Engaging the Missional Imagination:  
Worship and Preaching for a Missional Church  
DM 9306

Professors:  
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Professor of Evangelism, PST  
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Rev. John Thornburg, guest lecturer in worship arts

Dates: January 4-14, 2011 (9 sessions)  
Time: 8:00 – 11:00 AM

Course Description:  
A course exploring the theology and practice of worship and preaching in the context of a missional ecclesiology. Three term hours.

Course Objectives:  
Students will develop a biblical, theological understanding of what it means to be a “missional” Church. They will gain confidence and experience in leading worship and preaching in missional contexts beyond the local church sanctuary. More than simply expanding their own understandings, the course will help them inspire a missional commitment in the congregation through preaching and worship. They will leave the course equipped with specific forms and practices of worship and preaching.

Required Reading:  
Missional Church  
• Roxburgh and Boren, *Introducing the Missional Church*  
• Brian McLaren, *A New Kind of Christianity*  

Preaching  
• Eunjoo Mary Kim, *Preaching in an Age of Globalization*  
• Alyce M. McKenzie, *Novel Preaching: Tips from Top Writers on Crafting Creative Sermons*  
• Doug Pagitt, *Preaching Reimagined: The Role of the Sermon in Communities of Faith*  

Worship for Missional Congregations  
• Clayton Schmit, *Sent and Gathered: A Worship Manual for a Missional Church*  

Cultural Exegesis for Missional Preaching and Worship  
• *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*, edited by Kevin J. Vanhoozer, Charles A. Anderson, and Michael J. Sleasman
Recommended Reading:

**Missional Church**
- Phyllis Tickle, *The Great Emergence*
- Hirsch and Sweet, *The Forgotten Ways: Reactivating the Missional Church*
- *Field Guide to the Missional Church*, Rouse and Van Gelder
- Milfred Mineatrea, *Shaped by God’s Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches*
- Will Mancini, *ChurchUnique: How Missional Leaders Cast Vision, Capture Culture and Create Movement*
- Bruce Sanguin, *The Emerging Church: A Model for Change and a Map for Renewal*
- Doug Pagitt, *The Church in the Inventive Age*

**Preaching**
- James Nieman and Thomas Rogers, *Preaching to Every Pew: Cross-Cultural Strategies*
- Saunders and Campbell, *The Word on the Street: Performing the Scriptures in the Urban Context*
- Mark Allan Powell, *What Do They Hear? Bridging the Gap Between Pulpit and Pew*
- Nora Tubbs Tisdale, *Preaching as Local Theology and Folk Art*
- O. Wesley Allen, Jr. *The Homiletic of All Believers*

**Worship for a Missional Congregation**

**Cultural Exegesis for Missional Preaching and Worship**
- *Cultural Intelligence: Improving Your CQ to Engage Our Multicultural World*, David Livermore
- Matthew O’Brien, *My Week at the Blue Angel: And Other Stories from the Storm Drains, Strip Clubs, and Trailer Parks of Las Vegas*

**Class Schedule**

**Day One:** “Missional Ecclesiology”

**Day Two:** “Globalized Preaching”
Day Three “Dialogical Preaching”

Day Four: “Missional Worship”

Day Five: Guests from missional outposts

Day Six: “Cultural Exegesis for Missional Preaching and Worship”

Day Seven: “Preaching that captures the Missional Imagination”

Day Eight: Reports from recommended list:

Day Nine: Missional Worship Celebration (class collaboration)

PRE-CLASS ASSIGNMENTS

1. Assignment on Missional Ecclesiology: Write a five page paper on one of the required readings in missional ecclesiology. Your analysis should address these questions:
   - What is missional ecclesiology?
   - In what ways is your church a missional congregation?
   - In what ways is it an attractional congregation?
   - What forces would support and encourage a move toward missional identity and what forces would impede that movement?

2. Assignment on Eunjoo Kim’s Preaching in an Age of Globalization:
   Write a total of six pages with three pages being a reflection before you read Eunjoo Kim’s book and three after. Use the following process:
   - View/listen to a DVD of a sermon you have preached in the past year, before doing the readings in Kim. (Bring this DVD to class, as well.)
   - Write three pages describing how the sermon reflects your habitual practices of sermon preparation: prayer, congregational exegesis, scriptural exegesis, sermon formation and delivery.
   - Then read Kim’s book on preaching in a globalized context.
   - Conclude by writing a three page paper discussing how her insights would affect these areas of your sermon preparation.

3. Assignment on Doug Pagitt’s Preaching Reimagined:
   - Choose another sermon you have preached in the past year.
   - Bring a DVD and 10 copies of the manuscript of the sermon to class.
   - Along with the manuscript, prepare a one-page outline that describes how the sermon unfolds and bring 10 copies of the outline to class.
   - Be prepared to lead the class in a 15-20 discussion on how Pagitt’s ideas about preaching relate to your current practice. In your discussion, cover the following
     - An evaluation of Pagitt’s ideas that includes a critique
     - How you already incorporate some of his ideas
4. Assignment on Clayton Schmit’s *Sent and Gathered*:
   - Three page reflection paper on Schmit’s book, as follows:
     - Bring several bulletins from your church over the past 6 months.
     - Prepare a 3 page paper as you read his *Sent and Gathered: A Manual for Missional Worship*. In it, answer three questions: (1 page each)
       - What aspects of your worship are affirmed and confirmed?
       - What aspects are challenged?
       - What changes are called for?

Assignments due during the 9 day on campus class:

- Choose one book from the recommended list that you have not yet read and write a 3 page report
- Read *Everyday Theology: How to Read Cultural Texts and Interpret Trends*, and keep a “cultural exegesis” journal that will result in a two page paper to be handed in on day 6.
- Read *Novel Preaching* and rewrite a former sermon based on its principles. Due in class on day 7.
- Read a book from the recommended list(s) and be prepared to share your insights with the class (day 8)
  - Bring outline that answers four questions
  - What’s new? (new insights)
  - What confirms what you already knew?
  - What challenges what you thought you knew?
  - What will change (in your approach/practices) as a result of your reading this book?
- Collaborate with rest of class in a missional worship experience the final day of class (day 9)