed - Covenantal theology & worldview.
- Identified the current historical situation of World Mission.
- Become more conversant with missiological concepts and terminology
- Reconsidered and planned towards our necessary and particular involvements in world mission
- Cultivating world mission emphases/programs in the local church
- Going as/sending out/receiving short-/long-term cross-cultural missionaries
- Develop an approach to money matters
- Consider and develop a tentative approach to on-site tactics, methods and issues
- Living as Christian people in our community

III. Themes & Keywords

"Missions," "Missiology," "Missional Theology," "World Mission"

IV. Texts

These books can be purchased from most Christian booksellers, or you can order them online from the Covenant Seminary bookstore by visiting www.covenantseminary.edu or by calling the bookstore at 314-434-0110 (toll-free 877-213-3353).

Required reading:

- Althen, Gary. *American Ways: A Guide for Foreigners in the United States*. Yarmouth, ME: Intercultural Press, Inc., 1988. (Intro: xv-xvii; p. 3-34) (See Appendix C for excerpts)
- Bediako, Kwame. *Jesus in African Culture (A Ghanaian Perspective)*. Accra, Ghana: Asempa Publishers, 1990.
- Mission to the World Church Relations Department, comp. *Establishing an Effective Missions Program For Your Church*. Atlanta, GA: Mission to the World, 1998.
- Shenk, Wilbert R. *Changing Frontiers of Mission*. American Society of Missiology Series, No.28. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1999.
- God's World Mission Reader

Recommended readings:

- Allen, Roland. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids, MI: William B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1962.

- Barrett, David B., Johnson, Todd M., & Kurian, George M. *World Christian Encyclopedia: A Comparative Study of Churches and Religions in the Modern World*. 2nd ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001.
- Bavinck, J.H. *An Introduction to the Science of Missions*. Trans. by David H. Freeman. Phillipsburg, New Jersey: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1960.
- Bosch, David J. *Transforming Mission: Paradigm Shifts in Theology of Mission*. Maryknoll, New York: Orbis Books, 1991.
- Breckenridge, James & Lillian. *What Color Is Your God? Multicultural Education in the Church*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1995.
- Clowney, Edmund P. *The Church. Contours of Christian Theology Series*. gen. ed., Gerald Bray. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1995.
- Conn, Harvie M. *Eternal Word and Changing Worlds: Theology, Anthropology, and Mission in Dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Academie Books, 1984.
- Conn, Harvie M., ed. *Reaching the Unreached: The Old-New Challenge*. Phillipsburg, NJ: Presbyterian and Reformed Publishing Co., 1984.
- Hawthorne, Steven C. & Winter, Ralph D. *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement: A Reader*. 3rd ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1999.
- Howard, David M. *Moving Out: The Story of Student Initiative in World Missions*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1984.
- Johnstone, Patrick. *The Church is Bigger Than You Think: Structures and Strategies for the 21st Century*. Great Britain: Fern, Ross-shire: Christian Focus Publications, 1998.
- Johnstone, Patrick. *Operation World: The Day-by-Day Guide to Praying For the World*. Atlanta, GA: Mission to the World, 1993.
- Kraft, Charles H. & Wisley, Tom N., eds. *Readings in Dynamic Indigeneity*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1979.
- Latourette, Kenneth Scott. *A History of the Expansion of Christianity*. 7 vols. New York: Harper, 1937-45.
- Lewis, Jonathan. *World Mission: An Analysis of the World Christian Movement*. 3 vols. 2nd ed. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1994.
- Moffett, Samuel Hugh. *A History of Christianity in Asia. Volume I: Beginnings to 1500*. 2nd rev. ed. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis Books, 1998.
- Moreau, Scott A., gen. ed. *Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions*. Baker Reference Library Series. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2000.
- Neill, Stephen. *A History of Christian Missions*. The Pelican History of the Church. Vol.6. London: Penguin Books, 1990. (Rev. for the 2nd ed. by Owen Chadwick, gen. ed.)
- Piper, John. *Let the Nations be Glad! The Supremacy of God in Mission*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1993.
- Stott, John. *Christian Mission in the Modern World*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1975.
- Taylor, William D., ed. *Global Missiology for the 21st Century: The Iguassu Dialogue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic, 2000.
- Tippett, Alan R. *Introduction to Missiology*. Pasadena, CA: William Carey Library, 1987.

IV. Class Calendar

Lecture 1: Introduction

Lecture 2: Global Christianity (topics 1 & 2); "Missions" & "Missionaries" (topic 3)

Lecture 3: Mission Motives & The Receiving Side (topic 4); Covenant Theology (topic 5)

Lecture 4: Christian History as Translation (topic 6); Matthew 28:18-20 (topic 7); Culture (topic 8)

Lecture 5: Lingual-Cultural Contexts (topic 9); "American" Culture (topic 10)

Lecture 6: "American" Culture (topic 10); Cultures, Christianity & "Other" Religions (topic 11)

Lecture 7: Early Church (topic 12); Europe (topic 13); Asia (topic 14)

Lecture 8: Asia (topic 14); Africa (topic 15); Money (topic 16)

Lecture 9: Worship (topic 17); Contextualization (topic 18)

Lecture 10: Contextualization (topic 18); End of Christendom (topic 19)

Lecture 11: Modern Missions (topic 20); Latin America (topic 21); Mission Theory (topic 22)

Lecture 12: Mission Theory (topic 22); Strategies & Technology (topic 23)

Lecture 13: Mission Strategies & Technology (topic 23); Unreached People (topic 24)

Lecture 14: Social Issues (topic 25); Personal Undoing (topic 26); Cross-Cultural Relations (topic 27); Ecclesiology (topic 28)

Lecture 15: The Gospel (topic 29); North America, The West & Acts 1:8 (topic 32); Israel & The Nations (topic 33)

Lecture 16: Urban Missions (topic 30); St. Louis (topic 31)

Lecture 17: Contemporary Realities (topic 34); Integration (topic 35); Leading God's People (topic 36)

V. About the Professor

Dr. Jennings joined the faculty of Covenant Theological Seminary in 1999 as both a teacher and the director of the Seminary's program in world mission. Dr. Jennings served in Japan from 1986 until 1999 with the PCA's Mission to the World, initially in church-planting and pastoral ministry. In 1996 he became Assistant Professor of International Christian Studies at Tokyo Christian University. He has been particularly interested in articulating the Christian faith in relation to language, culture, and other religious traditions. He has published articles in both English and Japanese.

Dear Students:

Welcome to what I hope will be a fresh encounter with God and His passion to redeem His world. In this class we will weave our way through a variety of topics, all designed to help us to be gripped in a personal and integrated way by "World Mission" as "the triune God's redemption of the cosmos wherein He grants, among all the world's peoples, faith in Jesus Christ, maturing of the Church and foretastes of the heavenly city." My goal for the class lectures, readings and other assignments is to stretch you towards becoming more keenly aware than ever before of your particular involvement in God's ongoing mission.

May God use our interaction for the glory of Christ's gospel throughout the earth and all generations.

Sincerely in Christ,

J. Nelson Jennings