



## **INTRODUCTION TO URBAN MINISTRY**

This is one of four core courses offered in the TIM Centre's Diploma in "Foundations of Missional Ministry & Church Leadership." The training is prepared to serve the ministry leader who may not have a recognized theology degree but is seeking to be credentialed within a partner denomination.

**FACILITATOR: Dr. Michael Krause**

### **I. COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In a city as large as Toronto, Christian ministry in the urban context is as diverse as the people living here. This course will provide an overview of the various approaches to urban ministry found in Toronto with a particular focus on inner-city ministry with the poor and marginalized. Various urban ministry practitioners will be invited to present their ministry to the class, both church based and para-church and a number of site visits are planned. The goal of the course is to understand the issues involved in inner-city life, to discover what various ministries are doing in Toronto, to learn how to approach ministry in an urban context and to design more effective ministry with marginalized people. Students will learn how to evaluate their own communities and discover ways of reaching their neighbourhoods.

### **II. COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Upon completion of this course, you should be able to:

- Have an awareness of the issues involved in inner-city life and poverty
- Discern the needs of a community by exegeting your neighbourhood
- Articulate ways of ministering to the diverse needs of the people in our city and see that God is at work in the city
- Understand the challenges of reaching a city as large as Toronto
- Design and implement innovative ways of ministering to city neighbourhoods

### **III. COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

#### **A. Required Reading**

Read at least **one** of the following books:

Bakke, Raymond J. *A Theology As Big As the City*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1997.

Paul, Greg. *God in the Alley*. Toronto, ON. Random House, Inc, 2004  
(ISBN 0877880921)

Huff, Tim. *Bent Hope*. Pickering, ON. Castle Quay Books, 2008.

## **B. Assignments**

### **1. Attendance and Class Participation - Value: 30%**

Attend each class and participate in class discussions by being prepared, asking questions and interacting with other classmates. Each class missed reduces the participation mark by 50% (i.e. 15% of total mark). More than two missed classes results in the loss of all participation marks. Three or more missed classes results in a fail. Missed classes marks can be made up with an additional book report (maximum of 2) which must be handed in by the last day of class.

### **2. Site visit reports - Value: 10% each = 20% of total mark**

There will be at least two site visits:

Evergreen Centre for Street Youth (Yonge Street Mission)

Priority Community Street Walk and Exegesis

Write a 2-page report (typewritten and double spaced) on your impression of each site visited. Include a one or two paragraph description of the ministry and include personal/ theological reflection on questions such as:

What challenged me?

What are the ministry's strengths and weaknesses?

What would I add/subtract/do differently to make the ministry better?

How comfortable did I feel in that particular environment?

What do I feel for the people being ministered to?

Could I be involved in a ministry like this? Why or why not?

**Due Date: Beginning of class Week following the Site Visit;**

### **3. Community Assessment and Ministry Plan - Value: 25%**

Form a team of 3 or 4 and using the information provided in the class on Community Needs Assessment, choose a Toronto community (one of the 140) on which to do such an assessment (it may be a community in which you live/serve/worship or another one) and develop a ministry strategy based on your research. The paper (8-10 pages typed and double spaced) must include a detailed map of the community, demographics for the community you've chosen, your analysis and assessment of the demographic information and a well thought out ministry strategy including a possible budget with projected costs and possible sources of income (estimated). Be sure to include the rationale for your final ministry strategy. Each team will present their findings to the class (see next assignment).

**Due Date: Beginning of class – March 13<sup>th</sup>**

### **4. Presentation of Ministry Plan – Value: 15%**

Each team will present their ministry plan to the rest of the class and will receive feedback from other students and the facilitator. This will involve a 10-15 minute presentation with an additional 10 minutes for questions and feedback (depending on class size).

**Due Date: during one of the classes March 13 or 27**

## E. SUMMARY OF ASSIGNMENTS AND GRADING

Evaluation is based upon the completion of the following assignments:

Assignment	Mark %	
Attendance and Participation	30%	
Site Visit Reports (10% each)	20%	
Community Assessment and Ministry Plan	35%	
Presentation of Ministry Plan	15%	
Total grade	100 %	

## F. SCHEDULE OF CLASSES (topics or site visit dates may change)

### January 16

Introduction and overview of class including assignments  
 Culture and Challenges of City (postmodernism, urbanism, globalism)  
 Community Needs Assessment

### January 30

Site Visit # 1 – Community Exegesis of Priority Neighbourhood

### February 13

Alternative Models of Church – MoveIn – Matthew Gibbins  
 Biblical model of mission, Luke 10

### February 22 (Saturday – subject to change based on class preference)

A Transformed City – facing challenges, measuring change and impact in city ministries Neighbourhood  
 Exegesis: mapping out the neighbourhood and discovering God at work

### February 27

Site Visit #2  
 Evergreen Centre for Street Youth 381 Yonge Street (between Dundas & College)  
 Gail Meats – Street Employment Training Centre

### March 13

Ministry in a multicultural context.

### March 27

Class Presentations

## G. BIBLIOGRAPHY

- \*Bakke, Raymond J., and Jim Hart. *The Urban Christian: Effective Ministry in Today's Urban World*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1987.
- \*Bakke, Raymond J. *A Theology As Big As the City*. Downers Grove, Ill: InterVarsity Press, 1997.
- Christensen, Michael. *City Streets, City People: A Call for Compassion*. Nashville: Abingdon Press. 1988. (ISBN 0-678-08395-8).
- Claiborne, Shane. *The Irresistible Revolution: Living As an Ordinary Radical*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Zondervan, 2006. (ISBN 0-31026-630-0 978031-0266303)
- Dawson, John. *Taking Our Cities For God*. Lake Mary, Florida: Creation House, 1989. (ISBN 0-88419-241-5).
- \*Jacobsen, Eric O. *Sidewalks in the Kingdom: New Urbanism and the Christian Faith*. The Christian practice of everyday life. Grand Rapids, MI: Brazos Press, 2003. (ISBN 1-58743-057-6 9781587430572)
- \*Linthicum, Robert C. *Building a People of Power: Equipping Churches to Transform Their Communities*. Waynesboro, GA: Authentic Media, 2006.
- \*Linthicum, Robert. *City of God; City of Satan. A Biblical theology of the Urban Church*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan. 1991.
- \*Paul, Greg. *God in the Alley*. Toronto, ON. Random House, Inc, 2004
- \*Sider, Ronald J. *Good News and Good Works: A Theology for the Whole Gospel*. Grand Rapids, Mich: Baker Books, 1999.
- Smith, Glenn, (Ed.). *Towards The Transformation Of Our City-Regions (Lausanne Occasional Paper No. 37)*. Montreal: Christian Directions. 2005. Available from [http://www.lausanne.org/documents/2004forum/LOP37\\_IG8.pdf](http://www.lausanne.org/documents/2004forum/LOP37_IG8.pdf), Internet: accessed September 8, 2009.
- \*Unruh, Heidi Rolland, and Ronald J. Sider. *Saving Souls, Serving Society: Understanding the Faith Factor in Church-Based Social Ministry*. New York: Oxford Univ., Press, 2005.