

Theory And Practice Of Urban Missions

Lecturer: John Edmiston

Course Description: The biblical basis for urban mission, the city as a socio-political and spiritual reality, approaches to Christian ministry, evangelism, church-planting and mission in the urban context – particularly Asian mega-cities, social justice, poverty, incarnational ministry, new approaches to urban church structures and urban spiritualities..

Assessment: **Readings** - a one page summary of and interaction with the readings – 25% (weekly)
Book Review – The Urban Christian by Ray Bakke (or any book by Ray Bakke, Harvie Conn, Ed Silvoso, Roger Greenway or Viv Grigg or other established urban missions author. The book must be at least 250 pages in length)– 25% (due March 21st)
Assignment: A 2500 word (5 page) paper on an area of urban missions. 25% (due January 24th)
Student Journal: A journal cataloguing how the Urban Missions course has impacted on your life and you thinking. Must show regular entries and depth of thought. (due March 21st)

Links: For useful links/references go to: <http://www.aibi.ph/urban/urblinks.htm>
Try also IVCF's Urban Missions Feature: <http://www.urbana.org/feat.globalurbanissues.cfm>

Reference List: A reference list will be supplied but can also be found at <http://www.aibi.ph/urban/references.htm>

Online Discussion Forum: An online discussion forum for the class has been created:
Go to: <http://www.aibi.ph/xoops/html/modules/news/> and register
On the left hand side under Main Menu click on Forums
You will see the Urban Missions forum listed there.

Class Readings: You will be required to buy the spiral-bound book of readings, P200 to be paid within two weeks of commencement. This is the only set text you will need to purchase. For other texts see reference list. Each lecture will be accompanied by two fairly brief articles as readings. You are not required to totally agree with the readings. You are required to interact with them. Each week you will be required to hand in a one page summary and reaction in dot-point format answering the questions "What were the main points from this weeks readings?" & "What were my reactions and thoughts in response to this weeks readings?" all the readings are to be briefly addressed on the one page.

Reaction To Readings – Example

Name: Ima Student
Week: 9

Reading 1: *Prosperity and Poverty In The Urban Context* by John Edmiston

Summary:

Point 1
Points 2
Point 3
Point 4
Point 5

Reaction

It made me rethink certain views I have about poverty namely.....

Reading 2: *Why Should Christian Care About The Poor?* by Scott Bessenecker

Summary:

Point 1
Points 2
Point 3
Point 4

Point 5

Reaction

I found x to be true and y to be untrue and it made a good case for z..and why I think that is...

Wk.	Date	Topic	Reading	Notes
1	Nov 9	Course Introduction The City In Genesis	Cities In Scripture –Theological Foundations –J.Ed. Megacities Ready Or Not – Karen Klein interview of Ray Bakke and Robert Linthicum	
2	Nov 16	The Prophets – The City As A Spiritual and Political Reality	Cities In God's Plan –J.Ed. The Urbanization of Our World – Monssama & Greenway	
3	Nov 23	Gospels & Acts - The City In Missions	Looking At Some Of Africa's Urban Challenges – Harvie Conn Evangelizing World Class Cities –Ray Bakke The City In The Gospels And Acts – John Edmiston	
4	Nov 30	Epistles & Revelation -Jerusalem, Babylon & Ephesus	The Epistle of Philemon and Urban Social Justice in The NT Church – J.Ed Networks in The NT And In The City –J.Ed. The City In The Epistles & Revelation – J.Ed.	
5	Dec 6	Incarnational Ministry - Jesus Christ As The Model Urban Missionary	Sorry, The Frontier Has Moved – Viv Grieg Telling It On A Mountain –Jane Sutton story on Ben Beltran	Ben Beltran ?
6	Dec 13th	Urban Networks & Urban UPG's	The City And Unreached Peoples (parts 1 and 2) – Harvie Conn	
7	Dec 20th	Towards A Biblical View of Poverty	Prosperity and Poverty In The Urban Context – J.Ed. Christian Witness To The Urban Poor -Lausanne	
8	Jan 10th	Economic Injustice, Globalization and Radicalization	Why Economic Injustice Is Producing Angry People. The Equal And Opposite Reaction	
9	Jan 17th	More On Social Justice	Refugees The City and Missions – Harvie Conn Ledy of Cartolandia – Mark Kramer	
10	Jan 24th	Special Urban Problems And The Gospel	Muslim Cities – J.Dudley Woodberry St. Francis And The Wolf – J.Ed	
11	Jan 31st	Too Hot To Handle? Christian Approaches To Politics, Radicalism, and The Environment	A Biblical Perspective On Politics – J.Ed. Why Ecology is a Christian Issue – Fred Krueger	
12	Feb 7th	The Church And The Media	Globalization, the Principles of Catholic Social Teaching and Hollywood: a Media Literacy Response – Rose Pacatte FSP The Churches' Role in Media Education and Communication Advocacy - by National Council of Churches (USA)	
13	Feb 14th	Cities, Cyberspace and the Digital Divide	Cyber-Missions –J.Ed. Bridging the Digital Divide - Denyse O'Leary	Visit GMA
14	Feb 21st	Being Post-Denominational – Working Towards The City Church.	The Fractalling Church – Willam M Easum Why Denominations Are Being Ignored – J. Ed.	Visit Internet Cafe
15	Feb 28th	Solution-Focused Thinking And Problem Solving	From Problem to Solution Focussed – C. Iveson Solution-Focussed Thinking In Ministry – J.Ed 25 Strategies For Urban Ministry – J.Ed.	
16	March 7th	Urban Church Structures – House Churches, Mega-Churches, Ethnic Churches, Chaplaincy, Workplace Churches, Cyber-Churches, Apostolic Orders	Evangelism Is Not Working - Mark Greene Structures for Mission in the Twenty-first Century: A Blueprint (Congress on the World Mission of the Church)	Guests....
17	March 14th	Spirituality In The City – Diversity, Technology and Intensity	Nehemiah And Faith-Based Organizing - Beth Freese Dammers Urban Spirituality – Mark Wendorf	
18	March 21st	Praying For The City	Prayer Is Social Action –John Robb A City Of Praying Neighbors - Alvin Vander Griend	Urban Prayer Walk

Recommended References In Urban Ministry

Students are expected to do their own research and to find their own references. The following bibliography is by no means exhaustive but provides a useful starting point .

1. Amirahmadi, Hooshang and S.S. El-Shakhs, editors (1993) *Urban Development in the Muslim World*, New Brunswick, NJ: Center for Urban Policy Research
2. Amis, Philip and P. Lloyd (1990) *Housing Africa's Urban Poor*, Manchester, England: Manchester Press
3. Andrews, David Can You Hear The Heartbeat?, Hodder & Stoughton 1989
4. Augustine, *The City of God*, (abridged version) Image Books, New York, 1958 (esp. parts 3-5)
5. Bakke, Ray. *The Urban Christian*, MARC Europe, 1987
6. Bakke, Ray (1997) *A Theology as Big as the City*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press
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8. Bradshaw, Bruce. *Building Bridges*.
9. Brewster, Tom and Elizabeth S. (1982) "Bonding and the Missionary Task," Pasadena, CA: Lingua House
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11. Conn, Harvie. *The American City and the Evangelical Church*. Baker, 1994.
12. Cox, Harvey, *The Secular City* , Macmillan, New York, 1963
13. Cromartie, Michael, editor (1995) *The Nine Lives of Population Control*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing
14. Cronin, Vincent (1955) *The Wise Man From the West*, New York: E.P. Dutton & Co., Inc.
15. Darrow, Ken and M. Saxenian (1986) *Appropriate Technology Sourcebook*, Sanford, CA: Volunteers in Asia
16. Dawson, John Taking Our Cities For God, OMF Literature,, 1989
17. Durning, Alan (1989) "Action at the Grassroots: Fighting Poverty and Environmental Decline," Worldwatch Paper 88, Worldwatch Institute
18. Elrich, Paul (1975) *The Population Bomb*, Rivercity, MA: Rivercity Press
19. Frank, Andre G. and B. Gills, editors (1993) *The World System: Five Hundred Years or Five Thousand?* London: Routledge
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24. Grigg, Viv (1992) *Cry of the Urban Poor*, Monrovia, CA: MARC
25. Gugler, Joseph (1996) *The Urban Transformation of the Developing World*, Oxford: Oxford University Press
26. Gurr, Ted R. and B. Harff, editors (1994) *Ethnic Conflict in World Politics*, San Francisco: Westview Press
27. Howard, David (1979) *Student Power in World Missions*, Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press
28. Kilbourn, Phyllis. *Street Children: A Guide to Effective Ministry*.
29. Kozol, Jonathan. *Amazing Grace: The Lives of Children and the Conscience of a Nation*. HarperCollins, 1996.
30. Law, Eric. *The Wolf Shall Dwell with the Lamb: A Spirituality for Leadership in a Multicultural Community*. Chalice Press, 1993.
31. Linthicum, Robert (1991) *Empowering the Poor: Community Organizing Among the City's 'Rag, Tag and Bobtail'*, Monrovia, CA: MARC
32. Lupton, Robert. *Theirs is the Kingdom*. HarperCollins, 1989.
33. McDonough, Daniel and R. Peterson (1999) "Can Short-term Mission Really Create Long-term Career Missionaries: Results of STEM's Second Major Study on the Effect of Short-term Mission" Minneapolis, MN: STEM Ministries
34. McKay, John P., B.D. ill and J. Buckler (1992) *A History of World Societies*, Third Edition, Boston: Houghton Mifflin Compan
35. Newbigin, Leslie (1989) *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society*, Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans Publishing
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Study Hints: The Fastest Way To Do A Major Assignment

1. Divide the number of words by 120 this gives you the number of paragraphs you need to write – in this case for 2500 words its 20.8 or 21 paras.
2. Assign one para for introduction and two paragraphs for the conclusion
3. That leaves 18 paragraphs for your topic.
4. Do a quick survey of the topic. Construct an outline. Find the major division points (say 6 of them) then break the major divisions into minor ones (say three each) you now have 18 paras.
5. Only research enough to write the paragraph you need to write on that point then move on. Note down the references as you go on scrap paper.
6. Keep going until your 18 paras are done then write the intro and conclusion afterwards and add references.
7. You can easily do 2500 words in ten hours – one day's study.

Example Outline: Praying In And For The City

1 Biblical Examples Of Praying For The City

- Abraham and Sodom & Gomorrah
- Jeremiah and Jerusalem
- Paul and Ephesus

2. The Powers And The City

- Powers and Principalities
- The Prince Of Tyre
- The Angel Of The Lord & Jerusalem

3 City-Wide Prayer Movements

- Ed Silvoso & Resistencia
- General Booth & London
- Bogota Colombia

4. Organizing Prayer For The City

- Creating Awareness
- Building Unity Amongst Pastors
- Organizing Neighborhood Prayer Cells

5. The Prayer Life Of The Urban Worker

- Burnout and Spiritual Dryness
- Retreats and Sabbaths
- Creating A Prayer Shield

6. Alternative Approaches to Prayer For The City

- Prophetic Praying And Dramatization – Ezekiel
- Weeping In Prayer For The City – Jesus
- Fasting For Jerusalem - Ezra

Once you have your outline it is simple to write just one paragraph on “Abraham and Sodom” etc. You can write that one paragraph in say twenty minutes at most. Then move to the next one without getting bogged down. Remember only research enough to write a quick 120 words THEN MOVE ON.

Study Hints: How to Do Your Student Journal

1. Keep a notebook in which you jot down your thoughts and ideas.
2. After each lecture, visit or piece of work you do jot down 3 paragraphs on how it has impacted you and helped you to understand urban ministry. Write a date next to your entry.
3. Do this regularly until the end of the course.
4. Every now and then type up what you have done (once you have 2-3 pages written).
5. Hand in the typed up version to the lecturer at the end of the course. The typed up version should include the dates of the original entry.
6. The journal can include your crazy ideas, inspirations and “off-the-wall” thoughts about urban missions. Be creative.

Example Entry:

12th November – Jane Smith - I am beginning to realize how strategic cities are and how complex....Greenway's reading xyz really challenged me to....maybe I'll become a nun among the poor.

Questions And Answers

Q: Are the above study hints compulsory?

A: No, they are just there to help you.

Q: What happens if I cannot pay for the notes?

A: If you are genuinely poor. I can live with it. If you are just being disorganized – that is another matter.

Q: Do I have to arrive on time?

A: Yes. Roll will be taken. Two “lates” are allowed. After that you lose 2.5% each time.

Q.: What happens with late assignments?

A: Ask for an extension. I give extensions easily. But if you just presume and don't ask then my normal policy is you lose 5% per day late.

Q: What are your standards for assessment?

A: Typed, spell-checked, referenced, well argued, thoughtful and biblical within a generally evangelical framework. You can disagree with me all you like within the general parameters of truth and accuracy and standard Christian doctrines such as the Trinity.

Q. Do you have any pet hates that we should avoid?

A: Do NOT preach in major assignments (Its Ok in the journal). I do not want a devotional; I want a tightly written, well-referenced scholarly work. Also please don't “cut and paste” big chunks from your computer bible program or Matthew Henry's commentary. Your words please.