

# ANCCI UNIVERSITY

## CH 103 THE EARLY CHURCH HISTORY (70-312)

### **RATIONALE**

Our faith is based on truth and tradition. Tradition is the accumulated interpretation and application of truth. If truth and tradition conflict; truth shall prevail. We therefore require historical data to support our beliefs. For a period of two thousand years the church has wrestled with this task and statements of faith and or creeds are the product of such endeavors. We notably recognize the early church fathers who tirelessly gave their life to such noble task.

Bildad the Shuhite was inspired to give such advice to Job. "Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned, for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding?" (Job 8:8-10).

### **OBJECTIVES**

The student will have completed the course CH 101 – The introduction to church history. This course will go further to cover the period from 70AD to 312AD. Historical activities were enormous as the Christian church was taking shape.

The conflict of Jewish culture and that of gentiles posed a problem to the church. The early church fathers addressed this issue diligently and presented the gospel above these conflicting cultures. Greek philosophy took center stage in confronting the Christian faith while Judaism distance itself from Christianity giving room for state to seek to destroy the faith through severe persecution.

## **STRATEGY**

- The student will seek to understand the Christian faith and pagan culture.
- Development of creeds as a response to arguments raised by philosophers.
- Gnosticism
- Persecution under Domitian and Diocletian.
- Apologists and teachers of the church: Polycarp, Ignatius of Antioch, Irenaeus of Lyons, Clement of Alexandria, Tertullian of Carthage, Origen of Alexandria and Cyprian.
- Missionary methods.
- Development of the Christian community.
- Worship and organization of the church
- Constantine.

## **REQUIRED TEXT BOOK**

- New International Version of the Bible
- The Story of Christianity, Vol.1 The Early Church to the dawn of Reformation by Justo L.Gonzalez (second edition). Harper Collins Publishers, 10 East 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10022.

## **EVALUATION**

When the student is ready for the examination please contact the Instructor.

All Nations Christian Church International University system of grading will be employed.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FURTHER READING**

- The Early Church (The Penguin History of the Church) by Henry Chadwick). Penguin Putnam Inc., 375 Hudson Street, New York, N.Y. 10014
- Christianizing the Roman Empire A.D. 100-400 by Ramsay MacMullen, New Haven: Yale University press, 1984