DM9031W  The Micah Mandate: Integral Mission and Global Poverty

Offered: 2017: Intensive – July

This unit examines selected biblical texts on the themes of poverty, wealth, justice and compassion as a way of exploring Christian responses to the needs of marginalised people in a globalised world. It will examine the situations of the global poor, refugees and asylum seekers. It will introduce the themes of power, trade, debt, gender, advocacy and the role of NGOs. There will be a focus on the potential of the church as an agent of transformation, using the Micah Challenge campaign as an example. The unit is jointly offered by Whitley College, Melbourne School of Theology, Stirling College (formerly Churches of Christ Theological College) and Tabor Victoria in association with TEAR Australia.

Upon successful completion of this unit, it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Explain important dimensions of an integral mission response to the needs of the global marginalised.
2. Articulate the theological convictions that underlie such a response.
3. Make an educational presentation on a current international advocacy campaign.
4. Think strategically regarding the mobilisation of the local church in integral mission.
5. Demonstrate the capacity to research a specific topic in a critically rigorous and sustained manner.

Prerequisites: 45 points of Foundational Studies

Class Time: One week intensive (5 days) at TEAR, Blackburn

Assessment: One 3,000 word essay (50%)
One educational resource (1,500 words equivalent) (30%)
One 1,500 book review (20%)

Faculty: Steve Bradbury

Recommended Reading:
* = set texts recommended for purchase