



**BRISBANE COLLEGE OF THEOLOGY  
UNIT OUTLINE**

**GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN MINISTRY  
GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN MINISTRY  
MASTER OF MINISTRY**

UNIT TITLE	<b>PRACTICUM: MISSION III</b>
UNIT CODES	E74898
UNIT STATUS	Elective
HOST FIELD	E
PREREQUISITE/S	At least one of the following: E52025 E74025 Mission of the Church E52042 E74042 Communication & Processes in Groups
INCOMPATIBLES	No more than two practicums per semester
CREDIT POINTS	10cp
REQUIREMENTS	13 hours per week over a 13 week semester
FREQUENCY OF OFFERING	Each semester as determined by students' needs
PREPARED BY	Mrs Penny Carroll and Revd Dr Neil Sims
UNIT COORDINATOR	Revd Dr Neil Sims
TEACHING STAFF	Revd Dr Neil Sims, Mrs Penny Carroll
DATE PREPARED	20 February 2004

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**Rationale**

Field education is a standard and essential part of professional training. Practicums offer students 'hands-on' opportunities to foster their growth in ministry in the name of Jesus Christ as part of the Christian community. This happens through a continuing conversation between the placement experience and the more formal learning of the classroom. Space is provided for significant reflection with a supervisor and a peer group on one's ministry praxis. This action-reflection model is at the heart of the process. Each of the ten practicums offered within the postgraduate courses gives students a foretaste of what ministry is about.

This unit is the first of two practicums focusing on mission. Students undertake 169 hours of approved field education comprising approximately 20 hours of preparation, 70 hours of actual field experience, 25 hours of report writing, 13 hours of supervision, and 40 hours of attendance at field education seminars.

An example of a practicum in mission is a placement in a church focused on mission under the supervision of a suitably qualified minister/priest and an approved BCT lecturer. Further practicums in the same setting may include a second practicum in mission or an approved

practicum from one of the other key areas of ministry (e.g., parish ministry, pastoral care, worship and preaching or educational ministry). Due to the demanding nature of the practicums and the need for adequate reflection and analysis of both performance and observations, students may undertake *no more than two practicums per semester*.

### **Relation to Course**

The practicums are integral to all three of the postgraduate ministry courses. This particular practicum will assist participants to focus on mission as an integral aspect of the practice of Christian ministry. At Graduate Certificate of Ministry and Graduate Diploma of Ministry levels, students are able to strengthen their competence in the practice of ministry. Practicums taken in the Master of Ministry course provide students with the prospect of sharpening their ability to critically reflect on the practice of ministry and draw from the rich resources of the theological disciplines.

### **Aim**

This unit aims to provide students with practical experiences in mission, along with associated opportunities for personal and shared reflection about their own role in mission, about the contexts of mission, about best practice in mission, and about the relationship between mission and other areas of ministry.

### **Learning Outcomes**

*The following general objectives apply. More specific objectives are finalised with students on an individual basis taking account of their individual learning needs and the nature of their practicum placement.*

On the successful completion of this unit, students will be able to:

1. describe, critique and analyse the mission happening in a particular placement;
2. participate in the missional activities in the particular placement;
3. work with others to design, present and evaluate an appropriate missional event, programs and processes;
4. interpret the missional activities of the placement within the wider ministry context and identify implications for future ministry; and
5. appreciate and evaluate their own gifts, confront areas needing growth and development and understand their own limitations in their participation in the mission of the church.

### **Content**

The specific content of this practicum is determined primarily by the Learning Agreement drawn up by the student, after consultation with the Supervisor and the appropriate BCT faculty member of the student's member school. The broad areas of content which are typically covered include:

1. Students' experiences of mission and how this "feeds into" their vocational direction;
2. Reflection on the models of mission being offered in the placement;
3. The specific ministry context and its networks with the wider ministry of the church; and
4. Specifically focused reading dealing with issues in the mission of the church that closely relate to the chosen practicum experience.

Students will participate in the existing mission activities in their ministry setting. These may include developing school-based religious education as a mission activity, building relationships with homeless people, helping a mission and outreach task group think about goals and strategies for mission, connecting with young people at the local skate board ramp, using media for telling stories of people of faith, and learning about sharing the gospel through young adult networks.

Students will also be involved in training others in the ministry context in participating in specific ways in the mission of God in the world.

Also, students will reflect broadly on how contextual factors contribute to or hinder the church in its mission. For example, how does an increasingly multicultural society impact on and give shape to effective mission? A student may learn about the culture of the congregation especially in its worship over the last ten years, and consider how that has encouraged and hindered the mission and evangelism of the people of God.

### **Organisation and Teaching Strategies**

Each practicum is supervised by a person approved by the member school of the student. This is normally a person who is active within the placement setting and who has received training in the theory and practice of supervision. Supervisors are required to participate in the training opportunities offered by the member school to which they are responsible.

In each practicum, students engage in ministry tasks based on their Learning Agreements. They are required to take time to reflect on those ministry experiences, especially through written reports (according to approved formats provided by the college). They also meet weekly with their Supervisor for guided learning and participate in field education seminars at which the students will present reports and engage with other students as they present their reports. These field education seminars are led by the students and provide them with the opportunity of giving and receiving peer supervision.

### **Assessment**

Postgraduate students will demonstrate throughout their assessment – the Learning Agreement, the reports, the papers, and the evaluation – through their engagement with both the literature and the praxis of ministry, their appreciation of the significance of the ministry context for their participation in the mission of the church, and how they will train and encourage others in their participation.

The only grades awarded for practicums are SS (satisfactory) or NN (fail). The award of a grade of SS will require:

1. Completion as soon as possible (but no later than one month after the commencement of the placement) of a Learning Agreement which has been approved by the Supervisor and the appropriate BCT faculty member. The Agreement will identify Learning Goals and Objectives, Related Ministry Tasks and Performance Indicators. It will name the Supervisor, times of the supervisory sessions (one hour per week for the 13 weeks), the time of the weekly field education seminars and the weeks of placement. It will be one tabulated page.
2. The submission of 7 field education reports each of 500 words which focus on different aspects of the student's learning and use a variety of reporting formats.
3. Presentation of two 1500-word papers *or* one 3000-word paper providing the student with an opportunity to research a significant aspect of the practicum. For example, a student encouraging a congregation in its thinking about mission in the inner city may do an intentional reflection on the literature in this field and how it informs the congregation's approach to mission. A student may design a conversation where church members meet with people with disabilities who have moved into a home in the area, informed by the literature.
4. An evaluation report at the end of the 13 weeks provided by both the student and the supervisor regarding the personal development and ministry practice of the student concerned. The report will include the ministry experiences gained in the placement, giving particular attention to the degree in which the terms of the Learning Agreement have been fulfilled. The evaluation will also look forward to how the student needs to grow in ministry from this point on.

*Note that in supervision, in written reports and in the evaluations required, students and supervisors will be looking at the objectives above - the students' learnings about themselves, their ministry context and their practice of ministry.*

### **Generic Attributes**

- Ability to engage in reflective practice within the Church and the community.
- Ability to generate ideas and adapt innovatively to changing environments.
- Ability to identify problems, create solutions, innovate and improve current practices.
- Knowledge and respect of ethics and moral values in relation to Christian ministry and mission.
- Ability to collect, analyse and organise information and ideas and to convey those ideas clearly and fluently, in both written and spoken forms.
- Ability to interact effectively with others in order to work towards a common outcome, whether in the role of team member or of leader.

### **Academic and General Resource Requirements**

*This list of resources is limited for two reasons. The primary learning is from the context rather than from written texts. Students are expected to develop their own bibliographies related to the focus of their Learning Agreement.*

#### **References – Books**

- Faust, Thomas et al (eds.) *A Scandalous Prophet: The Way of Mission after Newbigin* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Goodman, Denise *Congregational Fitness: Healthy Practices for Layfolk* New York: Alban, 2000.
- Grundy, Malcolm *Community Work: A Handbook for Volunteer Groups and Local Churches* Mowbray: Macmillan, 1995.
- Hoover, Stewart and Clark, Lynn (eds.) *Practising Religion in the Age of the Media* New York: Columbia University Press, 2002.
- Howe, Brian and Nichols, Alan (eds.) *Spirit of Australia: Religion in Citizenship and National Life* Hindmarsh: Australian Theological Forum, 2001.
- Kostenberger, Andreas J. and O'Brien, Peter T. *Salvation to the Ends of the Earth: A Biblical Theology of Mission* Downers Grove: IVP, 2001.
- Nash, Laura, McLennan, Scotty *Church on Sunday, Work on Monday: The Challenge of Fusing Christian Values with Business Life* San Francisco: Jossey-Bass, 2001.
- Roxburgh, Alan *Crossing the Bridge: Church Leadership in a Time of Change* Costa Mesa: Percept, 2000.
- Taber, Charles R. *To Understand the World, To Save the World: The Interface between Missiology and the Social Science* Harrisburg, Pa.: Trinity International Press, 2000.
- Villafane, Eldin et al (eds.) *Transforming the City: Reframing Education for Urban Ministry* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

#### **References – Journals**

- Evangelical Review of Theology*  
*South Pacific Journal of Mission Studies*  
*St. Mark's Review*  
*The Australasian Catholic Record*  
*Uniting Church Studies*

#### **References – Online and Other IT Resources**

##### *Websites*

- Pastornet: The Australian Christian Network. <http://www.pastornet.net.au>  
 Service of Documentation and Studies on Mission. [www.sedos.org](http://www.sedos.org)  
 Seedbed: A Network Nurturing Effective Innovation in Christian Mission. [www.seedbed.info](http://www.seedbed.info)

##### *Video:*

- Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference "Faces: The Mission of the Australian Church"  
 Canberra, 1998 (38 mins.)