We are now facing one of the greatest challenges in all of history—the challenge of reaching unprecedented numbers of people with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.”
Church Planting & Development
Course Introduction

I. PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

**CHURCH PLANTER BASIC TRAINING** is designed to equip church planters and coaches with the principles and strategies needed for starting and developing healthy, growing, reproducing churches.

In this intensive and comprehensive learning experience, planters and coaches will learn, in hands-on ways, how to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry and church development.

Lectures, discussion, and workshop activities will allow participants to formulate vision, values, mission, and strategy that can find immediate application in the field. Church planting methodology (*Seven Seasons of Church Planting*) will be surveyed from pre-birth to reproduction.

**Some Topics Covered:**
- Confirming the church planter’s call
- Determining the ministry focus group
- Designing a church planting action plan
- Creating a church planting proposal
- Establishing a core group and launch team
- Developing gospel-centered ministries
- Mentoring church ministry leaders
- Leading the church to healthy growth
- Managing conflict in the church
- Ordering the church planter’s private world
- Establishing a church multiplication movement
II. SCOPE OF THE COURSE

A. Vision for Church Planting: “A Visionary Leader”

B. Philosophy of Ministry: “An Accurate Assessor”

C. Methodology: “A Skilled Practitioner”

D. Management: “An Effective Manager”

E. Personal Life of Church Planter: “A Godly Person”
III. GOALS OF THE COURSE

A. Relative to Vision for Church Planting:

    The Student…

1. Understands the imperative for church planting in terms of Scripture, demographics and practical ministry results.

2. Can define church planting in terms of the primary goals involved in the church planting process.

3. Understands basic church growth and evangelism typologies as they relate to church planting.

4. Recognizes the critical need and primary dynamics involved in planting new churches among both reached and unreached people groups of the world.

5. Realizes the major church planting myths and is able to respond knowledgeably to them.

6. Shares the vision of being a vital, ongoing part of a church planting movement with the goal of “A church for every people group and the Gospel for every person” (AD 2000) in this generation.
B. Relative to Philosophy of Ministry for Church Planting:

The Student…

1. Understands the biblical nature and mission of the church, especially as it relates to the “vision” of starting of new churches as a vital part of God’s master plan for the evangelization of the world.

2. Knows the essential (sine qua non) ministry purposes of the church as defined by the Bible and the various ways they may be expressed in starting a new church in a particular cultural context.

3. Understands the dynamics behind the various ministry styles, values and beliefs in developing effective ministries for a particular target group.

4. Develops a “discipleship strategy” to make, build and multiply disciples through the local church plant.

5. Is familiar with the basic models of church planting, understanding their relative strengths and weaknesses.

6. Has started taking the steps necessary for developing his own philosophy of ministry and “action plan” (Church Planting Prospectus) to plant a multiplying church.
C. Relative to Methodology for Church Planting:

The Student…

1. Understands the major stages involved in the church planting process and the time requirements and primary objectives of each stage.

2. Is aware of how his spiritual gifts, theology and philosophy of ministry influence and direct his methodology in church planting.

3. Knows the dynamics involved in developing ministries during the various stages of the church planting process.

4. Knows in what sequence to develop the essential ministries of the church and the typical steps required in order to develop each church planting stage.

5. Is aware of the resources available for ongoing training and support in church planting, church growth, church renewal and church multiplication.
D. Relative to Ministry Management in Church Planting:

The Student…

1. Understands the significance and role of organizational church growth in comparison to quantitative and qualitative church growth.

2. Knows the importance of the role of the church planter as a manager/leader of the church as an organization.

3. Is familiar with the management process dynamics of planning, organizing and leading required in church planting.

4. Understands the nature, inevitability and destructive potential of church conflict.

5. Is aware of the fundamental principles of conflict management.
E. Relative to the Personal Life of the Church Planter:

The Student…

1. Understands the danger of the “Ministry Success Syndrome” and has developed a biblical view of success.

2. Knows how to balance competing time demands by ordering his life according to concomitant priorities as defined in Scripture.

3. Understands the difference between goals and desires as they relate to work and prayer.

4. Is aware of the value and importance of “principle centered living” in the work of the ministry.

5. Has learned to enjoy the process of ministry and not just the product.

6. Understands the significance of leading others by being the “servant leader” and the “chief repenter”, always pointing others to Christ.
IV. REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

A. Class Attendance and Discussion
   This course follows the lecture/discussion method, requiring attendance and participation in all classes.

B. Church Planting Prospectus
   The student will write a 15-20 page (single spaced) real or hypothetical church planting prospectus showing the application of the principles taught in the course. The prospectus will include vision, philosophy, strategy, plan, and core values for a new church. See due dates below.

C. Church Planting Action Points
   Students will be assigned "Action Points" related to the course lectures (see the Action Points handout in the Introduction Appendix). Assignments will be due one week after they are assigned in class.

D. Church Planting Reading
   Hughes, Kent and Barbara, Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome. Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.
   Stetzer, Edward, Planting New Churches in a Postmodern Age. Nashville: Broadman & Holman.

   Students are required to submit a reading report on each book using the format of the Reading Report Form located in the Introduction Appendix. (Reports that do not follow the required format may not receive credit.) If you have
previously read any of the required reading, please substitute a book from the highly recommended reading list. See due dates below.

E. **Written Examination**

There will be a comprehensive final examination covering the classroom lecture content and the required reading. The examination will comprehensive and essay in format. Study questions and further information about this exam will be provided during the last class period.

F. **Extra Credit (see due dates below)**

- **Ministry experience at a new church plant:** Students are encouraged to participate in at least one service project during the semester (preferably an outreach ministry) at a local church plant and to write a 2-page (single spaced) report sharing insights gained.

- **Interview(s) with church planter(s):** Students are encouraged to interview at least one church planter and write a 3-4 page (single spaced) report on insights gained.

- **Worship at a new church plant:** Students are encouraged to worship at least one time at a local church plant and write a 2 page (single spaced) report sharing insights gained. Students may be asked to share insights from their reports with the class during the second half of the semester.

- **Book review:** Students are encouraged to read additional books from the recommended reading list. For credit, the students are required to submit a reading report on each book using the format of the Reading Report Form located in the Introduction Appendix.
F. DUE DATES

Church Planting Prospectus
Thursday, May 12, 2005, 11:00AM.

Extra Credit Reports
Thursday, May 5, 2005, 9:00AM.

Reading Reports
Hughes Reading Report
Thursday, February 24, 2005, 9:00AM

Malphurs Reading Report
Thursday, March 10, 2005, 9:00AM

Stetzer Reading Report
Thursday, April 7, 2005, 9:00AM

Lovelace Reading Report
Thursday, April 21, 2005, 9:00AM

Written Examination (RTS Orlando Schedule)
May 16, 17, 18 or 19.
V. GRADING OF THE COURSE

A. Class Attendance and Discussion
   Unexcused absences and tardies will affect the final grade.

B. Church Planting Prospectus (35%)

C. Church Planting Actions Points (20%)

D. Church Planting Reading & Reports (25%)

E. Final Examination (20%)
REVIEW REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name
Course Title & Number
Professor
Date

Title of Book
Complete Bibliographic Reference

Overview—Give a brief overview of the book, including its theme, perspective and approach.

Critique—Offer a brief critique of the book, including elements of strength and weakness.

Application—Offer some specific application to your own ministry—demonstrating the value and relevance of the material in this book.

Best Quote—Be sure to include the page number where the quote can be found.

Did you read the entire book thoughtfully (not merely skimmed)? Yes ___ No ___ % If “No” then indicate percentage read (0-99%) ___
Confidential Student Information

Please fill out and turn in at the first class.

Name:

Spouse name:

Children, name(s) and age(s):

RTS degree program/emphasis:

Years at RTS-Orlando:

Church presently attending:

Denomination background (Southern Baptist, PCA, etc.):

Desired future ministry role (pastor, church planter, missionary, counselor, etc.):

What are your expectations of the course? What would you like to learn?

What is a specific, personal prayer request you would like the professor to be remembering in prayer for you this semester?