

Edward L. Smither, PhD

Associate Professor of Church History and Intercultural Studies
Liberty University, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary

Education

PhD candidate in Missiology, University of Pretoria, South Africa (2008-present)

- Dissertation: "Brazilian Evangelical Missions Among Arabs: History, Culture, Practice, and Theology" (defense is scheduled for January 27, 2011).
- Committee: C.J.P. Nelus Niemandt (mentor)

PhD in Historical Theology, University of Wales-Trinity Saint David, Lampeter, UK (2006)

- Dissertation: "Principles of Mentoring Spiritual Leaders in the Pastoral Ministry of Augustine of Hippo"
- Committee: Thomas O'Loughlin (mentor), Michael Kelly (internal reader), Thomas Norris (external reader).

Master of Divinity (Church History), Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (2001)

Master of Arts (Intercultural Studies), Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (1999)

Bachelor of Arts (History), North Carolina State University (1993)

Additional Studies

Institut Bourguiba des Langues Vivantes (Classical and Tunisian Arabic), Tunis, Tunisia (2002)

Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales (Classical Arabic), Paris, France (2001)

Awards

MA Student of the Year, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (1999)

Ancient Languages Award, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (2000)

Professional Academic Experience

Teaching

Associate Professor of Church History and Intercultural Studies, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (2008-present)

- Courses taught: History of Christianity I (30-1517); History of Christianity II (1517-present); Patristics; Introduction to Islam; History of Christian Missions; Introduction to Missions; Contextualization of Theology; Current Issues in Missions; Augustine (PhD seminar); Latin Church Fathers (PhD seminar)

Assistant Professor of Church History and Intercultural Studies, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (2006-2008)

Assistant Professor, Department of Humanities, University of Tunis-el Manar (2002-2006)

- Courses taught: Intercultural Studies in Film; Communication; Phonetics.

Other

Advisory Board, Zwemer Institute for Muslim Studies (2011-present)

Research Associate, Department of Missiology, University of Pretoria (2010-present)

Adjunct Professor of Missions, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in partnership with Perspectives on the World Christian Movement (2009-present)

Southeast Regional Vice President, Evangelical Missiological Society (2010-present)

Steering Committee, Evangelical Theological Society Patristics Study Group (2009-present)

Editorial Board, Evangelical Missiological Society Dissertation Series (2009-present)

Advisory Board, Living Bread Ministries (2007-present)

University Service

Co-chair, Intercultural Studies, Liberty University (2010-present)

Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies program coordinator, Liberty Baptist Theological Seminary (2007-present)

Oversaw development of the on-line version of the MA in Intercultural Studies (2007-2009)

Liberty University Graduate Senate (2007-present; Secretary, 2008-2009; Vice Chair, 2009-2010; Chair, 2010-11)

Master of Divinity assessment committee (2008)

PhD in Theology development committee (2007-2008)

Faculty Advisory Board for *Eleutheria*, Graduate School student journal (2010-present)

Publications

Books

Translation of François Decret, *Early Christianity in North Africa*. Eugene, OR: Cascade, 2009.

Augustine as Mentor: A Model for Preparing Spiritual Leaders. Nashville: B & H Academic, 2008.

Articles

"Lessons from a Tentmaking Ascetic in the Egyptian Desert: The Case of Evagrius of Pontus," *Missiology: An International Review* (forthcoming).

"Bridging the 'Excluded Middle': A Study of Brazilian Evangelical Missionaries Serving Among Arab-Muslims," *Global Missiology* 2:8 (January 2011).

"The Impact of Evangelical Revivals on Global Mission: The Case of North American Evangelicals in Brazil in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," *Verbum et Ecclesia* 31:1 (2010).

"Learning from Patristic Evangelism and Discipleship," in Hartog, Paul, ed., *The Contemporary Church and the Early Church: Case Studies in Ressourcement* (Evangelical Theological Society Monograph Series). Eugene, OR: Pickwick, 2010, 27-49.

"Remembering the Story: Historical Reflection Leading to Spiritual Dialogue," *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 45:3 (July 2009), 298-303.

"'To Emulate and Imitate': Possidius' Life of Augustine as a Fifth-Century Discipleship Tool," *Southwestern Journal of Theology* 50:2 (Spring 2008), 144-166.

"Dressed for Worship: Reflections on Worship in an International, Multi-cultural Church," *Ethnodoxology Journal* 4:1 (2008), 4-9.

"An Unrecognized and Unlikely Influence? The Impact of Valerius of Hippo on Augustine," *Irish Theological Quarterly* 72:3 (2007), 251-264.

"From New Believer to Church Leader: The Value of 'Intermediate Steps,'" *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 42:3 (July 2007), 308-314.

"Storying for Urban Dwellers: Evangelism via Film Discussion Groups," *International Journal of Frontier Missions* 23:2 (2006), 57-60.

Encyclopedia Entries

"Christar," "Crossworld," "Frontiers," "Interserve," and "Partners International" in Kurian, George T. ed., *Baker Handbook of Denominations and Ministries*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Academic (forthcoming).

"Pachomius" in Kurian, George T. ed., *Encyclopedia of Christianity and Civilization*. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing (forthcoming).

"Athanasius," "Augustine," "Church Councils," and "Tertullian," in Hindson, Edward and Caner, Ergun, *The Popular Encyclopedia of Apologetics*, Eugene, OR: Harvest House Publishers, 2008.

Book Reviews

Mark Shaw, *Global Awakening: How 20th Century Revivals Triggered a Christian Revolution*. *Eruditio Ardescens* (forthcoming).

Craig Ott, Steven Strauss, and Timothy Tennent, *Encountering Theology of Mission*. *Criswell Theological Review* (forthcoming).

Christopher A. Hall, *Worshiping with the Church Fathers*. *Criswell Theological Review* (forthcoming).

Timothy C. Tennent, *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the 21st Century*. *Great Commission Research Journal* (forthcoming)

Mark A. Noll, *The New Shape of Global Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith*, *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* 46:1 (January 2010), 124-125.

Susan R. Holman, ed., *Wealth and Poverty in Early Church and Society*, *Journal of Early Christian Studies* 17:4 (Winter 2009), 680-682.

Eckhard Schnabel, *Paul the Missionary: Realities, Strategies, and Methods*, *Criswell Theological Review* 7:1 (Fall 2009), 104-105.

Dudley Woodberry, ed., *From Seed to Fruit*, *Criswell Theological Review* 6:2 (Spring 2009), 117-119

Martin I. Klauber and Scott Manetsch, eds., *The Great Commission: Evangelicals and the History of World Missions*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 51:4 (December 2008), 878-881.

Thomas Oden, *How Africa Shaped the Christian Mind: Rediscovering the African Seedbed of Western Christianity*, *Criswell Theological Review*, 6:1 (Fall 2008), 119-121.

George Demacopoulos, *Five Models of Spiritual Direction in the Early Church*, *Criswell Theological Review* 6:1 (Fall 2008), 107-108.

Bryan Litfin, *Getting to Know the Church Fathers: An Evangelical Introduction*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 51:1 (March 2008), 174-178.

Gilbert Meilaender, *The Way That Leads There: Augustinian Reflections on the Christian Life*, *Journal of the Evangelical Theological Society* 50:3 (September, 2007), 665-668.

Invited Papers/Presentations

"Ancient Models of Urban Mission: Reflecting on Basil of Caesarea (329-379) and Augustine of Hippo's Approach to Ministering in the City," Southeast Regional Evangelical Missiological Society, Atlanta, GA, March 25-26, 2011.

"Missão Integral Applied: Brazilian Models of Holistic Mission in the Arab-Muslim World," Evangelical Theological Society national meeting, Atlanta, GA, November 17, 2010.

"Bridging the 'Excluded Middle': The Relevance of the Spiritual Worldview of Brazilian Missionaries Serving Among Folk Muslims," Evangelical Missiological Society Southeast Regional Meeting, Greenville, SC, March 19-20, 2010

Response to David Alexander, "The Evangelical Relevance of Augustine's Early Call to Universal Asceticism in *Uera Religione*," Evangelical Theological Society national meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 18, 2009.

"Lessons from a Tentmaking Ascetic in the Egyptian desert: The Case of Evagrius of Pontus," Evangelical Theological Society national meeting, New Orleans, LA, November 18, 2009.

"North American Revivals and the Beginning of Evangelical Mission in Brazil," Liberty University History Conference, April 16-18, 2009.

"Learning from Patristic Evangelism and Discipleship," Evangelical Theological Society national meeting Providence, RI, November 20, 2008.

"*Aemulator Et Imitator: Possidius' Vita Augustini* as a Fifth-Century Discipleship Tool," Evangelical Theological Society national meeting, San Diego, CA, November 15, 2007.

"Engaging Muslim University Students in America," North American Mission Board (SBC) Consultation on ministry to Muslims in America, Dallas, Texas, October 6, 2007.

“Augustine and *caritas*: friendship that leads to community and understanding,” Second International Conference, University of Tunis, February 1, 2007.

“Coercion or Persuasion: Augustine on the State’s Role in Dealing with Other Religions and Heresies,” 9 Avril University, Tunis, April 8, 22, 2006.

“Augustine’s Philosophy of History,” 9 Avril University, Tunis, October 4, 2005.

“Augustine the Exile and the City of God,” First International Conference, University of Tunis, December 1, 2004.

“L’histoire du christianisme en Tunisie,” Tunisian National History Society, Tunis, February 13, 2004.

Professional Memberships

Evangelical Missiological Society; American Society of Missiology; Evangelical Theological Society; North American Patristics Society

Ministry Experience

2010-present

Member of Bedrock Community Church, Bedford, VA— small group ministry, community outreach, men’s mentoring ministry.

2006-2010

Member of Living Word Baptist Church, Forest, VA—Adult Bible Community teacher, supply preaching, global missions team coordinator.

1994-2006, Life Agape

University student ministry in Virginia, Pennsylvania, France, and North Africa.

1999, Ordained by Hyland Height Baptist Church, Lynchburg, VA

1993-94, Junior High Youth Pastor, Summit Church, Durham, NC

References

Dr. Mike Barnett

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Chair, Intercultural Studies

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Professor Nelus Niemandt

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