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AUGUST 2014
9TH EDITION



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Application invited for: 2014/2015 Academic Year

This academic year will start from September 2014.

Areas of Studies

A. Christian Service Diploma (2 years)

1. Bible
2. Spiritual Life
3. Theology
4. Christian Ethics
5. The Church
6. Christian Service

B. College Degree Program (4 years)

1. B.A Degree in Bible & Theology
2. B.A Degree in Religious Education
3. B.A Degree in Mission
4. B. A Degree in Church Ministry.

Admission Requirement

Ability to read and write English is enough for the Christian Service Diploma.

A high School diploma or its equivalent is required to enroll for the College Degree Program. There is also opportunity to audit the courses without studying for Credit.

In such cases no educational qualification is required.

Send your application to the Registrar:

Amsterdam Bible Academy

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Life

MISSION

Whether you believe in God or not, you must have at one time or the other wondered about the purpose of life. A life without purpose is a life without meaning. Knowing the purpose of life can make a great difference about how we see and relate to life circumstances.

Why do we exist? Why is there so much destruction and evil? What are all the struggles in life about? What happens when we die? Etc.

The only place to find reliable answers to these questions is the Bible. Despite the magnificent progress in science and technology, man is yet to provide satisfactory answers to these questions.

I will therefore like to make references to the Scripture as it relates to these important questions.

THE GENESIS OF CREATION

In the book of Genesis chapter one verses twenty-seven to thirty one, we were told that God created man in his own image; male and female he created them. Then God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." God gave man a distinct assignment. God delegated the responsibility to care for creation to man. God entrusted his creation to man. Man is given the privilege to be the manager, the steward of creation. God also provided everything that man needed to successfully accomplish this assignment. What grade can we give to man if we are to assess his performance on a scale of 0-10 on this God given assignment? The answer is obvious considering the present situation of the world. Man has failed in this God given assignment.

Can you imagine how the world would have being if we understand the stewardship responsibility to take care of creation? Can you imagine how life would have being if everybody cares for everybody? Can you imagine the condition of man and the world if those who have assess to resources in each nation of the world understand their stewardship privileges and responsibilities? Can you imagine how the world would have being if those who rule the nations understand the stewardship of power and privileges?

WHAT WENT WRONG?

This is a question that can help us in finding solution to the problems confronting our world. What happen to man in the process of discharging his God given responsibility? The answer to this important question is also provided in the bible, Genesis chapter three. Man chooses to doubt God and believe Satan. I do understand that Satan is foreign to our modern understanding of life; however the bible tells us about Satan and his deceptive and destructive works. Whether you believe the bible or not, you will agree with me that the destruction of life and properties do not bring joy and happiness to anybody. It is evil.

The intensity and gravity of evil and destruction in the world in this 21st century is beyond imagination. Men are so evil with evil minds devising evil ways and destructive strategies. In the past ten years there is no day that hundreds of people in different parts of the world are not killed, maimed and or made homeless. It is incredible how man has become the enemy of man. How did we get to where we are today? What went wrong? In Genesis chapter three, we read about the beginning of the problem. Man rejected God in exchange for Satan and his deception. From this moment man became a victim of deception and has remain a victim of deception. It is this weapon that Satan has continued to use to execute his evil schemes around the world. Man became selfish and greedy, accumulating everything for selfish purposes. His appetite for fame and recognition became insatiable. This insatiable appetite for power and fame is now ruling man and man can do anything to satisfy this insatiable appetite. What a tragedy! They can steal, kill and destroy. This is reflected in the social, economic and even in the spiritual spectrums of life. The result is stress, pain, divorce, suicide, murder, economic crisis and every evil you can think about. This deception has lead some group of people to believe that they can only go to heaven after they have murdered innocent people who do not share their faith. Some other believes that they do not need God and that they are the architects of their own lives. Some believe that there is nothing like a God of creation and that man is a progeny of monkey and evolution. Satan has continued to deceive man and through this deception, he is able to steal, kill and destroy.

THE SOLUTION

But God still loves the world he created. He loves the world so much that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him will not perish but have everlasting life. Jesus came to rectify the situation. He came to show us how life is supposed to be. He came to bring us back to God. Jesus came to show us God's plan for living. He demonstrated total obedience to God in his dealing with people and life. He served God by serving and caring for people. He rebuked and challenged the religious, political and economic leaders of his time. He reminded them of their stewardship responsibilities. He demonstrated the true stewardship of life as intended by God. He taught us how to love God and our neighbors.

Our mission as stewards of God's creation is the solution to the world problem. Stewardship of life begins with understanding of life as a gift from God. Each of us is responsible for the way we live our life. God has given life to us and our responsibility is to take good care of this life. If we cannot take care of our own life, we will not be able to take care of other people's lives. Stewardship of life and creation is the solution to the problem of poverty. The stewardship of creation is the solution to the destruction of our beautiful nature. It is when we understand and practice this mission that the world can be what God created it to be; a place of peace and abundance, where there is enough for everybody; where we give and receive love. This is possible, but only when we choose to follow Jesus Christ and live according to his ways and manners.



Dr. Moses Alagbe



STUDENTS'

Testimonies

I will like to thank the board of Amsterdam Bible Academy for giving me a full scholarship for my studies. I am very grateful. I have learnt a lot with regards to the Bible, the Old and the New Testament, different issues facing the church and how to deal with them. I have also learnt how to interpret the Bible and this tool has helped me greatly in my understanding of the Scripture and also in my teaching ministry.



THERESA ▲

I am now in my final year at Amsterdam Bible Academy. It was like yesterday when I started the school. How time flies. Amsterdam Bible Academy provided a place for me to study the Bible and prepare for ministry when I did not have the opportunity to go to a fulltime Bible school. I could not afford a fulltime school and was glad when I discovered that I could do my studies at Amsterdam Bible Academy. I am grateful for all the support I have received during

The studies I received from Amsterdam Bible Academy has been a great blessing to me personally and also in my ministry as a minister of the Gospel. Every wall of tradition that hitherto hindered my understanding of the Scripture has been broken down. I now have the tools to interpret the Scripture and this is now a great blessing to me in my ministry and personal growth.



JUSTICE ▲

I love the interaction in the classroom and our teachers are very patient in explaining difficult issues to us. Amsterdam Bible Academy is the best place to be for personal growth and for preparation for the work of ministry.

my years of studies. The studies I received has transformed my understanding of God and my role in His kingdom. I am very grateful.



BEATRICE ▶



REV. VANDYCK ISMAEL LOMOTEY

person seeks to be involved. It is important that the gifts and competence of the missionary is discovered and affirmed in the context of a local church. This is even more useful in assessing one's own strengths and weaknesses and in building confidence.

Money Counts

The issue of source of funding is another critical issue to be considered. Passion alone is not sufficient to finance missions. It is important that the missionary clearly work ahead sources of finance on the missions' field.

Considerations must be given to either raising personal support, depending on a church or mission agency, taking up a job, or a combination of the aforementioned to raise enough funds. How to meet expenses like accommodation, children's education, and upkeep for the family must be carefully evaluated. This helps to reduce or avoid unnecessary stress and frustrations related to finance.

Do not Despise Training and Education

Training and education are also critical. These help shape the competency of the missionary. Formal education may include theological studies, key technical training, workshops, seminars etc. It is also important to augment formal training with informal training, which may include discipleship and spiritual formation. These help in forming and shaping the missionary to be fit for the master's use.

Relationship with Sending Agency

Finally, the missionary must consider his relationship with the sending church or agency. Paul and Barnabas had the Antioch church as their sending church. There was a clear understanding on the importance of missions and the strategy to be deployed. The strategy was simple- get the Gospel to the Gentiles! There was unison of goal and objective between Paul/ Barnabas and the sending church. This is important because you need your sending church as your base for refreshment, encouragement, support, funding, etc. It is therefore necessary to consider issues such as the values, goals, vision, ministry philosophy, and core spiritual principles of the sending church /agency. This is to ensure that they do not contradict with the missionary's own value system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, missions is a great idea and a way to serve God. However, it must be done after much time in prayer and waiting on the Lord, careful evaluations, and preparations. There is no assurance of a perfect case on the field, but with the above tips and dependence on God, one can be certain to succeed.

BECOMING A MISSIONARY:

C o u n t i n g t h e C o s t

Missions is a great way of serving the Lord. The church throughout history has been spread through missions. Missions is what lies at the heart of spreading the Gospel to places outside our home especially the unreached areas. I believe it is a worthy venture of pursuit for every Christian. Nevertheless, it is not everyone who has been called to serve as a missionary. It is a very crucial step in a person's life that needs a lot of consideration and evaluation. Jesus said, "For which of you, desiring to build a tower, does not first sit down and count the cost, whether he has enough to complete it (Luke 14.28)?" "Counting the cost" is not carnal but a very biblical step to take in pursuing missions. When this critical step is to be taken, few issues need to be considered.

Have a clear sense of calling

First, the missionary must be certain and have a clear sense that God is leading him/her in that direction. God is the

sender and a house not built by him will not stand (Psalm 127:1-2). The motivation of the missionary must be critically examined and established with the certainty and surety that God is leading and sending the person in that direction. If married, this conviction must be borne by both partners. It is only when this is settled that the motivation to endure and prevail through the challenges of missions can be sustained. The missionary can identify this by praying diligently, seeking confirmation from mature Christian leaders, and evaluating how the Holy Spirit has been working and directing the person's life.

Seek Practical Experience

There is also a need for a sense of experience of ministry in one's own culture and local church. The missionary must have proven himself in evangelism, discipleship, leadership and the core tasks that the

PHOTO Gallery





**Rev. Maxwell
Addi**

IS REVIVAL A WORK OF GOD OR A WORK OF MAN?

The Evangelical Dictionary of Theology defines revival as “a period of unusual and heightened spiritual activity in a section of the church, brought about by a renewing and empowering work of the Holy Spirit, bringing a new sense of the presence of God, especially in his holiness, resulting in a deeper awareness of sin in the lives of believers, followed by new joy as sin is confessed and forgiven.”

Mark Stibbe in his book *Revival*, defines revival as “a season ordained by God in which the Holy Spirit awakens the church to evangelize the lost, and the lost to their dire need of Jesus Christ.” Murray, explains that Evangelicals believe that revival is the work of the Holy Spirit.” From the three definitions, one can deduce that revival is God initiating a process of salvation and/rededication by the power of the Holy Spirit, such that sinners have a dire need of knowing Him and Christians, a burden to live for Him and invite sinners to Him. This paper seeks to explain that revival is a work of God although he uses His people in the process.

Biblical Perspective of Revival

The concept of revival is specifically a New Testament idea as seen in Acts 2. It is not explicitly defined in the Bible but can be deduced just like the word “Trinity”. When the Holy Spirit was given as recorded in the book of Acts, thousands of people got saved in an extraordinary way. It is worth noting that from the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit's work can be seen in two ways; normal and extraordinary. Normal is the day to day salvation of people and extraordinary is when the work of the Spirit increases in degree like the salvation of thousands in the book of Acts. The extraordinary work of the Spirit is what can be termed as revival.

It is true that the Old Testament records some works of the Holy Spirit. This should not be confused with His works in the New Testament. The Old Testament was pointing to the day that the Spirit will be given as prophesied by Joel and Ezekiel in Joel 2:28 and Ezekiel 47:1-10. The prophets of old were looking forward to a better day where the Spirit will be given. In light of this, revival cannot be an Old Testament concept although it was prophesied in the Old Testament.

Again, 2 Chronicles 7:14, (“if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” (ESV)) has been a popular verse by some who argue that revival is a work of man. Contextually, what is being promised is not even revival. The idea that revival is a work of man and emanating from events in the Old Testament is partly due to the occurrence of the words “revive” and “reviving” in the King James Version of the Bible. God's stepping into the situations of the Israelites as they prayed was pointing them (and us) to Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

Revival as a Work of God

Revival is singularly the work of God. Men in their quest to see many people come to God have designed many ways they think can produce a revival. This phenomenon is not a revival but what some scholars have termed revivalism. Revival can be distinguished from revivalism in three major ways; (1) revival is theocentric but revivalism is anthropocentric, (2) revival is purely God's sovereign initiative whilst revivalism is man-driven and man-initiated and (3) revival makes God alone the cause of spiritual results whilst revivalism makes God and methodology the cause of spiritual results.

People who argue that revival is the work of man explain that God has already done

what needs to be done. They further explain that the problem is with man not acting. They support their view with verses like ... “You do not have, because you do not ask.” (James 4:2, ESV), “Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.” (John 16:24, ESV) and so on. Of course God uses man but to say the initiative, in this case revival comes from man is not biblical. However, one can also go to the extremes by saying man has no role to play in revival-which also is not biblical. God has always and will always use man in accomplishing his purpose.

Man's Responsibility

The servants of God used by God during the Second Great Awakening recognized the fact that the revivals were the sovereign work of God. They did not have any special publicities and other arrangements prior to the revivals. They were doing what they had been doing for years as ministers of God when the extraordinary move of God begun. They were faithful men that God deemed it fit in His sight to use.

As stated earlier, man has a responsibility when God commences a revival. In fact, men should always humbly seek God in prayer as a way of life in order to have a close fellowship with Him and know His will. His will may include among other things revival. God has promised to be a prayer-answering God and therefore ministers especially should seek Him in prayer. This is even seen in the book of Acts as the disciples of Jesus were waiting for direction in prayer for some days subsequent upon the given of the Holy Spirit and the conversion of thousands.

Conclusion

From the working definition of revival in this paper, it can be concluded that it is a work from God. The given of the Holy Spirit in Acts saw thousands being saved in an extraordinary way. Throughout the history of the Church, God has initiated revivals like the First and Second Great Awakenings, and so on. God's heightened consciousness leading to mass holiness and extraordinary events of salvation are not normal events but happen when God begins a revival. Men are not left out but are responsible to seek God and walk in His will as He decides to cause a revival.

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Review of AB

Christian Service

Christian Maturity

Christian maturity is the aim of every believer and the goal is to reach "the very height of Christ's full stature" (Ephesians 4:13). In this 192-page course, Rick Howard teaches that although we cannot become completely like Christ, we are to reach for this highest of goals that the Bible sets for us, since this will enable us to achieve more than accomplishing a goal that is too low.



The Kingdom, The Power, and The Glory

The New Testament, the new agreement that God made with humanity through His Son, Jesus Christ, is the subject of this course written by Jean-Baptiste Sawadogo and Marcia Munger. This survey of the New Testament brings a realization that God speaks authoritatively to the church and the world today, just as He did in the New Testament and throughout the course of history. The information contained in this course will help provide a fuller understanding of New Testament truths and the reliable manner in which they were transmitted to us. A study of this course will enable students to teach others about the Word of God in a greatly enhanced fashion.



Cornerstones of Truth

As you have probably discovered, the teachings in the Bible are not presented according to topics. For example, the book of Genesis does not give us a complete explanation of the Godhead, nor does any other single book. An important way to study the Bible is to find all the teachings related to a certain topic. Authors Floyd Woodworth, Jr. and David Duncan will follow this kind of systematic study to see what the Scriptures teach about the universe and its Ruler, about humankind and the structure God has chosen for human development. Students will also discover what the Bible has to say about the future.



The Christian Church in Ministry

Perhaps you thought that God's redemptive plan ended with Christ's death on the Cross. However, Jesus passed on to His church the ministry of reaching the world with the message of salvation. Author Jesse Miranda teaches that the Great Commission given by Christ is the church's authority to act for God. The church has not been left to carry on the work alone, however, for Christ sent His Holy Spirit to be our Helper. The Holy Spirit works in and through us to fulfill the redemptive plan of God.



Spiritual Gifts

"Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant," Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12:1. Spiritual gifts are very important to the body of Christ. Author Robert Brandt teaches about these spiritual gifts, which are available to the believer to help him or her become a greater blessing to the church and more effective in spreading the gospel.



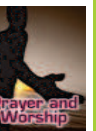
Solving Life's Problems

When you are having problems, do you know where to find answers? Author Dorothy Johns helps you turn your problems into victories. There are no clear-cut solutions for some of the problems that confront us. However, the Bible gives guidelines for finding solutions to many of life's problems. It is not God's will that Christians be defeated. As you study this course and apply the principles of problem solving, you will discover the wonderful blessing of allowing your problem-solver, Jesus Christ, to help you.



Prayer and Worship

Worship includes praise and service to God. Author Morris Williams introduces us to a new life of prayer and worship. A closer look at the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples shows that Jesus believed we cannot separate prayer and worship from our living. Prayer is never finished; it is part of everything we do. In this course, prayer is presented as the preparation for worship, and worship is defined as constantly living in a way that pleases God and fulfills His purposes.



Tents, Temples, and Palaces

The books of the Old Testament are surveyed in this course, written by Rick Howard. This look at the Old Testament begins with creation, continues through the judgment of the Flood, and then picks up the theme of God's chosen people, the seed of Abraham. The author discusses the writings of the Old Testament as an account of God's dealing with the people He chose to use to bless the world. Many of the names, terms, and events that are often difficult to understand are addressed, along with questions that are pertinent to understanding the Old Testament period.



Alive in Christ

Salvation is the crucial subject of this 275-page course by David Duncan, and the definition is broadened to include everything that was purchased at Calvary. Salvation is shown to include not only the forgiveness of the sins of the past and deliverance from the power of sin in the present, but also protection against the depredations that could be brought on by sin in the future. All of the spiritual needs of man are met by the redemption provided by Christ on the cross.



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A Courses

Starting New Churches

Ever since the church began on the Day of Pentecost, the followers of Christ have been planting churches all over the world. Author Larry Pate shows us the value of having the direction of the Holy Spirit in planning strategy for the founding of new churches. The Bible gives the principles and purposes that are the guidelines to planting the church in every culture and people group.



Preaching and Teaching

Author Ernest Pettry demonstrates how to communicate God's message effectively through preaching and teaching. These two methods of sharing God's Word are alike in many ways. Yet during the history of the Christian church, each method has developed some distinctive characteristics. This course points out the advantages of both methods and helps prepare the reader to use them in the best manner for evangelizing the unreached and providing for the spiritual development and maturity of those that are ministered to.



People, Tasks, and Goals

Most of our knowledge comes to us in two ways: from patterns and from principles. In this course, author Billie Davis analyzes leadership from both perspectives and looks at examples of several of God's chosen leaders. Students are given the opportunity to consider these familiar biographical studies of the Bible in a new context using the theme of leadership. The most advanced theories of leadership and human development are outlined, and the application of these theories in harmony with Christian faith and practice is explained.



The Responsible Christian

Author Jose R. Silva Delgado shows us how to become faithful stewards. In a parable, Jesus commended two good stewards who had managed their assets wisely and condemned the one who did nothing with what he had been given. This course teaches how to manage and invest what God has entrusted to us, so that one day He will say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. . . . Come and share your master's happiness!" (Matthew 25:23).



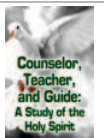
Understanding the Bible

The careful, methodical study of the Bible is the subject of this course. In the first part, author Dorothy Johns introduces the principles, terminology, and means of interpretation that are essential to all effective methods of Bible study. The next series of lessons emphasizes scrutiny of individual books through the synthetic or whole-book method of study. The biographical, topical, and devotional methods of study are critiqued in the last section. While much in the course is necessarily an academic discussion of how to study the Bible, major emphasis is placed on the student's spiritual improvement and how a systematic study of the Scriptures is the best means for achieving this goal.



Counselor, Teacher, and Guide

Near the end of Jesus' ministry on earth, He told His disciples that the time was coming when He would not be with them. He said, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth" (John 14:16–17). Jesus was speaking of the Holy Spirit. In this course, author William Farrand will acquaint you with the ways the Holy Spirit helps you, in the same way that Jesus helped people when He was here on earth.



Helping Christians Grow

Christian nurturing is very important to the church's ministry and it is necessary for the growth and maturation of new believers. The author encourages and instructs those who would like to help develop spiritual maturity in others. He also makes them aware of their own need for more instruction. The emphasis is on the interdependence that exists in the Christian community. Recent converts need to be instructed and encouraged, while mature Christians need to teach and nurture others in order to grow themselves.



Sharing the Good News

You have probably already shared your testimony with others and realized the need to give the message of salvation clearly and simply. You need to have at your fingertips the Scriptures that will aid you in responding to those who seek to know more about Jesus. Authors Robert and Evelyn Bolton will help you use what you already know about salvation and the joy of serving God so that you can better share the pleasure of being a Christian.



Abundant Living

A sterling character does not happen by accident. Christian character is developed as the Holy Spirit produces His fruit in the believer. The fruit of the Spirit, described in Galatians 5:22–23, is the result of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Author Antonio Gilberto da Silva offers a practical study from Galatians 5 and other related Scripture passages. This course emphasizes the development of desirable qualities such as love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, and their benefits in the Christian's relationships and service.





Many African countries are in disarray due to mismanagement and corrupt leadership. This has lead to serious instability, underdevelopment, very high level of poverty, hunger, high rate of mortality, crime, mass displacement, mass migration and various problems associated with African immigrants in different European countries.

Raising new generations of leaders is therefore crucial to the development of Africa in particular and the world in general. Our approach in addressing these leadership and development issues are as follows:

- Establishing primary and secondary schools for raising and developing transformational leaders.
- Mobilizing, raising and developing young adults as transformational leaders.
- Mobilizing and empowering communities for community development
- Partnering with individuals and other organizations that share our vision.

OTHER PROJECTS OF STG LIFE & PEACE INT.

Three major curriculums (Stewardship, community development and Leadership) are being developed and will be taught in primary and secondary schools in different countries in Africa beginning in Nigeria.

Stewardship, personal growth development and leadership will be taught among university students and young graduates in Netherlands and in different countries in Africa.



Book Review



Book Title: Follow me

Author: Jan David Hettinga

Number of Pages :267

should submit to the control , we should give over control to the Holy Spirit.

Transferable principles.

Total Trust: As a missional leader, there is no other way to success than trusting the leadership and the Lordship of our Lord Jesus Christ. Sometimes it may not make sense, we should always remember that God's ways are not our ways. The principle of total trust cannot be overemphasized.

Servant leadership: Jesus exemplified this principle of leadership. He laid down his power and authority, he submitted to God's authority, serving his followers. As a missional leader we have to lead by example, serving our followers not lording our authority over them.

Value based Leadership: This is very important principle in our post modern society where there is no recognition of basic values of life. As a missional leader we should lead by emphasizing biblical values in relation to life situations.

Leading by Following: I do agree with the author that one who cannot follow cannot lead. Therefore we have to continue to follow men and women that demonstrate integrity, excellence and practical loving relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ, however, Jesus Christ should always be our ultimate leader.

Accountability: Transparency and accountability is a principle that cannot be neglected. As a missional leader our success largely depend also on how accountable we are in our responsibilities.

Listening: Listening is a key factor in relating to people . It shows that one cares and one is interested in the other. We should continue to cultivate this habit as transformational leadership. We should be sensitive to spoken and verbal messages.

Authentic: It is important to be authentic. As a missional leader authenticity will play a key role in our leadership. No faking , be honest and real.

Prayer and Worship: Prayer and worship will draw us closer our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we will receive strength and grace to continue to serve in good and in difficult times.

The author basically dealt with the concept of the Kingdom of God or the effect of the gospel of the Kingdom on a local church or believers.

The book is about the leadership of our Lord Jesus Christ. It dealt with serious issues of nominal Christianity and calls for real examination of our practical Christian life in relation to following Jesus Christ.

It exposes our self destructive, self indulgence habits and calls for real repentance, to totally surrender control to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

The book is about the application of the kingdom principle in day to day life.

The author uses diagrams to clearly bring to light the major differences between the kingdom of God and the Kingdom of darkness and their effects on man.

Many factors holding back Christians from totally following Jesus Christ as Lord were touched by the author.

Several real life stories were used by the author to further drive home the Kingdom of God concept.

The issue of sin was theologically and practically treated. Repentance was given a new meaning in this book. Submissively following Jesus was seeing by the author in

the form of a loving relationship in comparison to religion habit or tradition. The way back to track was presented and the Gospel was given minute and clear diagnosis with its detail ingredients.

Finally the author calls for genuine repentance, total submission to the leadership of Jesus Christ in rediscovering the kingdom of God with its transforming power.

Critics and Analysis

It is an easy to read book, with various life stories that make the book interesting. It is a book that I could not drop once I started reading it.

On page 178 , I will disagree with the statement that 'The Holy Spirit's assignment is to force the issue of control in each and every segment of our lives'. This statement might be misleading, as the overall content of the book does not support this statement, but rather that we



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BGU is Perspective Education:

Considering the drastic changes in the last decade, most of us need a path to better understand a world that is:

- Vastly more global through the internet, world capital markets, and massive changes in post- Cold War alliances;
 - Vastly more urban as countries such as China are transferring 20 million people each year to urban centers to fuel the expected need for urban industrial workers;
 - Vastly more pluralistic – Ten-year-old assumptions of race and culture are obsolete.
- No matter what their area of concentration, all students are immersed in a context that recalls and retrofits them with a perspective for ministry in this new, global, urban world. This is how we do it.

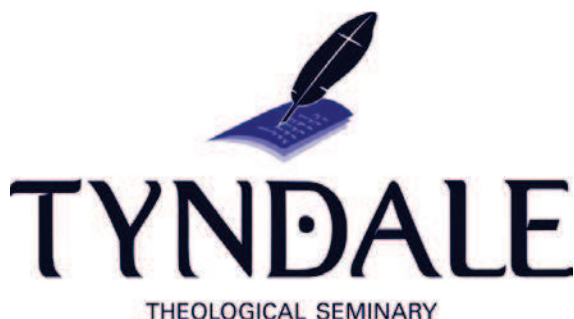
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Nothing speaks louder than the real thing. Cities are often our classrooms . . . our labs. BGU creates city immersion experiences or 'plunges' designed to expand everyone's worldview. These plunges always include rich spiritual, biblical, historical and community reflection. Diversity is a hallmark of BGU cohorts, where you always find students from a variety of denominations and creeds and from numerous continents. Another hallmark is the number of accomplished national and international urban ministry leaders who comprise our student body.

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**REV. SAMUEL
ABEKA**

Persecution of the Church Has Long Term Benefits

The word persecute can be defined as “to cause to suffer because of belief” and the word hardship as “something that causes suffering or privation.” The *Religious Freedom Series Volume 2* explains persecution of Christians as “a form of religious persecution defined by the fact that its victims are targeted primarily because they are Christians. Victims may be of varying levels of commitment Christianity and be subject to varying levels of animosity and harm, from mildly to intensely hostile.” Persecution and hardship seems to carry some idea of pain and suffering, and therefore would sometimes be used synonymously in this paper.

Persecution and hardship include violent death and martyrdom, physical or psychological torture, invasive rules that confine worship activities to church buildings, and so on and so forth. This paper seeks to point out that persecution has been part of the church from its inception and therefore it is good for the church in the long run.

Persecution of Jesus as example

Jesus's death on the cross did not happen by chance neither was it planned by the devil. Rather it was God's way of redeeming man to Himself. Jesus's suffering and death on the cross on the cross was necessary, in that, the nations of the world were subsequently reached with God's salvation in Him. Isaiah 53:4-5, is a prophecy concerning how the Messiah will suffer, be persecuted and go through hardship in accomplishing His purpose.

Hebrews 12:2-3 describes the example Jesus set for the church in his suffering on the cross. In Matthew 10:16-25, Jesus made it clear to the disciples that He was sending them as “sheep in the midst of wolves.” Thus, the Church's mission can be broken down into the phrase: “sheep among wolves.” Jesus made it clear in Matthew 16:21-23 that his death was important subsequent in the building of His Church. He was so serious

about it that He rebuked Peter when he suggested that Jesus did not need to die.

The Church is to Expect Persecution

There seems to be nowhere in the New Testament where by the church is advised to run from persecution. Rather, the church is encouraged to endure through thick and thin in order for Jesus to be known. From the first century through to the persecution under Nero, and even to this day, Christians should expect persecution. The church from its beginning developed a theology of persecution and that enabled them to face persecution with joy. The church did not see persecution as outside of theology and a potential risk to but rather as central to its theology.

The church's expectation of persecution is also reiterated in John's Revelation. John writes under the Holy Spirit, to encourage the certain churches about their present challenges and also to prepare them for the persecution they were to face in the future. The church depicted in Revelation is encouraged to stand for Christ even to the point of death (Rev. 3:10).

Some Good Effects of Persecution of the Church

Tertullian in his *Apology* writes, “The more oftener we are mown down by you, the more in number we grow; the blood of Christians is seed.” The church represented in various places has grown out of persecution. In fact, the church began to spread in the Book of Acts after James was killed by Herod and Peter also imprisoned. The verse 24 states that, “But the word of God increased and multiplied.” (ESV 2011). Below are some examples of the benefits of persecution of the church.

Persecution in the long run helps in building

the church. The New Testament asserts that the Christians became bold in their evangelism even to the point of death as they learned from the apostles. It seems like the church of Christ needs some level of persecution in order to grow. This may be one reason that God allows the church to be persecuted.

Persecution and hardship is sometimes allowed to befall members of the church for their own “benefit.” It results in perseverance, experience and hope. The author of Romans made this clear in Romans 5:3-5. In fact, right from the onset of Paul's calling, God had hinted that he would suffer for His sake (Acts 9:15). Knowing this, Paul hoped to be a heir of the glory of Christ and to finish the work he was called to do. Also, endurance by Christians in the USSR helped kindle a fire of religious interest among the population from about the 1980s until the end of the twentieth century. The Soviet ideology had embedded in it, hostility towards religion and for that matter the church. When the Bolsheviks came to power, they set eyes on the Russian Orthodox Church; to destroy it. The persecution started from about 1918. The persecution continued through Stalin's time. Some clergy men were forced to go to bed with the political power of the day and those that refused were sent to labour camps, and others executed. In the 1950s, General Secretary Khrushchev wanted the state to control the church but most believers resisted this move and subsequently resisted state policies. This resulted in the church becoming popular with the general population.

From the 1960s and 70s, increase in persecution seemed to be directly proportional to the commitment of in the Soviet Union. It is recorded in history that during these times many Russian Orthodox Churches were filled with people worshipping God. Most of these Christians were young people in their twenties and thirties. Although they had been trained to be hostile to religion during their education, they most likely were influenced by those that endured persecution and saw Christianity as something worth dying for.

Conclusion

It is clearly evident from the inception of the church in Jerusalem to this day that, persecution and hardship is allowed by God. God surely does allow it for a reason; to benefit the church. It seems impossible to have the church grow in certain places until they are persecuted in one form or the other. The church in Jerusalem begun to spread to other areas due to persecution that came its way. We should see persecution of the church as a blessing in disguise and make good use of it when it befalls us.

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REV.
INGRID
POWEL



Sharing the Good News

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." - Matthew 28: 16-20

These scripture verses are commonly referred to as: The Great Commission.

As disciples of Jesus Christ, our main goal in life should be to do what Jesus Christ desires of us.

At Amsterdam Bible Academy we are committed to help with equipping disciples to fulfill this great commission.

We offer many courses. These courses or subjects provide students with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. Generally, a course is divided in 3 units, with a total of 10 lessons.

One of the courses I was privileged to teach during the last quarter is called; sharing the Good news. This is a practical course on the important ministry of soul winning. The object of the course is to teach the students how to share the good news and to help new believers put their trust in Jesus Christ. Believers who are experienced in evangelism, will gain new insights and learn from interactions with fellow students.

The specific course objectives are:

- Understand evangelism as the normal outcome of the conversion experience
- Select specific types of evangelism to be involved in
- Use the bible as a tool in evangelistic activity
- Appreciate the work of the holy spirit in evangelism

The course is divided into ten lessons. The topics discussed are:

1. Why evangelize?
2. You can evangelize!
3. Work together to share the Good news
4. Understand the conversion experience
5. Rely on the holy Spirit
6. Depend on God's word
7. Approach the unconverted
8. Explain the way of salvation
9. Bring to a decision
10. Disciple new converts

The courses will definitely add to your knowledge. You will in turn be able to influence others with what you have learned as you disciple them to become followers of Jesus Christ.

If you are a believer living in and around Amsterdam, you are welcome to study God's word at Amsterdam Bible Academy, to show yourself approved unto God, workman that need not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

To the glory and the honor of His Name!



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ABA is a weekend and evening School designed to meet the needs of every believer in and around Amsterdam who is committed to knowing Christ and making him known. We recognized that many could not afford a full time Bible school. This could be due to full time working schedule or numerous other reasons. For such people Amsterdam Bible Academy is the best place to enhance your spiritual growth and prepare for ministry. Since 1996, ABA have been providing Theological, Mission and Ministry education to local church leaders and believers in and around Amsterdam. Many of our graduates are now in different ministries in and outside The Netherlands.

ABA is affiliated to Global university Springfield, Missouri in USA. Degrees and Diplomas awarded by ABA is recognized world wide. Check www.globaluniversity.edu for more information. If your desire is to know Christ and to make Him Known we will be glad to have you study with us.

ABA is a Not for Profit training Department of Foundation Life & Peace International for the purpose of raising and developing transformational leaders for the mission of God to the world.. Jesus said, "I will build my church...". Amsterdam Bible Academy is committed to the building of Christ's church for the spiritual, social and economic transformation of the world.

ABA Registrar: Pastor Henry Anna

PARTNERSHIP & APPRECIATION

We will like to thank all our prayer and financial partners for your support and encouragement . We are grateful to Stg. URCO and SIOC for scholarship grants. Your partnership is a great source of encouragement. Amsterdam Bible Academy is Not For Profit project of Foundation Life & Peace International.(ANBI)

Your prayer and financial support will be greatly appreciated, to enable us to continue to provide this much needed ministry, mission and Theological training to the immigrant church leaders and members in the Netherlands.

Gifts and donation will be appreciated.

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