



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY
UNIT OUTLINE**

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

UNIT TITLE	MISSION OF THE CHURCH
UNIT CODE	E52025
UNIT STATUS	Core for Field E Major; Elective for other students
HOST FIELD	E
PREREQUISITE/S	Nil
INCOMPATIBLES	Nil
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	Students do 2.5 hours per week contact, and 0.5 hours per week in mission project groups <i>plus</i> 7 hours of study per week over a 13 week semester. The last two nights of the 13 weeks will be for group presentations of their mission projects.
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Annually – Semester 2
PREPARED BY	Mrs Penny Carroll
UNIT COORDINATOR	Rev Dr Neil Sims
TEACHING STAFF	Rev Dr Neil Sims and Mrs Penny Carroll
DATE PREPARED	22 August 2006

Rationale

Mission is fundamental to the identity, nature and purpose of the Christian church. When the dynamic of mission is absent or ignored, the church tends to be preoccupied with the powers of institutionalism and secularization. If the church is not engaged in mission, it is not the church of Jesus Christ. The church is a sign of the purposes of God, especially as it calls people to faith and as it pursues justice and mercy. Evangelism and social justice (in some circles understood together as evangelization) both belong within the purposes of God. This is evident in the New Testament, but this mission must be reinterpreted for the language and context of today. When a global view is taken, it leads to a more realistic exploration of mission in its context. With this perspective, consideration is given to how the mission of the church finds contemporary expression in both the Australian and the local church settings.

Relation to program

This unit develops the student's theology of mission and asks that it find expression through a mission project related to a particular context. It brings together students' understanding of their discipleship and ministry with a significant dimension of the purpose of the church – the mission of God through the church. This all contributes to personal, theological and ministerial formation, which are at the heart of the Bachelor of Theology.

Aims

The unit aims to examine theologically the purpose of the church's life and witness in such a way that the students will develop their understanding of the directions and strategies the church in Australia might take in order to live and present the gospel in attitude, word and deed, particularly in a defined context.

Learning Outcomes	
At the end of this unit the student should be able to:	
1.	Develop and articulate their own theological foundations for the mission of the church in the world, and relate this to a particular ministry context;
2.	Appraise the basic demography of the specific context, elected at the beginning of the unit, with a view to identify community identity and strengths, and to define critical issues for the local people;
3.	Design a model of mission for that specific context, with associated goals and strategies, and a plan for ongoing evaluation;
4.	Describe how leaders and members of the various churches may work together with people in a context as part of the model for mission.

Content

- 1 Initial Understandings of Mission and Evangelism, and the Changing Context
- 2 The Scriptural Basis for Mission, Evangelism and the Gospel
- 3 The Church's Stance towards the World – Dialogue, Culture and the Gospel
- 4 Mission as Social Capital
- 5 The Local Church, Its Purpose, Its Interaction with the Community, and a Local Example (presented by guests)
- 6 Other contexts of mission: Work, Multicultural, Australia
- 7 Partnerships in Mission – Ordained and Lay, Ecumenical and with the Wider Community
- 8 Students' Group Presentations on Local Models of Mission

Organization and Teaching Strategies

The contact time will include lectures with two presenters and a guest or two, class and small group discussions, time in groups working on specific projects and group presentations.

Assessment

	Type of assessment	No of words	Weighting %	Due date	Learning Outcomes covered
1	Initial paper written by each student.	1,000	10%	Week 6	1, 2
2	Group creative presentation to the whole class of its model for mission. A maximum of 20 minutes will be allowed for the presentation and 10 minutes for responses and questions.		30%	Weeks 11-13	1, 2, 3, 4
3	Individual Final paper of at least 3000 words. The paper will integrate the research, theological rationale and model for mission.	3,000	60%	Week 13	1, 2, 3, 4

Notes on Assessment

- Item 1 Will develop the student's knowledge of the theological foundations of the church and the issues involved in a local ministry context.
- Item 2 Will develop the student's ability to collect, analyse and organize information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently in written form; and the ability to interact with others in order to work towards a common outcome, whether in the role of team member or of leader.
- Item 3 Will develop the student's ability to integrate theological understandings and community situations in the production of an educational program for a contemporary context.

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