

MC502: BECOMING A MISSIONAL CHURCH (4 units). Charles Van Engen, Professor of Biblical Theology of Mission; Online Facilitation by Dr. Elaine Vaden, Adjunct Professor of History and Religions.

DESCRIPTION:

This course will introduce the students to the wide range of issues and skills related to the complex interdisciplinary processes involved in creating and implementing a philosophy of ministry and missional strategy for a local church. The course will enable the leaders of the church to shape a congregation toward becoming lovingly open to ministry in the world and intentionally involved in mission in its communities, nation, denomination, and world in a ripple effect of dynamic church life.

LEARNING OUTCOMES: Upon the successful completion of the course, students will have demonstrated an understanding of

- God's mission in the world
- the importance of cultural context (both local and global) to the mission of the church, and
- biblical/theological foundations of mission by:
 - creating a missiologically-informed philosophy/theology of ministry for a local church, and
 - developing a strategic plan (both local and global) for the mission of a local church.

COURSE FORMAT:

The class will be conducted on the Internet using a 10-week lesson program aligned with Fuller's academic calendar. Each week students and the instructor will interact with the material examining key themes and characteristics of modern/postmodern culture through journaling, threaded discussions, and web-based research.

REQUIRED READING:

- **Introduction to the Missionary Nature of the Church:**
Charles Van Engen. *God's Missionary People: Rethinking the Purpose of the Local Congregation*. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1991, 1993, 1995).
- **Understanding the Importance of Context to Mission:**
Paul Hiebert. *Anthropological Reflections on Missiological Issues* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1994); **OR**,
_____. *Anthropological Insights for Missionaries* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1985).
- **How to Minister Effectively in the Local Church:**
Lingenfelter and Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1986); **OR**,
Eddie Gibbs. *Church Next: Quantum Changes in How We Do Ministry* (Downers Grove: IVP, 2000).
- **Doing Mission Globally:**
Aubrey Malphurs. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998); **OR**,
Hiebert and Meneses. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant, and Urban Societies* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1996).
- **Developing a Biblical Theology of Mission:**
Lesslie Newbigin. *Open Secret* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1978, 1995); **OR**,
Orlando Costas. *Christ Outside the Gate: Mission Beyond Christendom* (sometimes sold as - *Christ Outside the Gate: A New Place of Salvation*) (Maryknoll: Orbis, 1982). If students have read any one of the above books, they will choose substitute texts from a bibliography provided in class. (Some copies of the books may be out of print.)

ASSIGNMENTS:

1. Weekly Threaded Discussions, Journaling, Web surfing and research.
2. Five book reviews.
3. Each student will develop a 25-page statement of mission for a local congregation. The statement of mission will describe the nature of the congregation being studied; the anthropological, cultural, historical setting of the church; issues related to Christian response to other religions; an analysis of the internal, external, and systemic potential of the local congregation to reach out in mission in specific socio-cultural contexts locally and globally; and the biblical and theological motivations, meaning and implications of mission for the local church.

PREREQUISITES: This course is only available to those who are accepted into the MA in Global Leadership.

RELATIONSHIP TO CURRICULUM: A required course for the Cohort portion of the MA in Global Leadership.

NO AUDITORS.

FINAL EXAM: None.

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