



Me102 THE CHURCH'S MISSION IN ASIA: CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES & ISSUES

Tutor: Dr Kwa Kiem Kiok | 3 CR

About the Course

The future of Christianity, as many recognise, is in the 'Global South', that is, South America, Africa and Asia. While the Church is growing rapidly in Asia, it has also come up against unique challenges in this region, such as the task of contextualising the Gospel in the diverse Asian cultures and

dialoguing with some of the major religions in the world, e.g., Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Daoism. The aim of this course is to consider the mission of the Church in these pluralistic contexts, identify the theological themes relevant to the Church's cultural and religious engagements in Asia and evaluating how the Church can better support missionary endeavours here. The course will adopt a case study approach to learning, with due attention given to the tools needed to analyse complex mission issues and how one may design appropriate leadership training for local churches.

Credits	Fees*
3CR	S\$450(Credit) S\$240 (Audit)
Class Format	* Alumni are entitled to 10% discount on audit course(s)
Online	

About the Lecturer

Dr. Tan Kang San is Executive Director for Asia CMS, a training network of Asian mission Movements & formerly Head of Mission Studies at Redcliffe College, UK and Director for Mission Research with OMF International (1990-2010). He is Consultant for World Evangelical Alliance on Interfaith Issues, and Senior Advisor for Lausanne Movement on Buddhism. Dr. Tan has a DMin. in Missiology from Trinity International University, USA, and is currently pursuing doctoral work in the theology of religions at Aberdeen University.



Mrs Tan Loun Ling is Director for Training with AsiaCMS. Previously, she was Director for Asian Studies at Redcliffe College and Executive Director for MSI Professional Services in Malaysia (1989-2011). She is also a graduate from Regent College (M.TS).

Course Objectives

Through this course, participants will:

- i) Have a better understanding of the social, religious and cultural challenges facing Asian churches and missionary work.

- ii) Be familiarised with the different approaches that can be adopted for more effective mission ministry in the Asian context.

Course Outline

Topics	Topic/ Readings
Historical & Social Contexts	
1	<p>Missiological challenges facing the Asian Church (KS)</p> <p><i>Readings:</i> Mahbubani, Kishore. "The Three Scenarios" & "Why Asia is Rising Now" in Mahbubani, <i>The New Asian Hemisphere: The Irresistible shift of Global Power to the East</i>. New York: Perseus Books, 2008, 11-99</p> <p>*Laing, Mark. "The Changing Face of Mission" in <i>Missiology: An International Review</i>, Vol. XXXIV. No. 2, April, 2006</p> <p>Series of articles on "Asia, Asian Mission Boards, Asian New Religious Movements and Asian Theologies," in Scott Moreau,, Harold Netland and Charles Van Engen, eds., <i>Evangelical Dictionary of World Mission</i>, Baker Books, 2000, 80-90.</p>
2	The Theological Task of Missions
3	<p>Approaches to Asian Christian Studies</p> <p><i>Readings:</i> *Hiebert, Paul and Tite Tienou. "Missional Theology" http://imissional.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/07/Missional-Theology-Tienou-and-Hiebert.pdf</p> <p>*Tan, Kang-San. "Evangelical Missiology from an East Asian Perspective: A Study on Christian Encounter with People of Other Faiths" in <i>Global Missiology for the 21st Century</i> , Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2000, 295-306. http://www.worldevangelicals.org/resources/view.htm?id=164</p> <p>Thompson, David. "Mapping Asian Christianity in the Context of World Christianity" in Sebastian Kim, ed. <i>Christian Theology in Asia</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2008, 3-21</p> <p>Three chapters ("Integral Mission: Exploring a Concept; Mission Driven by the Three Dimensional Gospel; and Toward a Missiology of Transformation," in Matthew,</p>

Topics	Topic/ Readings
	<p>CV, <i>Integral Mission: The Way Forward</i>, Kerala: Christava Sahitya Mamithy, 2006: 44-70</p> <p><i>Recommended Readings:</i> Chua, How Chuang. "Asian Theology" in John Corrie, ed. <i>Dictionary of Mission Theology</i>, IVP, 2007, 29-31 Dyrness, William. "The Challenge of Integration: What Role Social Science and Art Criticism?" http://ojs.globalmissiology.org/index.php/english/article/view/75</p> <p>Koyama, Kosuke. <i>Water Buffalo Theology</i>, Maryknoll: Orbis Books, rev. ed. 1999.</p>
4	<p>Globalisation & Religious Pluralism in Asia Read, summarize and discuss the article below:</p> <p>*Ramachandra, Vinoth. Global Society: Challenges for Christian Mission. http://www.gospel-culture.org.uk/ramachandra.htm</p>
5	<p>Christianity in Asia – past, present and future</p> <p><i>Readings:</i> *Laing, Mark. "Looking Back to Move Forward" in Tan, Kang San (ed). <i>Understanding Asian Mission Movements</i>. Gloucester: Wide Margin, 2011 (also available in Encounters Mission Journal, Issue 30). www.redcliffe.org/SpecialistCentres/EncountersMissionJournal</p> <p>Ma, Julie. "Growth of Christianity in Asia and Its Impact on Mission", in <i>Redcliffe College's Encounters Mission Journal, Issue 16</i> Ma, Julie. "A Critical Appraisal of Korean Missionary Work: Challenges for Western and Global South Missionaries", <i>Encounters Mission Journal, Issue 30</i> Sunquist, Wu and Chew. <i>A dictionary of Asian Christianity</i>. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001 (select sections of interest to you)</p> <p>*Tan, Kang-San. "Will Asian Christianity Blossom or Withers?" in <i>Mission Round Table: The Occasional Bulletin of OMF Mission Research</i>. Vol.1. October 2004, 21-32</p>
Missiological Integration	
6	<p>Serving as Senders with participation from Rev Chua Yeow San, Senior Pastor of Grace (SCC) Church</p> <p><i>Readings:</i> Frith, Mike. <i>Sender's Guide</i>. UK: Oscar, 2012 http://www.stewardship.org.uk/downloads/Senders_Guide.pdf Lee, Loun Ling. "Toward a Maturing Chinese Mission" in <i>Mission Round Table: The Occasional Bulletin of OMF Mission Research</i>, Vol 2, No.1, January 2006</p> <p>Pirola, Neal. <i>Serving As Senders</i>. USA: Emmaus Road International, 1991 Prins, Marina and Braam Willemse. <i>Member Care for Missionaries: A Practical Guide for Senders</i>. South Africa: Member Care South Africa, 2009 (Chaps1-4 available online)</p> <p>Prins, M and Braam Willemse. <i>Supporting Mission Workers: The Key Role of the</i></p>

Topics	Topic/ Readings
	<p>Sending Church http://www.ethne.net/wp-content/uploads/2008/07/marina-article-the-sending-church-mani.pdf</p>
7	<p>Christian Witness in the Workplace</p> <p>Readings: “Business as Mission” Reports by Mats Tunehag, http://www.matstunehag.com/bam-think-tank-reports/</p> <p>“Business as Mission” in WEA Connections, Fall 2009. http://worldea.org/news/4126 *“Marketplace Ministry” http://www.lausanne.org/documents/2004forum/LOP40_IG11.pdf “Tentmaking in Today’s Global Environment” in WEA Connections, April 2006. http://worldea.org/news/4126 Volf, M. <i>Work in the Spirit: Toward a Theology of Work</i>. Oregon: Wipf and Stock, 2001</p> <p>Recommended Readings: Beckett, J. (2006) <i>Mastering Monday: Experiencing God’s kingdom in the workplace</i>, Nottingham: IVP Grudem, W. (2003) <i>Business For The Glory Of God</i>, IL: Crossway Books Lai, P (2005) <i>Tentmaking – Business as Missions</i>, Georgia: Authentic Media Pocock, M, Van Rheenen, G and McConnell, D. (2005) <i>The Changing Face of World Missions: Engaging Contemporary Issues and Trends</i>, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic Russell, M. ed. (2010) <i>Our Souls at Work: How great leaders live their faith in the global marketplace</i>, USA: Russell Media Stevens, Paul. (2006) <i>Doing God’s Business: Meaning and Motivation for the Marketplace</i>, Grand Rapids: William B. Eerdmans</p>
8.1	<p>Gospel, Culture & Contextualisation</p>
8.2	<p>Conextualisation & Contextualised Discipleship</p> <p>Readings: Jonathan Ingleby, Tan, Kang San, Tan, Loun Ling (eds). <i>Contextualisation and Mission Training: Engaging Asia’s Religious Worlds</i>. Malaysia: Regnum/AsiaCMS, 2014 (select 2 chapters)</p> <p>Moreau, Scott. “Contextualization that is Comprehensive,” in <i>Missiology: An International Review</i>, 34 no 3, 2006, 325-335. Whiteman, Darrell L. “Contextualization: The Theory, the Gap, the Challenge” in <i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i>, 21 no. 1, January 1997, 2-7. Tan, Kang-San. “Elements of a Genuine Encounter with Chinese Buddhists in East Asia” in David Lim and Steve Spaulding, <i>Sharing Jesus in a Buddhist World</i>, Pasadena: William Carey Library, 2003</p> <p>_____. “Transforming Conversion: From Conversion to Transformation of Culture” in Tan, Kang-San. ed. <i>The Soul of Mission: Perspectives on Leadership, Spirituality and Asian Mission</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Pustaka SUFES, 2007, 220-230. _____. “Theology of Religion” in John Corrie, ed. <i>Dictionary of Mission Theology</i>, IVP, 2007, 384-388</p>

Topics	Topic/ Readings
	<p><i>Recommended Reading:</i> Asian Theological Seminary and Gorospe, Adonis Abelard. <i>Naming the Unknown God</i>, Manila: OMF Lit, 2006.</p>
Practical Responses	
9	<p>Partnership in Mission (KS/LL)</p> <p><i>Readings:</i> *Ingleby, Jonathan (ed). <i>Partnership Issues in Asian Mission. Encounters Mission Journal, Issue 24, June 2008</i> http://www.redcliffe.org/SpecialistCentres/EncountersMissionJournal</p> <p>Tan, Kang San (ed). <i>Understanding Asian Mission Movements</i>. Gloucester: Wide Margin, 2011 (Course Text)</p>
10	Conclusion: Practical Issues and Integration
11	<p>Online Lecture 1: Missional Leadership (1 hr)</p> <p><i>Reading:</i> Tan, Kang-San. ed. <i>The Soul of Mission: Perspectives on Leadership, Spirituality and Asian Mission</i>. Kuala Lumpur: Pustaka SUFES, 2007</p>
12	Online Lecture 2: Asia CMS Transforming the Nation Seminar (Christ Wright) (1 hr)
13	<p>Online Exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete the online questions prescribed for the articles listed below. The answer to each question should not be more than 250 words (Total: 1,500 words for 6 questions) - Article 1: Julie Ma, "Growth of Christianity in Asia and Its Impact on Mission" in <i>Understanding Asian Mission Movement</i> (Gloucester, Asian Mission Consultation Committee, 2011), 77-102. - Article 2: Darrell L Whiteman, "Contextualization: The Theory, the Gap, the Challenge" in <i>International Bulletin of Missionary Research</i>, 21 no. 1, January 1997, 2-7. - Article 3: Hwa Yung, "Leadership or Servanthood" in Tan Kang San, <i>The Soul of Mission: Perspectives on Christian Leadership, Spirituality and Mission in East Asia</i> (KL: Pustaka Sufes. Sdn. Bhd), 194-207.
	<p>Documentary Screening: (Optional)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diarmaid MacCulloch's <i>A History of Christianity</i>, Episodes 3 & 5 at BGST 50 Kallang Pudding Road. - Thereafter, the DVD is available for at the library for viewing.

Course Requirements

(1) 3 Reflection papers that summarise and critique the prescribed readings found in any 3 topics (i.e., 1 paper per topic) (1,000 words each, 20%); (2) Online Exercises (1,500 words, 30%); (3) Essay (3,000 words, 50%).

COURSE ASSIGNMENT POLICIES

1. For **style and formatting** of assignments, please refer to the document "General Formatting for all Assignments" available on your course Moodle page.
2. ALL assignments are to be submitted by uploading via Moodle.
3. Students must submit all their assignments **6 months** after the course registration date

Students are advised that BGST strongly discourages plagiarism. For more information on this point (what plagiarism is, how BGST penalises it), please consult the BGST 'Guidelines for Academic Papers'.

Your Course Tutor (Credit Students Only)

- You will be appointed a course tutor (who will also be your grader) upon course registration.
- Please feel free to interact with your tutor using BGST's Moodle online learning system if you have any questions related to the course content, or your assignments.

For more information, contact us at **Biblical Graduate School of Theology**
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