

# APPLIED CROSS-CULTURAL STUDIES COURSE CURRICULUM

- The Applied Cross-Cultural Studies Course provides students with the training and practical application of skills that are essential for whatever role God has for them in church planting amongst unreached people groups.

## ***MODULES (GROUPED IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER)***

### ***Church Planting Modules***

#### **Bible Translation – 27h**

- This important module aims to give the basis for future study on the process and principles of Bible translation.
- It provides insight into the challenge of accurate communication across linguistic and cultural boundaries and provides methods of dealing with the problems encountered in seeking to accurately transfer meaning.
- It gives an understanding of the different styles of translation.
- It gives insight into the semantic structure of language and how careful analysis is essential prior to translation.
- It teaches the difference between form and meaning.
- It gives an overview of Bible translation procedure.
- It defines the boundaries and limits for a faithful translation.
- The students have an opportunity to practice translation methods using a short passage of scripture and work as part of a translation team.
- It is hoped it will create a desire to be involved in the privilege of Bible Translation.

#### **Church Planting Research Project – 0h (12h homework)**

- Using an outline of the different steps involved in church planting and using a cultural write up on a people group, the student's self-study and write up a proposal on how they would work with these people (theoretical exercise).

#### **Continuing Church – 10h**

- Using the Chronological approach to Bible teaching, the student will have been taken through the entire process of how to disciple the believers, prepare and appoint church leadership, etc.
- The aim of discipling a people group is so that the missionary is able to gradually withdraw and leave them as fully functioning churches.

- This module considers how to know when it is time to leave a group and what things will need to be in place for the believers to function on their own.

### **Developing Church – 24h**

- In this module a basic understanding is given of what the Bible teaches concerning the universal and local church, especially those principles relevant to church planting amongst animistic people groups.
- The student will learn about how to plant churches using the New Testament model, as outlined in Acts and the Epistles and how to bring those churches to spiritual maturity.
- Basic principles concerning the form and function of a local church will be taught along with how these principles should be applied in the context of a church that should be indigenous, not foreign.
- The focus is on discipleship and how to pass on the necessary skills and spiritual abilities that are needed for the people to take on the responsibility of all aspects of healthy church life.

### **Literacy – 19h**

- A healthy church needs to be able to read and understand God's Word!
- This course introduces the most effective methods of teaching pre-literate people to write their own language, and to read with understanding.
- It provides an overview of how to develop and teach a literacy programme, and to train local literacy teachers to continue this task.
- It includes a workshop for students to make a sample literacy teaching book and other teaching aids.

### **The Big Picture – 2h**

- This module provides a review of the whole course and what steps are involved in preparing to serve as missionaries.

## ***Cross-Cultural Modules***

### **Mission Simulation – 216h**

- This is one of the unique and favourite parts of the course.
- At the end of the course, the students have the opportunity to put into practice what they have been learning in all areas.
- For 5 weeks they live in tents in basic living conditions (solar electricity only, no internet, water must be carried daily), isolated from the rest of the campus AND begin to learn a new language and culture from language helpers who visit each day AND they do this in teams.
- These three elements combine to simulate the pressures of living in a remote situation, whilst balancing learning with living as well as maintaining good relationships with co-workers.

- It all works very effectively to promote a unique learning situation.
- The student will know how to organise their life and work in order to systematically learn a previously unwritten language and culture and have the confidence to begin learning it, even on their own initiative.
- The student will learn to say useful expressions and be able to converse within a few common scenarios in the language they study.
- They will also gain insight as to the challenges of living in remote locations without many modern conveniences.

### **Mission Simulation Planning and De-brief – 5h**

- Classes to prepare the students for what they will experience during Mission Simulation.
- After the Mission Simulation module is finished, the students discuss and evaluate this unique learning experience.

## ***Language/Linguistics Modules***

### **Culture and Language Acquisition – 42h**

- In this module, the students will be taught how to use a variety of up-to-date language and culture learning techniques that will allow them to make steady progress in learning any unwritten language.
- Upon completion of this module, the student will know how to go about learning any language in the world (especially unwritten languages), with a clear program of what to do each day.
- Students will get to practice these techniques during the Mission Simulation module.

### **Discourse Analysis – 11h**

- The objective of the module is to present discourse-level (higher level) features of language from a perspective of communication in general. We will communicate that proficient communicators adopt the structure, patterns, and higher-level complexities of a language, not just different vocabulary and syntax.

## ***Christian Life Modules***

### **Chapel – 30h**

- Chapel times are shared by all the students of the different courses 2 or 3 times a week.
- The purpose of chapel is to focus on the Lord and spend time in worship together, as well as to hear practical teaching from the Bible.
- Often overseas missionaries pass through the college and share of their experiences on the field in the chapel class time.

### **Christian Life – 8h**

- Students are taken through a series of studies based on Galatians. The course will focus on Christ and the cross, the believer's position in Christ and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life.
- Students will learn how to have a spiritually stable walk with the Lord, as they learn to depend on Him.

### **Leadership – 7h**

- In this module the student will learn the biblical principles of leadership.
- The study includes both the personal and spiritual characteristics of a leader, together with how leadership principles work in everyday life, particularly on the mission field.

### **Days of Prayer – 4h**

- Students meet to pray about a range of topics in groups and individually.

### **Emotional and Spiritual Health – 10h**

- In this module the student will discover the many ways in which missionaries can care for themselves emotionally and spiritually as well as help each other in practical ways.
- Topics such as listening skills and how to encourage and support one another in the daily issues of life are emphasised.

### **Hold the Ropes – 19h**

- Students pray in groups about various situations around the world.

### **Spiritual Conflict – 10h**

- The purpose of this unit is to study what the Bible teaches concerning spiritual conflict and to prepare the student for this in a challenging environment.
- Topics covered include: What does the Bible teach concerning the true nature of spiritual conflict; How do we put into practice Paul's teaching in Ephesians 6 concerning the Christian and God's spiritual armour;  
A discussion of current trends in missions and views on topical aspects of spiritual conflict.

## ***Relationships Modules***

### **Re-entry – 2h**

- In this module, the student will receive guidance in how to prepare for and successfully negotiate re-entry (or adjustment to their home culture) and be able to recognise and handle 'reverse culture shock'.

## **Transitions – 4h**

- Parents have many questions about life as missionaries.
- How do I prepare my children for the mission field?
- How do I help my children/teenagers prepare for re-entry and transition back to their home country?
- The answers to these questions and the choices that are made will not only have an impact on that family, but also their ministry, co-workers and the wider mission family.
- This module seeks to give help and advice to families as they consider the care of their children and to help those without children realise the importance of giving value and encouragement to the children of their co-workers.

## ***Practical Living Modules***

### **Medical Matters – 12h**

- This module prepares the missionary candidate for life in the developing world.
- The module will show how to maintain good health in a challenging environment. It will cover how to recognise common diseases as well as serious illness.
- It will cover guidelines on what to do in an emergency when medical help is not readily available
- Students will be taught how to make use of the existing medical help and facilities in that country.

### **Community Work Day – 4h**

- Practice service in the community to foster good relationships.

### **Practical Programme**

- This normally runs three afternoons each week, and is a time when students join together in the house keeping necessary to keep things clean and tidy.
- It is also a practical opportunity to serve each other and the Lord, and it provides useful experience in learning to apply Christian life principles.

### **Safety Training – 40h**

- Social and political upheavals occur in many parts of the world, and the impact upon missions is often acute.
- In this module, students will learn about the potential crisis situations missionaries may encounter, along with the necessary precautions to be taken.