

ASSEMBLIES OF GOD THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
A Continuing Education Credit Option in Conjunction with
the Pennsylvania-Delaware District Boot Camp
November 3-6, 2003

PTHE 640 SPECIALIZED STUDIES IN CHURCH PLANTING
(3 Credits)

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Fall 2003

COURSE SYLLABUS

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course examines the foundational biblical principles of church planting as well as contemporary strategies for planting new churches. Emphasis will be given to practical methods for beginning and developing new churches. Special attention will be given to helping participants develop a viable personal church planting strategy.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

Each participant should demonstrate through the academic, relational and spiritual requirements of this course that he or she has satisfactorily met the following objectives:

Knowledge

1. Have a good understanding of the biblical foundation for establishing new churches,
2. Be familiar with the current body of literature pertaining to church planting, and other existing resources for new church development,
3. Be acquainted with various models and methods of planting new churches,
4. Be familiar with particular qualities, gifts, and character traits of effective church planters,
5. Have an awareness of the unique challenges of church planting in a postmodern society,
6. Be familiar with principles and techniques proven effective in contemporary church planting,
7. Recognize the advantages of church planting with a core team.

Attitudes

1. Have an appreciation for the ministry of home missions and those who are actively involved in the planting of new churches,
2. Develop a growing burden for reaching unsaved people,
3. Have an appreciation of the importance of understanding and catering to a target audience,
4. Have a realistic understanding of the personal cost of planting a church,
5. Have a healthy self-critical perspective toward one's personal ministry giftings,
6. Demonstrate a sensitivity to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in personal life and ministry,
7. Share in the burden of prayer for the ministry of planting churches.

Skills

1. Develop a network of people who can be of assistance during the church plant process,
2. Be able to articulate several keys to effective church planting in contemporary society,
3. Be able to evaluate the potential of a community and core group for a new church plant,
4. Be able to recognize and address common barriers to effective church planting,
5. Be able to formulate a strategic plan for planting a new church,
6. The ability to identify and maximize one's personal giftings in ministry.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS

Select and read six books from the following list. (Note: book cannot have been previously read.)

Malphurs, Aubrey. *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*. 2nd ed. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998.

Shenk, David W. and Ervin R. Stutzman. *Creating Communities of the Kingdom: New Testament Models of Church Planting*. Scottsdale: Herald Press, 1988.

Logan, Robert E. *Beyond Church Growth*. Old Tappan, NJ: Fleming H. Revell, 1989.

Mannoia, Kevin. *Church Planting: The Next Generation: Introducing the Century 21 Church Planting System*. 2nd ed. Indianapolis: Light and Life Press, 1994.

Cordeiro, Wayne. *Doing Church as a Team*. Oshu, HI: New Hope Christian Fellowship, 1998.

McIntosh, Gary and Glen Martin. *Finding Them, Keeping Them: Effective Strategies for Evangelism and Assimilation in the Local Church*. Baptist SS Board, 1992.

Wagner, C. Peter. *Church Planting for a Greater Harvest: A Comprehensive Guide*. Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1990.

Substitutions can be made, with the permission of the instructor.

BOOT CAMP OUTLINE

Clarifying Core Values

Focusing Vision

Defining a Mission Statement

Mobilizing People to Pray

Mobilizing People to Lead

Assimilating People

Designing a Ministry Flow Chart

Building Shared Vision

Launching Public Service

Improving First Impressions

Planning for Implementation

METHODOLOGY

This course will be structured around the "Church Planting Boot Camp" being sponsored by the Division of Home Missions of the Assemblies of God, to be held in the Penn-Del District November 3-6, 2003. This 4 day intensive seminar includes daily sessions, focus groups, and reading interaction. While the course will have a strong cognitive component, it is intended to be a deeply personal and practical experience in the student's ministry preparation process.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Pre-Session Requirements

1. *Complete Required Reading:* Read the required texts in their entirety. If the student has previously read a textbook for academic credit, they may simply substitute another book from the list.
2. *Complete Reading Reports:* Complete a 1-2 page reading report for each book read. This report should answer the following questions:
 - What is the author's main purpose in writing this book?
 - What was the most helpful part of this book for you, and why?

All pre-session work is due on the first day of boot camp: November 3, 2003.

Session Requirements

1. Attend and be an active participant in all seminar sessions and services. This means being prompt in attendance, taking thorough notes, and participating in discussions, groups, etc.

Post-Session Requirements

1. *Conduct Church Planter Interview.* Interview by phone or in person, a pastor who has planted or helped to plant a church within the last two years. Write the results of this interview giving attention to strategies/methods used, difficulties encountered, what would be done differently, where would greater emphasis be placed, what help did they need that they did not have, etc. Interview report should be at least 5 pages.
2. *Complete Church Planting Project:* The student will complete a 15-20 page "Church Planting Strategy." You are a potential church planter. Develop a church planting strategy for the six months prior to the first public service and the six months after. This is intended to be a step-by-step process that you could follow in an actual church plant situation. (If possible, make this an actual proposal; however, a fictitious setting is acceptable.) The issues of demographics, mission, personnel, structure, finance, plan, facilities, etc. should be engaged. See attached sheet for further specifics regarding this project.

All post-session work is due 90 days from the last day of the camp: February 6, 2004.

GRADING PROCEDURE

Reading and Reading Reports (6 @ 5% each)	30%
Participation in Church Planting Boot Camp	10%
Church Planter Interview	20%
Church Planting Project	40%

DUE DATE: All course work must be POSTMARKED no later than Friday, February 6, 2004.

Note: Late papers will be penalized at the discretion of the instructor. Work received after the post-session due date will result in a change of grade fee (\$15.00) being charged, even when an extension has been granted by the instructor.

Assignments should be mailed to:

**AGTS Continuing Education
ATTN: Dr. Jay Taylor
1435 N. Glenstone Avenue
Springfield, MO 65802**

A PERSONAL STRATEGY FOR PLANTING A CHURCH

Following is the outline for the term project. You should answer these types of questions as thoroughly as you can at this stage of your quest to plant a church.

I. Laying the foundation: your ministry strategy and context

A. Personal Profile

Discuss your personal vision/mission, giftings, personality, calling, etc. In what way are you uniquely suited to plant this church? What are some specific strengths and weaknesses that you bring to the plant?

B. Church Plant Strategy

In light of your personal profile, discuss your strategy for the church plant. For what unique purpose does your church exist? What specifically do you want it to be known for--what is its mission or purpose? Be sure to spell out things like the church's philosophy/style of ministry, style of worship, type of ministries it will offer, type of building that will best facilitate the mission, etc.

C. Target Context

Who are you trying to reach? Who specifically is your target group? (*age subgroup? socioeconomic subgroup? ethnic/cultural subgroup? etc.*) In what geographical area are you going to plant the church? Discuss the area and demographic profile of your target context.

D. Leadership Structure/Support

Who are you going to cooperate with on a broad scale, and what will their role be in the plant? (*i.e. a sponsoring church? a district or denomination? flying solo?*) Who is going to help you in the day-to-day efforts of planting the church? How will decisions be made? Who will you have praying for you? Who could you recruit for prayer support?

II. Preparing for the launch: an action plan

In light of section I, develop a church planting strategy (action plan) for the six months prior to the launch. This plan should be tangible, practical, and realistic.

A. Church particulars

What will be the name of the church? Logo? Vision/mission/purpose statement? Core values?

B. Ministry Goals

What are your goals for the church plant? for converts? for growth? for financial independence? How many do you plan to have at your first public service? After your first service?

C. Recruiting and training your church planting team

What people need to be in place prior to the launch? What kind of people are you looking for to be your initial leaders? What process and qualifications will you use for selecting leaders? What training will these leaders need?

D. Facilities

Estimate what size facility you will need--describe it. Where can you set up an office? Describe the office equipment you will need. What worship equipment will you need?

E. Finances

How much money will you need? How will you obtain it? When will you need it? Write out a budget (Include as an appendix). Include such items as salaries, benefits, mailing, printing, equipment--office, sound, seating, rent, advertising, secretarial, nursery, curriculum.

F. Service particulars

What will a typical order of service be? Consider matters such as dress style, preaching style, atmosphere, seating arrangements, greeters, ushers, offering, greeting guests, altar calls, information booths, refreshments, child care, Sunday school.

G. Preparing for the first service

How will you contact people and get them to come? What sort of gathering will you have? Detail your plans and goals for the first public service.

H. Legalities

What legal paperwork must be done to incorporate the church? What is needed as far as insurance, etc. Are there any other state or city requirements of which you should be aware?

III. Six month strategy following opening service

Develop a church planting strategy for the six months following the launch. Prepare a tentative action plan (specific steps you will take and when).

A. General game plan

What is your game plan for the first six months of the new plant? (i.e. service and program schedules, preaching themes, marketing/PR, etc.)

B. Assimilation & Discipleship

How will you effectively assimilate new people into the church? How will you disciple these people once they have joined the church? What curriculum will you use for discipleship classes, small groups, children and youth ministries, adult classes, new member's classes, discipleship classes? What process/qualifications will you use for accepting new members?

C. Recruiting and training leaders within the church

What key ministries will be needed for a successful church plant? What process and qualifications will you use for recruiting new leaders? In what areas do you need to disciple them--vision, theology, decision making, commitment, attitude, devotional, integrity, morality, ministry skills, giftedness?

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SPECIFIC DATE

Syllabus prepared by Jay Taylor, October 2003.