Church-Planting in Muslim Contexts  WM 648
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, Fall, 2009  Wed/Fri 10:45-12:15
Instructor: Paul T. Martindale, D.Min.

Course Description:
This course will survey the principles, methods, and strategies for evangelism and church-planting in cross-cultural situations using the Islamic context as our primary point of reference. Islam presents unique challenges for Christian witness and effective church planting but many concepts and principles are transferable to other cross-cultural church-planting contexts. Special emphasis is given to the process of conversion, contextualization of the church in the Arab world, church planting movements, the role of the missionary, the role of culture in religious change, the role of national Christians, discipleship of Muslim Background Believers, the importance of community, and tentmaking.

Principal Reading Assignments:

Books:

Articles:
Evans, Wendell. 1993. Church Planting in the Arab Muslim World, Middle East Resources, Upper Darby. Article provided by professor as handout.

Other Recommended Reading on Church Planting:


Harris, Richard H., compiler. 2002 *Reaching a Nation through Church Planting*. Alpharetta, GA: North American Mission Board, SBC.


_________.1995. *Church Planter's Toolkit*. Church Smart Resources (www.churchsmart.com)

_________.1995. *Churches Planting Churches*. Church Smart Resources (www.churchsmart.com)

_________.1995 *Raising Leaders for the Harvest*. Church Smart Resources(www.churchsmart.com)


Steffen, Tom A. 1997 *Passing the Baton: Church Planting that Empowers*. La Habra, CA: Center for Organizational & Ministry Development.


**Recommended Books & Reading for Research Papers on Muslim Evangelism:**

Requirements of Course:

1. **Research Paper**

   Choose a cross-cultural people group or geographical country and research church-planting developments and issues in that context. Identify the organizations working in that area and what the stages of development are in the national churches. Find out what the particular challenges and obstacles have been and discuss what strategies or methods were developed to overcome them. Your paper can be a historical review of church-planting in that country or people group, a discussion and analysis of church-planting methods being employed in that context, or a study in the phases of development of the national church. The paper should be double spaced using 12 pt. type. It should be 12 to 15 pages in length with a cover sheet listing your name, mail box #, title of course, and title of the paper. Use footnotes or endnotes to cite sources for your paper and include a Bibliography listing all sources cited in the paper. The research paper is due on Dec 11th. Late papers will receive an automatic 10% penalty until Dec 18th after which the paper will no longer be accepted.

2. **Mid Term Exam**
There will be a Mid Term exam covering the lectures and readings on October 21st. It will cover the lectures and reading during the first 5 weeks of the course.

3. Final Exam
There will be a final exam covering the lectures and readings in this course. It will primarily cover the final 5 weeks of the course but will also include questions relating to concepts and principles from the entire course. The final exam will occur between Dec 14th and 18th according to the Registrar’s schedule.

4. Reading of Textbooks and Articles
On the last day of the semester, Dec 18th, you must submit your reading list documenting all reading you completed for the course. It must be turned in by 5 p.m. Late submissions will be penalized 10% and will not be accepted after 5PM on December 18th.

5. Attendance
Perfect attendance is encouraged and will greatly enhance your ability to perform well on the exams and comprehend the daily readings. In consideration of the rest of the class, please TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES during the instructional period.

6. Grading
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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reading of assigned texts and articles</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Paper</td>
<td>35%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
<td>20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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100% total

The Grading Scale used in this class is as follows:
A+, 100-97;  A, 96-94;  A-, 93-90;  B+, 89-87;  B, 86-84;  B-, 83-80;  C+, 79-77;  C, 76-74;  C-, 73-70;  D+, 69-67;  D, 66-64;  D-, 63-60;  F, 0-69

Review of Key Dates:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Oct 12-16</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 9-13</td>
<td>Reading Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oct 21st</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
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<td>Nov 27th</td>
<td>No Class, Thanksgiving</td>
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<td>Dec 11th</td>
<td>Research Paper Due</td>
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<td>Dec 18th</td>
<td>Reading Report due</td>
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<td>Dec 14-18</td>
<td>Final Exam</td>
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7. Course Schedule of Topics:
1. Overview of course and issues involved in church-planting.
2. Band & Tribal Societies
4. Peasant and Urban Societies.
5. Implications of Social Structure on Communication.
6. Conversion theory.
7. The role of the messenger.
8. Ecclesiology. What constitutes a church? What kinds of churches are there?
9. What exactly does church-planting involve? Case study of 100 years in Algeria.
11. The phases and goals of church-planting.
13. The spirit world of the Muslim and ministry considerations for church-planting.
15. Tentmaking.
16. Team dynamics and multicultural team situations
17. Raising a family on the mission field.
18. Discipleship issues in working with nationals.
19. The role of community. How communities become visible and act as God’s change agents.