MW 690 The Church Abroad: China

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The Church Abroad: CHINA

MW 690
May 24-June 4, 2000
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COURSE SYLLABUS

Purpose
The purpose of the trip/class is to expose participants to the work of the Holy Spirit in a cross-cultural setting with the hope that each person will develop a deeper understanding of the Chinese church and a greater passion for missions.

Summary
On May 24 our group of students, faculty, and other friends will depart from Orlando on Northwest Airlines, arriving in Beijing on May 25. After a few days of orientation and dialogue in Beijing, the group will spend a couple of days in a small village near the North Korean border. There we will meet courageous workers ministering to North Korean refugees. We will also do intensive intercession for North Korea as we walk along Chinese hilltops overlooking NK. The group will then travel to Shenyang, a city of 7 million in Northeast China. Our host agency there is an organization known in China as a humanitarian agency meeting the physical needs of orphans, women and others in crisis. In actuality the group does this as well as leading thousands to Christ and folding them into churches. A wonderful team of Chinese believers and several internationals staffs the agency (not named here for security reasons). Asbury has been asked to provide some leadership and discipleship training to the staff of the ministry. One of the great needs of the Chinese church is the development of trained leaders. In addition to this teaching ministry, our team will serve in the agency’s orphanage and its clinic for children. Part of our time will be spent in the “homes” of the Chinese and in other places where the Chinese can teach us about their life, culture and faith. After four days in Shenyang, we will then return to Beijing. Some very elderly believers who have suffered greatly for the Gospel will teach us. We will also have fellowship with some of the young workers who are now boldly reaching their country for Christ. While in Beijing there will be time set aside for the team to begin assimilating our experience before we fly back to Orlando on June 4.

Method
The primary method of education will be contextual involvement in China. The following methods will also be utilized: lecture, video, reading, and written reflection.

Course/Trip Highlights
• Explore the history and culture of China.
• Experience the practical aspects of life for Chinese people today.
• Take prayer walks in strategic places in the country.
• Encourage Christian friends in China.
• Develop a better understanding of what it means to follow Christ in an environment that is politically and traditionally hostile to the Christian faith.
• Partner with the Chinese church by serving orphans.
• Edify the staff of our host agency by providing teaching on topics requested by their leaders.

Expectations
It is expected that students completing this course will have greater---
• Familiarity with the major principles of the Chinese worldviews and ways of life and their implications for communicating the Gospel.
• Awareness of our need to hear the Good News from non-Western believers.
• Awareness of the ongoing ministry of the Holy Spirit.
• Passion for reaching those who have not heard the Good News (unreached peoples).
• Faith in the power of the Holy Spirit to change persons in spite of apparently insurmountable barriers.
• Understanding of God’s missional call on their life.

Resources

Required Resources

*Notebook of selected articles and readings provided by James Loftin. 62 pages.
*Serving China: A Primer for Pastors, Churches and Ministries. Published by ChinaSource and China Harvest. 29 pages, 1998.
*Song of a Chinese Sparrow. Twenty-minute video tape by ChinaSource.

Elective Resources
Evaluation

Your grade for the course will be based on your preparation before the trip to China, your involvement in the cross-cultural experience, your completion of assigned readings and your completion of your reflection paper. Each student will need to read 800-1,000 pages of material. The resources listed above with an asterisk are to be read BEFORE the trip. The balance of the pages due can be read after the trip. One hour of video or audio tape will be counted as 60 pages of reading. After the trip a reflection paper must be written and turned in. It should integrate your readings and your personal experience in China. Attached to the paper should be a list of the books and other resources that you completed. Show the number of pages for each resource. Your paper is due in James Loftin’s office by June 20 at 5:00 p.m. It must be typed—12 point font, maximum length 8 pages and 5,000 words. It can be emailed in as well. Among other things the paper should address the following questions?

1. What lessons can the North American church learn from the Chinese church?
2. How will your faith and ministry be impacted by your experience in China?
3. Reflect on the purpose of utilizing short-term, cross-cultural missions trips in the ministry of the local church in North America.

Schedule

Two meetings will be held before the trip. Participants are expected to be present in Orlando for these meetings or “attend” the meeting with our V-tel connection.

Registration

Registration is limited to ten people. In addition to registering through the ATS Registrar, a trip application and $1,383 should be given to James Loftin, Director of Missions, ATS-FL. This payment will cover travel, food and lodging expenses for the trip to China. If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately. Some financial aid may be available. Contact James Loftin for more details.