DM 9353-The Practice of Evangelism
January 13-17, 2014

Instructor: Harold J. Recinos, Ph.D.
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Room: TBA

January 13-17. 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m; 1:30 p.m-4:30 p.m.

"I'm still discovering, right up to this moment, that it is only by living completely in this world that one learns to have faith. I mean living unreservedly in life's duties, problems, successes and failures, experiences and perplexities. In so doing, we throw ourselves completely into the arms of God."---Dietrich Bonheoffer

"Evangelism is just one beggar telling another beggar where to find bread."
--D. T. Niles

Course Description:

A critical examination of fundamental features of evangelistic practice as related especially to the ministry of evangelism in the local church. Particular attention will be given to the following: evangelistic preaching, faith sharing, and the equipping of the local church members for the tasks of evangelization. Attention also be given to evangelism and mission in an increasingly urbanized world. Three Credit Hours.

Required Reading

Wuthnow, Robert. *After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since 1950*. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1998.

David Leong, *Street Signs: Toward a Missional Theology of Urban Cultural Engagement*

Harold J. Recinos, *Good News from the Barrio: Prophetic Witness for the Church*

Scott J. Jones, The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor: A Theology of Witness and Discipleship.

Pre-Course Assignments (20%)

1. Read all textbooks.
2. Write a 2-page assessment paper of each required book bearing in mind the following question: "What makes evangelism in a diverse and urbanizing world challenging and difficult?"
3. Write a 1-page definition paper: "How do I (personally) define evangelism?"

Requirements:

1. Individual preparation of a supplementary reading article in précis form and presented orally in class. **(20%).**

2. A final paper of 15-20 pages on a topic related to this course with accompanying bibliography. **(40%).** Papers should explore contextual characteristics and cultural dynamics of a general nature to which the concerns of ministry and evangelism must respond (e.g., Christian witness with specific ethnic or immigrant groups; social class groups; inner city gangs; specific religious groups; specific language communities, and so forth). **Due: February 21**

3. Class attendance and participation **(20%).**

Class Schedule

January 13

Session I (A.M.)

Assignment: Introduction/Overview

Session II (P.M)

Assignment: Chapter 1-3 in *After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since the 1950s*

Supplementary Reading

1. Achim Hartner, Chapter 5 "Megatrends That Challenge an Evangelizing Church" in W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson, eds. *Considering the Great Commission* (On Reserve).
2. David Bosch, Chapter I "Evangelism: Theological Currents and Cross-currents Today" in Chilcote, Paul & Laceye Warner, *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. (On Reserve).

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Session III (A.M.)

Assignment: Finish Reading *After Heaven: Spirituality in America Since the 1950s*

Supplementary Reading

1. Isaiah M. Dau, **"**Following Jesus in a World of Suffering and Violence**"** Evangelical Review of Theology, (2007), 31 (4) 358-368. (On Reserve).
2. Orlando Costas, Chapter 3 "Evangelism and the Gospel of Salvation" in Chilcote, Paul & Laceye Warner, *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. (On Reserve).

Session IV (P.M.)

Assignment: Chapters Intro and Chaps.1-4 in The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor.

Supplementary Reading

1. Elaine Robinson, Chapter 3 “The Global Mission of the Church” in W. Stephen Gunter and Elaine Robinson, eds. *Considering the Great Commission* (On Reserve)

January 15

Session V (A.M.)

Assignment: Finish Reading The Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor

Supplementary Reading

1. Stephen Hunter, “The Emergent Church and its Discontents” in Journal of Beliefs & Values: Studies in Religion & Education. (Dec 2008), 29/3, Pp. 287-296. (On Reserve). Journal of Beliefs & Values: Studies in Religion & Education. Dec2008, Vol. 29 Issue 3, p287-296. (On Reserve)
2. Paul Chilcote, Chapter 18 “The Integral Nature of Worship and Evangelism” in Chilcote, Paul & Laceye Warner, *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church*. *(On Reserve).*

Session VI (P.M.)

Assignment: Chaps.1-5 in *Street Signs*

Supplementary Reading

1. Timothy Gorringe, “Living Toward a Vision: Cities, the Common Good, and Christian Imagination.” In Anglican Theological Review. (Fall 2009), 91/4, 521-537. (On Reserve).

January 16

Session VII (A.M.)

Assignment: Finish reading Street Signs

Supplementary Reading

1. Harold J. Recinos, "Pastoral Anthropology and Local Immersion" in *Jesus Weeps: Global Encounters on Our Doorstep.* (On Reserve).

Session VIII (P.M)

Assignment Chapters 1-3 in *Good News from the Barrio*

Supplementary Reading

1. Fernando Segovia, “Chapter 2” "Hispanic American Theology and the Bible: Effective Weapon and Faithful Ally" In *We Are a People*. (On Reserve).

January 17

Session IX (A.M.)

Assignment: Finish reading *Good News from the Barrio*

Supplementary Reading

1. Jacob Kavunkal, "Mission or Evangelization?" Mission Studies: Journal of the International Association for Mission Studies, (2004), 21(1) 55-64. (On Reserve)
2. Letty Russell, Chapter 29 "Liberation and Evangelism—A Feminist Perspective" in Chilcote, Paul & Laceye Warner, *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church. (On Reserve).*

Session X (P.M)

Assignment: Prepare a reflection to be presented orally to the class that responds to the following: 1) State how the course has helped you develop an understanding of evangelism and urban mission? What impact will this understanding have on your leadership of the church?

References

Chilcote, Paul & Laceye Warner, *The Study of Evangelism: Exploring a Missional Practice of the Church.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2008.

Goizueta, Roberto S. ed. *We Are A People! Initiatives in Hispanic American Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1992.

Gunter, Stephen, W. and Elaine Robinson, eds. Considering the Great Commission. Nashville: Abingdon, 2005.

Recinos, Harold. *Jesus Weeps: Global Encounters on our Doorstep*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 1992.

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Suggested Further Reading

Abraham, William J. *The Logic of Evangelism*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989

Arias, Mortimer, *Announcing the Reign of God: Evangelization and the Subversive Memory of Jesus* CSS Publishing Co., 2001.

Bader-Saye, Scott. *Following Jesus in a Culture of Fear*, Grand Rapids:Brazo, 2007

Escobar, Samuel. The *New Global Mission: The Gospel from Everywhere to Everyone*.
Downers Grove, IVP, 2003

Emerson, Michael. *People of the Dream: Multiracial Congregations in the United States*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

Geisler, Norman L. and Randy Douglass. *Bringing Your Faith to Work.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005.

Gornik, Mark, *To Live in Peace: Biblical Faith and the Changing Inner City*. Eerdmans Pub. 2002

Green, Michael. *Evangelism in the Early Church*. Rev. Ed. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2003.

Guder, Darrell L. *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1998.

Heath, Elaine, *The Mystic Way of Evangelism*, Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2008.

Halter, Hugh and Smay, Matt, *The Tangible Kingdom: Creating Incarnational Community*, Hoboken, NJ: Jossey-Bass, 2008

Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*. New York: Oxford, 2002.

Kallenberg, Brad J. *Live to Tell: Evangelism for a Postmodern Age*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2008

Lamin, Sanneh, *Translating the Message: The Missionary Impact on Culture*. Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 1989.

Laytham, Brent D., *God Is Not...: Religious, Nice, "One of Us," An American, A Capitalist*. Brazos, 2004.

Marty, Martin E. and F. E. Greensphan, editors. *Pushing the Faith: Proselytism and Civility in a Pluralistic Word.* New York: Crossroad, 1988.

McLaren, Brian D. *More Ready Than You Realize: Evangelism as Dance in the Postmodern Matrix*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2002

Newbigin, Lesslie. *The Gospel in a Pluralistic Society.* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1989.

Poe, Harry Lee. *Christian Witness in a Postmodern World.* Nashville: Abingdon, 2001.

Rae, Douglas W. *City: Urbanism and Its End.* Harrisonburg: Yale University Press, 2005.

Rainer, Thom S. *Surprising Insights from the Unchurched: And Proven Ways to Reach Them.* Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2001.

Rhodes, Stephen. *Where the Nations Meet: The Church in a Multicultural World*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity, 1998.

Recinos, Harold J. ed. *Wading Through Many Voices: Toward a Theology of Public Conversation. Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield, 2011*.

Shaw, R. Daniel and Charles E. Van Engen. *Communicating God's Word in a Complex World:*

God's Truth or Hocus Pocus? Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2003.

Stark, Rodney. *Cities of God: The Real Story of How Christianity Became an Urban Movement and Conquered Rome*. New York: HarperSanFrancisco, 2006

Smith, Susan E. *Women In Mission: From the New Testament to Today*. American Society of Missiology Series. Maryknoll, N.Y.: Orbis Books, 2007.

Sider, Ronald J., Olson, Philip N., and Unruh, Heidi Rolland. *Churches that Make a Difference: Reaching Your Community with Good News and Good Works.* Grand Rapids: Baker, 2002.

Turner, William. *Discipleship for African American Christians: A Journey Through the Church Covenant.* Judson, 2002.

Course Policies

ATTENDANCE: Class attendance is required. Excessive unexplained absences will reduce your final course grade.

ASSIGNMENTS: You must complete and turn in all required assignments to receive a passing grade in the course. Late papers are not accepted unless you make prior arrangements with me. **GRADE OF INCOMPLETE (I):** The grade of I (incomplete) indicates the failure to do some major portion of the required work in the course. The grade of I is granted by the Committee on Student Development, only on written request by the student. (For a complete discussion of I grade procedures, consult the Perkins School of Theology Catalog 2011-2013 page 55, Grades.)

PLAGRISM AND ACCAEDIMIC DISHONESTY (Consult the Perkins Student Handbook 2012-2013 pg. 59.g Appendix B): Do not turn in someone else's work as your own. All work must be done by you. Failing to adhere to these guidelines constitutes plagiarism and/or academic dishonesty.
Failure to document sources and/or correctly integrate material into your written assignments is also considered plagiarism. Whenever you incorporate material from an outside source, whether electronic or print, you must document the source of this material and you must quote, paraphrase, or summarize the material correctly. Any form of plagiarism or academic dishonesty will result in an automatic "0" for the assignment. At the instructor's discretion, it may also result in an "F" for the final course grade and punishment by the university.

EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES: If at any time during the semester personal crises prevent you from performing to the best of your abilities in the course, please notify me as early as possible. Before making exceptions to any of the policies stated in this syllabus, I have the right to request appropriate documentation. This might include letters from physicians, counselors, and/or academic advisors.

DISABILITIES: Perkins and SMU are dedicated to giving all students the best educational experience possible. As part of this goal, SMU and Perkins welcome the opportunity to work with all students with disabilities to obtain the resources needed to maximize their learning. Students needing academic accommodations for a disability must first contact Dr. Evelyn Parker, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs at Perkins (214-768-4334) or eparker@smu.edu at the start of classes. A helpful resource at SMU is the Services for Students with Disabilities office located in 220 Memorial Health Center, under the direction of Rebecca Marin (214-768-4557 or rmarin@smu.edu). Guidelines for documentation of

disability are posted at http://smu.edu/studentlife/ssd/ossd_eligibility.asp and should be completed two week prior to the beginning of course work to allow for processing.

MINORITY CONCERNS AND THE PERKINS CURRICULUM: In 1975 the Perkins Senate passed resolutions which bear on the relation of the Perkins curriculum to this school's common concern for the status of ethnic minority groups and of women both in education for ministry and in the ministry itself. The following statement summarizes these resolutions with respect to all courses except those in the area of ministry.

1. Instructors and students alike are urged to use inclusive language, images and metaphors that give full and positive value to both the past contributions and the future prospects of ethnic minorities and women in the church and in the society at large.
2. Instructors and students alike are urged to give sensitive consideration to the role of images from a predominately white and male culture in shaping both the language and concepts of Christian theology and the models and methods of Christian ministry that are widely current today.
3. Instructors are urged to make every effort to provide-in the syllabi, assignments and formats of their courses-opportunities (a) for women students and students from ethnic minority groups to pursue their study with special reference to their own status or tradition and (b) for all students to become acquainted with the special problems.