Church Growth & Renewal 2MS703 (Spring 2014)

I. Course Purpose
This course is designed to give you a biblical, theological, missiological, and practical introduction to the ministry of church growth and renewal. The emphasis will be on equipping students with the principles and strategies needed for growing and renewing healthy, reproducing, gospel-centered churches that result in healthy, growing, reproducing disciples among all nations. Leaders from more than 50 countries, representing over 300 denominations and 7 languages, have taken this training to date. Thought provoking lectures, interactive discussions, and practical, adult-learning activities (including the use of hybrid-social media in and outside of class) will allow you to formulate your own culturally contextualized methodologies that can find immediate application in church ministry. The primary thesis of the course is that “healthy church grow holistically” so church leaders must learn to focus primarily on church health, not church growth. The outcome of the course will be a personalized Church Growth and Renewal Proposal the student can actually use in leading a new or established church toward healthy growth and renewal.

Course Topics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Key Question</th>
<th>Growth Plan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vision</td>
<td>Why does the church exist?</td>
<td>Vision Statement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prayer</td>
<td>How do I develop prayer ministries?</td>
<td>Prayer Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>How do I develop worship ministries?</td>
<td>Worship Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Groups</td>
<td>How do I develop groups &amp; community?</td>
<td>Groups Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Preaching</td>
<td>How do I develop preaching ministry?</td>
<td>Preaching Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mercy</td>
<td>How do I develop mercy ministries?</td>
<td>Mercy Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelism</td>
<td>How do I develop outreach ministries?</td>
<td>Outreach Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipleship</td>
<td>How do I develop discipleship ministries?</td>
<td>Discipleship Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>How do I develop church leaders?</td>
<td>Leadership Plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>What do I do in the first/next 12 months?</td>
<td>Ministry Plan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Priorities</td>
<td>How do I survive and thrive personally?</td>
<td>Personal Plan</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OUTCOME: Practical Church Growth & Renewal Plan (based on outcomes above)
II. Course Format

The course will be taught in 13 three-hour sessions (6:00pm-9:00pm) beginning Tuesday, February 4, 2013. Classroom sessions will include lecture (including guest lecturers), class interaction, student presentations and reports, video presentations, self-study exercises, and small group interaction. Individual and small group sessions will be conducted during the class time.

Course Enrollment: This course may have limited enrollment in order to maximize interaction with the instructor during the semester. If so, enrollment will be based on a first-come, first-served basis.

Required Use of Social Media: Because of the nature of this course, students are required to own (or have access to) a laptop computer in order to work on assignments during and after class meetings. Students must be familiar with: 1) using the internet (email, browsing, forum-posting, searching, downloading, uploading, etc.), 2) using Microsoft Word (or Pages), Microsoft PowerPoint (or Keynote), and managing PDF (Adobe) documents.

Office Hours: You can schedule an appointment with Dr. Childers through his administrative assistant, Joyce Sisler, at 407-278-4552 or jsisler@rts.edu. Appointments are normally scheduled on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from 2:00-4:00pm. Additional times may be arranged by contacting Joyce. Your teaching assistants are Sungyak Kim (sungyakjkim@gmail.com) and Tezar Putra (tputra@rts.edu). Please contact one of the teaching assistants first for all issues regarding the course. They will refer you to Dr. Childers if necessary.

III. Course Texts


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1 This training manual is not sold to the public but will be sold for “cost” to enrolled RTS students on the first day of class. A teaching assistant will be sending more information to enrolled students before the first class.
IV. Course Instructor

Dr. Steve Childers is a professor of Practical Theology (since 1995) at Reformed Theological Seminary, in Orlando, Florida, where he regularly teaches evangelism, spiritual formation, church planting, church growth, and missions. He has earned masters degrees from Covenant Theological Seminary in St. Louis and Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Chicago, and a doctorate from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. Steve has also done doctoral studies in leadership development and global missions at Fuller Theological Seminary’s School of World Mission in Pasadena, California.

Steve is the founder and President of Global Church Advancement (GCA), based in Orlando, Florida, a church leadership training organization whose mission is “to equip leaders to start, grow and multiply gospel-centered churches among all nations”. From the 1970’s to the mid 1990’s he planted and pastored two churches (urban and suburban) in North America.

Since then Steve has written church planting, growth, renewal and multiplication training curriculum and, through RTS and GCA, helped train thousands of church leaders from more than 300 denominations representing over 50 countries in 7 languages on 5 continents. Steve and his wife Becky live in Orlando, Florida, and have three grown daughters, one son-in-law, and one granddaughter.

Learn more about Steve on:
- Twitter: https://twitter.com/stevechilders
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/steve.childers
- Blog: http://www.stevechilders.org

V. Course Requirements

A. Attendance and Class Participation

This course requires attendance and participation at all class sessions. Class lectures and discussions will be based on the assumption that you have completed the assignments by the required dates. Class will begin promptly at 6:00 pm. Tardiness, unexcused absence and lack of class participation will impact your final grade.

B. Church Growth Practical Exercises (20%)

To help students find immediate, personal application of the principles taught in class, they will be assigned weekly written exercises. These exercises will be linked to all the course topics (Vision, Prayer, Worship, Groups, etc.) and due one week (by the next class) after they are assigned. These exercises will be compiled toward the end of the course as part of the student’s final Church Growth Master Plan.
C. Church Growth Reading (25%)
Students are required to submit (to their electronic portfolio) a one-page maximum reading report on each book using the format of the Reading Report Form located in the syllabus appendix. Report deadlines are listed below.

D. Church Growth Proposal (35%)
Students will write a minimum 15-20 page real or hypothetical church growth and renewal proposal showing the application of the principles and methods taught in the course. The proposal will include specific statements, plans, models, etc. for facilitating church growth and renewal. The proposal is due to the student’s electronic portfolio Friday, May 16 at 11:00 am.

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. Course 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.

Grading Percentages:

- **Church Growth Weekly Exercises (20%)**
  --Due weekly throughout the semester beginning with week 2

- **Church Growth Reading & Reporting Due Dates (25%)**
  --Lovelace Reading Report: Tuesday, March 4.
  --Stetzer Reading Report: Tuesday, April 8
  --Malphurs Reading Report: Tuesday, May 6

- **Church Growth & Renewal Proposal (35%)**
  --Due Friday, May 16, 11:00 am

- **Final Examination (20%)**
  --May 19-22
## VII. Course Bibliography

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Publisher/Editor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clowney, Edmund</td>
<td><em>The Church: Contours of Christian Theology.</em></td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Guidelines for Urban Church Planting.</em></td>
<td>1976</td>
<td>Baker Book House</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Discipling the City.</em></td>
<td>1979</td>
<td>Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Griffith, Jim and Bill</td>
<td><em>Ten Most Common Mistakes Made by Church Starts.</em></td>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Chalice Press</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easum</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Hughes, Kent and</td>
<td><em>Liberating Ministry from the Success Syndrome.</em></td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, Inc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Logan, Robert E.</td>
<td><em>Beyond Church Growth.</em></td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>Old Tappan, NJ: Revell</td>
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<td></td>
<td><em>Be Fruitful and Multiply.</em></td>
<td>2006</td>
<td>ChurchSmart Resources.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Miller, Darrow

Murray, Stuart

Nebel, Tom
2002  *Big Dreams in Small Places: Church Planting in Smaller Communities.* St Charles, IL: ChurchSmart Resources.
2005  *Church Planting Landmines.* ChurchSmart Resources.

Newbigin, Lesslie

Pope, Randy
2002  *The Prevailing Church.* Chicago, IL: Moody.

Roberts, Jr. Bob

Sande, Ken

Schaller, Lyle E.

Schwarz, Christian
1996  *Natural Church Development.* Church Smart Resources, 1996.

Wagner, C. Peter

Warren, Rick
1995  *The Purpose Driven Church: Growth Without Compromising Your Message And Mission.* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan
READING 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 ___ % Read (0-100) ___

Limit your report to one typed (12 pt font), single-spaced page, and one paragraph per topic (Overview, Critique, Application).
# Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

**Course:** Church Growth & Renewal 02MS703  
**Professor:** Dr. Steven L. Childers  
**Campus:** Orlando  
**Date:** Spring 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes</th>
<th>Rubric</th>
<th>Mini-Justification</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Broadly understands and articulates knowledge, both oral and written, of essential biblical, theological, historical, and cultural/global information, including details, concepts, and frameworks.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scripture</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of the original meaning of Scripture. Also, the concepts for and skill to research further into the original meaning of Scripture and to apply Scripture to a variety of modern circumstances. (Includes appropriate use of original languages and hermeneutics; and integrates theological, historical, and cultural/global perspectives.)</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Reformed Theology</strong></td>
<td>Significant knowledge of Reformed theology and practice, with emphasis on the Westminster Standards.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Sanctification</strong></td>
<td>Demonstrates a love for the Triune God that aids the student’s sanctification.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Desire for Worldview</strong></td>
<td>Burning desire to conform all of life to the Word of God.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
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<td><strong>Winsomely Reformed</strong></td>
<td>Embraces a winsomely Reformed ethos. (Includes an appropriate ecumenical spirit with other Christians, especially Evangelicals; a concern to present the Gospel in a God-honoring manner to non-Christians; and a truth-in-love attitude in disagreements.)</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preach</strong></td>
<td>Ability to preach and teach the meaning of Scripture to both heart and mind with clarity and enthusiasm.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
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<td><strong>Worship</strong></td>
<td>Knowledgeable of historic and modern Christian-worship forms; and ability to construct and skill to lead a worship service.</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Shepherd</strong></td>
<td>Ability to shepherd the local congregation: aiding in spiritual maturity; promoting use of gifts and callings; and encouraging a concern for non-Christians, both in America and worldwide.</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church/World</strong></td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td><strong>Strong</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Personal Student Information

*Please email your answers to these questions, with a recent photo, to the professor at schilders@rts.edu*

Name:

Spouse name (if married):

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?