

Overseas Missions Practicum Orientation WM 720

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

Paul Borthwick, D.Min.
Spring, 2011

Required Textbooks:

- Borthwick, Paul. *Six Dangerous Questions to Transform Your View of the World* (InterVarsity Press, 1996)
- Brewster, E. Thomas and Elizabeth. *Language Learning Is Communicating/Is Ministry and Bonding and the Missionary Task* (Lingua House, 1984).
- Elmer, Duane. *Cross-Cultural Servanthood* (InterVarsity Press, 2006).
- Jenkins, Philip. *The Next Christendom: The Coming of Global Christianity* (Oxford University Press, 2003).
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood, and Marvin Mayers. *Ministering Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Personal Relationships* (Baker, 1986).
- Lingenfelter, Sherwood and Judith, *Teaching Cross-Culturally: An Incarnational Model for Learning and Teaching* (Baker, 1988).
- Noll, Mark, *The New Shape of World Christianity* (InterVarsity Press, 2009).

Required Articles: you will also be asked to read various articles on short-term missions and missions in general – including articles by Dr. Timothy Tennent, Dr. Paul Borthwick, and others:

Articles by Paul Borthwick and others on www.roundtripmissions.com

Articles by Dr. Andrew Walls: “The Gospel as Prisoner & Liberator of Culture” and “The Ephesian Moment”

Tennent, Timothy. “Six Dangerous Questions About Short-Term Missions,” *Contact* (Summer, 2003; vol. 33, #2): 9-11.

Tennent, Timothy. “Missions vs. Evangelism” *Contact* (Summer, 2003; vol. 33, #2): 12.

Tennent, Timothy. “The Overseas Missions Practicum at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary,” *Contact* (Summer, 2003; vol. 33, #2): 22-23.

Tennent, Timothy. “Top Ten Things Every Church Should Know About Missions in the 21st Century,” *ABE Journal* (Summer, 2003).

An additional book may be required by your team leader to orient you more specifically to your particular OMP internship.

Contact information: questions about this course and about our OMP 2011 program in general can be directed to:

- Paul Borthwick, course instructor:
 - Best email is pborthwick@rcn.com
 - Mobile phone (before 10 PM please!): 617-513-7406
 - You can also send an email through www.borthwicks.org (“contact me”)

- Kristin Gelinas, OMP administrator
 - Best email is kgelinas@gordonconwell.edu
 - GCTS phone is 978-646-4174

- Each OMP partner team (Shan, Zimbabwe, etc.) will also have key field contacts who will serve as the principle resources for “on-site” questions.

Course Description:

The purpose of this course is to provide a practical orientation for students planning to minister cross-culturally with the Overseas Missions Practicum (WM 721). This course is a required pre-requisite, reflecting our commitment to the necessity of proper preparation before ministering cross-culturally, as well as the importance of representing the Seminary and the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ well. The course is a combination of lectures, workshops, seminars and student presentations which are effectively combined to provide the appropriate preparation for a meaningful cross-cultural experience. The course will also serve to assist students who will be responsible for organizing short term mission trips for their local churches or mission organizations.

Requirements of Course:

1. Mission “area” or “people” Study: You are to submit a missions “area study” for the country and/or people-group you are preparing to serve. This should be a hybrid of history, missiology and ethnography to achieve the right balance, focus and depth. The study should be organized according to the following areas:

A. Church History: What is the history of the Christian movement in this country or among this People-group? Is the presence of Christianity ancient or recent? What about the presence of Protestantism? Are there historic Roman Catholic, Eastern Orthodox, or Uniate churches with a long presence among this people?

B. Strategic Setting: Do you know of any strategies currently being used or formulated to accomplish one or more of the following: a. Start a church planting movement among these people; b. Bring a witness of the gospel to a particular situation

(justice, relief and development etc...); c. Assist in the training and equipping of national leaders or the discipling of new believers; or d. an assessment of the missiological status of one or more of the people groups in your destination country using the WCD or Joshua Project or the IMB resources.

C. Religious / Historical/political Context: Are there religious or political/historical considerations which should be understood by anyone attempting to promote the gospel in this context? Is there a state church or any civil enshrinement of a particular religion? Is the promulgation of Christianity legal and, if so, are there restrictions or parameters within which the Christian church operates?

The paper does not have a pre-set required length, but it is expected that most papers will exceed ten pages in order to fulfill the above criteria. This project is due by **Friday, April 22nd by 4 p.m. at the latest. Please remember to put your P.O. Box on the report. Failure to turn a paper in on time results in a 15% penalty.**

or

Theological/Missiological Paper. For strategic purposes, a student in a team may choose to present a 10-12 page paper on a missiological theme which will be helpful to the success of the mission. This must receive advance permission from the professor and is available by special petition only.

2. Class Presentations: You are to make a presentation to the class (**15 minutes**) on some aspect of your mission area study or missiological paper. If several people are going to the same country, then your team report should focus on different areas or aspects of your research and reflection. This will be determined by the members of the team. Thus, this becomes, in effect, a team project as well as individual presentations. The presentation should be done in a professional and well prepared manner. (In short, no mumbling, no reading long lists of boring facts etc.)

- Going over 15 minutes – one letter grade penalty
- Reading “boring” information to class --- one letter grade penalty
- Being creative – accolades and enthusiasm!!!
- The purpose of this assignment is, in part, to teach students how to make short, clear presentations, an essential task for the missionary.

3. Textbook Reading: Each student is responsible for reading all of the textbooks in their entirety. The textbooks will be essential for in-class discussions on issues of cross-cultural communication. In addition, at the end of the semester a reading report is due stating what percentage of the textbooks you have read. This must be reported in a **SINGLE OVERALL PERCENTAGE**, not a book by book assessment. It may be submitted in hard copy or electronically. **Please remember to put your P.O. Box on EVERYTHING you turn in. THE READING REPORT IS DUE FRIDAY, APRIL 22nd by 4:00 p.m. Failure to turn the report in on time will result in a 15% penalty. It will not be accepted past Friday, May 6th at 4:00 p.m.**

4. OMP Chapel: On **Tuesday, April 26, 2011** there will be an OMP “send off” chapel. You should make arrangements to be in the chapel by 9:30 a.m. at the latest for last minute logistical instructions. Your participation in this chapel is **required** and will be a part of your overall grade. This is an opportunity for the Seminary community to stand with you, pray for you and be a part of your sending team.

5. Classroom Discussion/ Global Conversations. Essential to the objectives of this class is effective interaction among the members and appropriate team building and relational bonding. In class discussion (reflecting both your specific reading as well as your ethnographic studies) is essential. We are also asking each student to make every effort to attend one of the two remaining “Global Conversations” here at the Seminary: March 11 and/or April 8th. Each student (or team) will also be asked to participate in some sort of multicultural event (worship, fellowship, outreach, etc.) throughout the semester as a practical way to get involved in our intercultural community.

Grading: The following criteria will be used in assessing the final grade:

○ Area Study	30%
○ Class Presentation	25%
○ Textbook Reading	25%
○ OMP Chapel	10%
○ Discussion/Int’l dinner/team leader	<u>10%</u>
	100%

The Grading Scale follows:

A+, 97-100; A, 92-96; A-, 90-91
B+, 88-89; B, 83-87; B-, 80-82
C+, 78-79; C, 73-77; C-, 70-72
D+, 68-69; D, 63-67; D-, 60-62
F, 0-59

DUE DATE FOR ALL WRITTEN WORK: FRIDAY APRIL 24th by 4:00 p.m. There will be a 15% penalty taken from the final grade for any work turned in after Friday, April 24th at 4 p.m.

Eligibility to participate in OMP: Students who wish to participate and gain full academic credit in the Overseas Missions Practicum at Gordon-Conwell must meet the following minimum standards:

1. A minimum of a six week experience
2. The project and ministry must be appropriately supervised
3. The ministry must belong to ECFA and/or IFMA or EFMA
4. Dr. Borthwick must grant approval in writing to enable the student to utilize OMP name and funds
5. The student must have the support and sponsorship of a local church which is attested to in writing to the OMP office. This does not necessarily imply that a local church will be financially supporting you.
6. The student must take (or audit) WM 720, OMP Orientation

Class Format and Schedule: The class meets in a non-traditional format in order to better achieve the objectives of team building and relational bonding. Thus, the class will meet on three weekends as follows:

- Friday, February 11th 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, February 12th 9:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 8.5 hours

 - Dinner of the Nations, Great Room or intercultural experience 2.0 hours

 - Friday, April 1st 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
 - Saturday, April 2nd 9:00 - 12:00; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 8.5 hours

 - Friday, April 15th 6:00 - 9:30 p.m.
 - Saturday, April 16th 8:30 - 12:00 p.m.; 1:00 - 4:00 p.m. 10 hours

 - Tuesday, April ?? 9:00-10:30 a.m. - OMP Chapel 1.0 hours
- **total: 30 hours**

There may be additional hours scheduled for individual team meetings outside of the above hours.

Office Hours: As an adjunct, I will not have any regular office hours during the semester, but if you need to consult with me for any reason, please feel free to:

- Email your questions to me: pborthwick@rcn.com or Paul.Borthwick@gordon.edu.
- Call or email me to set up a time to meet: Mobile = 617-513-7406
- Kristin Gelinas kgelinas@gcts.edu has the answers to most of your administrative questions re: your OMP trips: 1-978-646-4174.
- Consult "Frequently asked questions (FAQ's) concerning OMP" which will be posted on CAMS. (You will need to regularly check blackboard for important announcements. This is essential to the smooth functioning of the class.)

Policy for the use of the OMP Fund at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary



Ten Commandments of the OMP Fund

1. No Gordon-Conwell student is required to participate in the OMP fund. If a student seeks to participate in the OMP fund, this must be made known to the professor in writing by no later than March 1. A student cannot be partially funded by the OMP fund and partially funded through other means. To opt into the fund means to direct

all fund-raising to the OMP fund. In some cases, our global partners request that all participants on the team raise money through their mission agency.

2. Upon special permission of the director of missions programs, a church or other sending agency may send a single check for a student through the OMP fund who, otherwise, is not participating in the OMP fund. This is normally only allowed in order to more efficiently coordinate team expenses or purchase airline tickets together etc. This option is sometimes used when an entire team is working through the OMP except for one team member.

3. Spouses (and by special permission, children) of current Gordon-Conwell students who are also participating in the OMP program may also fully participate in the OMP fund. However, aside from this exception, no non-Gordon Conwell student may participate in the OMP fund, even if they are participating in the OMP under separate permission from one of our world partners or another participating mission agency. By special petition to the Director of Missions Programs, a Gordon-Conwell alumni who is going as a team leader may be granted permission to raise funds and to utilize the OMP fund.

4. No additional requests for reimbursements may be made from the fund until the airline tickets have been purchased and the overall fund-raising (for the individual) exceeds the advertised cost of the trip. Examples of approved additional requests are as follows: cost of visa, cost of passport, stamps, prayer letters, medical costs (not to exceed \$400), film (not to exceed six rolls). The fund will not reimburse for the purchase of gifts, souvenirs, digital memory chips, language learning tapes and other items as determined by the Director of the OMP program. All requests for reimbursement must be approved by the Director of Missions Programs or Global Programs Administrator and **must be submitted by September 15th**.

5. If a student is unable to raise the total cost required for the trip then it is understood that he/she will be permitted to go on the trip only by special permission from the Director of Missions Programs. Normally, a student who does not at least raise sufficient funds to pay for the plane ticket will not be permitted to participate in an OMP. Students who are permitted to participate in the OMP program but whose funds fall significantly below the cost of the trip may be required to perform additional fund raising upon return from the trip on behalf of the OMP fund.

6. No student participating in an Uttermost Parts team can make any request from the fund which exceeds their personal fund-raising amount unless the overall amount of the Uttermost Parts Team fund raising exceeds the stated amount of each of their respective trips.

7. All requests for reimbursements from the OMP fund must be accompanied by receipts or the request cannot be processed. Likewise, all cash advances from the OMP fund must be reconciled later with appropriate receipts or the funds must be returned to the OMP account. Both reimbursements as well as cash advances require the signature of the Director of Missions Programs or the Global Programs Administrator as well as a senior staff person in the Office of Financial Affairs.

8. All gifts into the OMP fund are final. No donations sent into the OMP fund on behalf of a student or team or as an undesignated gift can be returned to the donor, even in the event that the student does not participate in the OMP or the team trip is cancelled. In case of cancellation, the Seminary will endeavor whenever possible to re-direct the student to another approved OMP whereby the funds can be used according to their designation.

9. Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary reserves and retains all rights over the disbursement and use of the OMP fund. The fund is set up for the purpose of fulfilling the programmatic goals of the missions programs under the supervision of the Director. The Director of Missions Programs, under the counsel and advisement of the Academic Dean and the Dean of Students, reserves the right (in rare circumstances) to deny any student or students the right to participate in an OMP if the safety or well-being of the student or other team members cannot be sufficiently guaranteed, or due to other extenuating circumstances. A waiver of liability form must be signed by all students participating in the OMP program.

10. Due to rare, unforeseen circumstances, the cost of an OMP may be subject to change from the published price in the Fall brochure, at the discretion of the Director of Missions Programs in consultation with the Dean of Academic Affairs and our OMP world partners.