

## EV 501. ENABLING AN EVANGELIZING CHURCH

Fall Semester, 2008

Professor: L. Wesley de Souza, PhD  
Candler School of Theology  
Emory University

Evangelism 501 (3 Credits)  
T&Th, 9:30-10:50 a.m.  
Office hours: T, 2:30-5:00 p.m.  
By appointment only

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### COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This introductory course equips the student to understand and accept the challenge of intentionally communicating the gospel, by word, deed and signs, to the uncommitted, within and without the local church. The course explores practical ways to help laity use their gifts in the ministry of evangelism.

### RATIONALE:

The purpose of the course is the formation of Missionary Pastors and Local Church Leaders who are equipped to lead local congregations in which people encounter and are transformed by God through Jesus Christ. Thus the title of the course: *Enabling an Evangelizing Church*. An evangelizing church is one that proclaims by **word, deed, and signs** the mighty works of salvation in Jesus Christ. Its *intent* is changed lives and renewed relationships that demonstrate the love, peace, justice and consciousness of the Kingdom of God. Its *means* are not coercion, fear, or glib commercialism, but humble witness, patience, and firm reliance on the power of God's Spirit to transform the sharing of our faith into personal whole life commitment. Its *scope* includes the commissioning of every believer to move outward in love to family, friends, neighbors, and strangers. Its *role* is essential as the primary response to unconditional love, and its *necessity* for today cannot be exaggerated.

With regard to our responsibility in this vital area, "The people of God, who are the church made visible in the world, must convince the world of the reality of the gospel or leave it unconvinced. There can be no evasion or delegation of this responsibility; the church is either faithful as a witnessing and serving community, or it loses its vitality and its impact on an unbelieving world" (Para. 128, "Faithful Ministry," *The Book of Discipline* [2004] of the United Methodist Church).

## COURSE OBJECTIVES:

1. To introduce students to important resources on mission and evangelism;
  2. To provide a forum for discussion of issues of evangelism, raising consciousness regarding the dimensions of the practice of Christian evangelism and mission in context;
  3. To clarify, primarily from a Wesleyan perspective, the basic gospel message and aid students in their own design of theologically appropriate methods and motivations for its communication;
  4. To provide practical insights into the dynamics of congregational health and renewal in relation to the ministry of evangelism;
  5. To develop the capacity to critique ministries and approaches to evangelism and mission, and thereby advance the practice; and
  6. To facilitate the student's beginning contribution to mission and evangelism research, reflection, practice, and literature.
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## STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE:

We will follow the topics as listed on the schedule, interweaving biblical, historical, contemporary, and practical perspectives. Readings are assigned to cover material that, for the most part, we won't have time to deal with fully in class. Classes will be a combination of lecture and discussion, with occasional videos.

## REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS (See Bibliography for full information on readings):

The following are required texts:

- *Announcing The Reign of God*, by Mortimer Arias (128)
- *Christianity Rediscovered*, by Vincent L. Donovan (169 pp)
- *Liberating the Church: The Ecology of Church and Kingdom*, by Howard Snyder (258 pp)
- *The Gospel in a Pluralist Society*, by Lesslie Newbigin (244 pp)
- *The Logic of Evangelism*, by William Abraham (233 pp)

The following books are highly recommended:

- *Bridging the Gap: Evangelism, Development and Shalom* (Innovations in Mission Series), by Bruce Bradshaw
- *Considering the Great Commission*, by Gunter and Robinson, editors
- *Evangelism after Christendom: The Theology and Practice of Christian Witness*, by Bryan P. Stone
- *Evangelistic Love of God and Neighbor*, by Scott Jones

- *Faith Sharing*, by Eddie Fox and George Morris
- *Live to Tell*, by Brad Kallenberg
- *Missional Church: A Vision for the Sending of the Church in North America*, by Darrell Guder
- *Signs of the Spirit: How God Reshapes the Church*, by Howard Snyder
- *The Celtic Way of Evangelism*, by George G. Hunter III
- *The Church Confident*, by Leander Keck
- *The Mystery and Meaning of Christian Conversion*, by George E. Morris
- *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity*, by Philip Jenkins
- *The Open Secret*, by Leslie Newbigin
- *The Story of Evangelism: A History of the Witness to the Gospel*, by Robert G. Tuttle
- *The Study of Evangelism*, by Chilcote and Warner
- *Transforming Mission*, by David Bosch

The following books are also recommended:

- *A Future For Truth*, by Henry H. Knight
- *A New Kind of Christian*, by Brian D. McLaren
- *African American Church Growth*, by Carlyle Stewart
- *Church in Emerging Culture: Five Perspectives*, by Leonard Sweet, Andy Crouch, Brian D. McLaren, Erwin Raphael McManus, Michael Horton, Frederica Matthewes-Green
- *Churches That Make a Difference*, by Ronald Sider, Philip Olson, and Heidi Rolland Unruh
- *Constants in Contexts*, by Stephen Bevans and Roger Schoeder
- *Conversion in the Wesleyan Tradition*, by Kenneth J. Collins and John H. Tyson
- *Decoding the Church: Mapping the DNA of Christ's Body*, by Howard Snyder and Daniel V. Runyon
- *Eight Life-Enriching Practices of United Methodists*, by Henry H. Knight
- *Evangelism & Theology in the Wesleyan Spirit*, by Albert C. Outler
- *Evangelism in the Early Church*, by Michael Green
- *Evangelism Outside the Box: New Ways to Help People Experience the Good News*, by Rick Richardson
- *Evangelism: A Concise History*, by John Mark Terry
- *Fresh Faith*, by Jim Cymbala
- *God's Transforming Spirit: Black Church Renewal*, by Preston Washington
- *Good News to the Poor: John Wesley's Evangelical Economics*, by Theodore W. Jr. Jennings
- *Global Good News: Mission in a New Context*, by Howard A. Snyder, editor
- *How to Reach Secular People*, by George G. Hunter III
- *In Word and Deed: Evangelism and Social Responsibility*, by Bruce J. Nichols, editor
- *Let The Redeemed of the Lord Say So*, by Eddie Fox and George Morris
- *Liberating News*, by Orlando Costas

- *Ministries of Mercy: The Call of the Jericho Road*, by Timothy J. Keller
- *Natural Church Development*, by Christian Schwarz
- *Radical Renewal: The Problem of Wineskins Today*, by Howard Snyder
- *Reaching Generation Next: Effective Evangelism in Today's Culture*, by Lewis A. Drummond
- *The Church in Response to Human Needs*, Samuel Vinay and Christopher Sugden
- *The Community of the King*, rev. ed. (2004), by Howard Snyder
- *The Emerging Church*, by Dan Kimball, Rick Warren, Brian D. McLaren
- *The Faith-Sharing New Testament*
- *The Other Six Days*, by R. Paul Stevens
- *The Poor and the People Called Methodists: 1729-1999*, by Richard P. Heitzenrater
- *To Spread the Power: Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit*, by George G. Hunter
- *Walking With the Poor: Principles and Practices of Transformational Development*, by Bryant L. Myers
- *Women Called to Witness*, Nancy Hardesty