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MS 685 The Church Abroad: - Egypt/Jordan/Israel

Robert G. Tuttle

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Course: MS685 O1 (JA 2009)  
Title: The Church Abroad: - Egypt/Jordan/Israel  
Hours: 3.00  
Published: Yes, on 11/05/2008  
Prerequisites:  

IS501  

Faculty Signature  

Department: Christian Mission  
Faculty: Dr. Robert Tuttle  

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Office: FC  
SPO:  

Meetings:  

During 01/05/2009 to 01/30/2009 on from 0:00a to 0:00a in .  

Maximum Registration: 20  
Catalog Description: A visit to a developing country to observe the church in a specific cultural setting. Aspects of culture, mission/church relations, and ministry issues will be studied. Travel costs in addition to tuition. Usually offered during J-Term. Staff and requirements approved each time the course is offered; see the syllabus particular to the term being offered. May be repeated up to a total of six units.  

Objectives:  
Asbury Theological Seminary  

MS 685 The Church Abroad: Egypt/Jordan/Israel  
3 credit hours  
Trip, Jan. 5-17, 2009  
Robert G. Tuttle, Jr. professor  
e-mail: robert_tuttle@asburyseminary.edu  

Purpose: 
The purpose of this course is to expose students to the peoples of the Middle East and to the land of our beginnings as Christians--its history, its culture, its religions, its typography, and the issues facing the Church in this arena today. Most of the Bible was written within the borders of the small middle-eastern nations, of Egypt, Jordan and Israel. Their unique characteristics are a part of the Biblical narrative and the firsthand experience of the peoples today (within that setting) will acquaint students with those peoples and reveal opportunities and challenges for making the Scriptures come to life in ways that are new and more meaningful.

**Course Description:**
This will be a 13-day experience of the Holy Land (Egypt, Jordan and Israel) and its contemporary challenges and opportunities for the gospel. There will be frequent input from the professor and evening sessions for reflection and processing the day's events including exposure to the largest Protestant Church in the Middle East (Cairo) and lectures by Christian evangelists to North Africa. We will also meet with Elias Chacour, Archbishop of the Melkite Church (he has been nominated 3 times for the Nobel Peace Prize). Students will be asked to read in advance from a selection of books that cover topics relevant to the Biblical times as well as the contemporary socio-political scene.

**Course Highlights:**
- Explore the history, culture, and religions of Egypt, Jordan and Israel. We will have frequent input from the peoples of those countries as they seek to negotiate the challenges before them in this present age.
- Provide students with opportunities for sensing what the Church is experiencing in these lands today and how Christians are making their contemporary witness known in places where God’s voice is heard small.
- Reflect on the Biblical story as it relates to the land today.
- Experience worship in the places referred to in the Bible.
- Reflect on the significance of God’s plan for salvation as relates to the history and culture of Egypt, Jordan and Israel.
- Experience fellowship among fellow travelers.

**Learning Goals:**
- It is expected that the student will learn about the peoples of Egypt/Jordan/Israel (their history, culture, religion and current challenges).
- It is expected that the student will learn what Christian witness looks like in this context today and how the Church is seeking to live faithful to the gospel.
- It is expected that the student will learn better how to understand what the Bible meant so that they can then understand what it means today (a basic principle relevant to evangelism).

**Reading:**

**Required texts:**

__________, ÒThe Cave,Ó an unpublished novel. This will be placed in the Course Center as an attachment.


**Collateral texts:**
Nahim Ateek, *Justice and Only Justice*. Both this and the follow book are excellent resources.

__________, *Faith and the Intifado*.


Elias Chacour, *Blood Brothers*. Archbishop Chacour has written several excellent books as a Palestinian Christian.

Thomas Friedman, *From Beruit to Jerusalem*, an outstanding book for historical background to the present conflict (recently updated).

Carl Voltz and Charles Page, *The Land and the Book*. It has references to all of the sites you will visit and many more. For each site there is a historical background and list of biblical references.

**More Recommended texts:**


Bruce, F.F. *Israel & the Nations: The History of Israel from the Exodus to the Fall of the Second Temple*. (Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 1997)


Books that can be bought while in Israel. Published in Herslia, Israel: Palphot Ltd.* unless indicated otherwise

*Caesarea* ISBN 965-280-075-9
*Israel* ISBN 965-280-072-4
*Jerusalem* ISBN 965-280-078-3
*The Dead Sea: Jericho, Qumran, En Gedi, Masada, Sodom* ISBN 965-280-077-5
*Masada* (Bnei Brak, Israel: Steimatsky Pointout, Tel. 03-579-4579)
*The Tower of David Museum* (Jerusalem: Jerusalem Foundation, 1999, Tel. 02-6265333)
*The Zealots of Masada* by Moshe Pearlman ISBN 965-280-074-0

**Evaluation:**
- 1200 pages of reading (or equivalent).
- The following written assignments are due before and after the trip:
  - Prior:
    - A 2-page essay on the questions and expectations you bring to this trip and why you feel it important to participate.
    - Begin a Journal at least one week prior to the trip and continue the Journal during and at least one week following the trip.
  - After: 12-15 pages (double spaced) paper on a topic of interest, such as:
    - the present challenges to the peoples of Egypt, Jordan, and Israel and our evangelistic response in light of those challenges,
    - the effects of a knowledge of the land on preaching and storytelling,
    - your understanding of Egypt/Jordan/Israel as one of the Ôthin placesÔ where GodÔs Word seems to be writ large.

**Cost:**
All travel costs, including airfare from Orlando (many other origination cities available at somewhat different pricing), hotels, meals (including lunches), transportation, tips, taxes, admission fees, and administrative fees, etc. *(still being negotiated but presently stands at approximately $2,700.00).*

**Financial Aid**
Students are encouraged to seek support from your home congregations and supervised ministry sites in addition to your own families. This is a class but it is also a mission trip.

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Online Section Descriptions and Communication Guidelines
The Virtual Classroom is built upon the open-source Moodle platform. By logging into http://one.asburyseminary.edu and clicking on the Virtual Campus tab (upper right corner) you will have access to this course and be able to collaborate with participant-colleagues and me throughout the course. The following are functions with which you should familiarize yourself:

1. The **Course Information Center** contains many features to be used throughout the semester:
   a) **Course News and Announcements**, where I will post items important for the entire class;
   b) **Syllabus**, where a copy of the syllabus is provided;
   c) **To Professor**, which is a way for you to post a message directly to me and we can discuss an issue privately;
   d) **Course Questions**, which is a public forum where you can publicly post any questions you have regarding the course so others may see your message and respond. Anytime you have a question or comment about the course, the schedule, the assignments, or anything else that may be of interest to other participants and me you should post it to the Course Questions Forum;
   e) **Prayer Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post prayer concerns and praises for all to see. This is a way for us to build community;
   f) **Open Forum**, which is a public forum where you can post anything that is not course-related for all to see. Examples include someone getting married, an upcoming birthday, discussions on topics not course-related, etc. This is a way for us to build community.

2. **Modules**, which are located below the Course Information Center, will contain forums where group discussions will take place, documents or other files to download or view online, and assignment links where you will post your assignments to me. Modules will be clearly labeled so you can follow along during the semester.

**Virtual Support Contact Information**

For technical support, library research support, library loans, and Virtual media contact Information Commons: Info_Commons@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2233; Toll-free: (866) 454-2733

For general questions and administrative assistance regarding the Virtual program, contact Dale Hale: ExL_Office@asburyseminary.edu Phone: (859) 858-2393

**Accessing Information Commons Materials**

1. General Questions:
   a. The Information Commons is a "one-stop shop" for all student research, circulation and technical needs.
   The Information Commons hours are posted here: [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/hours.htm)

2. Materials Requests:
   a. To search the library catalog for available materials, click here: [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm)
   b. Virtual Students may request books, photocopies or emailed attachments of journal articles/portions of reference books from Asbury Seminary's Library. Please allow 3-10 business days for all requests to be filled. Contact the Information Commons for costs and instructions on how to make requests.
   c. Virtual students are encouraged to make use of local library resources. Students who live within a 50 mile radius of either the Florida or the Kentucky campus should come to campus to obtain their materials.

3. Research Questions:
   a. Virtual students are encouraged to contact the Information Commons for research assistance including help determining the best sources to use for a paper, finding book reviews, or research questions about using the online databases or any other library materials.

4. Online Databases:
   a. To access the online library resources including the library catalog and full-text journal databases, go to [http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm](http://www.asburyseminary.edu/information/index.htm) and enter your 10-digit student ID# number in the login box. Your student ID# is provided on the biographical information section of the student registration webpage. Add a 2 and enough 0s to the front to make a 10-digit number (20000XXXXX where XXXXX = your student id).

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