

**XS8321 Witness and Ministry in Global Context:  
Experiencing a Culture of Homelessness  
3 Credit Hours**

**Christian Community Development Immersion Class**

**From Monday, January 9 to Sunday January 15, 2012**

**Perkins School of Theology Southern Methodist University**

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**Class Location & Accommodations:** Perkins Seminary students enrolled in the January intensive will spend seven days in Waco, Texas, working with Mission Waco [www.missionwaco.org](http://www.missionwaco.org) and Church Under the Bridge [www.churchunderthebridge.org](http://www.churchunderthebridge.org) in an experiential context of urban ministry. Students will stay in the Mission Waco Training Center, 628 N.15<sup>th</sup>, 76707, throughout the immersion.

**Course Goals:**

1. To prepare students to understand and engage in holistic urban ministry among the poor and marginalized;
2. To help students learn to build networks among social service, civic, neighborhood, and various church groups;
3. To sensitize students in asset based Christian community development and social justice;
4. To deepen the student's theological base for urban ministry;
5. To introduce students to "best practices" of urban ministry from around the nation.

**Guest Lecturer and Local Class Coordinator:**

Dr. Jimmy Dorrell, *Founder and Executive Director of Mission Waco; Pastor of Church Under the Bridge; Adjunct Professor-George W. Truett Seminary, BGU, and Eastern Univ. Urban Studies*

**Packing for the trip:**

Bring personal care items, sleeping bag, and pillow. Dorm accommodations.

**Course Requirements:**

- Attendance (25%)- All Waco lectures and ministry connections.
- Book Reviews (25%) on 3 of the 4 texts. Review should provide summary of author's thesis (1 page), engagement and critique of the book (2-3 pages), and discussion of the book's value for practitioners of community transformation (1-2 pages). Total length 5 pages per review. Due: Monday, January 9, 2012.
- Journal (25%) one page per day, reflecting on day's experiences and learnings. No later than Monday, January 16, 2012.

- Final Project (25%): Design a community development project using resources from readings, class discussions and immersion experience. Project should help connect the existing church with community development. Project should be in your geographic location. (8-10 pages, Due: January 19, 2012).

**Required Reading:**

1. Dorrell, Jimmy. *Trolls and Truth: 14 Realities about Today's Church that We Don't Want to See*. Birmingham, AL: New Hope Publishers, 2000.
2. Corbett, Steve and Fikkert, Brian; *When Helping Hurts: How to Alleviate Poverty Without Hurting the Poor and Yourself*, Moody Publishers, 2009.
3. *Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*, Robert D. Lupton, Regal, 2007.

**Additional Reading:** (choose remainder of assigned pages from books below or as assigned by your professor.

**Recommended Reading:**

*Transforming Power: Biblical Strategies for Making a Difference in Your Community*; Robert Linthicum; InterVarsity, 2003.

*Compassion, Justice and the Christian Life: Rethinking Ministry to the Poor*; Robert Lupton; Regal Books, 2007.

*Dead Church Walking: Giving Life to the Church that is Dying to Survive*; Jimmy Dorrell, Biblica, 2011.

*Renewing the City: Reflections on Community Development and Urban Renewal*. Robert Lupton, InterVarsity, 2005.

*Building Communities from the Inside Out: A Path Toward Mobilizing A Community's Assets*. John P. Kretzmann and John McKnight, Chicago: ACTA Publications, 1993.

*Building a People of Power*, Robert Linthicum; Authentic Publishers ISBN:1932805516, 2006

*Speaking My Mind: The Radical Evangelical Prophet Tackles the Tough Issues Christians Are Afraid to Face*, Tony Campolo; ISBN: 084990823X

*The Urban Christian*. Ray Bakke; InterVarsity Press, 1987.

*A Theology As Big As the City*. Ray Bakke, IVP, 1997.

*Dead Church Walking*, Jimmy Dorrell, Biblica, 2011.

*Faith Works (revised)*, Jim Wallis, PageMill Press; 2001.

*Just Generosity*, Ronald J. Sider, Baker Books, 1999.

*Planting and Growing Urban Churches*, Harvie M. Conn, Baker Books, 1997.

*Hard Living People and Mainstream Christians*, Tex Sample, Abingdon Press, 1993.

*Empowering the Poor*, Robert C. Linthicum, MARC/World Vision, 1991.

*The Urban Face of Mission: Ministering the Gospel in a Diverse and Changing World*, Harvie Conn and others, ed. Manuel Ortiz and Susan Baker, P&R, 2002

*To Live In Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*; Mark R. Gornik, Eerdmans, 2002.

(others as approved)

### **Written Assignments:**

#### **BOOK REPORT FORMAT: (25%)**

1. Discuss the essence of the book-theme, goal, purpose, main reason for written
2. The main thoughts
3. Key emphases- more significant matters of main thoughts
4. Contribution and value of book-idea, new thought, new angle, lasting value, etc.
5. Criticism- youth thoughts
6. Questions you would ask of the book or author.

#### **JOURNAL: (25%) (Due no later than January 16, 2012)**

The journal must include some content and your personal thoughts on each of the following:

- a) one page summary papers (double spaced) of each class room lecturer
- b) one page summary of the “exegeting the city” and “ministry tour
- c) one page summary of overall conference experience and evaluation

#### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT: (25%) (due on January 19, 2012)**

The project will be chosen with the Professor of Record to assist the student toward involvement in a project that may be personally helpful to his/her ministry context. Although projects differ based on kind, generally each will involve some a) action research (surveys, interviews, background study, etc.), b) assessments based on the research, c) interaction with a local community, d) implementation of a project, and e) evaluation of the project or its potential. All work and hours are to be documented and briefly explained (ex: *11/10/11; 2:00-3:30; interviewed residents on Colcord Ave regarding the neighborhood assets*). Surveys, findings, evaluation forms, etc must be submitted with the summary paper. The summary paper should be a minimum of four typewritten pages (double space) and include a narrative of the goal, experience, learnings, next steps, and conclusions. Grade will be determined based on effort and implementation of appropriate methodology, including longer-term impact from project.

**Schedule:**

**Mon, 1/9**

1:00p Arrive at Mission Waco Training Center, 628 N. 15<sup>th</sup> St., Waco, TX  
2:00 Orientation and Lecture #1- *Basic Essentials of Urban Ministry & Christian Community Development: Theology and Practice*  
3:30 Break  
3:45 Ministry Connection A: *“Other Side of Waco Tour”*  
6:00 Dinner  
7:00 Ministry Connection B: *MBK Homeless Shelter devotional*

**Tue, 1/10**

7:30 Breakfast  
8:30 Lecture/Discussion #2: *“Orthopraxy: Changing Our Cities Based on a Holistic Biblical Theology”*  
9:20 Break  
9:45 Lecture/Discussion #3: *How theologies affect our view of poverty, evil and action* (Dorrell)  
11:15 Break  
11:30 Lunch- Ministry Connection C-*Tuesday “Tune-Up”* (Meyer Center)  
1:00 Ministry Connection D: *Alcohol/Drug Rehab* (Vincent Hartsfield)  
3:00 Ministry Connection E: *Children & Youths Program*  
5:45 Dinner at *Manna House*

**Wed, 1/11**

6:15 Breakfast at Meyer Center (1226 Washington)  
8:30 Debrief MBK shelter time  
9:00 Lecture/Discussion #4: *“Empowerment vs. Relief”* (Dorrell)  
10:00 Break  
10:15 Ministry Connection F: *Real Life Scavenger Hunt*  
3:00 Debrief  
3:45 Break  
6:00 Dinner *“World Banquet”*  
7:15 Video: *Global Poverty* (and discussion)

**Thur, 1/12**

7:30 a.m. Breakfast- World Cup Cafe  
8:45 (Ministry Connection G: Jubilee Center:  
1. *Fair Trade Discussion*  
2. *Performing & Visual Arts*  
10:45 Games and Initiatives  
12:15 Lunch on your own  
1:45 Lecture #5: *“Asset-Based Community Development”*(Dorrell)  
3:30 Ministry Connection H: *Children, Youth or Adult group time (attend your choice)*  
6:00 Dinner  
7:00 Lecture and Discussion #6: *Renewal of the Church to Impact Cities* (Dorrell)

**Fri, 1/13**

6:00a Ministry Connection I: *Homeless Breakfast (First Lutheran Church)*  
9:00 Discussion  
9:30 Free Time  
12:00 Lunch (TBD)

1:00 Lecture and Discussion #7: *Racial and Class Reconciliation*  
2:30 Break and Free time  
7:00 Dinner & Ministry Connection J: *Devotional at Homeless Shelter (“My Brother’s Keeper”)*

Sat, 1/14

7:30 Breakfast  
10:00 Ministry Connection K: *“King’s Clubs” in housing complexes*  
12:00 Lunch  
3:00 Ministry Connection L: Activity with Homeless (TBD)

Sun, 1/15

7:30a Breakfast  
9:45 Ministry Connection M: *“Recovery Group” at Church Under the Bridge*  
11:00 Ministry Connection N: *Worship- Church Under the Bridge*  
12:30-1:30 Lunch and Evaluation, Clean up and Departure