

MI 545 Evangelism and Church Planting

Fall Semester 2013

To develop Christ-minded leaders who make a difference in the world.

INSTRUCTOR: Allan Effa, PhD

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SCHEDULE: Tuesdays, 8:30 AM – 12:15 PM

DESCRIPTION:

A study of the biblical foundation of evangelization that aims at developing an effective witness in today's context. Includes a practical seminar on church planting as well as an opportunity for students to develop a plan for personal and congregational witness. Three credits.

"Most of us go to our graves with our music still inside us" – Oliver Wendell Holmes

OBJECTIVES/GOALS OF THE COURSE:

At the completion of this course, students will:

1. Have developed a biblical and theological framework for the task of evangelism, informed by current social trends and values.
2. Be acquainted with some of the significant literature in the field of evangelism.
3. Understand the biblical imperative for church planting, be familiar with a number of models as well as the challenges facing church planting movements in the West.
4. Have been exposed to some tools to analyze contemporary culture and engage it for the purpose of communicating the gospel.
5. Have considered the place of evangelism and church planting within pastoral ministry and congregational life.
6. Have grown in passion and commitment to involvement in church planting and evangelism while in seminary and in full-time ministry.

REQUIRED TEXTBOOKS:

Bowen, John P. *Evangelism for "Normal" People: Good News for Those Looking for a Fresh Approach*. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress, 2002.

Payne, J.D., *Discovering Church Planting: An Introduction to the Whats, Whys, and Hows of Global Church Planting*. Paternoster, 2009.

Guide for Research and Writing (SBL style). This publication can be accessed on our course web site.

LOG-IN INSTRUCTIONS:

Access to our online platform is found at <http://online.taylor-edu.ca> Please add this to your list of “Favourites” so you can return to it easily without having to look up the URL address. Your instructor will provide you with information on how you can log in and begin to access the course resources.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE COURSE:

1. Reading

By following the schedule in the course outline, students will read both required texts (total of 624 pages) as well as a number of assigned articles. All of the articles are accessible on our web site, either as links to other sites or as PDF downloads.

2. Reading Responses

Students will submit responses to pre-determined questions (see pages 5 ff. of this syllabus) from the assigned readings. These are due at the beginning of each class. They will not be graded, but will receive full marks for being completed (2 points each, for a total of 22 points). Less than full marks may be given where it is apparent that the student has not read the sections thoughtfully. *Reading responses submitted after the due date will not be graded, unless prior arrangements have been made.*

Due each week at the beginning of class.

3. Critical Incident Write-Up

Throughout this semester, students should be intentionally looking for opportunities to engage people in “spiritual conversations.” Students will choose one such event and write up a 4-6 page “critical incident report” on it. The report should include the following elements: Description – of the setting, occasion, and the nature of the relationship between the student and the person(s).

Verbatim – a word-for-word write-up of the conversation that took place (the most significant parts of the conversation).

Note: It is not essential that this incident should lead to someone deciding to become a follower of Jesus. It is merely an opportunity for you to think in depth about an actual conversation and to make you be aware of opportunities to steer conversations toward spiritual concerns.

Analysis/Reflection – Discuss what you think went well, what could have been done/said better. Reflect on what you learned about yourself and your style as an evangelist. What theological issues arose from this conversation? **Due November 19.**

4. Anknüpfungspunkt

Your assignment: select a “cultural artifact” that has relevance to the context in which you live. This might be a movie clip, song, advertisement, clothing line, game or toy, sports practice, ethnic cultural practice, etc. Reflect on the world view represented by this artifact and suggest ways in which it could be used for a “fresh encounter” of the gospel to this “culture.” Submit a 3-4 page written reflection and share your findings in a “show-and-tell” presentation with the class. **Due November 26.**

5. Position/Integration Paper

Students will develop a ministry philosophy paper on evangelism and church planting that integrates materials in the church planting seminar, assigned readings and class discussions. This paper will articulate the following:

1. The student's understanding of what evangelism is and what it is not.
2. The student's articulation of the role church planting plays in evangelism.
3. What the student feels are some core values that should govern the practice of church planting in the context he/she is most familiar with.

4. The development of a life-long plan for personal involvement in evangelism and church planting that takes into consideration one's gifts and personality.

This paper must demonstrate a high level of familiarity with the materials covered in this course. All references to these materials should be documented appropriately. It should be typed, double-spaced, between 11-14 pages in length. The format should follow the *Taylor Guide for Research and Writing*. **Due December 3.**

Grading for this assignment will be calculated with the following criteria in mind:

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|---|-----------|
| 1. Clear organization and formulation of ideas | 12 |
| 2. Integration with course materials | 20 |
| 3. Spelling, grammar and sentence construction | 4 |
| 4. Format/Taylor Guide | 4 |

6. Case Studies

Beginning with October, each class will begin with two students offering a brief case study (3 – 5 minutes) of their own pilgrimage toward faith in Jesus Christ, focusing on the major factors that led them to become disciples of Jesus. This is a no-credit voluntary activity.

Late Assignments

Late assignments will be accepted only in extreme cases and with prior approval from the instructor. Reading Response questions that are submitted late will not be graded and major assignments that are submitted late without prior approval will be docked a minimum of 20%.

DISTRIBUTION OF CREDITS:

<u>Assignment</u>	<u>Date Due</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Reading + Responses to Texts	Weekly	22%
Anknupfungspunkt	November 26	20%
Critical Incident Report	November 19	18%
Position Paper	December 3	40%

OUTLINE/SCHEDULE OF THE COURSE:

September

3 – Orientation to Course; Evangelism: Definitions and Theological Roots

10 – Church Planting Seminar with Practitioners Presenting
Reading of JD Payne's *Discovering Church Planting*, pp. 1- 138
Read Article: Tim Keller, "Why Plant Churches"

17 – Church Planting Seminar with Practitioners Presenting
Reading of JD Payne's *Discovering Church Planting*, pp. 139-294
Read Article: David Fitch, "Church Planting: A New Future"

24 – Church Planting Seminar with Practitioners Presenting
Reading of JD Payne's *Discovering Church Planting* pp. 295-414
Read Article: Doug Balzer's "Ten Wineskins of Church Planting"

October

1 – No Class – modular week

8 – The Message of Evangelism

Reading of Bowen, pp.1-51

- ♦ Article: *What is the Gospel?* by Richard Guelich
- ♦ Article: "What is the Gospel?" in *Mission Between the Times: Essays on the Kingdom* by C. René Padilla.

15 – Conversion Dynamics and Process

Reading of Bowen, pp. 52-86

- ♦ Article: *Promoting "Good Conversions"* by Richard Peace

22 – Spiritual Dynamics in Evangelism

Reading of Bowen, pp. 87-97

- ♦ Article: *Evangelism as a Practice of the Holy Spirit* by Bryan Stone

29 – The Postmodern Context

- ♦ Article: *Why I Don't Do Evangelism* by Mark Naylor
- ♦ Article: *Answering Pilate: The Concept of Truth in the Postmodern Context* by Stan Grenz

November

5 – No class – modular week

12 – The Canadian Context

- ♦ Article: *Christianity in Multicultural Canada* by Joel Thiessen
- ♦ Article: *The Canadian Context* by Douglas Hall

19 – Intercultural Evangelism

Reading of Bowen, pp.98-152

- ♦ Article: *Frontiers in Contextualization of the Gospel Among Tibetan Buddhists* by Paul Cochrane.

Critical Incident Report Due

26 – The Church and Strategies for Evangelism

Reading of Bowen, pp. 153-189

- ♦ Article: *Faith Twisted by Culture: Syncretism in North American Christianity* by Walter C. Hobbs
- ♦ Article: *Riding the Waves of Change: How to Facilitate Change toward a Missionary Identity* by Jon Huegli
- ♦ Article: *Centripetal Mission, or Evangelization by Hospitality* by Mortimer Arias
- ♦ Article: *Three Approaches to Neighbourhood Ministry* by Howard Lawrence

Anknüpfungspunt Due

December

3 – Sharing of Anknüpfungspunts

Reading of Bowen, pp. 190-210

Position/Integration Paper due

READING RESPONSES (these are due at the beginning of each class):

September 10

Reading of JD Payne's *Discovering Church Planting*, pp. 1- 138

Read Article: Tim Keller, "Why Plant Churches"

Questions from Payne's Book:

Cha. 1

1. Payne outlines a theological framework for church planting, beginning with page 7. Of the three themes he introduces, which do you think your congregation has the strongest grasp of – and which is weakest? Explain your answer.
2. What was your initial reaction to Payne's statement that the Western Church has made church planting a complex matter? How have you seen this to be true or untrue?

Cha. 2

What would an "indigenous" church look like in your area or culture? What are some of the challenges this raises in a multicultural urban context like Canadian cities?

Cha. 3

When you read Payne's description of church in the first two paragraphs of p.55, how does your current experience of church compare?

Cha. 4

In this chapter Payne explores the vital role of the Holy Spirit in church planting. Select one quote, paragraph or sentence that caught your attention in this chapter. What is its implication/importance to you and the work of church planting?

Cha. 5

Payne quotes Chuck Lawless who makes a strong point that spiritual warfare is primarily about living a holy life Vs. a formulaic prayer against the devil. State whether or not you agree or disagree with him. Explain....

Cha. 6

What does Payne refer to when he suggests that focus for church planting should be on “persons of peace”?

Cha. 7

Payne suggests four significant components (structures) for effective discipleship. Identify them and reflect on how well those components are in place in your life currently.

Cha. 8

What might be some of the advantages of the planting-and-pastoring paradigm? Which pitfalls/dangers associated with this paradigm are you most familiar with?

Questions from Tim Keller’s article:

1. In his introduction, Keller offers three common arguments against church planting efforts. Which of these has been most frequently voiced in your circles?
2. Write a 300-350 word response, critiquing some of the points Keller makes in his article. Assume you are pastoring an established church that is struggling to meet its ministry goals, while a new church planting effort by your denomination is about to be launched not far from where you are serving.

September 17

Reading of JD Payne’s *Discovering Church Planting*, pp. 139-294

Read Article: David Fitch, “Church Planting: A New Future”

Questions from Payne’s book:

Cha. 9

When it comes to strategic planning, which statement best represents your attitude: “Forget about it! God’s in control!” or, “I plan every detail to the fullest because it will work out as I plan it!”

What would be an expression that you believe represents a healthy perspective on strategic planning for church multiplication?

Cha. 10

What is your response to the Receptivity/Need Analysis Guideline? Where would you place your city/community on the scale?

Cha 11.

Who are the people groups and population segments in your context who may be most receptive to the Gospel? How are they being reached?

Cha. 12

Can you think of any examples of churches that were planted but were not contextualized among the people? What, if any, problems arose within those churches?

Cha. 13

Payne offers some statistics of typical growth patterns related to the age of a congregation. Does your congregation’s growth conform to these patterns or is in an exception? (You may need to call your church office to find out about baptismal numbers in the last 5 years).

Cha. 14

How would you describe your church's level of passion toward church planting? How is your commitment to church planting being challenged/inspired by this chapter?

Cha. 15

Do you think that the metaphor of temporary scaffolds is applicable to church planting in N. America? Defend your answer.

Cha. 16

What is one aspect of the Moravian church planting strategy/paradigm that you think is most needed for practice today? Why?

Cha. 17

Some analysts suggest that a major factor leading to the decline of Methodism was the move from an apostolic to a pastoral emphasis. What do you think could have been done to prevent such stagnation?

Cha. 18

One of the characteristics of Baptist growth in the USA was the active role laity took in planting new churches. Reflect on the potential for lay church planting in your context today. Have times radically changed?

Question from Fitch's article:

What is your first response to the model Fitch is advocating? Have you seen similar expressions of this church planting model? If so, how has it been working?

September 24

Reading of JD Payne's *Discovering Church Planting*, pp. 295-414

Read Article: Doug Balzer, "Ten Wineskins of Church Planting"

Questions from Payne's book:

Cha. 19 – 20

Which church planting model are you most familiar with? What are some of its strength and limitations?

Cha. 21

What is the most common objection to church planting that you have encountered? How do you respond?

Cha. 22

What do you think are three of the most significant challenges facing urban church planting in Canada today?

Cha. 23- 24

How does Payne differentiate between Apostolic missionaries and missional pastors? Is this a helpful distinction?

Cha. 25

Do you agree with Payne's observation about the Western world and some of the ways westernization hinders the development of Church Planting movements? Why or why not?

Question from Balzer's article:

Of the various models of church planting described, which are you most familiar with, and which are completely new to you? If you were to plant a church in the near future, which model would you pursue? Why?

October 8

Reading of Bowen, pp.1-51

Read Articles: "What is the Gospel?" by Richard Guelich and "What is the Gospel?: in *Mission Between the Times: Essays on the Kingdom* by C. René Padilla.

Questions from Bowen:

1. Offer a one paragraph response to Bowen's goal: "To help rescue evangelism from the red light district of the church and put it back on the main street of church life, where it belongs" (16). Where do you see evangelism in your congregation fitting within this spectrum? Why?
2. How have you seen evidence of the modernist, pragmatic culture infiltrating the church (Bowen's list on p.16)?
3. Reflect on the ways you were evangelized. Was your story more like Nicky's or like the ones recounted in Atwood and Tsing Loh?
4. Do you agree with the author's contention that churches and fellowships should consider themselves "centered sets" more than "bounded sets"? If you do, then what becomes of things like baptism and church membership? If not, how can the church encourage "outsiders" to hang around the community and check out the reality of the faith?

Question from Guelich: How has Guelich's article helped shape a more biblical view of the Gospel for you? As you reflect on what Guelich has written, do you think your congregation has an adequate understanding of what the Gospel really entails?

Question from Padilla: Padilla's article is written to highlight a number of essential concepts that form the core of the Gospel message, but that are sometimes overlooked or forgotten. As you read this chapter, which theme(s) would you identify as the most neglected in your context? Why do you think it (they) have not been emphasized?

October 15

Reading of Bowen, pp.52-86

Read Article: "Promoting Good Conversions" by Richard Peace

Questions from Bowen:

1. In chapter 4 Bowen addresses a number of dichotomies related to mission and evangelism. What are some of those dichotomies and how does Bowen try to bring them together? Does he do a convincing job?
2. What is the most valuable insight you gleaned from Bowen's discussion of Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman? How might you put this into practice in your own relationships with non-Christians?
3. After reading chapter 6, reflect on the process of your spiritual formation (discipleship). What were the major stages along your journey toward faith in Christ?

Question from Peace:

Of the four essential elements of a good conversion identified by Richard Peace, which has been the most neglected in your circle of faith? Why do you think it has been neglected?

October 22

Reading of Bowen, pp.87-97

Read Chapter: Bryan Stone's "Evangelism as a Practice of the Holy Spirit."

Question from Bowen:

Bowen describes seven marks of a healthy church. In which of these areas would you say that your church is healthiest? What is the area that needs the most work? How would you articulate the meaning of the gospel in one sentence?

Questions from Stone:

This will probably be the most challenging article/chapter you will read in this course. Although it is only 18 pages you may need to devote 60 – 75 minutes to read it. Because it is a chapter of a larger book there are references to previous chapters that will not have a context for you unless you read all of it. To help you work through this dense chapter try to come up with at least 15 statements by Stone on what *Evangelism that relies on the Holy Spirit is or is not*. You do not need to respond or reflect on the statements, but be prepared to discuss them in class.

October 29

Read Articles: *Why I Don't Do Evangelism* – Mark Naylor

Answering Pilate: The Concept of Truth in the Postmodern Context – Stan Grenz

Question from Naylor:

How does Naylor's distinction between "lawyer" and "witness" help you grapple with your approach to evangelism?

Question from Grenz:

Grenz offers a number of suggestions of how Pontius Pilate might have answered the question of "what is truth" if he were to follow a postmodern approach to discovering truth. Summarize the postmodern strategy according to Grenz.

November 12

Read Articles: *Christianity in Multicultural Context* - Joel Thiessen

The Canadian Context – Douglas Hall

Questions from Thiessen:

In what ways does Thiessen's paper challenge or correct assumptions you have had about the religions context in Canada?

What evidence have you seen in your denomination of the trend toward the "de-Europeanization of Canadian Christianity?"

How have you seen or not seen evidence of tension within your denomination because of differing levels of theological conservatism between Canadian-born and immigrant members? Reflect on the Five suggested strategies Thiessen outlines. Do you think he is on the right track with his proposal? Of the five, which are most evident in your congregational practice? Which one(s) are most lacking?

Question from Hall:

In what ways do you agree and disagree with Douglas Hall's description of the Canadian context?

General Canadiana Question:

If you were to give cultural tips to an African or Chinese missionary who wishes to evangelize Canadians, what would be the top five statements of orientation on your list (this can be a list of "dos" and "don'ts")?

November 19

Reading of Bowen, pp.98-152

Read Article: *Frontiers in Contextualization of the Gospel Among Tibetan Buddhists* by Paul Cochrane.

Questions from Bowen:

1. Reflecting on Chapter 8, where would you point to signs of the activity of God outside of the usual church contexts in Canada today?
2. Share an experience when your faith in Jesus caused you to take risks you might not otherwise have taken.
3. What are some ways you see evidence that "risk avoidance" may be stifling the spirit of evangelism in the church today?
4. Share a metaphor or illustration that speaks to our culture and helps explain the significance of Christ's work on the cross to secular Canadians.

Question from Cochrane:

How would you go about sharing the concept of the compassion of God and the death of Jesus on the cross in light of the Buddhist understanding of compassion and the laws of karma?

November 26

Reading of Bowen, pp. 153-189

Read Articles:

Faith Twisted by Culture: Syncretism in North American Christianity by Walter C. Hobbs

Riding the Waves of Change: How to Facilitate Change toward a Missionary Identity by Jon Huegli

Centripetal Mission, or Evangelization by Hospitality by Mortimer Arias

Three Approaches to Neighbourhood Ministry by Howard Lawrence

Questions from Bowen:

1. The question of hell and the compassion and love of God are always challenging to reconcile. Do you think Bowen does a convincing job of tackling this? Defend your answer.
2. What "access points" does your church or fellowship offer for those who are exploring their spirituality? Do these kinds of people come to such events? Why or why not?
3. Brainstorm some other "access points" that might help your church more effectively reach out to or invite people to move closer to the center – a relationship with Jesus.

Questions from the articles:

1. Do some self-examination after reading Hobbs' chapter. How much have the three syncretistic themes he identifies in the North American church affected your thinking and ministry?
2. After reading through John Hendrick's six criteria for missionary effectiveness (in Huegli's essay), do some evaluation of the congregation you are most familiar with. Which of the criteria are strongly present in that congregation? Which are weak and in need of development?
3. Of the six inhibitors to missionary effectiveness described by Huegli, which two or three (if any) do you think most closely describe your congregation? Why?
4. From the discussion on strategies for change (pp.296-299) what was the greatest insight you gained as it applies to the dynamics of your congregation?
5. After reading Arias, brainstorm a few practical applications you could implement in your local church to more fully express hospitality as an expression of evangelistic love.
6. Howard Lawrence is calling the church back to a neighbourhood focus. As you understand Canadian culture and social trends, do you think geography is growing in importance when it comes to relationships? Do you see any dangers in some of the models Lawrence is proposing?

December 3

Reading of Bowen, pp. 190-210

Question from Bowen:

1. Choose one of the three pictures (chapter 15) and write up a paragraph about what that picture says to you about becoming a Christian. Be prepared to share this with your discussion group in class.

Church Planting Bibliography

(Compiled by Matthew Glombick)

Benesh, Sean. *Metrospiritual: the Geography of Church Planting*. Eugene, Or: Resource Publications, 2011.

Cole, Neil. *Organic Church: Growing Faith Where Life Happens*. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 2005.

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