

3. HISTORICAL STUDIES

The study of church history is no less than a study of God's salvific work, as it is worked out through diverse social, cultural, geographical and political contexts over the last 2,000 years. The aim of historical studies is therefore two-fold: to arrive at a deeper appreciation of our diverse historical and theological heritage and to benefit from the spiritual insights and the lessons learnt by our spiritual forefathers, so that we may better prepare ourselves for the challenges that the new century will bring.

CH101 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I

(3 credits, offered annually in Semester 1)

In *History of Christianity I*, students will be introduced to the theological, historical and spiritual development in, what John Calvin calls the 'Golden Age of the Church', that is, the age of the church fathers (second to fifth centuries). From here, we will then examine the history of three major streams of Christianity, namely Western, Orthodox and Oriental Christianities, from the Middle Ages right up to the pre-Reformation period. The guiding principle for our course is to consider the relevance of these historical movements for contemporary Protestant/Evangelical Christianity and to benefit from the spiritual insights of our Christian forefathers. Chronologically speaking, we will cover the first 1,500 years of church history.

CH102 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY II

(3 credits, offered annually in Semester 2)

This course continues the story first unfolded in CH101, by introducing students to the important theological, historical and spiritual movements between 1500-2001. Our journey begins in Europe with the advent of the Protestant Reformation, which will permanently change the face of religion in the Continent and, subsequently, the whole world. This is followed by an analysis of the developments that follow this Reformation: the rise of American and English Protestantism and spirituality, the growth of the evangelical movement, especially in America, and the Catholic Counter Reformation. Attention will also be given to the Enlightenment period, which would significantly influence and also challenge the claims of the Christian faith. Following these, we will turn our attention to the development of Christianity worldwide, with a focus on Christianity in China, in particular, and Asia in general.

CH254/ TS240 WESLEY THEN AND NOW: AN INTRODUCTION TO THE THEOLOGY OF JOHN WESLEY

(3 credits, offered occasionally)

This course examines major aspects of Wesley's theology as expounded chiefly in his *Sermons on Several Occasions*. Theological, ecclesiastical, social and intellectual environments will be probed, even as attention is given chiefly to Wesley's soteriology.

CH260/ CS260 THE ROOTS OF CHRISTIANITY: THE WISDOM OF THE CHURCH FATHERS FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

(3 credits, offered bi-annually in Semester 1)

The Patristic period or the period of the Church Fathers (2nd to 5th centuries) is one of the most important eras of the Christian Church. Some of the key tenets of our Protestant faith, such as salvation by grace and the doctrine of the Trinity, find their doctrinal roots from this era. The aim of this course is to equip students with the historical, theological and spiritual background necessary for appreciating and benefitting from the teachings of the early church fathers. Besides covering a wide

range of theological, historical and spiritual topics, students will spend a considerable time reading patristic texts, discussing and reflecting on the contemporary relevance and application of patristic teachings in the 21st century.

**CH325/
ME325**

CHRISTIANITY COMES TO ASIA

(1.5 credits, available for Private Studies)

Home to almost 60 percent of the world's population and the birthplace of all the major religions, Asia was resistant to the gospel for centuries. Apart from the Philippines which has a Roman Catholic majority, most of the other countries have had a Christian population of 1 percent and below. However, in the last three decades remarkable church growth has been noted in a number of countries, including Korea (25 percent), Singapore (14.6 percent), Indonesia (13 percent), and China (3 percent). In the case of the last, the Christian population has grown from 3.5 million in 1949 to what has been estimated at above 30 million today, almost a tenfold increase.

CH391

CHURCH HISTORY GUIDED STUDY

(1.5 credits)

This guided study is for students who wish to explore a specific area of study within the department of Church History. Upon approval of a topic, the student will engage in independent research under the supervision of a faculty member. For students planning to write a MCS Thesis it is compulsory to take a guided study on the thesis topic first.