

# **Church Planting Course**

## **MB Biblical Seminary**

Spring 2010 Semester

**Course Number:** IM670-1

**Credit Units:** 2 units

**Dates and Times:** Monday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - Thursday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM to 5 PM (with 1 hour lunch)

**Course Instructor:** Stuart Murray Williams, PhD ([stuart@murraywilliams.co.uk](mailto:stuart@murraywilliams.co.uk))

[Note: Following Stuart's return to the UK, any communication that cannot be completed by email should be directed to Cory Seibel at 559-452-1707]

### **Intended learning outcomes**

At the end of the course students will be able to:

- Identify a rationale for planting new churches today and reasons for planting in particular situations.
- Describe contemporary models of church planting and characteristics of effective church planters.
- Set contemporary church planting in its historical context and reflect on biblical and theological resources available for church planters.
- Outline the issues a local church considering church planting needs to explore.
- Identify missiological and ecclesiological issues raised by and pertinent to the practice of church planting.

### **Content**

The module begins by examining the biblical roots of church planting, some theological principles that are applicable to this practice and the historical context within which the contemporary church planting movement is set. Further topics include an introduction to strategic reasons for church planting, contemporary models and assessing the suitability of the local context. Attention is given to the characteristics and role of church planters. The module examines many practical issues involved in the process of church planting, and concludes by drawing on lessons from recent church planting experience, reflecting on missiological and ecclesiological issues and assessing the emergence of different kinds of churches.

### **Outline**

Church Planting: Reasons for Planting

Church Planting: Biblical, Theological and Historical Roots

Church Planting: Contemporary Models

Church Planting: Assessing the Options

Church Planting: Preparing to Plant

Church Planting: Leaders and Teams

Church Planting: Planting or Cloning

Church Planting: Challenges Ahead

### **Required Reading**

Frost, Michael & Alan Hirsch: *The Shaping of Things to Come* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2004)

Murray, Stuart: *Church Planting: Laying Foundations* (Scottsdale: Herald Press, 2001)

Stetzer, Ed: *Planting Missional Churches* (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 2006)

### **Recommended Reading**

Drane, John: *The McDonaldization of the Church* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2000)

Finney, John: *Emerging Evangelism* (London: Darton, Longman & Todd, 2004)

Frost, Michael: *Exiles: living missionally in a post-Christian culture* (Peabody: Hendrickson, 2006)

Gibbs, Eddie & Ryan Bolger: *Emerging Churches* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2005)

Moynagh, Michael: *emergingchurch.intro* (Oxford: Monarch, 2004)

Murray, Stuart: *Church after Christendom* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2005)

Murray, Stuart: *Planting Churches: A Framework for Practitioners* (Milton Keynes: Paternoster, 2008)

Robinson, Martin: *Planting Mission-Shaped Churches Today* (Crowborough: Monarch, 2006)

Roxburgh, Alan: *The Missionary Congregation, Leadership and Liminality* (Harrisburg: Trinity Press, 1997)

Shenk, David & Ervin Stutzman: *Creating Communities of the Kingdom* (Scottsdale: Herald, 1988)

Taylor, Steve: *The Out of Bounds Church?* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2005)

### **Assignment (due 12 May 2010)**

Write a total of 15-18 pages on any **two** of the following subjects:

1. Of the diverse reasons given to justify church planting, which are most persuasive in the present mission context?
2. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of **one** of the church planting models you have encountered in this module.
3. What are the main characteristics of an effective church planter?

# Programme

## March 15

- 9.00 Introduction
- 9.30 Church Planting: Historical Roots and Contemporary Expressions
- 10.45 Break
- 11.00 Church Planting: Biblical and Theological Foundations
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Church Planting and Culture Shift
- 3.15 Break
- 3.45 Church Planting: Reasons for Planting
- 5.00 Close

## March 16

- 9.00 Church Planting: Contemporary Models (1)
- 10.45 Break
- 11.00 Church Planting: Contemporary Models (2)
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Church Planting: Assessing the Options (1)
- 3.00 Break
- 3.30 Church Planting: Assessing the Options (2)
- 5.00 Close

**March 17**

- 9.00 Church Planting: Preparing to Plant (1)
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Church Planting: Preparing to Plant (2)
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Church Planting: Leaders and Teams (1)
- 3.00 Break
- 3.30 Church Planting: Leaders and Teams (2)
- 5.00 Close

**March 18**

- 9.00 Church Planting: Planting or Cloning
- 11.00 Break
- 11.15 Church Planting: Negotiables and Non-negotiables
- 12.30 Lunch
- 1.30 Church Planting: Emerging Churches
- 3.00 Break
- 3.30 Open Session
- 5.00 Close