



PERSPECTIVES



Local Group Brings Nationally Known Missions Course to Altoona

www.altoonaperspectives.org

Who:

Living Stones Resources – An Altoona-based ministry devoted to building up the Body of Christ in the Altoona Area through the promotion of house-church communities, personal discipleship and by networking equipping and encouraging local churches and ministries

What:

The Perspectives Study Program is a ministry of the U.S. Center for World Mission - a non-denominational ministry that works with churches, mission agencies, and campus ministries around the world.

An Accredited Course:

Perspectives is a full college course which can be taken for credit!

Undergraduate credit is offered from Geneva College or graduate Credit from Westminster Seminary. The undergraduate credits can be transferred to Penn State as Anthropology 219. The course can also be taken at a certificate level. The certificate is widely accepted as a continuing education course for churches, missions and ministries. There is also a different quantity of course work for the certificate, undergraduate and graduate levels.

The Perspectives Program

The program is run locally around the country by teams of volunteers; alumni who have been personally impacted by Perspectives and have a desire to mobilize their community to God's global purposes. It is hosted by various churches or non-profit organizations around the country. Usually local coordinators try to have Perspectives classes hosted in a different location each year, so as to involve a network of churches and organizations that can reach out to the nations represented in their communities. These locations serve as hosts and supporters of the study program. Shifting the location from year to year helps foster the mentality of it being a neutral, community wide course.

Perspectives History

Perspectives is not so much a course, as it is a “movement” involving tens of thousands of God’s people throughout the world finding their niche in God’s overall purpose to bless the nations. Since its beginning in 1974, at Penn State University, dozens of other seminars, courses, and materials have been developed after the pattern of the course, both in the United States and abroad. Perspectives is highly recommended by over 60 mission agencies including Evangelical Free Church Mission, Eastern Mennonite Board of Missions, APMC, Christar, Jews for Jesus, WEC, and Wycliffe Bible Translators, etc.

For more information visit the national Perspectives web site at: www.perspectives.org

Instructors

There is a different instructor for each week of the course. Instructors are brought in from all over the eastern United States. Instructors represent a wide range of missions and church organizations. Instructors had expertise and experience in the areas that they teach. Students benefit from the first-hand stories of the various instructors. There are also several multi-media elements to the course. Students also have access to the resource material provided on the national Perspectives web site. Also provided with the course is a text book containing articles and stories that cover a wide range of topics related to history, strategy and the heart of the world Christian movement. There is also a course workbook that helps the learner to focus their studies for each week of the course.

Local History

This course was first offered in Altoona in the fall of 2008. Fifteen students representing three local churches attend the class. Attendees ranged from high school-aged to middle-aged adults. The two high school-aged students took the course for credit which was applied to their present college educations. Graduates of the Altoona Perspectives class have been involved in missions projects in China, Thailand and Guatemala.

Where and When:

The class will meet at the Lighthouse Christian Fellowship, a multi-denominational fellowship (www.altoonahighthouse.org). It will held on Tuesday Evenings beginning January 14 and running through April 22, 2010 meeting from 6:30 PM to 9:30 PM each evening.

Tuitions and Registration:

To register for the course, download the registration form from the web site. The registration fee is \$35 and it is due at the end of the first class. Interested parties can attend the first class for free. There are several levels of tuition associated with the course based upon the certification level requested by the student, i.e., certificate, undergraduate, graduate or alumni. The tuition helps to cover the cost of bringing in course instructors, course materials, grading and credit review by the certifying institutions (Geneva College and Westminster Seminary).