Session 8

Networking!

Instructor

STEPHEN BECK PhD

Stephen is a career church planter and church planting instructor. He has served with the Redeemer Church Planting network in Canada, more recently with Greater Europe Mission in Germany. He is considered one of the "cutting edge" Greater Europe Missionaries in this regard. He is Professor of Practical Theology at Freie Theologische Hochschule in Giessen, Germany. He has also been guest lecturer at a number of institutions on the European continent. He is married to Susan, and they have four children. In 2011 Stephen and Susan embarked on yet another journey: together with twenty-five college students they planted a multi-everything church for the Frankfurt metro region. Through the refugee wave that came over Germany, this church multiplied to fifteen congregations in 6 years.

Goals

This 13 session course about contextualization and models for intercultural church planting is one of the most overlooked subjects in the area of congregation multiplication. The course begins with the definition of contextualization and finds in the Bible the guidelines for practicing it in the work of the Kingdom of God. You will learn the theory of contextualizing and you will be given practical tools. You will understand how the Gospel is designed to be contextualized and how you can adapt it to your own church planting situation.

Sessions Overview

1. Introduction
2. Errors in Contextualization
3. The Gospel, Culture and Shaping your Church's Culture
4. Faithful Contextualization
5. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 1
6. Bridging the Gospel into Culture - Step 2
7. Active and Practical Bridging
8. **Networking!**
9. More Networking!
10. Research and SWOT
11. Church Planting Models
12. Church Plant Birthed out of Existing Churches, & out of nothing - part I
13. Church Plants Birthed out of Nothing Part II

Session Summary

Dr. Beck underscores the importance of networking as a way of practically bridging into the culture. There are two purposes of networking if a church in the city will be a church that effectively engages with its city's culture(s) and with the gospel can be God's tool to change the culture. This lecture focuses on networking with the first of five groups: your target culture(s) that will make up much of your church plant's participants.

Fill in the Blancs

1. Two goal for networking: _____
   and _____

2. How is networking in your church planting area related to which activity you are involved in in your work as a church planter? In other words, how is networking related to which tasks you take upon yourself in your work as a church planter?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

3. What is a core culture group and what are the people who make it look like?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

4. (Similar question:) How is a culture group which, as the church planter you select and gather, helps the attractiveness of your new church plant? In other words, what is important to pay attention to when you build the core group of that culture group which will make it for others more comfortable to join and feel at home?

   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____
   _____

5. What are the 2 questions you should ask people you select as culture group?

a. _____
_____
_____

b. _____
_____
_____
_____