Church Planting & Development 02MS702 (Spring 2015)

I. Purpose of the Course

This course is designed to give you an introduction to the ministry of church planting, growth and renewal. The emphasis will be on equipping students with the biblical principles and strategies needed for starting and developing gospel-centered churches with a vision for the spiritual, social and cultural transformation of entire cities and regions. Christian leaders from more than 50 countries, representing over 300 denominations and mission agencies, have taken this training.

You will learn, in hands-on ways, how to develop a biblical vision for ministry, philosophy of ministry and church development strategy. Lectures, discussions, and learning activities will allow you to formulate your own culturally contextualized values, mission, and church planting strategy that can find immediate application in the field. The primary outcome of the course will be a personalized Church Planting Proposal the student can actually use in planting and developing a church. Note: The Church Planting Proposal (a ministry plan with timeline) normally meets the required criteria of denominations and mission agencies for church planting.

Topics Include:

- Vision: Why does the church exist?
- Calling: How can I confirm my call?
- Focus: How well do I know my ministry focus group?
- Prayer: Who will pray with and for me?
- Philosophy: How can I contextualize without compromise?
- Purpose: What are the church priorities in ministry?
- Values: What are the core motivations for ministry?
- Styles: How does the church do ministry in this culture?
- Models: How will the church ministries work together?
- Finances: How will I raise and manage the finances?
- Conflict: How do I manage conflict when it arises?
- Launching/Planning: How do I launch & plan for the next 12 months?
- Main Thing: How can I survive & thrive personally in all this?
II. Course Objectives

A Mind for Truth: Transforming Your Understanding

- Understands why the church exists.
- Knows how to identify a ministry focus group.
- Realizes the priority of prayer and how to build a prayer team.
- Understands how to contextualize without compromise.
- Identifies a church plant’s priorities in ministry.
- Knows how to determine the core motivations for ministry.
- Understands cultural dynamics of ministry.
- Understands how church ministries work together.
- Knows how to raise and manage ministry finances.
- Understands how to build a launch team.
- Knows how to lead and manage the church.
- Understands the priority of having a clear call.
- Understands how to personally survive and thrive in ministry.

A Heart for God: Transforming Your Affections

- Has a renewed love for the Church.
- Has a deep conviction concerning the biblical priority of church planting.
- Has a broken heart for the lost, especially for those who have no church.
- Leads others by being a servant and a Chief-Repenter.

A Life for Ministry: Transforming Your Behavior

- 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 associated 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.
- Shares the vision of being a vital, ongoing part of a church planting movement.
- Develops an intentional discipleship strategy to make, build and multiply disciples through the local church.
- Has developed a personal philosophy of ministry and action plan (Church Planting Proposal) to plant a multiplying church.
III. Course Format

The course will be taught in 13 three–hour sessions (6:00pm-9:00pm) beginning Tuesday, February 10, 2015. 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.

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 Brandon Velez (brandonevelez@gmail.com) and Christopher Simmons (christopherdonsimmons1@gmail.com). Please contact one of the teaching assistants first for all issues regarding the course. They will refer you to Dr. Childers if necessary.

IV. Course Texts

Required:

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 all of 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 Planting Proposal (50%)
You will write a minimum 15-20 page (single spaced with graphics, diagrams, timelines, etc.) real or hypothetical church planting proposal showing the application of the principles and methods taught in the course. The proposal will include specific statements, plans, models, etc. for a starting new church. The proposal is due (email PDF to TA) Friday, May 15 at 11:00 a. m.

---

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.
C. Church Planting Action Point Exercises (25%)
To help the student find immediate, personal application of the principles taught in class, students will be assigned weekly Action Point Exercises. These assignments will be due one week (by the next class) after they are assigned in class and will be included as part of the student’s final church planting proposal (above).

D. Church Planting Reading (25%)
Students are required to submit (email PDF to TA) 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.

VI. Course Instructor
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) continuing as Pathway Learning (http://www.pathwaylearning.org), based in Orlando. Steve has planted and pastored two churches (urban and suburban). He has written church planting, growth, renewal and multiplication training curriculum and 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, two son- in-laws, 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
VII. 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 the teaching assistants or the professor 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), email a written request (to one of the teaching assistants) asking to waive the late penalty with the assignment. Please discuss any such special circumstances with the teaching assistants. No assignments will be received after May 15.

Grading Percentages:

- **Church Planting Proposal (50%)**
  -- Due Friday, May 15, 11:00 a.m.

- **Church Planting Action Point Weekly Exercises (25%)**
  -- Due weekly throughout the semester beginning with week 2

- **Church Planting Reading & Reporting Due Dates (25%)**
  -- Lovelace Reading Report: Tuesday, February 24.
  -- Stetzer Reading Report: Tuesday, March 24.
  -- Malphurs Reading Report: Tuesday, April 21.
  -- Keller Reading Report: Tuesday, May 12.
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) ____
## Course Objectives Related to MDiv* Student Learning Outcomes

In order to measure the success of the MDiv curriculum, RTS has defined the following as the intended outcomes of the student learning process. Each course contributes to these overall outcomes. This rubric shows the contribution of this course to the MDiv outcomes.

*As the MDiv is the core degree at RTS, the MDiv rubric will be used in this syllabus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><em><em>MDiv</em> Student Learning Outcomes</em>*</th>
<th><strong>Rubric</strong></th>
<th><strong>Mini-Justification</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Articulation (oral &amp; written)</strong></td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Knowledge of church planting and renewal will be presented and articulated in both written assignments and a dialogical teaching approach.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scripture</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Direct engagement with Scripture in the original languages will not be required. Student will demonstrate suitable use of Scripture and hermeneutical methods in understanding the priority of a healthy reproducing church.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed Theology</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Material will be presented through the grid of Reformed Theology and Practice. Minimal emphasis will be placed on the Westminster Standards.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanctification</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>By God’s grace and through interaction with the materials and each other, the student will die more to self, and deepen their affection for the Triune God, the Church, and their neighbors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desire for Worldview</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student will gain a deep understanding of the Mission of God, particularly as it applies to church planting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winsomely Reformed</td>
<td>Strong</td>
<td>Student reads a book by an author who is not Reformed, and discusses the value of ecumenicalism as it applies to church planting and renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preach</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the students a better understanding on how to teach and preach in a church planting context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worship</td>
<td>Minimal</td>
<td>Materials will be presented that give the student a better understanding of the priority of worship in church planting and renewal.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shepherd</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>The student will grow in their understanding of the role of a shepherd in a church planting context.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church/World</td>
<td>Ability to interact within a denominational context, within the broader worldwide church, and with significant public issues.</td>
<td>Strong</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Personal Student Information

Please email you answers directly 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?