

Conflict Management: Equipping Victory Family Centre's Church Planting Teams
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ABSTRACT

Conflict has existed since time immemorial. As long as two or more persons are in relationship, differences in perspective, opinions, values, and personality traits will materialize. These differences can evolve into conflict, harm relationships, and impede goal accomplishment.

For Victory Family Centre (VFC), a church that has sent and is still actively sending church-planting teams all over the world, conflict within teams must be managed effectively in order to enhance personal and working relationships and ensure the fulfillment of church-planting goals.

Since sending out the first missions team in 1981 until the present, VFC has proactively worked on ways to minimize and manage conflict within church planting teams. Nevertheless, a need existed to study the problem in depth and develop a constructive strategy to train and equip teams in conflict management.

Interviews were conducted with 31 returned missionaries. Their conflict experiences were a deciding factor for the topics covered in the seminar. Also, seminar illustrations were taken from the interviews to highlight the principles and make them as realistic and relevant to church-planting team contexts as possible.

Post seminar evaluation results and a completed posttest revealed participants benefited significantly from the principles taught, the personality test administered, and the conflict styles surveys conducted during the sessions.