1-1-2003

MS 685 The Church Abroad: Zimbabwe

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MS 685
THE CHURCH ABROAD: ZIMBABWE

January 6-16, 2003
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PURPOSE/DESCRIPTION

The purpose of this class is to visit Zimbabwe and to observe the church in this specific cultural setting, with the hope that each person will develop a deeper understanding of the Zimbabwean church and a greater passion for the mission of Jesus Christ in the world. Highlights of this course/trip will include:

- Exploration of the history and culture of Zimbabwe by visiting historic sites and mission centers;
- Development of a better understanding of what it means to follow Christ in an environment that is characterized by drought and economic poverty;
- Experience of the singing and dancing church of Africa; and
- Engagement in mission service (e.g., among orphans).

COURSE OBJECTIVES

The primary educational method employed in this course is contextual involvement in the life of the Christian community in Zimbabwe. Pedagogy prior to, during, and following the cultural immersion will include: lecture, written reflection, readings, and engagement with multi-media materials. It is expected that students successfully completing this course will be able to:

- Discuss the African church (primarily that of Zimbabwe), showing a basic awareness of its major streams, history, cultural underpinnings, strengths and weaknesses;
- Demonstrate an understanding of the major principles of African worldviews and how these impact the communication the Gospel;
- Communicate reasons for the use of short term missions trips in the local church, and the skills and procedures that are needed to organize and lead these trips; and
- Share a list of lessons that the North American church could learn from the African church, providing biblical commentary for each lesson.
SCHEDULE

One orientation meeting will be held before the trip on Saturday, December 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m. All participants are expected to be present for this meeting, either present in Orlando or participating by V-Tel connection in Wilmore. The trip dates are Monday, January 6 through Thursday, January 16, 2003. A debriefing meeting will be held after the trip. Participants are expected to be present in Orlando for this time of sharing and celebration, the date of which will be determined at the pre-trip meeting in December.

RESOURCES

Required Texts:

To be read prior to January 6:


Supplemental Texts:


REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

The final grade for this course will be based on preparation before the trip to Zimbabwe, involvement in the cross-cultural experience, completion of assigned readings, and papers. Each student must read at least 1,200 total pages of material related to the trip (including required texts). The Required Texts listed above are to be read BEFORE the trip. The balance of the pages due can be read after the trip. All titles listed in the Supplemental Reading list are approved. Other texts must be approved by the instructor.

1. **General Participation** (10%). Your lively and informed participation in all class activities is valuable for you and contributes to the edification of all. Each participant must be engaged in every aspect of this learning experience, including pre-trip and post-trip meetings and should demonstrate an eagerness to learn from our hosts, other team members, and the leaders.

2. **Pre-trip Requirements** (20%). One pre-trip meeting will be held on **Saturday, December 14, 1:00-4:00 p.m.** Students are expected to be present in Orlando for this meeting or to attend it via V-Tel. The following assignments should be begun or completed as well:
   
   A. **Expectation Essay** (10%). A two-page essay (typed and double-spaced) on your expectations about the trip and why you feel called to participate in this experience. **Due December 14, 2002.**
   
   B. **Journal** (10%). Begin a journal at least one week prior to the trip and continue the journal during and at least one week after the trip. The completed journal is **due on or before January 31, 2003.**

3. **Reading Log** (20%). A “Reading Log/Record” of books must be maintained/completed for the course (including required reading texts) and supplemental reading (those works read to fulfill the 1,200 page requirement). The log/record should include both reading completion dates and pages per book and is **due on or before January 31, 2003.**

4. **Post-trip Reflection Paper** (50%). After the trip to Zimbabwe, a reflection paper of 5,000 words maximum is **due on or before January 31, 2003.** This paper should integrate readings, personal reflections, and learning goals for the course. Both of the following components must be included in the paper:
   
   1. Treatment of the four goals listed in the Course Objectives section of the syllabus.
   
   2. Articulation of your personal experience in Zimbabwe and how your faith and ministry have been impacted by this experience?

Late papers will not be accepted.
5. **Personal Impact Goals.** In addition to helping participants acquire greater knowledge about the church in Africa and the related subjects mentioned in the Course Objectives, it is hoped that God will use this course to:

   - Expand our worldview and our understanding of God’s global family;
   - Increase our awareness of the need to hear the Gospel from persons in other cultures;
   - Give us a deeper passion for reaching those who have not heard the Good News; and
   - Clarify our understanding of God’s missional call on our lives.

**LOGISTICAL MATTERS**

**Cost.** $2,300.00 covers the deposit, travel costs and academic registration for the class. A deposit of $250.00 must be made by October 15. This check must be made payable to ATS and mailed to James Loftin, Asbury Theological Seminary, 8401 Valencia College Lane, Orlando, FL 32825. A payment of $1,250 should be made out to your student account no later than January 2, 2003. The remaining $800.00 should be made to your student account no later than January 24, the payment deadline for January classes. These costs do not cover the price of additional medical insurance (optional), the visa, and some meals on the trip.

**Registration.** Registration is limited to 18 people. Your spot in the class will not be confirmed until the $250.00 deposit is received. Priority is given to Asbury students.

**Passport.** If you do not have a passport, apply for one immediately (contact Rev. Loftin for special instructions). If you already have a passport, make sure that it will not expire before June 2003. Rev. Loftin will need a photocopy of the first page of the passport no later than November 20 in order to apply for the visas.

**Immunizations and Travel Preparation.** To prepare for the trip please make sure that your immunizations are up to date. Check with a healthcare professional or visit www.cdc.gov/travel/safrica.htm to see what vaccinations are necessary for travel to Zimbabwe. You might also visit the U.S. State Department site, www.travel.state.gov. Click on “Travel Warnings/Consular Info Sheets.” Don’t be alarmed by their cautious wording in some places.

**Financial Aid.** Students are encouraged to seek support from their home congregations and supervised ministry sites in addition to your own families. See James Loftin for suggestions and help soliciting support. Other financial aid may be available from the Office of Missions on the Orlando campus.

**Prayer Itinerary.** A guide to facilitate intercession for the trip will be created by one or more of the students. This guide will be based on the trip itinerary and will include dates, times (if available), scriptures to be prayed for each day, special needs, and the names of each person in the class (focusing on one or more participants each day). Prior to the trip the Prayer Itinerary will be distributed to the seminary community and to the families, friends and churches of the participants. The students who prepare the Prayer Itinerary will receive some credit toward their required reading.
Lord,
I am homesick for Africa.
I wish I could sit with my people
on the narrow benches huddled together, no one
alone.
All one
in our
thoughts
and
prayers.
We grow
together
in our hymns of praise.
Joyful do we shout: Hallelujah, and nod. Amen