

A close-up photograph showing a person's hand pouring water from a white ceramic pitcher into a white ceramic bowl. The bowl contains a person's foot, which is being washed. The scene is set against a dark background, and the lighting highlights the white ceramic and the water being poured. The text "The Christian Church in Ministry" is overlaid on the image in a large, bold, blue font with a white outline.

The Christian Church in Ministry

The Christian Church in Ministry

by **Jesse Miranda**

AN INDEPENDENT-STUDY TEXTBOOK

*Developed in Cooperation with
the Global University Staff*

*Instructional Development Specialist:
Juanita Cunningham*

Illustrator: Brenna Olsen

Unit Art: David Ohlerking, Jr.

Global University
1211 South Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, Missouri 65804
USA

Address of the local ICI office in your area:

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THE ICI CHRISTIAN SERVICE PROGRAM



This is one of 18 courses (subjects) that make up the ICI Christian Service Program. The symbol at the left is a guide for order of study in the series, which is divided into three units of six courses each. *The Christian Church in Ministry* is Course 4 in Unit I. You will benefit by studying the courses in the proper order.

Study materials in the Christian Service Program have been prepared in a self-teaching format especially for Christian workers. These courses provide a student with Bible knowledge and skills needed for practical Christian service. You may study this course in order to receive credit toward a certificate, or for personal enrichment.

ATTENTION

Please read the course introduction very carefully. It is important that you follow these instructions so you can achieve the goals of the course, and be prepared for the student reports.

Address all correspondence concerning the course to your ICI instructor at the address stamped on the copyright page of this study guide.

Course Introduction

The Church in Action

Did you know that the church has an active part in fulfilling God's redemptive plan for the world? Perhaps you thought that the redemptive plan ended with Christ's death on the cross. But Jesus Himself passed on His ministry of redeeming the world to His church.

In this course you will learn that the Great Commission given by Christ is the church's authority to act for God. The church has not been left to carry on the work alone, for Christ sent His Holy Spirit to be our Helper. He works in and through us to fulfill the redemptive plan of God.

The church's ministries are directed three ways: to God, to itself, and to the world. All of these ministries are a response to God's redemptive work. We worship Him because of who He is and what He has done for us. We minister to one another because of the love and unity that binds us together in Christ. We minister to the world with the love of Christ because we are indebted to Him for our own salvation, and we do not want anyone to perish without an opportunity to accept Jesus Christ as Savior.

As you study this course, allow the Holy Spirit to show you ways that you can be more actively involved in the ministries of the church. Let Him produce in you the character of Christ and the spiritual gifts which will give you an effective ministry. The fulfillment of God's redemptive plan is now your responsibility, as a member of the body of Christ, His church!

Course Description

The Christian Church in Ministry is a practical course of study of the church and the men and women who make it a reality. Attention is given to the church's redemptive ministry and the need for the believer to actively participate in this ministry.

The course is designed to help you in three ways: 1) It will help you understand the importance of the church in God's plan for the world; 2) It will give you better understanding of the importance of the Christian's role in Christ's plan for the church; 3) It will help you to see how you can become personally involved in doing God's will through ministry in the church.

Course Objectives

When you have completed this course, you should be able to:

1. Understand the importance of the church in God's plan for the world.
2. Understand the importance of the Christian's role in Christ's plan for the church.
3. Discover ways of becoming personally involved through ministry in the church.
4. Explain God's plan and the purpose of Christ's ministry.
5. Describe the church's ministry to God, to itself, and to the world.
6. Appreciate the ministry as the function of all the people of God.
7. Understand the necessity for personal involvement in church ministry.

Textbooks

You will use *The Christian Church in Ministry* by Jesse Miranda as both the textbook and study guide for the course. The Bible (*Today's English Version*) is the only other textbook required. Most of the Scriptures quoted in this course are from *Today's English Version* (TEV). In a few instances we have quoted from the *King James Version* (KJV) or the *New International Version* (NIV) where those versions seemed to give a clearer translation of the original Hebrew or Greek text in which the Bible was written.

Study Time

How much time you actually need to study each lesson depends in part on your knowledge of the subject and the strength of your study skills before you begin the course. The time you spend also depends on the extent to which you follow directions and develop skills necessary for independent study. Plan your study schedule so that you spend enough time to reach the objectives stated by the author of the course and your personal objectives as well.

Lesson Organization and Study Pattern

Each lesson includes: 1) lesson title, 2) opening statement, 3) lesson outline, 4) lesson objectives, 5) learning activities, 6) key words, 7) lesson development including study questions, 8) self-test (at the end of the lesson development), 9) answers to the study questions.

The lesson outline and objectives will give you an overview of the subject, help you to focus your attention on the most important points as you study, and tell you what you should learn.

Most of the study questions in the lesson development can be answered in spaces provided in this study guide. Longer answers should be written in a notebook. As you write the answers in your notebook, be sure to record the number and title of the lesson. This will help you in your review for the unit student reports.

Do not look ahead at the answers until you have given your answer. If you give your own answers, you will remember what you study much better. After you have answered the study questions, check your answers with those given at the end of the lesson. Then correct those you did not answer correctly. The answers are not given in the usual numerical order so that you will not accidentally see the answer to the next question.

These study questions are very important. They will help you to remember the main ideas presented in the lesson and to apply the principles you have learned.

How to Answer Questions

There are different kinds of study questions and self-test questions in this study guide. Below are samples of several types and how to answer them. Specific instructions will be given for other types of questions that may occur.

A *MULTIPLE-CHOICE* question or item asks you to choose an answer from the ones that are given.

Example

- 1** The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books.
 - b) 66 books.
 - c) 27 books.

The correct answer is *b) 66 books*. In your study guide, make a circle around *b)* as shown here:

- 2** The Bible has a total of
- a) 100 books
 - b) 66 books.**
 - c) 27 books.

(For some multiple-choice items, more than one answer will be correct. In that case, you would circle the letter in front of each correct answer.)

A *TRUE-FALSE* question or item asks you to choose which of several statements are TRUE.

Example

- 2** Which statements below are TRUE?
- a) The Bible has a total of 120 books.
 - b) The Bible is a message for believers today.**
 - c) All of the Bible authors wrote in the Hebrew language.
 - d) The Holy Spirit inspired the writers of the Bible.**

Statements **b** and **d** are true. You would make a circle around these two letters to show your choices.

A *MATCHING* question or item asks you to match things that go together, such as names with descriptions, or Bible books with their authors.

Example

3 Write the number for the leader's name in front of each phrase that describes something he did.

- | | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------|
| ¹
.... a | Received the Law at Mt. Sinai | 1) Moses |
| ²
.... b | Led the Israelites across Jordan | 2) Joshua |
| ²
.... c | Marched around Jericho | |
| ¹
.... d | Lived in Pharaoh's court | |

Phrases **a** and **d** refer to Moses, and phrases **b** and **c** refer to Joshua. You would write **1** beside **a** and **d**, and **2** beside **b** and **c**, as you see above.

Ways to Study This Course

If you study this ICI course by yourself, all of your work can be completed by mail. Although ICI has designed this course for you to study on your own, you may also study it in a group or class. If you do this, the instructor may give you added instructions besides those in the course. If so, be sure to follow his instructions.

Possibly you are interested in using the course in a home Bible study group, in a class at church, or in a Bible school. You will find both the subject content and study methods excellent for these purposes.

Unit Student Reports

In the back of your study guide are located the unit student reports and answer sheets. These are to be completed according to the instructions included in the course and in the instructions in the unit student reports. After you have completed the answer sheets, send them to your instructor for grading and suggestions regarding your work.

Certificate

Upon the successful completion of the course and the final grading of the unit answer sheets by your ICI instructor, you will receive your Certificate of Award. Or, if you prefer, you may study this course for personal enrichment without receiving a certificate.

Author of This Course

Dr. Jesse Miranda is an ordained minister with a rich background in church ministries. He has served as pastor, teacher, school principal, college-seminary president, district secretary-treasurer, district assistant superintendent, and district superintendent for his church organization. He is currently Professor of Urban Ministries and Associate Dean for Urban and Multi-Cultural Affairs, C. P. Haggard School of Theology, Azusa Pacific University.

Dr. Miranda has also served on the Board of Directors for the Greater Los Angeles Sunday School Association and for *Latinos Para Cristo* in Los Angeles. He was chairman of the Hispanic Association for Theological Education for three years, and he was chairman of the Hispanic Advisory Committee at Fuller Seminary for four years. He is listed in the 1974 edition of *Who's Who in Religion*.

Dr. Miranda received a ministerial diploma from Latin American Bible Institute; a B.A. in biblical studies from Southern California College; a M.R.E. from Talbot School of Theology, Biola University; a M.Ed. from California State University; and a D.Min. from Fuller Theological Seminary.

Your ICI Instructor

Your ICI instructor will be happy to help you in any way possible. If you have any questions about the course or the unit student reports, please feel free to ask him. If several people want to study this course together, ask about special arrangements for group study.

God bless you as you begin to study *The Christian Church in Ministry*. May it enrich your life and Christian service and help you fulfill more effectively your part in the body of Christ.

Additional Helps

Other materials are available for use with this Individual Study Textbook, including supplemental audio cassettes, video cassettes, an Instructor's Guide, and an Instructor's Packet (for instructor's use only). Consult the Evangelism, Discipleship, and Training Manual.

Unit One

The World: God's Purpose for Action

