

The Ailbe Seminary  
*A Ministry of The Fellowship of Ailbe*

Mission Partners  
Introduction and Overview

*Summary*

The local church is both a sign and outpost of the Kingdom of God. The local church *signs* the Kingdom by being a community where righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit flourish and overflow. And the overflow of that condition leads the church, as an *outpost* of the Kingdom, to mission in its community. That mission is most significantly accomplished through the work of each member of the church, in his or her Personal Mission Field.

*Rationale*

As the Lord Jesus was sent into the world, He has sent His followers as well (Jn. 20.21). They are followers of Christ who embrace that calling and take up their cross daily to bear witness to Jesus and His Kingdom. We are called to *be* witnesses for Christ, and this involves all aspects in every nook and cranny of our Personal Mission Field.

This course will lead you to identify your Personal Mission Field and begin working it consistently as an ambassador of Jesus Christ, an agent of grace, and a bringer of joy to your world. Your Course Reader will be your mission partner for the duration of this course, as you learn the disciplines and begin pursuing the goals that make for effective and fruitful Mission Field living. At the end of the course, you will be ready to begin showing others how they, too, can identify and work their Personal Mission Field.

*Course overview*

In this course you will:

1. Discover the Biblical foundations and significance of your Personal Mission Field;
2. Identify the people and places that make up your Personal Mission Field;
3. Learn the goals God has established for the work of your Personal Mission Field;
4. Learn and begin to practice the disciplines involved in working your Personal Mission Field;
5. Understand the role of conversation and culture in seeking the Kingdom of God;
6. Develop a plan for helping others identify and begin working their Personal Mission Field.

We will pursue these objectives through a varied approach to learning, including brief video presentations, interaction with Scripture, readings and discussions, assessments and written exercises, and the development of a Mission Partners plan for your ministry. This course is designed to be completed within 90 days. It includes six Submissions for your Course Reader, who will reflect with you on what you are learning. You should expect to spend no more than 2 hours (average) on each Lesson. A Final Assignment will bring all your learning together for review.

For more specific details on course outline, resources, and format, see the Introduction that follows.

## Welcome

*Mission Partners* is an exploration of the Biblical model for seeking the Kingdom of God in your spheres of influence.

Jesus has sent us to the world to bring near and establish the Kingdom of God, just as He had been sent to do. As we identify and work our Personal Mission Field, we may expect the Lord to provide us with wisdom, guidance, and power to bring more of His righteousness, peace, and joy in the Spirit to the people to whom He sends us each day.

## Format

This course unfolds around the following activities:

**Presentation:** Each Lesson includes at least one brief online video.

**Studies in Scripture:** The six studies in the series, *Mission Partners Outreach* organize the Lessons for this course. These are explained in the introductory video for the course, and are provided with each subsequent video.

**Practical exercises:** Each Lesson includes one or more “next steps” practical exercises, focused on that Lesson. Be sure to complete these, as you will be asked to report on them your Submissions. In addition, you will be led through the process of preparing to train others to identify and work their Personal Mission Field as part of your ongoing ministry.

**Submissions:** Questions are prepared for each Lesson, and you will submit these in writing to your Course Reader.

**Reading:** We will read two brief booklets to help us in working our Personal Mission Field:

- *Joy to Your World!* (available by [clicking here](#))
- *The Gospel of the Kingdom* (available by [clicking here](#))

**Devotional studies:** Because being a witness for Christ is the result of our continuing to grow in Him, you will also be required to work through the *Morning and Evening* reader, *Growing into Christ*, which is available as a PDF by [clicking here](#). This will take you through 28 days of readings, meditations, and prayers

Following this, you will work through the devotional series, *Glorious Vision: 28 Days in the Throne Room of Christ*, which is available by [clicking here](#). These 28 daily readings, based on Psalm 45, are designed to enhance your vision of Christ and your sense of what it means to be sent to your world as He was sent.

Each Lesson in the course is presented in several parts. You can do as many as you like at a time, but you should try to **finish an entire Lesson in one week**. The assignments are prepared to allow you to spend a little time each day working through the material of the course. You need not do them daily, but we recommend you try to finish each Lesson within a week, to keep on pace for the course. After every two Lessons, complete the brief review, and send it to your Course Reader. You will not be able to go on to the next Lesson until the current Submission is sent.

This course is designed to be completed within 90 days of starting. Successful completion results in 1 credit toward your Certificate in Kingdom Leadership program.

### *Course Outline*

- Unit 1: Your Personal Mission Field (Lessons 1 and 2)
  - Presentation: Introduction to Mission Partners
  - Presentation: Personal Mission Field
  - Study 1: *Sent like Jesus*
- Unit 2: Working Your Personal Mission Field (Lessons 3-9)
  - Presentation: Prayer
  - Study 2: *To Fill All Things*
  - Presentation: Testimony
  - Study 3: *Seasoned with Grace*
  - Study 4: *Lived Truth*
  - Presentation: The Gospel
  - Study 5: *Redeeming Culture*
- Unit 3: Improving and Enlarging Your Work in Your Personal Mission Field (Lessons 10-12).
  - Presentation: Open Doors
  - Presentation: Bible Questionnaire
  - Presentation: Personal Mission Field for Life
  - Study 6: *The Confident Witness*

### *Objectives*

In the Kingdom of God, we seek ever to improve our walk with and work for the Lord by growing in love for Him and our neighbors (1 Tim. 1.5). Accordingly, the following objectives have been identified for this course:

1. Love for God:
  - 1.1 To understand and embrace the Lord's way of advancing His Kingdom
  - 1.2 To understand, accept, and pursue the Lord's goals working our Personal Mission Field
2. Love for Neighbor:
  - 2.1 To understand and embrace our calling to be witnesses for Christ
  - 2.2 To prepare a plan for implementing Mission Partners ministry

By the end of this course you will:

1. Understand the Biblical mandate, guidelines, and goals for working your Personal Mission Field.
2. Discover and begin working all aspects of your Personal Mission Field on a daily basis.
3. Improve your relationships with and ministry to all the people in your Personal Mission Field.
4. Establish a plan for training others to identify and work their Personal Mission Field.

### *Course materials*

The primary materials required for this course are incorporated into the Lessons and explained in the introductory video.

Purchase the two books for this course at The Ailbe Bookstore ([www.ailbe.org](http://www.ailbe.org)).

The devotional studies are available as PDF downloads here with this Introduction and Overview.

### *Getting started*

To get started, complete the registration on this page. Once your registration has been processed, we will send you a link to the resource page for this course and assign you a Course Guide. Your Course Guide will help you follow the schedule so that you complete all the work of this course within the prescribed time.