

ANDERSON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

**BIOGRAPHY AS MISSIOLOGY: THE LIFE OF CHARLES SMITH
FOUNDER OF HEART TO HONDURAS**

**A PROFESSIONAL PROJECT SUBMITTED TO
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ABSTRACT

The field of missions is always in a state of flux with institutional and para-mission organizations popping up like mushrooms. This dissertation gives a “face” and shares the vision of Heart to Honduras by focusing on the working principles and Kingdom values of Charles Smith, its visionary and founder. It explores the motives of his heart, “listens” to his teachings, describes his visions, evaluates his behavior, learns from his failures, cites his successes and values his wisdom. This dissertation documents his core values such as social justice, denominational unity, leadership, conflict resolution, transformational ministry and simplicity.

This project describes how biography can be healthy missiology when the life of a person is written with balance and integrity. This project initially defines the role biography can serve in missions as well as the dangers of hagiography.

Righteousness and justice are two socio-religious strands that thread this document. It examines these two societal strands or themes and how they were executed on behalf of the poor by an applied anthropologist not only with a Christian perspective but with the local church as the pivot upon which true mission revolves. It brings to light how central the theme of righteousness was to Charles Smith and how he created a beautiful mosaic of justice through the church in all he accomplished in Honduras.

This project reveals his frustration with institutions bogged down in red tape, his impatience with bureaucracy and his disdain for regulatory systems that delayed the distribution of commodities, funds and resources while the poor were dying. It shares the power of the right vision at the right time in the right place for the right reason.

In addition to Charles Smith’s core values, this project scrutinizes his beliefs,

values and behaviors, delineating how his beliefs determined his values and his values determined his behaviors.

Because he was a pioneer in missions and exhibited peculiar behavioral traits within and outside the secular and religious institutions, this project uses him as a learning model. This project was also written to assist others attempting to pioneer a transformational ministry and share how they might learn from lessons modeled by Smith.