

## INSTRUCTORS



*“Working with university students in Latin America... made me much more aware of the anger and frustration that goes along with poverty... how do we respect these people who have been oppressed for so long? All these became... intensely personal, Christian questions for me.”*

**Ruth Padilla DeBorst**

*“We have...become increasingly aware of [Latin America's] rampant violence, injustice, poverty, corruption, family breakdown, ecological degradation, and hopelessness. We believe, however, that there is Good News for Latin America in the midst of it all.”*



**James Padilla DeBorst**

*“[Teaching and preaching] good news in hard places... is theology from below. It is a biblical conversation set in the underbelly of a global, urban and postmodern world... Could it be that the deepest reservoirs of God's grace are located in the lowest places?”*



**Joel VanDyke**  
(Coauthor of *Geography of Grace*)

## CENTRAL AMERICAN COORDINATOR

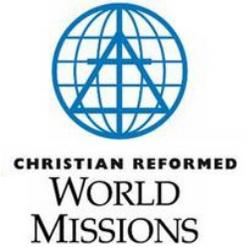
*“I realized that Guatemala was too big to change by myself. I decided Guatemala City would be a more attainable target for transformational ministry... That didn't work either and I ended up working in one street... among people living in poverty and despair.”*



**Joel Aguilar**



and



introduce the

## Master of Worldview Studies in Urban Ministry:

*A One-Year Graduate Program  
With a Practicum in Central America*

offered by the



## INTRODUCING THE MWS IN URBAN MINISTRY

The Institute for Christian Studies (ICS) is excited to offer the Master of Worldview Studies in Urban Ministry, presented by the Center for Interdisciplinary Theological Studies in Costa Rica (CETI) and the Center for Transforming Mission: Guatemala (CMT Guatemala).

This new extension of ICS's well-established MWS program is intended to offer an urban ministry-focused slate of courses in Latin America to complement volunteer work programs in four countries: Costa Rica (Casa Adobe), Guatemala (CMT Guatemala), Nicaragua (Nehemiah Center), and El Salvador (Seeds of New Creation). The MWS:UM is typically completed in conjunction with volunteer positions listed through Christian Reformed World Missions.

**The start date for this inaugural cohort is set to be January 2014. ICS online applications for the first cohort are due no later than September 30, 2013.**

[www.icscanada.edu/academics/master-of-worldview-studies/urban-ministry](http://www.icscanada.edu/academics/master-of-worldview-studies/urban-ministry)

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## PROGRAM STRUCTURE

The MWS:UM's curriculum will consist of six course credits and a two-credit, action-oriented project centered around a participant's set of missional goals and interests.

The MWS in Urban Ministry is designed to be completed in three semesters. Coursework takes place in the Winter (Spring) and Fall of 2014, while the project is completed in Winter (Spring) 2015. The proposed graduation date for the inaugural cohort is May 2015.

*Please note that this is a pilot project and requires the authorization of the ICS Senate in the Fall of 2013. All offers of admission will be conditional subject to final approval.*

## COURSE LIST

All classes are taught as hybrid distance courses. Each cohort will visit four countries for a series of one-week on-site intensives.

### Semester One:

- Biblical Foundations
- Foundations of Urban Theology
- Poverty, Diversity and Social Justice
- Spirituality for the Urban Context A

### Semester Two:

- Theology from the Margins
- Discovery, Participation and Action
- Mediation and Conflict:  
Resolution from Below
- Spirituality for the Urban Context B

### Semester Three:

- Action-Oriented Project

## MASTER OF WORLDVIEW STUDIES

The Master of Worldview Studies (MWS) is an academic program with an action focus. Designed for those who want to enhance their understanding of how to serve Christ in their professional lives and other areas of socio-cultural engagement, it fosters a personal and communal "philosophy of life" rather than academic, philosophical understanding. The wisdom it seeks is revealed in Jesus Christ, Scripture and our daily experience of God's voice in creation.. While this is a way of seeing, it is more fundamentally a way of being, permeating the whole of life.

There are four concentrations available within the MWS program:

- **Urban Ministry**
- **Education**
- **Art, Religion, and Theology**
- **Social Justice**

ICS intends to be a Christian environment where hard and honest questions are welcome. It supports inquiry that takes underlying religious convictions into account, working from within the reformational tradition, and presuming that academic work should be an integral expression of the deepest intellectual and religious impulses. Within this perspective, the MWS also embodies other priorities: a commitment to cultural engagement and social justice, international accessibility through distance studies, and a direct engagement by on-campus Junior Members with ICS's urban setting, drawing not only on the city's scholarly resources, but on its many cultural, professional, charitable, financial and other institutions.