WM 721 Overseas Missions Practicum

Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
Summer, 2015

Paul Martindale, D.Min.
pmartindale@GCTS.edu

Required Reading:
Each approved OMP field mentor has authorization to require up to 500 pages of reading for any student participating in an OMP internship with their team or organization. In addition, read the following two books before leaving:


Course Description:
The purpose of this course is to provide a field based experience in a cross-cultural ministry setting. This course can only be taken if a student had already completed the Overseas Missions Practicum (WM 720). That course, offered each Spring, 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 well. The Overseas Missions Practicum (WM 721) is carefully designed in partnership with our alumni and other global partners to provide a mentored relationship and field based experience appropriate for graduate students considering a possible career in cross-cultural ministry.

Requirements of Course:

1. **MENTOR EVALUATION REPORT.** Successfully complete a minimum six week cross-cultural experience and receive a positive report from your mentor sent directly to: Dr. Paul Martindale
   Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary
   130 Essex Street
   South Hamilton, MA 01982

   To eliminate confusion and duplication, the WM721 final report form is the same form used by the Mentored Ministry Office and is available on the GCTS website at: [http://www.gordonconwell.edu/mentored-ministry/documents/finaleval.pdf](http://www.gordonconwell.edu/mentored-ministry/documents/finaleval.pdf). The field mentor MUST also write a statement about you on the MM form where it is noted as “optional.” This portion of the form is mandatory for OMP students. These reports can either be brought back with the team or sent to me electronically at pmartindale@gcts.edu. *For those also taking this course for Mentored Ministry credit, be sure to submit a copy of the Evaluation to the Mentored Ministry Office on or before the due date, as well.*

2. **KEEP A DAILY JOURNAL.** You are allowed flexibility in how you want to organize your journal. Any portions of the journal (hard copy or electronic) that you
do not want me to read should be deleted in the copy you turn in to me. If it is a hard copy cover those portions when photocopying. If it is an electronic copy, you can delete any sensitive, personal portions from the copy that you send me. All of your submitted journal materials will be treated as confidential and personal for my eyes only.

3. REFLECTION PAPER. Write a 5-7 page personal reflection paper demonstrating your ability to synthesize and reflect on the personal, theological and missiological implications of your trip. Be sure to describe how you have developed personally, theologically and in your understanding of missions and in your calling to missions through this internship.

Part of your paper should be a reflection on whether or not you think that your OMP fulfilled the general purpose statement of the program (below):

OMP PURPOSE STATEMENT
The purpose of the Overseas Missions Practicum (OMP) is to deepen our burden for unreached people groups, promote global awareness among our student body, and to provide an avenue whereby we may share the love of Christ to those who have not yet heard or where the church is not yet viable. We believe that the Great Commission is binding on every generation and we have a sacred duty to pray, to strategize, to give, as well as to go. In going, our goal is to learn from the national church and network with believers from around the world. We also go entrusting that God will empower us to preach the gospel, to disciple new believers, serve the poor and to teach all that He has entrusted to us, to the end that God may raise up viable, witnessing churches among all the people groups of the world to the eternal praise of His glory.

4. Survey and Debriefing. Upon return you may be asked to fill out an informal survey provided by the professor to help us better prepare for future OMP experiences and assess the partnership. As soon as is feasible after all OMPers have returned we will schedule a time of debriefing. Attendance at the debriefing is required unless you have graduated and will not be returning back to this area. Anyone out of the area is asked to join in by Skype or Facetime for the debriefing. The purpose of a debriefing is to help you process your experience with all the other OMPers who have just returned. This is best done in a face to face group setting shortly after returning from the experience.

All OMP materials are due by FRIDAY, August 30th.

Grading:

- Letter from supervising missions mentor/ 40%
- Journal 20%
- Personal reflection paper 20%
- Required Reading completed 20%

Total: 100%
Please note: ALL STUDENTS, even if they are auditing the course, are required to have their field mentors fill out an evaluation form.