M506 HISTORY OF MISSIONS SEMINAR

by

Elias dos Santos Medeiros

COURSE DESIGN

Reformed Theological Seminary

Jackson, Mississippi
Fall 2013 A.D.
## TENTATIVE SCHEDULE—FALL 2013

Classes on Thursdays

9:00-11:55 AM

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M506 HISTORY OF MISSIONS

Description

"This course provides an overview of the history of the witness to Jesus Christ, the Lord, [from the Old Testament]….to the present; introduces the student to the leading personalities [biographical emphasis] of the various periods of mission history; observes the missionary methods employed in the various periods of mission history; traces the development of international missionary cooperation and ecumenicity, and seeks to understand the strength and the weaknesses of the contemporary church world-wide."

The “lectures,” workshops (group discussions), reading reports, and other activities of this course have been designed to be reproduced in the context of a local church. After all, following the teaching of the Apostle Paul, everything which has been written in the Scriptures, yes “all these things [read the preceding verses of this chapter] happened [history] to them [church] as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come” (1 Corinthians 10:11). But there is a positive side of the history of God’s holy people to be considered as well. Study Hebrews 11 and remember this admonition from the writer to the Hebrews: “Remember those who rule over you, who have spoken the word of God to you, whose faith follow, considering the outcome of their conduct” (Hebrews 13:7).

Remember that the history of “missions” is His Story from the beginning till the end. “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” (Matthew 4:19). This is really the story of God using “men [and women] who are weak and feeble enough to lean on
Him” (Hudson Taylor). William Carey was also right when, preaching on the text of Isaiah 54:2-3 (read the text), he concluded: “Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God.”¹ And yes, “He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose” (Jim Elliot).

**Required Readings**

**Books²**

**Acts of the Apostles**


Other reading texts will be assigned accordingly during the semester.

**Bibliographies on History of Missions**

Consult the Following Websites

American China Missions [http://www.library.yale.edu/div/ChinaMissionsBibliog.pdf](http://www.library.yale.edu/div/ChinaMissionsBibliog.pdf)


Internet Archive is one of the best free resources available to consult out-of-print books, articles, etc. Search [http://archive.org/](http://archive.org/)

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¹ Sermon preached in 1792. Carey could also backed up his thesis with the quote from Ephesians 3:20-21 “Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”

² It is expected that each student will take the initiative to read other relevant historical material (articles, essays, books, historical researches, and so forth) and to develop his/her personal bibliography on the subject.
Missions Resources Compiled by Ronald W. Waters
http://www.newlifeministries-nlm.org/bibliographies/bib-missions.htm

OMF (Overseas Missionary Fellowship) International, formerly China Inland Mission
founded by James Hudson Taylor in 1865, has also some “Selected Missions
Bibliography” available on their website:
http://www.omf.org/omf/content/view/full/10115

Yale University Divinity School Library online
http://www.library.yale.edu/div/MissionsResources.htm

Missions Journals and Magazines

Don’t forget to consult missiological journals and magazines at our RTS Library. Some
of these journals and magazines can be accessed online.

The International Bulletin of Missionary Research at
http://www.internationalbulletin.org/.

International Society for Frontier Missiology. Check their International Journal

Mission Frontiers at http://www.missionfrontiers.org/

Mission resources offered by MissLinks at http://www.mislinks.org/gathering/journals/
or http://www.mislinks.org/

Transformation the Journal published by the Oxford Centre for Missions Studies
at http://www.ocms.ac.uk/transformation/ or http://www.ocms.ac.uk/content/

Course Requirements

1. Engagement in the classroom lectures, workshops (group discussions),
   reading reports, and other activities.

2. Reading of the assigned materials in due time. Bring your notes to class.

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3 Do not forget to check Church History journals and magazines.
3. Each student will select three names for each “period” of the history of missions (starting with the Old and New Testament). Each student will research about the life and work of these “missional leaders” and present, at least, one-page report for each selected “servant” of the Lord. **Due on October 3.** Each one-page report should consider the following questions:
   a. Why did you select his/her name?
   b. When and where did he/she live?
   c. What do we know about his/her calling?
   d. What do we know about his/her “theology?”
   e. What was his/her main contribution to world evangelization?

4. Submission of two pages outline of a “lecture” (research paper) (biographical, doctrinal, controversial, or “cultural”) related to history of missions. **Due on October 17.** This two pages outline should answer the following questions:
   a. What is the title of your lecture?
   b. What is the main question of your presentation?
   c. What are the main headings and subheadings of your presentation?
   d. What sources (Bibliography or Reference List) will you consult?

5. Submission of a final draft of the “lecture” (research paper of 7-15 pages) you will be presenting (biographical, doctrinal, controversial, or strategical) somewhere to someone. **Due on December 3.**

6. The final research paper must conform to the Turabian academic writing standards

7. Four elements are considered for grading the research paper: organization, content, Turabian format, and editing. Therefore, before handing in the final copy of your term paper, be sure that:
a. The organization (outline) of the paper was well considered.⁴

b. The content of the paper reflects your careful scholarly work, especially in the area of documenting statements or sources.

c. The format of the paper, also, follows Turabian consistently.

d. The editing was seriously taken into consideration. Most students have handed in a term paper without serious final editorial work. Editing involves a review of format, outline (titles and subtitles), words, sentences, paragraphs, and quality of copy.

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M506 HISTORY OF MISSIONS  
COURSE OUTLINE

Elias dos Santos Medeiros

INTRODUCTION

A. Resources
B. Definition of Terms
C. The Importance of History
D. Missions and missionaries in the Old Testament period
E. Missions and means during the Intertestamental period

II. MISSIONS DURING THE ANCIENT CHURCH PERIOD (0-500)

A. Missions IN the Roman Empire (0-300)
   1. Christian expansion between 0-100
   2. Christian expansion between 100-300
   3. Conclusions

B. Missions OF the Roman Empire (300-500)
   1. Christian expansion inside the Roman Empire
      a. Laws favoring Christianity
      b. Christian population of the Roman Empire
   2. Christian expansion outside the Roman Empire
      a. East of the Roman Empire
      b. South of the Roman Empire
III. MISSIONS DURING THE MEDIEVAL CHURCH PERIOD (500-1500)

A. "The Dark Age" (500-1000)
   1. Why "dark age?"
   2. Christian expansion during the "dark age"

B. Christian Expansion Between 1000 to 1500
   1. Military campaigns
   2. “Missionary” organizations (sodalities?)
   3. "Unhinged" missionary

IV. MISSIONS DURING THE MODERN CHURCH PERIOD (1500-2012)

A. Missions between 1500 and 1800
   1. The era of discoveries (1500-1600)
      a. What were they?
      b. How did they influence missions?
   2. Roman Catholic missions (1500-1800)
      a. New religious orders
      b. Gregory XV
      c. Collapse of the Catholic missions
   3. Protestant missions
      a. Embryonic period (1500-1648)
      b. "Unhinged" period (1648-1700)
      c. Awakening period (1700-1792)

B. Missions since 1800
   1. The "great century" of mission (1800-1914)
      a. Areas and missionaries
b. Missionary societies

2. Missions during the difficult years (1914-1945)
   a. World wars I and II
   b. Political changing
   c. Social changing
   d. The challenge of the unreached peoples
   e. The new missionary force "God's Especial Envoys"
   f. The growth of the church in the two-thirds world
   g. The growth of the missionary force of the two-thirds world
   h. The need for unity
   i. New charismatic movements

3. Missions during the "unbelievable years" (1945-1970)

4. Missions since 1970s