

## 5. MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM

Just as Evangelism is very much part of a Christian's walk with God, so Missions is integral to most studies in BGST. It is unreal to compartmentalise Missions and Evangelism and study it exclusive of the whole council of God. Having said that, it must be admitted that certain aspects of the subject area are best treated in a focused manner, hence this department of studies called Missions and Evangelism.

A large task force of lay persons serves either in evangelism or in missions. We seek to minister to these and the emphasis here is on a careful examination of the principles and issues relating to the winning of souls and the establishment and advancement of mission work.

Co-ordinator: Dr Augustine Pagolu

### **ME 101 INTRODUCTION TO EVANGELISM AND WORLD MISSION**

(3 credits, Mr Martin Goldsmith)

This course seeks to provide a foundational Biblical basis for the task of world missions so that God's universal purposes for all nations are seen to be integral to a sound Biblical faith. For many in the Christian church an inadequate understanding of scripture has led to worldwide mission becoming an optional extra both in their theology and in their Christian life. This course aims to examine God's purpose therefore not only for Israel, but also for Gentiles of all races and background. The course includes a look at some of the missiological controversies which confront the church today and in the practice of worldwide cross-cultural mission. All these will be translated into down-to-earth practical reality in effective mission.

Required for the M Div.

### **ME 103 BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF MISSION**

(3 credits, Mr Martin Goldsmith)

Missions permeates both the Old and New Testaments. This course is a study of God's purpose and activity in the Old Testament as revealed through Israel's responsibility to the nations and a consideration of the mandate entrusted to the church in the New Testament and therefore applicable to the Church today.

### **ME 202 BIBLICAL BASIS OF MISSIONS**

(1.5 credits, Rev Dr David Harley)

What is the nature and extent of God's mission to the world? What is the mission that God has given to the Church and in what ways does it differ from the mission that He gave to the people of Israel? This course will examine the biblical foundations for mission that are found in the Old and New Testaments. In so doing, it will address critical issues in contemporary missiology and relate biblical teaching to the missionary challenge of the new millennium.

This is an entry-level course.

### **ME 251 CHRISTIANITY AND CULTURE**

(1.5 credits)

The definition of "culture" will include an understanding of cultural convergence, parallelism and clusters. Areas of study include God and culture; religion and its influence on societal values in cultures; the impact of Christianity on various Asian cultural/religious contexts; and case studies of specific cultures.

- ME 252**            **CROSS-CULTURAL CHRISTIAN COMMUNICATIONS**  
(1.5 credits)  
A study of the basic principles of communication and how these apply to cross-cultural contexts. Understanding cultures: insights from missiological and anthropological studies, effective communication of the gospel in cross-cultural situation including concepts of contextualization, diffusion of innovation and the incarnational model, principles of cross-cultural communication and case-studies will be addressed.
- ME 253**            **PRINCIPLES OF CROSS-CULTURAL CHURCH PLANTING**  
(1.5 credits)  
The main objective of this course is to see churches reproduce churches. The emphasis is on church multiplication as this is more strategic and biblical than growth by addition alone. In growth by multiplication the church penetrates other social circles, near and far, and reproduces itself inside the converts' network of relatives and friends. This course will also look at the opportunities that professionals have in cross-cultural situations. Practical guides and tools will be developed which will help equip students to apply principles and concepts in their own cultural contexts.
- ME 254**            **PERSONAL EVANGELISM**  
(1.5 credits, Mr Jim Chew)  
Personal evangelism is not merely a subject to be studied but to be practised. An amazing number of Christians, even leaders, spend little time in friendship and active communication with the lost. This course will look at principles and ways of personally communicating with those without Christ both within one's own culture and those of other cultures. Part of the course will be interactive.
- ME 255**            **CONTEXTUALIZING THE GOSPEL**  
(1.5 credits, Mr Martin Goldsmith)  
In this course of eight lectures we shall aim to enable students to relate their faith to other religious backgrounds. The course will start with two lectures relating to the controversial issue of whether Christians understand other faiths to be demonic, another equally valid way to God or a combination of truth and error, good and evil. We shall focus attention on the understanding of God and of salvation. Lectures Three to Seven will examine questions related to Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism before the course concludes with a session on contextualizing the Gospel in relationship to other cultures and faiths.
- ME 257**            **CULTURE RESEARCH**  
(3 credits, Dr Miriam Adeney)  
This course will provide preparation for people who want to serve, witness, and disciple in another culture, whether in Singapore or internationally. For those returning from such an experience, this course will serve as a forum for exploring issues which have surfaced, deeper study, and integration. For those who want to look at their own culture missiologically, this course will be a useful grid.
- ME 261**            **THEOLOGY OF RELIGIONS**  
(1.5 credits, Dr C. V. Matthew)  
A survey and critical analysis of some of the major contemporary theologies of religions. It is an attempt to understand the Christian truth claims in relation to other religions and the claims of the latter in the setting of a Christian theological analysis.

**ME 325                    CHRISTIANITY COMES TO ASIA**

(1.5 credits, Dr Bobby Sng)

Home to almost 60 percent of the world's population and the birthplace of all the major religions, Asia was resistant to the gospel for centuries. Apart from the Philippines which has a Roman Catholic majority, most of the other countries have had a Christian population of 1 percent and below. However, in the last three decades remarkable church growth has been noted in a number of countries, including Korea (25 percent), Singapore (14.6 percent), Indonesia (13 percent), and China (3 percent). In the case of the last, the Christian population has grown from 3.5 million in 1949 to what has been estimated at above 30 million today, almost a tenfold increase.

**ME 351                    ASIAN RELIGIONS**

(1.5 credits, Dr Violet James)

An introduction to the study of religions and a survey of the main religions which originated and are predominant in Asia. The course will place particular emphasis on key philosophies, doctrines and practices and the encounter between these religions and the Christian faith.

Available for Private Study.

**ME 352                    DEVELOPING A MISSIONS-INVOLVED CHURCH**

(1.5 credits)

"Missions is the heartbeat of God." No growing Christian will deny that. Therefore, any child of God or organization that wants to feel this heartbeat must seek in one way or another to get involved in missions. This course is designed for those who want to partner with God in transforming their local church into a missions-involved church. Biblical foundations will be complemented by methods that have proven to be effective in developing a missions-involved church. Some local churches will share their experiences. The student will also be introduced to a church model and provided with a practical curriculum for developing an effective missions program.

**ME 353                    CHRISTIANITY AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE**

(1.5 credits)

A critique of contemporary Asian culture from the perspective of Biblical principles and precepts. Singapore culture in particular is viewed from the perspectives of the "national core values", "the Five C's", "kiasuism" and so on. These issues are examined in comparison with Biblical themes such as the Kingdom of God and its values, spiritual transformation and others. The study includes a look at the impact that modern technology, eg. information technology, has on human lives and values and the whole area of the Arts.

**ME 356                    ASIAN RELIGIONS: HINDUISM**

(1.5 credits, Dr C. V. Mathew)

This course includes the characteristic features of Hinduism; major aspects of Hindus' understanding of God/gods; major features of modern Hinduism; and generally enables students to acquire enough understanding to initiate dialogue with Hindu friends and introduce Jesus Christ to them.

Available for Private Study.

**ME 381            MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM SEMINAR**

(1.5 credits)

This seminar is for students who are interested in the investigative study of an area in Missions and Evangelism. The Missions and Evangelism Department will decide on the topics for the seminar. There are oral and written requirements in this seminar.

**ME 391            MISSIONS AND EVANGELISM GUIDED STUDY**

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Missions and Evangelism. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member.

**ME 400            TENT – Tentmakers’ Equipping N Training PROGRAMME**

(4.5 credits, various lecturers; please refer to TENT brochure for entry requirements and programme fees)

**TENT** is a part-time modular course, begun in 1997, and is specially designed to equip and prepare Singaporean professionals for ministry and service in a cross-cultural context. It is organised jointly by BGST and Discipleship Training Centre. Other mission institutions and organizations lend their support.

Participants come from various professions, and include executives, business persons and others who are seriously considering or preparing for work in another culture or nation in their professions.

**TENT** seeks to provide a basic level of specialised training for tentmakers and their spouses to prepare them for effective witnessing in cross-cultural contexts. This course will help them to be better equipped to meet the demands of living and working in a cross-cultural environment.

The seven modules are held throughout the year. Interested persons may begin with any of the modules and work through the whole programme, preferably within twelve months.

On successful completion of all seven modules and course assignments the participant receives the Graduate Certificate of Tentmaking, and 4.5 credits towards the Grad DipCS with payment of residue tuition fee.

The seven modules are:

- ◆ Biblical Basis for Tentmaking Mission
- ◆ Theology of Work
- ◆ Personal Ministry Skills
- ◆ Religions of Asia
- ◆ Understanding Culture
- ◆ Tentmakers and Ethical Issues
- ◆ Coping with Stress