

## **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:**

Inculturation 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

Deliverance 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.

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