ME 620 Evangelism in the Wesleyan Spirit

Robert G. Tuttle
I.  COURSE DESCRIPTION

John Wesley as leader of an apostolic movement was, first and foremost, an evangelist. He had a peculiar genius for evangelism and revival. His standard sermons clearly portray his theology. His journals illustrate his style. His tracts, and treatises reveal much of his motivation. His letters demonstrate his considerable concern for follow-up. This course will explore all of these sources to arrive at an understanding of evangelism that is not only Wesleyan but entirely workable for the Church today.

II.  GENERAL GOALS

A. To learn something of the life and times of John Wesley.
B. To develop a clear understanding of John Wesley's understanding of evangelism.
C. To practice the relevance of that understanding for the 21st century.

III.  TOPIC LISTINGS AND SEQUENCE

A. Introduction


B. Wesley's theology of evangelism.

Sept. 21  The human dilemma and God's initiative in the redemptive work of Jesus Christ. Read Wesley's sermon, "Original Sin"

Sept. 28  The work of the Holy Spirit. Read Wesley's sermons, "The Witness of the Spirit" (Discourses I & II)

C. Wesley's style of evangelism.

Oct. 12 Preaching: Open air, Small town, Societies (video).
Oct. 19 Knowledge and vital piety.

D. Wesley's motivation for evangelism.

Nov. 2 Love.
Nov. 9 An Obedience to God's call (critiques due).

E. Wesley's concern for follow-up.

Nov. 16 Bands and classes. Read Wesley's "A Plain Account of the People Called Methodist."

Nov. 23 Reading Week.

Nov. 30 Going on to perfection. Read sermon, "On Perfection"

F. Closure

Dec. 7 The Invitation.
Review and evaluation (third paper due).

IV. COURSE EVALUATION PROCEDURES

Requirements: 1200 pages of combined reading from the required and collateral texts.
Three 4-6 page papers (double spaced) dealing with Wesley's
1. Theology of evangelism, or
2. Style, or
3. Motivation, or
4. Concern for follow-up.
5. Or possibly some other topic to be agreed upon by the professor and student.
Two one page (single spaced) critiques. One from the required texts and one from the collateral reading.

V. BIBLIOGRAPHY
Required Texts

Selected passages from John Wesley, *Works* (Sermons, Journals, Tracts, Treatises, and Letters).
James Logan, ed., *Theology and Evangelism in the Wesleyan Heritage*
Albert Outler, *Evangelism in the Wesleyan Spirit*.

Collateral Reading:

Steve Harper, *John Wesley's Message for Today*
George Hunter, *To Spread the Power, Church Growth in the Wesleyan Spirit*
Robert Tuttle, Jr., *John Wesley, His Life and Theology*.
______________, *Sanctity without Starch*.
______________, *On Giant Shoulders, The History, Role, and Influence of the Evangelist in the Movement Called Methodist*.
Philip Watson, *Anatomy of a Conversion*
Skevington Wood, *The Burning Heart, John Wesley the Evangelist*.