**MATUL 505 Building Faith Communities in the city**

**(3credits)**

**Course Purpose**

Within this programme the church is understood to be a central agent in the task of community transformation. The course aims to equip students to re-envision models of church which embrace holistic models of ministry and enable urban community transformation. Students will develop skills and knowledge to work with grassroots churches and to plant holistic communities of faith which will have a transforming impact on their neighbourhood.

***Expected Learning Outcomes***: By the end of the course students will be able to:

***Cognitive***

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the models and strategies of urban church planting which result in holistic and sustainable faith communities.
2. Demonstrate an ability to reflect theologically on the role of the church as a transforming community.
3. Manifest an understanding of the implications of the specific nature of the African urban context for church planting and church growth.

***Affective***

1. Demonstrate a commitment to the growth and development of a church in the context of an informal settlement.

***Skills***

1. Ability to implement action steps from the course that contribute to the expansion of a slum based church.

**Course Content**

The church and the Kingdom – theological perspectives; The Church in the African city; current trends of church growth in urban Africa; the church as an agent of community transformation; the marks of a healthy church; churches of the poor – base Christian communities, African Pentecostal churches, African independent churches in the urban context; the church and the informal economy; Incarnation and ministry; Strategies and stages of urban church planting; developing ministry teams; sustainable models of ministry in an urban poor context.

**Teaching methodology:** A variety of methods including discussions, exercises, community based activities; videos; case studies; media; role plays; lectures; will be applied. Active participation of all students is encouraged.

**Instructional materials/equipment:** White board markers, White board, LCD Projector, Lap top, Videos, Flip Charts, Posters, Newspaper cuttings

**Student Assessment:** Through a written integrated project of 3,000 This project will be part of the continuous assessment and it will be marked out of 40 and the exam out of 60.

**Core Texts**

1. Grigg, Viv, 2004 *Companion to the Poor,* London: Authentic, 2004
2. Grigg, Viv *Cry of the Urban Poor,* London: Authentic, 2004 .   
   Glasser, Arthur, Charles van Engen & Gilliland, Dean. (2003). *Announcing the Kingdom.*
3. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic.  
   Pierlie, F. 2003 *Slums: the challenge of evangelization.* Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa.

***Further Reading***

Anderson, A. 2000 *Zion and Pentecost: The Spirituality and Experience of Pentecostal and Zionist/Apostolic Churches in South Africa.* Pretoria: University of South Africa Press.

Anderson, A and Hollenweger, W 2000*Pentecostals after a century: global perspectives on a movement in transition.* Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press

Anderson, A 2002 Diversity in the Definition of “Pentecostal/Charismatic” and its Ecumenical Implications. *Mission Studies* Vol. XIX, No. 2 – 38.

Anderson, A 2004 *An introduction to Pentecostalism*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Arbuckle, G 1990 *Earthing the gospel: an inculturation handbook for the pastoral workers.* New York: Orbis.

Ayegboyin, D & Ademola, S 1997 *African Indigenous Churches: an historical perspective.* Nigeria: Greater Heights Publications.

Berryman, P 1996 *Religion in the megacity: Catholic and Protestant portraits from Latin America.* New York: Orbis.

Bodewes, C 2005 *Parish transformation in urban slums*. Nairobi: Paulines Publications Africa.

Corten, A & Marshal-Fratini, R(eds) 2001 *Between Babel and Pentecost: transnational Pentecostalism in Africa and Latin America.* Indianapolis: Indiana University Press.

Greenway, Roger, *Discipling the City,* 2nd ed, Baker, 1993, Chaps 1,7,8,12,13, 14,16,18.  
Conn, Harvey, ed., *Planting and Growing Urban Churches,* Baker. 1997.  
Carolina de Jesus, *Diary of Carolina de Jesus,* Mass Market, 1983.  
Davey, Cyril, *Saint in the Slums: Kagawa of Japan,* Jersey City: Parkwest Publications, 2000