Introduction: “Theology of Work: Lay Vocation as Mission”

This is an unusual and special course for the following reasons:

1. It has been promulgated by Dennis Bakke, a well-known businessman who, out of his experiencing “Joy at Work”, formed the Mustard Seed Foundation that is offering scholarships to the first twenty-five qualified students who enroll in this course. Mr Bakke has written a book called “The Joy at Work”, and has produced a DVD which complements the book, and describes a variety of settings in which his thesis is expressed.

For scholarship assistance, it will be necessary to fill out a formal questionnaire to the City Vision College stating both need and usefulness of the course. The scholarship will be rewarded only to those students who have already successfully completed one City Vision College course.

Mr Bakke, the brother of Dr Ray Bakke, is a well-known urban ministry lecturer and writer. Together with another brother, Lowell, on the staff of Bakke Graduate University, they all help students around the world, finance their urban ministry education. This course, “Theology of Work” or similar derivation is now being taught in many seminars and Bible Institutes worldwide. You will be introduced to all three brothers in the course of the presentations.

2. This is a basic course for both pastors, ministers of all stripes, and “lay” people. Indeed, the assumption of this course is that all people are “called” by God to be ministers in whatever context they find themselves in. Therefore, it is most appropriate for you to be taking this course, whatever your role in life.

3. This course is the first one offered by City Vision College to be concluded in a six week period of time. This will then require about 16-20 hours a week of effort that will engage considerable reading (two texts are assigned), a variety of reading assignments in the internet format itself, a wide variety of assignments, both of personal processing and of an objective nature, and two exams, one at the conclusion of the third week of study and the other at the end.

In many ways, this course breaks down some long-held myths about ministry. Before you begin, read carefully the syllabus with its objectives and assignments. Do not get behind as any catch-up will be virtually impossible.

Introduction to the Major Materials Used:

Joy at Work is a personal narrative of a very successful businessman, Dennis Bakke, who has attempted to integrate Christian principles in the workplace. Under him, AES Energy company grew to be a 60 billion dollar company. Though a graduate of Harvard Business School, he believes that biblical principles are far more helpful and significant for personal and corporate health than the conventional alternatives.

Joy at Work Bible Study DVD. You will be watching six sections of the ten sections of this Bible Study presentation that illustrate various concepts shared in the book, Joy at Work. Each section runs about ten minutes long.
The Other Six Days by Paul Stevens is a deeper theological survey of the importance of all persons who are followers of Christ, to understand their missiological role in life and in context. Dr Stevens has written many books on the theme and has contributed numerous pieces to the curriculum of this course.

“Business as Mission” is a group compilation of a “thinktank” of missiologists and businessmen from around the world that presented their results in 2004 to the Lausanne Committee, an ongoing dialogue with conferences around the world, begun in Lausanne, Switzerland in 1974. The focus of this “paper” is using business as leverage for evangelization, one aspect of this course.