



MISSION PRACTICUM / DIRECTED STUDY SYLLABUS: KENYA, MAY, 2023

PRAXIS 2023 - A CBM GLOBAL DISCIPLESHIP SCHOLARSHIP

COURSE CODE: [to be completed by each school]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This Praxis experience will give students an opportunity to learn about “integral mission”, the model upon which CBM works with National Partners to bring the Good News to life. The specific focus of Praxis 2023 in Kenya will be on the Church’s mission in response to climate change of food insecurity.

In many parts of Africa, churches and faith-based community organizations have tended to focus very narrowly on the place of religious experience in the spiritual lives of people that they failed to appreciate the dynamic interplay of personal and collective faith with culture, the environment, economics, and politics. Too often, socio-economic realities and attention to the material world has been seen as the enemy of faith; The result has been a dualistic worldview whereby the Church had little or nothing to offer to help address pressing human needs. Along with this, a failure to ascribe to a theology of creation has contributed to a severe deficit in stewardship of the earth.

In his book *Renovation of the Heart*, Dallas Willard says, “We don't believe something by merely saying we believe it, or even when we believe that we believe it. We believe something when we act as if it were true.” Another way of putting this is that we don't always act according to what we *profess*, but we always act according to what we *believe*. Webs of meaning are complex and out of these arise our beliefs, not necessarily as fixed entities but as draft frameworks for our actions. We are always in the process of becoming, as learning and experience cause us to edit and amend our draft frameworks - our beliefs. Even when we are committed to a particular set of beliefs or doctrine, how these inform our daily lives may vary according to all kinds of circumstances, many of which we may not even be consciously aware.

The country of Kenya, where CBM has had over 50 years of meaningful partnerships, offers a unique opportunity for Canadian Baptist seminary students to explore the topic of church-based transformational mission through the lens of food-security and climate change. Currently, Kenya ranks 94th out of 121 countries indexed in the global hunger index. Drought, climate change, pollution, population-growth, and natural catastrophes have all contributed to dire food insecurity.

In this Praxis course, we will be looking at integral mission in Kenya, and specifically how churches and faith-based organizations are helping to address and reverse this crisis. Integral Mission is about transformation – of individuals, churches, communities, and whole societies - through the Spirit-led, humble, and persistent incarnational presence of Christ in and through His people. We are heirs with Christ of the Kingdom of God and co-labourers with Christ in the work of proclaiming and demonstrating the presence and power of that

Kingdom, even in the face of powers and principalities that oppose it. But ministry and mission in Kenya may surprise us.

The Praxis team will be in Kenya for approximately 2 weeks and in that time, we will be immersed in a world that, for many of us, is foreign and even intimidating. We will certainly be removed from our “comfort zones.”

In Kenya, we will be accompanied by CBM’s field staff, Laura Muema. Accommodation, meals, and travel arrangements are made by CBM through our SENT department <https://www.cbmin.org/get-ready-to-be-sent/>

Because the Praxis mission practicum directed study program is offered by scholarship, the costs (minus a nominal registration fee) are fully covered. This includes the requisite course registration fees for a 3-credit course at the student’s seminary.

Living out the “good news” in word and deed requires wisdom, perseverance, humility, and resilience – in Kenya and in Canada. By seeing Integral Mission as a model for ministry in a cross-cultural context, Praxis students will be challenged to think about their ministries in Canada and how Integral Mission might be an effective model at home. Students will be encouraged to think beyond the immediate needs of individuals and communities, to broader structural and systemic forces that influence our understanding of food security, climate change, poverty, justice, equality, peace, reconciliation, etc.

NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION

This course will study how Kenyan churches and faith-based agencies are responding to climate change and food insecurity:

1. How is the mission of God related to creation stewardship, in Kenya and in Canada?
2. How does our theology of Creation effect our understanding of climate change?
3. What is the state of global warming’s impact on food, hunger, and livelihood in Kenya?
4. What are the environmental, political, and economic factors that have contributed to food insecurity in East Africa?
5. What are the effects of human behavior in Kenyan cultures of climate change and climate adaptation?
6. How are various local churches and faith-based organizations mitigating climate change? To address food insecurity?

COURSE OUTCOMES

This mission practicum experience will:

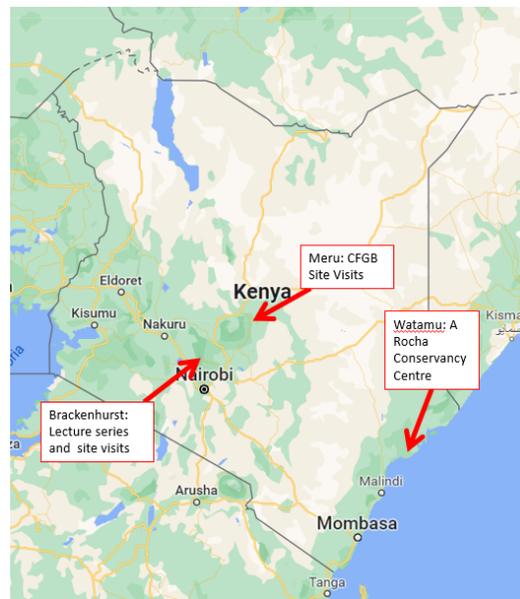
- Provide participants with an orientation to the history and current work of Canadian Baptist Ministries and introduce participants to our partners and their work in Kenya;
- Guide participants in an exploration of the unique challenges and opportunities for Christian ministry and mission in Kenya;
- Introduce participants to the theological basis for Integral Mission as well as examples of Integral Mission in the Kenyan context;
- Participate in hands-on learning with agencies such as Canadian Foodgrains Bank, A Rocha Kenya, the Africa Christian Church and Schools and Brackenhurst Environmental Studies;
- Engage participants in focused discussion, reflection, and study on the Biblical foundation of, and vision for, Integral Mission, especially in relation to climate change and food security

- Encourage a wider discussion of Integral Mission with home institutions of theological education and ministry contexts;
- Consider how the principles of Integral Mission might be applied for transformational ministry within our local context.

TENTATIVE ITINERARY

The **Praxis** program will be from May 5 – 19, 2023 and will include:

- Orientation, preparation, dialogue and readings in Mississauga, ON (May 5)
- Fly to Nairobi and drive to Brackenhurst Centre (May 6).
- Study, worship, lectures and field visits from Brackenhurst (May 7-10)
- Travel to and visit food security projects in meru and around Mount Kenya (May 11- 14). Partner visits and reflection
- Travel to Watamu, stay at Mwamba Conservation Centre and learn from A Rocha Kenya's staff about the Dakatcha Forest Campaign, coral rehabilitation and conservancy May 15 – 19)
- Debriefing and continued learning in Mississauga, ON (May 19-20)



CBM PRAXIS SITE MENTORS

Kenya host: Laura Muema, CBM field staff

Canada & Kenya: Dr. Terry Smith (Professor of Record), CBM Associate Staff

REQUIRED LISTENING/VIEWING – Students will listen to podcasts and/or online videos (up to 8 hours) from the list below and integrate their key learnings in their Praxis journal to be submitted one week after the trip to Kenya.

1. <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/961315153/global-weirding-with-katharine-hayhoe>
2. <https://qpodcast.libsyn.com/episode-068-todays-east-africa-hunger-crisis-rich-stearns>
3. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyf68UOtqos&ab_channel=ADRACanada
4. <https://www.wfp.org/podcast-better-food-better-world>
5. https://www.fao.org/news/podcast/en/?page=5&ipp=5&tx_dynalist_pi1%5Bpar%5D=YToxOntzOjE6IkwiO3M6MToiNSI7fQ%3D%3D
6. <https://arocha.org/en/field-notes-podcast/>

7. <https://blog.arochoa.org/en/author/davebookless/>
8. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/better-samaritan/2021/september/how-to-be-culturally-and-racially-sensitive-in-creation-car.html>
9. https://foodgrainsbank.ca/resources/?_resource_sidebar_categories=videos&_resource_categories=videos

REQUIRED READING –

Section One: Students will read one of the books chosen from the list below and report to the group during the trip in Kenya. - see Assignment #2 below. Books will be chosen on a “first come, first served” basis:

1. **God’s Good World: reclaiming the Doctrine of Creation, by Jonathan H. Wilson**
https://www.amazon.com/Gods-Good-World-Reclaiming-Doctrine-ebook/dp/B00CA0VTDK/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1N419HULK8COP&keywords=god%27s+good+world&qid=1674138043&s=books&sprefix=god%27s+good+world%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C80&sr=1-1
2. **Regeneration: Ending the Climate Crisis in One Generation, by Paul Hawken**
https://www.amazon.com/Regeneration-Ending-Climate-Crisis-Generation/dp/0143136976/ref=sr_1_16?crid=3OGC3SU301X98&keywords=katharine+hayhoe&qid=1674137763&s=books&sprefix=katharine+hayhoe%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C89&sr=1-16
3. **Making peace with the Land, by Fred Bahnson and Norman Wirzba**
<https://www.amazon.com/Making-Peace-Land-Reconcile-Reconciliation/dp/0830834575>
4. **For the Beauty of the Earth: A Christian Vision for Creation Care, Steve Bouma-Prediger**
https://www.amazon.com/Beauty-Earth-Christian-Creation-Engaging/dp/080103695X/ref=sr_1_1?keywords=For+the+Beauty+of+the+Earth&qid=1674136453&s=books&sr=1-1
5. **Planted: Creation, Calling and Community by Leah Kostama**
<https://www.amazon.ca/Planted-Story-Creation-Calling-Community/dp/1620327082>
6. **The Challenge of Africa, by Wangari Maathai**
https://www.amazon.com/Challenge-Africa-Wangari-Maathai-ebook/dp/B0024NP5HO/ref=sr_1_15?crid=3MXAAPVM087CU&keywords=wangari+maathai&qid=1674137075&s=books&sprefix=wanjeri+%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C88&sr=1-15
7. **Going Global: A Congregation’s Introduction to Mission Beyond Its Borders: Nelson, King and Smith**

https://www.amazon.ca/Going-Global-Congregations-Introduction-Mission/dp/0827212577/ref=sr_1_1?crid=26Q6WG2HRP7IM&keywords=going+global&qid=1674139186&s=books&srefix=going+global%2Cstripbooks%2C75&sr=1-1

Section Two: Students must read these three books and integrate their reflexions and key learnings in their Praxis journal to be submitted one week after the trip to Kenya.

1. Saving Us, by Katharine Hayhoe

https://www.amazon.com/Saving-Us-Climate-Scientists-Healing/dp/1982143835/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1MPQXF068LKS1&keywords=saving+us&qid=1674136706&s=books&srefix=saving+us%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C100&sr=1-1

2. The Art of the Commonplace: Agrarian Essays by Wendell Berry

https://www.amazon.com/Art-Commonplace-Agrarian-Essays-Wendell/dp/1582431469/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1S01AE9J6JUQ9&keywords=The+Art+of+the+Commonplace&qid=1674136393&s=books&srefix=the+art+of+the+commonplace+%2Cstripbooks-intl-ship%2C117&sr=1-2

3. Creation Care: A Biblical Theology for Life: Douglas Moo and Jonathan Moo

https://www.amazon.ca/Creation-Care-Biblical-Theology-Natural-ebook/dp/B072TPVF4V/ref=sr_1_1?crid=1Z2DH10XQ8WGZ&keywords=Creation+care+Moo&qid=1674139411&s=books&srefix=creation+care+moo%2Cstripbooks%2C74&sr=1-1&asin=B072TPVF4V&revisionId=7af8dc9f&format=1&depth=1

EVALUATION

To be submitted to CBM Professor-of-Record (Terry Smith email: tsmith@cbmin.org).

These are general descriptions of the assignments. Further information and instruction will be made available during initial Zoom calls and Orientation in Mississauga in early May.

- 1. Participate fully and positively in the PRAXIS experience - 25%.** This is a field evaluation which will be based on the extent to which you are personally engaged in our community of learning, and all aspects of this experience but also contributing to the learning outcomes for the group. **No DUE date** - mark will be assigned upon completion of the trip.
- 2. Prior to the trip to Kenya, each student will read and prepare a written (1000 word) AND oral summary of ONE book (to be assigned) from Section One of the reading list - 15%.** These summaries will be shared with the Praxis team either during our Orientation in Mississauga or during the time in Kenya, according to the schedule, when students will make brief (15 minute) summaries to the team. Each student will teach the class about one book. Written summary DUE May 5 for the written summary and no later than **May 20, 2023** for the presentation.
- 3. Submit a Praxis Journal of your thoughts and reflections during the trip - 25%.** Journal entries should clearly show that you are paying attention to the course's theme (Integral Mission: Food Security and Climate Change). This is NOT just a travel diary. We are looking for evidence that you are processing the readings/seminars in light of your day-to-day experiences in Kenya.

The final entry should be an analytical reflection that describes how successfully your PRAXIS experience demonstrates the Biblical principles of Integral Mission. Feel free to speak plainly about how your experience informs and is informed by CBM, the work of partner agencies, the course material, and your time as part of the group in Kenya.

While students may prefer to keep a hand-written journal doing the trip, the journal can be scanned and submitted by email. The length of this assignment will no doubt vary, but you should aim for a total length in the vicinity of 6000-7500 words (that would be no less than 10 entries of 500-750 words plus the final entry of approx. 1000 words).

This is more of an exercise in observation and reflection than a formal paper. However, when you are incorporating thoughts that come from other sources, be sure to provide proper references. **DUE May 30th, 2023.**

4. **Option One: Write a major academic paper (4000-5000 words) on Integral Mission, Climate Change and Food Security - 35%.** This paper should include Biblical study, theological reflection, consideration of projects visited in Kenya, work among the partners, and interaction with the required readings and the formal and informal discussions and lectures. More details to follow. **DUE June 30, 2023**
5. **Option Two: Create a significant Portfolio representing the course content and key learnings. - 35%.** Portfolio options are flexible and may include liturgies, video material, a series of lectures, podcasts or blogs, sermon series, short-film, major artwork, etc. The Portfolio must also include a bibliography, notes (which can be incorporated into one's journal) and must be approved by the Professor prior to beginning one's work. **DUE June 30, 2023**