



**A MINISTRY OF AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES OF INDIANA & KENTUCKY IN COOPERATION
WITH ABC-GI AND SPONSORING AMERICAN BAPTIST CHURCHES & ASSOCIATIONS**

C106 American Baptist Missions, Evangelism and Stewardship

April 17, May 1, May 15 & June 12, 2021

Rev. Dr. Donald M. Scott, Instructor/Facilitator

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Description and Purpose

- To increase understanding and appreciation for American Baptist mission and evangelism regionally, nationally and internationally.
- To focus on biblical financial stewardship as the monetary foundation of American Baptist mission and as one focal point of one's discipleship.

Biblical Foundations: Matthew 28:19-20, Luke 4: 14-21, Acts 1:8 and II Corinthians 8-9

About your Instructor

Rev. Dr. Don Scott came to the American Baptist Churches of Indiana and Kentucky in 1989 in the capacity of Minister of Mission Support, following pastorates in Arthur, IL, Rochester, NY, and Rome, NY. Although now retired, additional roles included that of Associate Executive Minister and Area Resource Minister for the West Central Area as well as Executive Minister during an interim period. He holds a Doctor of Ministry from Fuller Theological Seminary, a Master of Divinity from Northern Theological Seminary, and a Bachelor of Arts from Hope College.

Don has had the opportunity to visit many areas of American Baptist mission and ministry both overseas and in the United States. His strong interests in American Baptist mission, biblical stewardship, and evangelism have been areas of emphasis throughout his ministry and will be reflected in this course.

Student Expectations

1. Attend all sessions whenever possible.
2. Contact the instructor in advance, if you will be absent.
3. Be prepared for each class session.
4. Participate in class discussions and exercises.
5. Support and encourage other students in the class.
6. Communicate with the instructor, if you have any questions or concerns.

Please bring the following to each class session:

- Textbooks
- Good English Translation of the Bible
- Notebook (for handouts, assignments and taking notes)
- 2 pens/pencils (electronic device to take notes, if preferred)
- Syllabus, handouts & assignments

Requirements to Earn Credit

1. Completion of reading and written assignments.
2. Participation in class discussions and exercises.
3. Read additional articles or blogs as may be assigned.
4. Bring textbooks and completed assignments to each class session.
5. Attend at least 15 of the 20 hours of classroom time.
6. If absent one class session, earn an excused absence by doing the following:
 - a. contact the instructor about your absence (preferably before the absence, but at least within 72 hours of the absence);
 - b. obtain notes from two students who did participate in any class session you missed;
 - c. request a copy of the PowerPoint presentation(s) for the class session you missed in note format (3 slides per page); of course, this only applies if the instructor uses PowerPoint in the class session you missed;
 - d. complete a special assignment given by your instructor in addition to regular assignments; this is usually an enriching experience that will most likely pertain to the class session the student missed in some way.

Required Texts

Please note that these books are to be used as background or foundational literature and will not be “covered” in class sessions. It is anticipated that each book will be of interest and will be a valuable resource for future use in your ministry.

It is expected that every student will read this book, hopefully before the first-class session. While not a traditional “missions” text, the author skillfully explores the characteristics of “missional churches” in the first part of the 21st century and offers understanding as to what it means to be involved in God’s work and purposes in our day. This book is available through Amazon.com.

- Minatrea, Milfred, Shaped by God’s Heart: The Passion and Practices of Missional Churches, Jossey-Bass.

It is expected that each student will read **at least two (2)** of the following books. All are available through Amazon.com at a very reasonable cost. Reading all three books is highly recommended.

- Heerspink, Robert, Becoming a First Fruits Congregation, CRC Publications
- Grimm, Eugene, Generous People, Abingdon
- Miller, Kristine & McKenzie, Scott, Bounty, Abingdon

Class Assignments

Due to the nature of this course, there will be few specific weekly assignments. However, it is required that a book report be submitted before the end of the last class session. The report can relate to any of the texts listed above or another with the instructor's permission. It should include what you believe to be the author's most salient points and what you believe the author is attempting to say. That is, why do you think the author wrote the book. The report should include areas of agreement and disagreement with the author and why you believe as you do. Please include how you might use the ideas presented in the book in your own congregational setting. Credit for this course will not be given until this report is completed. All reports will be typed. No handwritten reports will be accepted.

In addition, completion of **one (1)** of the following projects is required. A summary report will be due by **JULY 17, 2021**. *A different due date (under some circumstances) may be negotiated with the instructor.* Please note that a "summary report" will include the following elements: description of the project...what do you want to do, why is it needed, what are your hopes, steps in implementation (including roadblocks and how they were handled) and the results. The report should give evidence of having been in class and having read at least the pertinent texts listed below. All reports will be typed. No handwritten reports will be accepted. Credit will not be given for this course until the report has been submitted.

- Project #1:** Investigate the degree to which your church is involved in mission, including American Baptist mission, other Christian mission, and local community mission. Develop one new mission initiative proposal for your church and/or a Sunday School class, ABW Ministries group, American Baptist Men's group, ABY group, etc. Design something that has the potential to involve your congregation in mission, locally, nationally, or internationally in a deeper way. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.
- Project #2:** Devise a way to encourage your congregation to think seriously about biblical stewardship. For instance, encourage the use of a stewardship resource in your church or start a small discussion group focusing on the Christian's use of money. Do something that will give your congregation the opportunity to think about money in the context of the Christian faith. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.
- Project #3:** Consider the evangelism ministry of your church. Plan and execute a new outreach ministry. The report should include the current status of evangelism ministry in your church, the goal of a new evangelism emphasis, the target group, methodology and results. An example would be a project of follow-up with the families of unchurched children in your Sunday School or Vacation Bible School. Summarize your effort in a 3-5 page paper.

Summary of Our Class Sessions

Note: Subject to change, depending on the schedules of invited guests

Week 1: American Baptist Mission...So What?

Following introductory remarks, introductions, and prayer, our focus in the morning will be on the biblical foundation of mission and the history and heritage of American Baptist mission in the United States and around the world. In the afternoon, we will look at what it means for a local

church to be “missional” in the early 21st century. It will be helpful if class members are familiar with Minatrea’s book prior to this session.

Week 2: So What Does Region Ministry Mean for Me and My Church?

The intended result of this day is that participants will have a clearer picture of Regional ministries and the Region’s relationship to the local congregation as well as to the wider ABCUSA family.

Week 3: Is Evangelism Still Relevant in the 21st Century?

Did you know that, depending upon the writer, it is now said that the United States is the 3rd or 4th largest mission field in the world? What is the Christian response? What role is the American Baptist Churches playing in light of this truth? In this session, we will explore these, and other issues related to evangelism in the United States in the 21st century.

Week 4: What Does \$\$\$ have to do with the Gospel?

Our final session will focus on biblical stewardship principles and resources. This session will offer practical stewardship help for every participant and represented congregation. We will talk about and deal with issues around money and its relationship to our commitment to Jesus Christ. We will also explore the American Baptist mission support system. At least one of the stewardship texts should be read prior to this class session.

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DAILY CLASS SCHEDULE

Login by 8:50am
9:00-10:15 Session A
10:15-10:25 Break (10 minutes)
10:25-11:45 Session B
11:45-12:45 Lunch (1 hour)
12:45-2:00 Session C
2:00-2:10 Break (10 minutes)
2:10-3:15 Session D