DRAFT CURRICULUM FOR TEACHING DEMON AND SPIRIT BELIEFS, MAGIC, WITCHCRAFT AND DELIVERANCE IN THEOLOGICAL FACULTIES

This draft curriculum was developed in an interactive and intercultural process of deliberation and discussion. The participants of the workshop offer this to all institutions of theological training which are considering or planning to take up issues of demon and spirit beliefs, magic, witchcraft and deliverance. We understand that according to different contexts, this curriculum may have to be adapted, amended, or supplemented.

Claudia Währisch-Oblau

Biblical theology

Topics to be treated:
Biblical demonology
  Biblical terminology: “spirit”, “demon”, “devil/Satan” etc. and their translations
  Territorial spirits
Gospel/Acts stories of deliverance
  History of reading and interpreting these stories
The practice of healing and deliverance in Acts and the letters
Theology of curses and blessings
Pneumatology
  Gifts of the Spirit
The biblical concept of sin
  Original sin, Satan, fallen angels
  Sin as demonic doorway?
Witchcraft, sorcerers, diviners, prophets, magicians, astrology in the Bible
Biblical world views
  What are the other gods?
  Yahweh among the Gods
  Cosmology
Hermeneutics
  Contextual readings of the Bible

Main objectives:

The students have basic knowledge and understanding of the Biblical theologies of deliverance and how they relate to their specific context.

The students have basic knowledge and understanding of Biblical teachings on demons, magic, witchcraft, spirits, principalities and powers.

The students have a good knowledge of Biblical stories of healing, exorcism and deliverance.

Students can explain these Biblical teachings and stories to their congregations.
Systematic Theology

Topics to be treated:

World views
   Demonologies, satanologies, spirits
   Globalization
   Secularism
   Political & social interpretations versus spiritual interpretations of experience

Theology of religions
   Pluralism
   Syncretism

Sin
   Sin and sickness

Christology
   Salvation / redemption
   Deliverance and healing

Anthropology
   Personal responsibility
   Body, soul, spirit
   The place of the spirit of the dead
   Sickness
   Gender

Ecclesiology
   Who is authorized to do deliverance?
   Deliverance as gift, task, responsibility, ministry

Eschatology
   Prosperity theology
   Life after death

Ethics
   Human rights of victims of witch hunts and deviations of deliverance practices

Re-reading history
   Appreciating one’s own church tradition

Main objectives:

Students have a basic understanding of the doctrines of their respective church on issues of demon/spirit beliefs and deliverance.

Students are able to give systematic explanations of these doctrines to their respective congregation members.

Students can compare the doctrines of their respective church to those of other churches and other religions.

Students take an ethical position to defend the rights of victims.
Mission theology

Topics to be treated:

Inculuration and contextualization

Intercultural theology

Deliverance and evangelism
  Deliverance and church growth
  Deliverance as a tool of evangelism? Deliverance and healing conventions?
  Deliverance and change of denomination
  Power evangelism?

Interreligious dialogue on deliverance

Theological assessment of traditional religion
  Are traditional Gods demons?

Different traditions and practices of deliverance
  Comparative approach
  Dialogue and response

A power paradigm in mission?

Malpractices and heresies in relation to deliverance ministry
  What is acceptable and what is not acceptable in deliverance?
  Televangelism and televised prophecy, healing and deliverance

The issue of children accused of witchcraft
The issue of children exploited as witches

The issue of Albino killings

Main objectives:

Students are aware of the role of deliverance in the mission of their respective churches.

Students develop a missionary attitude and an intercultural and interreligious sensitivity concerning deliverance.

Students have an understanding and practice which helps their congregation not to fall into deviation and heresy.
Practical Theology

Topics to be treated:

Anthropological, ethnological, psychological and theological insights and approaches are used to develop a pastoral response

Holistic ministry
   Delivery and diakonia, advocacy and human rights

Clinical pastoral education: counseling and deliverance
Psychology, psychiatry, medicine and deliverance
   Question of interpretative paradigms
   Distinction between ‘clinical’ and ‘spiritual’ diagnosis and intervention

Spiritual formation
   “Anointing” and spiritual gifts
   The role of the pastor
   The question of spiritual/faith power (exousia)
   Prophecy and revelation

Organization of the ministry in the church
   Authorization to do deliverance
   Oversight
   How to deal with deviations and malpractices in the public
   Code of conduct / discipline

Deliverance liturgy
   Contextualization

Practice of the deliverance liturgy
   Tools and media in the deliverance process (salt, oil, water, etc.)
   Language and symbols (“in the name of Jesus”, “Holy Ghost fire”, “the blood of Christ”, “burn” etc.)
   Music (role of music in the liturgy, question of invocation of spirits by music, question of inducing trance by music, praise and worship)
   Gender issues
   Prayer groups
   Deliverance teams

Assessment and follow-up of deliverance services
   How to define healing and deliverance

Deliverance and social conflict
   How to deal with demons who say who sent them?
   Witchcraft accusations
   Reconciliation
   How to deal with cases of children accused of witchcraft?

Gender issues
   High proportion of women ‘possessed’
   Witchcraft accusations mainly against women
   Deliverance often done only by men
   No respect for women in deliverance ministry

Discussion of case studies, particularly after students’ time in a congregation

How to deal with prosperity churches and their message?
Main objectives (Practical Theology):

Students are equipped with the necessary tools, skills and knowledge to do a pastorally responsible healing and deliverance ministry in their respective congregation.

Students know and reflect their role as pastors in the deliverance ministry.

Students have been trained to train others in the deliverance ministry.

Wuppertal, 29 October 2014

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