

Worldwide Biographies of the Faith: A One-Year Middle or High School Course

A transformative journey through the lives of 16 remarkable individuals who answered the Father's call to spread the Gospel across continents. Students will discover how ordinary people accomplished extraordinary things through faith, and perseverance.

Sustainable Living for the Family Health & Home": Dr. Monique Adu



Please make sure before you begin this study, to pray to the Father in heaven, and ask him to give you discernment and wisdom. No earthly man is perfect, and even faith warriors can make mistakes. Always use your Bible to compare with what you are reading, in the actions and choices of the missionaries and people in the books.

If there are any inconsistencies discuss them with your family, and inform them on what the Bible tells us regarding the choices made.

"Do your utmost to present yourself approved to Elohim, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of Truth."

2 Timothy 2:15

Praying for you and your family: Dr. Adu

Course Vision & Objectives

Inspire Through Example

Explore the courageous journeys of 16 Christian missionaries who transformed communities and changed the world through faith and action.

Integrate Faith & Practice

Connect biographical stories with biblical principles and discover practical applications for students' own faith journeys and service opportunities.

Develop Critical Thinking

Strengthen analytical and writing skills through thought-provoking essay prompts, reflective assignments, and deep engagement with missionary testimonies.

Students will not just **study history** but be challenged to **make history** through their own faithful response.

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Course Structure

- 36-week curriculum covering 16 missionaries (approximately 2 weeks per missionary)
- Each missionary unit divided into three components: biographical study, biblical principles exemplified, and practical applications
- Weekly essay assignments for deeper reflection and application
- Final comparative project analyzing two missionaries' unique approaches and lasting impact



The curriculum follows a consistent pattern while allowing flexibility to explore the unique contexts and contributions of each missionary studied.

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Featured Missionaries



1. Francis Asbury (1745–1816)

English-born Methodist missionary who spent 45 years traveling across early America on horseback, covering over 270,000 miles to establish Methodist churches and circuit riders, helping shape American faith through frontier evangelism. Served in: United States



2. William Carey (1761–1834)

"Father of Modern Missions" who spent 41 years in India, translated the Bible into Bengali, Sanskrit and numerous other languages, and established Serampore College despite devastating setbacks. Served in: India



3. Adoniram Judson (1788–1850)

First American missionary to Burma (Myanmar), endured 17 months of brutal imprisonment, translated the entire Bible into Burmese, and established the foundation for the faith in Burma despite losing two wives and children to tropical diseases. Served in: Burma (Myanmar)



4. John Williams (1796–1839)

English missionary to the South Pacific who translated the Bible into several Polynesian languages, built the first ship constructed in the South Seas for missionary work, and was martyred in Vanuatu while pioneering evangelism across Pacific islands. Served in: South Pacific Islands (Polynesia, Vanuatu)



5. George Müller (1805–1898)

German-born evangelist who cared for over 10,000 orphans in Bristol, England through faith-based funding, never asking for donations but trusting the Father to provide, demonstrating radical dependence on prayer and His provision. Served in: England



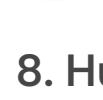
6. David Livingstone (1813–1873)

Scottish missionary-explorer who opened the heart of Africa to Christianity, spent 30 years mapping uncharted territories, fought against the slave trade, and died on his knees in prayer in the African wilderness. Served in: Africa (Botswana, Zambia, Zimbabwe)



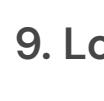
7. William Booth (1829–1912)

English Methodist preacher who founded The Salvation Army, revolutionized urban ministry to the poor and homeless, and created a global movement combining evangelism with social action in industrial cities. Served in: England, globally through Salvation Army



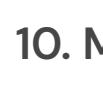
8. Hudson Taylor (1832–1905)

Revolutionized missions in China through cultural adaptation, founding China Inland Mission, and pioneering faith-based support systems that sent hundreds of missionaries into China's interior. Served in: China



9. Lottie Moon (1840–1912)

Southern Baptist missionary to China who spent 39 years serving in rural villages, advocated for women's roles in missions, and died of malnutrition after giving her food to starving Chinese during a famine. Served in: China



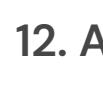
10. Mary Slessor (1848–1915)

Scottish Presbyterian missionary to Nigeria who spent 38 years in Calabar, stopped the harming of twins, served as a government magistrate, and pioneered women's rights while living among the Efik people. Served in: Nigeria



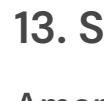
11. Jonathan Goforth (1859–1936)

Canadian Presbyterian missionary to China and Korea who experienced powerful revival movements, survived the Boxer Rebellion, and emphasized the importance of the Holy Spirit's work in evangelism and church planting. Served in: China, Korea



12. Amy Carmichael (1867–1951)

Served 55 years in India without furlough, rescued countless children from temple prostitution, and founded Dohnavur Fellowship while exemplifying sacrificial love despite chronic illness. Served in: India



13. Samuel Zwemer (1867–1952)

American Reformed missionary known as the "Apostle to Islam," spent 38 years in the Arabian Peninsula and Egypt, founded multiple hospitals and schools, and became a leading authority on Faith Based -Muslim relations. Served in: Arabian Peninsula, Egypt



14. Ida Scudder (1870–1960)

American medical missionary to India who founded a faith based Medical College in Vellore, trained thousands of women doctors and nurses, and revolutionized healthcare for women in South Asia over 64 years of service. Served in: India



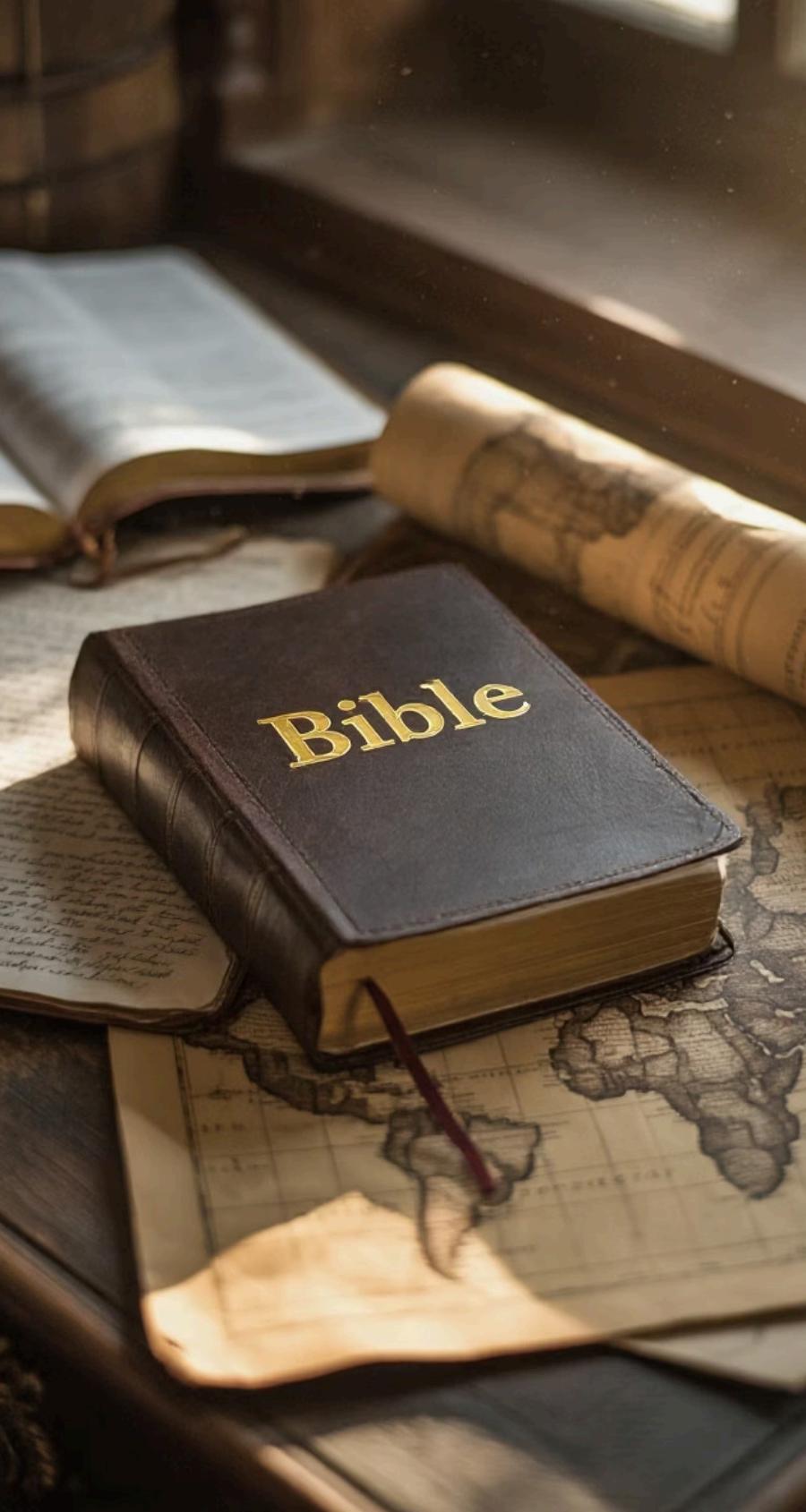
15. Gladys Aylward (1902–1970)

English missionary to China who worked as an inn-keeper, became a Chinese citizen, led 100 orphans on a dangerous 12-day journey over mountains to safety during the Japanese invasion, and was known as "The Small Woman" for her fearless service among the Chinese people. Served in: China



16. Jim Elliot (1927–1956)

Martyred in Ecuador while attempting to reach the isolated Huaorani tribe. His journal and famous quote, "He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose," inspired generations. Served in: Ecuador



Biblical Principles Explored

Great Commission Foundation

"Therefore, go and make taught ones of all the nations, immersing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Set-apart Spirit,"

(Matthew 28:19)

Sacrificial Love

"...love your neighbour as yourself..." (Mark 12:31)

Applied through practical ministry, medical missions, and community development.

Divine Enablement

"I have strength to do all, through Messiah who empowers me."

(Philippians 4:13)

Sustaining missionaries through hardship, persecution, and isolation.

Servant Leadership

"Then if I, Master and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet."

(John 13:14)

Demonstrated through humble service.

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Daily Bible Readings

These readings are designed to deepen students' understanding of the biblical foundations for missionary work and inspire personal reflection on faith and service. **Each reading correlates with themes highlighted in the missionary biographies. You can read each one based on the corresponding biography number, or apply them to any of the books.**

01

The Great Commission

Matthew 28:19-20

02

Sacrificial Love

Philippians 2:5-8

03

Faith in Action

Hebrews 11:6

04

Perseverance in Suffering

Romans 5:3-5

05

The Father's Provision

Philippians 4:19

06

Love for Others

1 John 4:7-8

07

Power of the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:8

08

Bearing Witness

Acts 4:20

09

The Call to Go

Genesis 12:1-3

10

Boldness in Proclamation

Acts 4:29-31

11

Serving the Needy

Matthew 25:35-40

12

Unity in Messiah

Galatians 3:28

13

Facing Opposition

2 Timothy 3:12

14

Joy in Service

Nehemiah 8:10

15

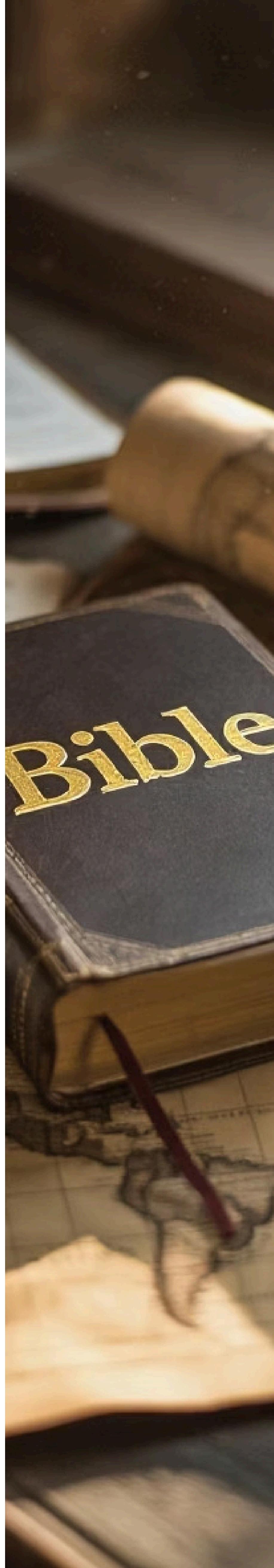
Enduring to the End

Matthew 24:13

16

Eternal Reward

2 Corinthians 4:16-18



Practical Applications for Students

Personal Mission Mindset

Develop service opportunities within school, community, and church contexts, applying missionary principles locally.

- Weekly service journal reflections
- Local "mission field" mapping exercise
- Peer ministry opportunity identification

Prayer & Spiritual Disciplines

Establish prayer habits modeled after missionary prayer disciplines and faith practices.

- Prayer partner accountability system
- Global prayer calendar creation
- Scripture memorization challenges

Cross-Cultural Engagement

Develop cultural sensitivity and appreciation through missionary team dynamics study.

- Cultural adaptation simulations
- Language learning introduction
- Cross-cultural communication practice

Essay Question Prompts

Francis Asbury (1745) – Leadership Principles

"How did Francis Asbury's itinerant ministry shape the development of Methodism in early America, and what leadership lessons can be drawn from his approach?"

William Carey (1761) – Historical Analysis

"How did William Carey's persistent faith challenge both church and cultural assumptions of his time about missionary work?"

Adoniram Judson (1788) – Strategic Evangelism

"Evaluate Adoniram Judson's strategic adaptations and personal sacrifices in establishing the first Protestant mission in Burma. How did his methods influence later mission efforts?"

John Williams (1796) – Pioneering Vision

"Discuss John Williams's strategy for evangelism in the South Pacific and the challenges he faced in establishing faith among island communities."

George Müller (1805) – Dependence on Providence

"Analyze how George Müller's commitment to prayer and reliance on the Father's provision influenced his orphanages and inspired others in faith-based initiatives."

David Livingstone (1813) – Faith Development

"Discuss the spiritual journey and theological convictions that sustained David Livingstone through decades of exploration and evangelism in Africa."

William Booth (1829) – Organizational Impact

"How did William Booth's innovative approach to ministry lead to the global establishment and enduring success of The Salvation Army?"

Hudson Taylor (1832) – Cross-Cultural Approach

"Compare Hudson Taylor's cultural adaptation approach to missions with contemporary cross-cultural ministry methods."

Lottie Moon (1840) – Missionary Innovation

"Discuss Lottie Moon's innovative methods for fundraising and support for missions. How did her efforts impact missionary funding?"

Mary Slessor (1848) – Cultural Transformation

"Examine how Mary Slessor's efforts in Calabar navigated and transformed, indigenous cultural practices while introducing faith based principles."

Jonathan Goforth (1859) – Perseverance in Crisis

"How did Jonathan Goforth's experiences during the Boxer Rebellion inform his later emphasis on prayer and revival in China?"

Amy Carmichael (1867) – Biblical Integration

"Analyze how Amy Carmichael's rescue ministry in India demonstrated Messiah's teachings about protecting the vulnerable in Matthew 18:1-6."

Samuel Zwemer (1867) – Interfaith Dialogue

"Examine Samuel Zwemer's pioneering work in Christian missions to the Muslim world. What insights can be gained from his approach to engaging with different faiths?"

Ida Scudder (1870) – Holistic Mission

"Explore Ida Scudder's contributions to medical education and healthcare in India. How did her work exemplify a holistic approach to mission?"

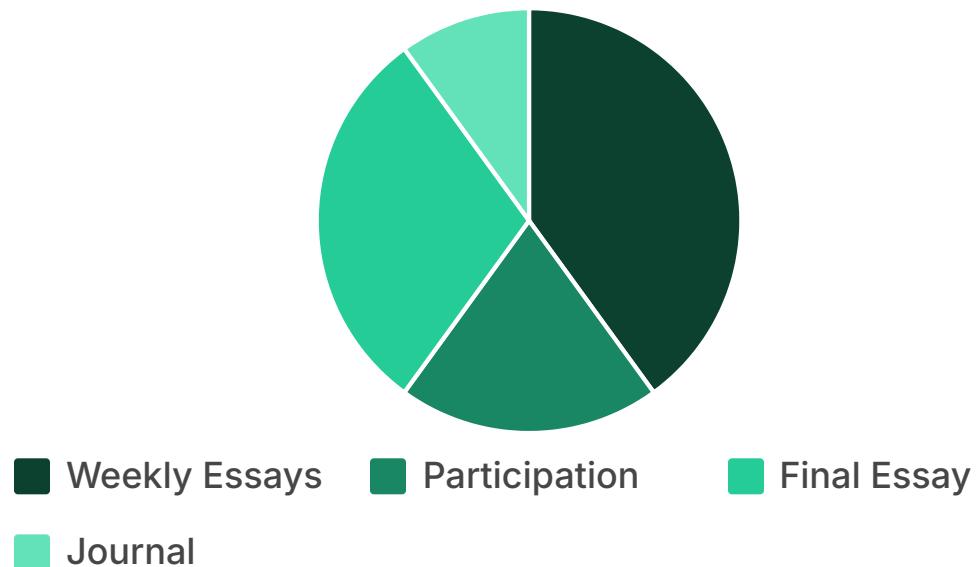
Gladys Aylward (1902) – Problem-Solving & Resilience

"What solutions did Gladys Aylward develop when facing seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and how can these approaches be applied today?"

Jim Elliot (1927) – Personal Reflection

"Consider Jim Elliot's statement, 'He is no fool who gives what he cannot keep to gain what he cannot lose.' How might this perspective transform your own approach to sacrifice?"

Assessment Framework



Essay Grading Criteria

Biblical Integration	Thoughtful connection between missionary experiences and Scripture (25%)
Historical Accuracy	Factual correctness and contextual understanding (20%)
Critical Analysis	Depth of insight and logical evaluation (25%)
Personal Application	Meaningful connections to student's own faith journey (20%)
Writing Quality	Structure, clarity, and mechanics (10%)

Resources & Materials

Core Texts

- Your Bible
- *Christian Heroes: Then & Now* series by Janet & Geoff Benge

Supplementary Materials

- Missionary biographies and autobiographies specific to each unit
- Biblical commentary on Great Commission passages
- Custom missionary principles study guides

Digital Resources

- Documentary films and missionary interviews
- Interactive mission history maps and timelines
- Online missionary training modules for extended learning





Inspiring a Legacy of Faith and Service

The Challenge

Students are not just studying history—they're being invited to become part of an ongoing story of faith in action that spans centuries and continents.

The Response

Who will be the next generation to carry the light of the Gospel to unreached places, whether across oceans or across the street?

- ☐ **Final Project:** Students will create a personal mission statement articulating how the lessons from these 16 missionaries will shape their own approach to faith, service, and purpose.

Course Rubric

This comprehensive rubric outlines the credit classification, requirements, integrated subject areas, and detailed performance expectations for the course.

Credit Classification

This course qualifies as a **1-credit high school course**, suitable for inclusion under Social Studies/History, Religious Studies, or World Cultures departments. It offers a unique interdisciplinary approach, fulfilling requirements in humanities and fostering a global perspective on historical, cultural, and spiritual development.

(Note: 1 Credit is what I would give to my students. Base your credit upon personal participation and involvement.)

Credit Requirements

Successful completion of this course requires dedicated engagement over a **36-week period**, encompassing a minimum of **180 instructional days** and at least **120 contact hours**. Consistent participation, completion of assignments, and demonstration of learning across all rubric areas are essential.

Integrated Subject Areas

The curriculum integrates various academic disciplines, providing a holistic educational experience:

- History:** Examining significant historical periods, movements, and societal contexts through the lives of influential missionaries.
- Geography:** Understanding the geographical settings and global reach of missionary endeavors, including cultural and physical landscapes.
- Cultural Studies:** Exploring diverse cultures, their customs, beliefs, and the dynamics of cross-cultural interaction and adaptation.
- Religious Studies:** Deepening understanding of Theology, missions, and the historical development of religious movements.
- Literature (Biographical):** Analyzing narrative structures, themes, and character development within biographical accounts, enhancing reading comprehension and analytical skills.
- Writing/Composition:** Developing clear, analytical, and reflective written communication through essays, reports, and personal reflections.

Detailed Performance Rubric

Student performance will be assessed across six key areas, with detailed descriptors for four proficiency levels:

Historical Knowledge & Understanding	Demonstrates comprehensive and nuanced understanding of historical contexts, key figures, and events, effectively connecting them to broader historical trends and global impact. Consistently provides accurate and detailed historical information.	Demonstrates solid understanding of historical contexts, key figures, and events, with some connections to broader historical trends. Generally provides accurate historical information.	Demonstrates basic understanding of historical contexts, key figures, and events, but may struggle with connections or depth. Information provided may lack detail or contain minor inaccuracies.	Demonstrates limited understanding of historical contexts, figures, or events. Information is often inaccurate, incomplete, or irrelevant.
Biblical Integration & Application	Consistently and insightfully integrates Biblical principles and Theological concepts into analyses, demonstrating a deep understanding of their application to missionary work and personal faith. Provides strong Scriptural support.	Integrates Biblical principles and Theological concepts into analyses, showing a clear understanding of their relevance to missionary work. Provides appropriate Scriptural references.	Attempts to integrate Biblical principles, but connections may be superficial or lack depth. May struggle with accurately applying concepts or providing relevant Scriptural support.	Lacks integration of Biblical principles or demonstrates significant misunderstanding. Seldom provides Scriptural support or applies it inaccurately.
Critical Thinking & Analysis	Analyzes information thoroughly, synthesizing complex ideas, evaluating different perspectives, and forming well-reasoned conclusions. Demonstrates exceptional analytical depth and independent thought.	Analyzes information effectively, identifying key arguments and supporting details. Forms logical conclusions and generally considers different perspectives.	Attempts to analyze information but may struggle with identifying key points or making logical connections. Conclusions may be simplistic or lack sufficient support.	Shows minimal ability to analyze information or form coherent conclusions. Often misinterprets information or relies on unsupported assertions.
Written Communication	Presents ideas with exceptional clarity, coherence, and precision. Writing is well-organized, grammatically correct, and stylistically sophisticated, with strong thesis development and supporting evidence. Uses appropriate academic language.	Presents ideas clearly and coherently. Writing is generally well-organized, with minor grammatical errors. Develops a clear thesis and supports it with evidence. Uses appropriate academic language.	Presents ideas with some clarity, but may lack organization or coherence. Contains noticeable grammatical errors and may struggle with thesis development or providing sufficient evidence. Language use may be imprecise.	Writing is unclear, disorganized, and contains frequent grammatical errors. Lacks a clear thesis or supporting evidence, making it difficult to understand the intended message.
Cultural Awareness & Sensitivity	Demonstrates profound cultural awareness, empathy, and sensitivity towards diverse cultural contexts encountered by missionaries. Critically examines and challenges ethnocentric biases. Recognizes and values cross-cultural differences and complexities.	Demonstrates good cultural awareness and sensitivity, recognizing the importance of context in missionary work. Generally avoids ethnocentric views and shows awareness for cultural differences.	Shows some cultural awareness but may occasionally demonstrate unconscious biases or misunderstanding. Struggles to fully appreciate the complexities of cross-cultural interactions.	Lacks cultural awareness or demonstrates ethnocentric biases. Fails to recognize cultural differences, impacting the understanding of missionary challenges and successes.
Personal Reflection & Growth	Engages in deep, authentic personal reflection, articulating profound insights into the course material's impact on personal faith, service, and purpose. Connects lessons effectively to own life and future aspirations.	Engages in thoughtful personal reflection, connecting course material to personal faith and purpose. Demonstrates some insights into how lessons might shape future actions.	Attempts personal reflection, but it may be superficial or lack depth. Struggles to clearly articulate how course material relates to personal growth or future actions.	Shows minimal or no personal reflection. Fails to connect course material to personal faith, service, or purpose.