

African School of Missions Curriculum

1. Introduction to the Class

This introductory class serves as the foundation for the Christian missionary training program, providing students with a comprehensive overview of the essential principles, objectives, and expectations for their missionary journey. It is designed to establish a clear understanding of the biblical mandate for missions, introduce the core values and theological themes that underpin the work of a missionary, and prepare students for the practical challenges they will encounter in the mission field. The class aims to equip students with the knowledge, skills, and spiritual foundation necessary to engage effectively in cross-cultural ministry and to fulfil their calling as ambassadors of Christ.

2. The Gospel I

This class provides a foundational study of the Gospel message, focusing on its doctrinal core, historical significance, and practical implications for the life of the believer. As the central theme of Christianity, the Gospel encompasses both the person and work of Jesus Christ, emphasizing His incarnation, death, and resurrection as the means of salvation for all humanity. Understanding the Gospel is paramount for missionaries, as it is the message they are called to proclaim, and their ministry is to be rooted in a clear and accurate presentation of this message. A central focus of the class will be the theological implications of the Gospel, including its doctrines of salvation, grace, justification, and redemption. Students will explore how the Gospel addresses the problem of sin and alienation from God, and how it offers the hope of restoration and transformation through faith in Christ.

By the end of the class, students will have a comprehensive understanding of the core message of the Gospel, its theological significance, and its practical outworking in the life of a missionary. Equipped with this understanding, students will be prepared to proclaim the Gospel with clarity, conviction, and cultural sensitivity, fulfilling their calling to make disciples of all nations.

3. The Gospel II: A Deeper Revelation of the Work of the Cross

This class provides an in-depth exploration of the redemptive work of Christ as revealed through His sacrificial death on the cross. Building upon foundational gospel truths, this class aims to deepen students' understanding of the theological significance of Christ's atoning work, emphasizing the transformative power of His death and resurrection in the life of the believer. For missionaries, comprehending the full scope of the work of the cross is essential, as it forms the bedrock of the Christian message they are commissioned to proclaim.

A core element of this class is the exploration of the various theological dimensions of Christ's work on the cross. Students will study doctrines such as substitutionary

atonement, justification, reconciliation, and propitiation, considering their scriptural basis and practical implications for salvation. Special focus will be given to understanding how the cross addresses the problem of human sin and alienation from God, and how it reconciles humanity to the Creator through the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

4. Understanding the Great Commission

This class offers a comprehensive examination of the Great Commission, focusing on its biblical foundation, theological significance, and practical implications for the life and mission of the Church. The Great Commission, as recorded in Matthew 28:18-20, serves as the central mandate for all Christian ministry and is the foundational directive for missionary work worldwide. For missionaries, understanding the Great Commission is essential, as it clarifies their divine calling, mission strategy, and ultimate purpose in ministry.

The theological dimensions of the Great Commission will also be explored, including its connection to the overall mission of God (*Missio Dei*) throughout history. Students will study how the Great Commission fits within the broader context of God's redemptive plan, from the Abrahamic covenant through to the fulfillment of the promise of blessing to all nations. The class will also address the relationship between the Great Commission and the establishment of the Kingdom of God on earth, with particular attention to the role of the Church in advancing God's reign.

The class will conclude with a discussion of the Church's role in the ongoing fulfillment of the Great Commission, focusing on the importance of both sending and going. Students will explore the significance of global partnerships, prayer support, and the importance of holistic ministry that integrates both evangelism and social transformation. The class will also highlight the urgency of the task, challenging students to embrace the mandate with a sense of mission and urgency, recognizing that the fulfillment of the Great Commission is the ultimate purpose for which the Church exists.

5. The Gifts of the Spirit

The class will engage with the question of whether the gifts of the Spirit continue to operate in the contemporary Church. Students will examine arguments from both sides, considering the historical, biblical, and practical reasons for affirming or rejecting the ongoing operation of certain gifts. The importance of understanding these gifts in their proper context and avoiding both extremes of neglect and overemphasis will be pivotal, ensuring that students approach the gifts with balanced and biblically faithful perspectives.

By the end of the class, students will have a well-rounded understanding of the gifts of the Spirit, both in terms of their biblical foundations and their practical applications in ministry. They will be equipped to recognize and nurture these gifts in their own lives, as well as in the lives of those they minister to, and be prepared to use them in accordance with the Holy Spirit's guidance in fulfilling the mission of the Church.

6. The New Man

This class delves into the theological concept of the "new man" as presented in Scripture, with a particular focus on the transformation that occurs in the life of a believer through the work of Jesus Christ. Central to the Christian faith is the idea of regeneration—the process by which a believer is made new in Christ. For missionaries, understanding the nature of the "new man" is vital for both personal spiritual growth and effective ministry. This class will explore how the new identity in Christ shapes a believer's life, conduct, and mission, and how it enables the missionary to faithfully live out the implications of the Gospel.

A central theme of the class will be the practical outworking of this new identity. Students will explore how the "new man" is called to live in a way that reflects the character of Christ, demonstrating humility, love, holiness, and righteousness in all aspects of life. This new life in Christ is marked by the rejection of sin and the embrace of God's will, empowered by the Holy Spirit. The class will also emphasize the necessity of spiritual disciplines such as prayer, the study of Scripture, and fellowship with other believers, as means by which the believer strengthens their identity as the "new man" and grows in Christlikeness.

7. Divine Healing

Divine healing is a significant aspect of biblical theology and Christian ministry. Throughout Scripture, God reveals Himself as a healer, and the ministry of Jesus Christ prominently featured healing as a demonstration of the Kingdom of God. This class will examine the biblical foundation for divine healing, theological perspectives on its application, and its relevance in missionary work.

In the context of missionary work, divine healing serves as a powerful testimony to the reality of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God. Missionaries, as they proclaim the message of salvation, may be called to pray for the sick and to demonstrate the healing power of God in the lives of those they minister to. The class will explore how missionaries can appropriately and effectively minister healing, while maintaining biblical integrity and avoiding sensationalism.

By the conclusion of the class, students will have a thorough understanding of the biblical, theological, and practical aspects of divine healing. They will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to minister effectively in the area of healing, empowering them to confidently and compassionately pray for the sick and suffering in their missionary context, while recognizing that ultimate healing is found in the person and work of Jesus Christ.

8. Deliverance

This class provides an in-depth study of the doctrine and practice of deliverance, focusing on its biblical foundations, theological implications, and its application in the context of spiritual warfare. Deliverance, as understood within the Christian tradition, refers to the

process by which individuals are set free from demonic oppression, possession, or spiritual bondage through the power and authority of Jesus Christ. For missionaries, a proper understanding of deliverance is essential, as they are often called to confront the forces of evil in regions where spiritual darkness is prevalent, and where the Gospel offers liberation and freedom through Christ.

Students will also explore the relationship between deliverance and salvation, recognizing that the ultimate victory over sin, the enemy, and death has been achieved through the work of Christ on the cross, and that deliverance is a manifestation of this victory. The class will also discuss the ethical dimensions of the deliverance ministry, emphasizing the importance of discernment, compassion, and respect for the dignity of those seeking freedom.

9. Baptism: A Theological and Missional Study

Baptism is a foundational Christian practice that signifies a believer's identification with Christ, the cleansing of sin, and the initiation into the Christian community. There are two primary aspects of baptism that this class will explore: water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Each holds profound theological significance and plays a vital role in the life of a disciple. This class will examine the biblical foundations of both forms of baptism, the theological meanings, and the implications for missionaries. Missionaries must understand both practices to administer them correctly and effectively in cross-cultural settings. Given that baptism is practiced differently across various Christian traditions, this study will also provide an overview of different doctrinal perspectives while emphasizing the biblical model.

10. Gifts of the Spirit II

This class offers an advanced study of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, providing a deeper exploration of each gift as outlined in Scripture. Building upon the foundational principles covered in Gifts of the Spirit I, this course will examine the purpose, function, and operation of spiritual gifts within the Body of Christ.

Through comprehensive biblical teaching, theological analysis, and practical application, students will develop a more profound understanding of how these gifts manifest and how to cultivate them effectively. Emphasis will be placed on the responsible stewardship of spiritual gifts, ensuring they are exercised with wisdom, humility, and alignment with God's Word.

11. Worship in the Mission Field

Worship is a central aspect of the Christian faith, transcending cultural boundaries and expressions. In the context of missions, worship plays a vital role in the establishment of the Church and in fostering spiritual intimacy with God. This class explores the theology and practice of worship in mission fields, emphasizing how it serves not only as a means of glorifying God but also as a powerful tool for disciple-making and cultural

engagement. The class will address the theological basis of worship, the cultural diversity of worship practices, and the importance of contextualizing worship in cross-cultural environments. Understanding how worship functions in diverse mission contexts is essential for missionaries, as it enables them to establish worshipping communities that honor God.

12. Servanthood

Servanthood is one of the foundational virtues of the Christian faith, exemplified in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. In the context of mission, servanthood is not only a personal calling but also a central aspect of the missionary's role in advancing the Kingdom of God. This class examines the biblical teachings on servanthood, emphasizing the importance of humility, sacrifice, and selfless service in the life of a missionary. Missionaries must embrace humility and a heart of service rather than seeking personal gain or recognition. This class also addresses the challenges and rewards of living out a servant-hearted life in cross-cultural contexts, providing practical guidance for missionaries as they seek to model Christlike humility and service to those they are sent to reach.

13. Ministry Rooted in Intimacy with God

Ministry that flows from a place of deep intimacy with God is foundational to effective and lasting service in the mission field. This class explores the profound connection between spiritual intimacy with God and effective service in ministry. It emphasizes that a missionary's ability to serve others with authenticity, compassion, and perseverance is directly influenced by their personal relationship with the Lord. In this class, students will examine the biblical basis for intimacy with God, the practical implications of cultivating a close relationship with Him, and how such intimacy empowers and sustains long-term missionary work.

Additionally, the class will provide practical guidance on how missionaries can steward and nurture their intimacy with God, ensuring that this relationship remains vibrant and life-giving in the midst of the demands of ministry. The goal is to equip missionaries with a deeper understanding of how to serve from a place of love, obedience, and spiritual strength derived from their union with Christ.

14. Walking by the Spirit

This class delves into the critical role of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer, specifically focusing on how missionaries can rely on the Spirit's guidance to effectively carry out their ministry. Emphasizing the importance of living in step with the Holy Spirit, students will explore the theological foundation of the Spirit's work, how to discern His voice, and practical ways to be continually led by the Spirit in their daily lives and missionary service.

Missionaries, particularly in cross-cultural contexts, face numerous challenges and obstacles, and walking in the Spirit offers the essential wisdom, empowerment, and direction needed for effective service. This class equips students with the tools to cultivate a sensitive and responsive relationship with the Holy Spirit, ensuring that their ministry is not only impactful but also spiritually sustainable. The focus will be on practical applications, ensuring that missionaries learn to rely on the Holy Spirit's guidance in making decisions, building relationships, overcoming challenges, and bearing fruit in their ministry efforts.

15. Importance of Scripture and Hermeneutics

This class provides a foundational understanding of the importance of Scripture in the life of a Christian and the principles of hermeneutics—the art and science of interpreting the Bible. As missionaries seek to engage with diverse cultures and communicate the message of the Gospel, an in-depth understanding of Scripture and sound interpretative methods are essential. The class will explore the divine inspiration of Scripture, the critical role of the Bible in equipping believers for service, and the principles of biblical interpretation that ensure faithful communication of God's Word.

The study of hermeneutics will provide students with the necessary tools to rightly divide the Word of truth, avoiding misinterpretation and ensuring that the message of Scripture is communicated accurately. Students will be introduced to key hermeneutical principles, such as historical-grammatical exegesis, the role of context, and the application of Scripture to contemporary situations. By understanding the deep value of Scripture and the discipline of hermeneutics, missionaries will be better equipped to faithfully preach, teach, and apply the Bible in their ministry work.

16. Grace vs. The Law

This class explores the fundamental theological distinction between grace and the law, focusing on their respective roles in the life of a believer and their implications for Christian ministry, particularly in the context of missionary work. Understanding the relationship between grace and the law is crucial for missionaries, as it helps clarify the nature of salvation, the role of good works, and the appropriate response to God's calling. This class aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of grace as the unmerited favour of God, and the law as the divine standard of righteousness, while addressing the potential pitfalls of legalism.

Missionaries must be well-equipped to communicate the liberating message of grace in cultures that may be influenced by legalistic or performance-based religious systems. A thorough understanding of the principles of grace and the law will enable missionaries to guide individuals toward a deeper experience of freedom in Christ, freeing them from the bondage of legalistic traditions while encouraging them to live out the righteousness that grace empowers them to fulfil.

17. Learning How to Share the Gospel

This class focuses on the essential skills and principles required for effectively sharing the Gospel in various cultural contexts, particularly in missionary settings. It is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of the biblical foundation of evangelism and practical methodologies for communicating the message of Jesus Christ. The ability to share the Gospel clearly, persuasively, and compassionately is crucial for missionaries, as they are called to reach diverse populations with the good news of salvation.

The class will explore the theological basis for evangelism, practical strategies for engaging with individuals from different backgrounds, and the importance of relational ministry. Students will be trained in the art of Gospel communication, learning how to present the message of Jesus in a way that is culturally relevant and theologically sound. Additionally, the class will address common challenges faced in evangelistic efforts and provide practical solutions for overcoming obstacles in sharing the Gospel.

18. Mind Renewal

This class focuses on the biblical concept of mind renewal, emphasizing its essential role in the life of the believer. Mind renewal refers to the continual transformation of thought patterns, attitudes, and perspectives, aligning them with God's will and purposes. As missionaries navigate diverse cultural contexts and encounter various spiritual challenges, the renewal of the mind is a constant and necessary process for effectively fulfilling their calling. The class will examine the scriptural foundation of mind renewal, drawing from key biblical passages that underline its importance in the believer's journey of sanctification. Students will learn that mind renewal is not a one-time event but an ongoing process that never ceases. It is a daily commitment to reflect the mind of Christ, resist worldly influences, and embrace God's transformative truth. This constant renewal shapes how missionaries engage with the world, interpret their experiences, and respond to the needs of those they serve.

In this class, students will be equipped with practical tools to facilitate mind renewal through the study of Scripture, prayer, and reliance on the Holy Spirit. They will also explore how a renewed mind helps believers cultivate a biblical worldview that enhances their effectiveness in ministry, fostering both personal growth and the ability to lead others toward transformation.

19. Authority and Dominion

This class provides a comprehensive understanding of the biblical concepts of authority and dominion, which are fundamental to the Christian worldview and essential for those engaged in missionary work. Authority and dominion refer to the divine power and responsibility granted to believers by God to rule and reign in His name, both in spiritual and practical matters. For missionaries, grasping these principles is crucial for effectively carrying out God's mandate in the world. The class will explore the scriptural foundation for authority and dominion, tracing these concepts from their original establishment in

creation to their fulfilment in the Kingdom of God. Students will study the authority of Christ, the authority of the believer, and the implications of exercising dominion in the world.

20. Suffering for Christ

This class explores the biblical understanding of suffering for Christ, an essential aspect of the Christian faith and mission. Suffering is a pervasive theme in Scripture, and for those called to missionary work, understanding the purpose, nature, and significance of suffering is crucial. Missionaries often face opposition, persecution, and hardship in their efforts to spread the Gospel, making a biblical framework for suffering indispensable to sustaining faith and perseverance in the mission field.

Throughout this class, students will examine key biblical passages that address suffering, including the example of Jesus Christ, who endured suffering on behalf of humanity. Additionally, the class will highlight how suffering can serve to deepen the believer's intimacy with Christ, refine their character, and contribute to the advancement of God's Kingdom on earth. The goal of the class is to equip students with a biblical perspective on suffering that strengthens their resolve to endure hardship for the sake of the Gospel.

21. Self-Centeredness and Dying to Self

This class examines the theological and practical implications of self-centeredness in the life of the believer and the essential process of dying to self in the Christian walk, particularly in the context of missionary service. Self-centeredness, rooted in pride and personal desires, stands in direct contrast to the selfless nature of the Gospel and the calling to serve others. For missionaries, this issue is especially pertinent, as they are called to serve in often challenging and sacrificial environments where personal comfort and ambition must be subordinated to the advancement of God's Kingdom.

The concept of "dying to self" is central to Jesus' teachings on discipleship. It involves surrendering one's own desires, rights, and comforts in favor of embracing God's will, reflecting the self-sacrificial example set by Christ. Missionaries, in particular, must learn to set aside self-interest to fully dedicate themselves to the service of others and to the proclamation of the Gospel.

22. Repentance and Growth

This class explores the biblical doctrine of repentance and its crucial role in the ongoing process of spiritual growth for believers, particularly those called to missionary work. Repentance is more than a one-time event; it is a continual, transformative process that involves turning away from sin and turning toward God, with the aim of experiencing deeper spiritual renewal. For missionaries, understanding repentance is vital, as they encounter diverse cultural and spiritual challenges that require not only personal holiness but also an ability to guide others in repentance for the restoration of their relationship with God. Repentance involves a change of mind and heart, accompanied by a

commitment to forsake sinful behaviors and live in alignment with God's will. It is a daily practice for the believer, one that enables ongoing spiritual growth, a deeper intimacy with God, and a life marked by holiness and obedience.

23. Pursuing Holiness

This class explores the biblical concept of holiness and the believer's call to pursue a life that is set apart for God's purposes. Holiness is a central theme in Scripture, and it is a key aspect of the Christian life, particularly for those engaged in missionary work. For missionaries, pursuing holiness is not only a personal endeavor but also a powerful testimony to the communities they serve. Holiness reflects the character of God and serves as a vital element of effective ministry, enabling missionaries to demonstrate the transforming power of the Gospel in both word and deed.

Students will be challenged to cultivate habits of holiness, including personal devotion, prayer, purity, and obedience, and to recognize the centrality of holiness in fulfilling the Great Commission. By the end of the class, students will have a deepened understanding of holiness as a crucial aspect of their personal walk with God and their missionary vocation, empowering them to lead lives that honor God and serve as a testimony to those they seek to reach.

24. Christ in the Old Testament

This class examines the profound and often overlooked presence of Christ throughout the Old Testament. While the New Testament reveals the full revelation of Christ's person and work, the Old Testament serves as the foundation upon which the person of Christ is progressively revealed. From the earliest chapters of Genesis to the prophetic writings, Christ is foreshadowed through types, shadows, prophecies, and symbols that point toward His coming, His mission, and His redemptive work.

For missionaries, understanding Christ in the Old Testament is essential for a deeper appreciation of the continuity of God's redemptive plan and its fulfilment in the person of Jesus Christ. This understanding equips missionaries with a more profound ability to communicate the Gospel in diverse contexts.

The class will explore various theological concepts and biblical themes related to Christ's presence in the Old Testament, such as the Messianic prophecies, the pre-incarnate appearances of Christ (often referred to as "theophanies"), and the types and shadows found in key figures, institutions, and events.

25. Biblical Counselling

This class provides an in-depth study of biblical counselling, emphasizing the integration of Scripture and sound theological principles in the care and guidance of individuals

facing spiritual, emotional, and relational difficulties. Biblical counselling is grounded in the belief that Scripture is sufficient for addressing all aspects of the human condition, offering both spiritual and practical solutions for life's challenges. For missionaries, this class is particularly crucial, as they encounter a diverse range of people from varying cultural backgrounds who may be experiencing unique struggles, yet who require the transformative power of the Gospel applied through biblical wisdom. Particular attention will be given to understanding human nature from a biblical perspective, recognizing the impact of sin on individuals and relationships, and addressing common struggles such as anxiety, depression, marital conflict, grief, and spiritual doubt. Students will gain insights into how to approach these issues with compassion, wisdom, and an unwavering commitment to the truth of Scripture.

Furthermore, the class will provide practical tools for counselling, including how to assess situations, build rapport, and guide counselees toward repentance, healing, and spiritual growth. Students will be taught how to navigate cultural differences in counselling while remaining faithful to the biblical worldview.

26. African Cultures and Beliefs

This class explores the diverse and complex cultures and belief systems across the African continent, with a particular focus on understanding the worldviews, traditions, and religious practices that shape African societies. Given Africa's vast array of ethnic groups, languages, and histories, the class provides a comprehensive framework for missionaries to understand the cultural dynamics and spiritual landscapes they will encounter in their ministry. Recognizing and respecting these cultural contexts is essential for effective evangelism and discipleship, as missionaries must engage with the people they serve in ways that are both culturally relevant and theologically sound. Students will study the spiritual practices that are widespread across different regions, including ancestor worship, animism, and the role of traditional healers.

27. One Life and Then the Outcome for Eternity (Purpose)

This class addresses the profound biblical truth that life on earth is temporary, and the decisions made in this life have eternal consequences. It focuses on the Christian understanding of life's purpose in relation to eternity, particularly within the context of missionary work. For missionaries, the awareness of the eternal significance of their service is vital in shaping their motivation, focus, and commitment to the Great Commission. The class will explore how the reality of eternity impacts every aspect of life, from personal spiritual growth to the engagement in ministry, and how this understanding influences the way missionaries approach their calling.

By the end of the class, students will have a deeper understanding of the eternal perspective that should guide their lives and ministries. They will be equipped to live with a sense of urgency and purpose, fully aware that their labor in the Lord is never in vain, and that their faithfulness in the present has profound eternal significance.

28. Ecclesiology and Church Planting

This class provides a comprehensive study of ecclesiology (the doctrine of the Church) and the principles and practices of church planting, with a particular focus on missionary contexts. Ecclesiology is foundational to understanding the nature and mission of the Church, and it is essential for missionaries to grasp how the local church functions as God's ordained instrument for the proclamation of the Gospel and the advancement of His Kingdom. Church planting, as a key component of the Great Commission, requires both theological insight and practical strategies for establishing healthy, sustainable congregations in diverse cultural and geographic settings.

The class will address critical aspects of church planting, including evangelism, discipleship, leadership development, and the establishment of church structures and practices that foster long-term growth and health.