

Church Planting & Development 2MS702 (Spring 2009)

I. Purpose of the Course

This course is designed to give you an introduction to the ministry of church planting, growth and multiplication. The emphasis will be on equipping students with the principles and strategies needed for starting and developing Gospel-Centered Churches. You will learn, in hands-on ways, how to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry and church development strategy. Lectures, discussion, and learning activities will allow you to formulate your own personal ministry vision, values, mission, and strategy that can find immediate application in the field. Church planting methodology (Seasons of Church Planting) will be surveyed from pre-birth to reproduction.

Topics Include:

- 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. Course Objectives

The Student:

- Understands the imperative for church planting in terms of Scripture, demographics and practical ministry results.
- Can define church planting in terms of the primary goals involved in the church planting process.
- Understands basic church growth and evangelism typologies as they relate to church planting.
- Recognizes the critical need and primary dynamics involved in planting new churches among both reached and unreached people groups of the world.
- Realizes church planting myths and is able to respond knowledgeably to them.
- Shares the vision of being a vital, ongoing part of a church planting movement.
- Understands the biblical nature and mission of the church, especially as it relates to the vision of starting of new churches among all nations.
- 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.
- Understands the dynamics behind the various ministry styles, values and beliefs in developing effective ministries for a particular ministry focus group.
- Develops an intentional discipleship strategy to make, build and multiply disciples through the local church plant.

- Is familiar with the basic models of church planting, understanding their relative strengths and weaknesses.
- Has started taking the steps necessary for developing a personal philosophy of ministry and “action plan” (Planting Prospectus) to plant a multiplying church.
- Understands the major seasons (Seven Seasons) involved in the church planting process and the time requirements and primary objectives of each stage.
- Is aware of how one’s spiritual gifts, theology and philosophy of ministry influence and direct methodology in church planting.
- Knows the dynamics involved in developing ministries during the various seasons of the church planting process.
- Knows in what sequence to develop the essential ministries of the church and the typical action-steps required in order to develop each church planting season.
- Is aware of the resources available for ongoing training and support in church planting, growth, renewal and multiplication.
- Understands the significance and role of organizational church growth in comparison to quantitative and qualitative church growth.
- Knows the importance of the role of the church planter as a teacher (prophet), pastor (shepherd), and leader (king), i.e. manager/leader of the church as an organization.
- Is familiar with the basic ministry management process dynamics of planning, organizing and leading required in church planting.
- Understands the nature, inevitability and destructive potential of church conflict.
- Is aware of the fundamental principles and methods of conflict management in the church.
- Understands the danger of the “Ministry Success Syndrome” and is developing a biblical view of success.
- Knows how to balance competing time demands by ordering life and ministry according to concomitant priorities as defined in Scripture.
- Understands the difference between goals and desires as they relate to work and prayer.
- Is aware of the value and importance of “principle centered living” in ministry.
- Has learned to enjoy the process of ministry and not just the product of ministry.
- Understands the significance of leading others by being a servant and a chief repenter, always pointing others to Christ.

III. Course Format

This course is scheduled to be taught in 14 three-hour classroom sessions (9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) beginning Thursday, February 5, 2009, and ending Thursday, May 7, 2009. (There will be no class on Thursday, March 26 because of *RTS Reading Week*.) Classroom sessions may include: lecture (including guest lecturers), class interaction, student reports and presentations, video presentations, self-study exercises, motivation activities, and small group sharing. Occasionally, individual and small group work sessions may be conducted during the class time. Group study outside of class is strongly encouraged, including preparation for the final exam.

Office Hours: You can schedule an appointment with me through my administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler, at 407-366-9493 x219 or jsisler@rts.edu. Your teaching assistants for this course are Edwin Collado: ecollado@rts.edu; 786-325-8665, and Matt Ryman: mryman@upc-orlando.com; 320-309-1149. Please contact Edwin or Matt first (not me) for all course issues (waivers, late papers, extensions, etc.). Appointments are normally scheduled on Thursdays from 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Additional times may be arranged by contacting Joyce.

IV. Course Texts

Required:

Childers, Steven L., Foundations & Essentials for Church Planting, Orlando, FL: Global Church Advancement, Inc., 2008. (Class notes will be sold on the first day of class.)

Lovelace, Richard, Renewal as a Way of Life. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1985. ISBN 978-1579108663

Miller, John C, (Jack), Outgrowing the Ingrown Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1999. ISBN 978-0310284116

Stetzer, Edward, Planting Missional Churches. Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006. ISBN 978-0805443707

Warren, Rick, The Purpose Driven Church. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995. ISBN 978-0310201069

V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation

This course requires attendance and participation. Class lectures and discussions are based on the assumption that you have completed all of the assigned readings and weekly class assignments (*Action Point Exercises*—see below). Tardiness, unexcused absence and/or lack of class participation will impact your final grade.

B. Church Planting Proposal (35%)

You will write a minimum 15-20 page (single spaced with graphics, diagrams, timelines, etc.) real or hypothetical church planting proposal (prospectus) showing the application of the principles and methods taught in the course. The proposal will include your vision, philosophy, strategy, plan, core values and timeline for a new church (hopefully one you might truly want to plant soon). The proposal is due Wednesday, May 15 at 11:00 a. m.

C. Church Planting Action Point Exercises (20%)

To help the student find immediate personal application of the principles taught in class, students will periodically be assigned *Action Point Exercises*. These assignments will be due one week (next class) after they are assigned in class and will normally be included as part of the student's final church planting proposal (above).

D. Church Planting Reading (25%)

Students are required to submit a one-page maximum reading report on each book using the format of the *Reading Report Form* located in the syllabus appendix. Reports that do not follow the required format will not receive credit. Report deadlines are listed below.

E. Final Examination (20%)

There will be a comprehensive final examination (take-home, open-book) covering the classroom lecture content and the required reading. The examination will be comprehensive and essay in format.

VI. Grading

Grades will be assigned according to the RTS grading system: 100-97=A, 96-94=A-, 93-91=B+, 90-88=B, 87-86=B-, 85-83=C+, 82-80=C, 79-78=C-, 77-75=D+, 74-72=D, 71-70=D-, below 70=F.

Late Assignments Policy

Please do not ask my teaching assistant or me for permission to turn in an assignment late. All late assignments will automatically be penalized. If you have truly been providentially hindered from completing an assignment on time (such as a serious illness or death in the immediate family), turn in a written request (to my teaching assistant) asking to waive the late penalty with the assignment. Please discuss any such special circumstances with my teaching assistant. No assignments will be received after May 15.

Grading Percentages:

- Church Planting Proposal (35%)
--Due Friday, May 15, 11:00 a. m.

- Church Planting Action Point Exercises (20%)
--Due periodically throughout the semester

- Church Planting Reading (25%)
--Lovelace Reading Report: Thursday, February 19, 9:00AM
--Stetzer Reading Report: Thursday, March 19, 9:00AM
--Miller Reading Report: Thursday, April 16, 9:00AM
--Warren Reading Report: Thursday, May 7, 9:00AM

- Final Examination (20%)
--May 18-21

READING REPORT GUIDELINES

Your Name

Course Title & Number

Professor

Date

Limit your report to one typed (12 pt font), single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (*Overview, Critique, Application*).

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 ___ % Read (0-100) ____