

Session 10

Research and SWOT

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

Here we learn more ways of understanding the worldview, values and lifestyle of the people for whom you are going to plant a gospel community: doing interviews and questionnaires. Once a church is planted and set up, there are ways to involve your entire congregation to do context analyses very practically so as to understand the context better in which collectively the church is seeking to bring the gospel.

Recommended book:

1. Faix T, Reimer J 2012. *Die Welt verstehen: Kontextanalyse als Sehhilfe für die Gemeinde*. Franke-Buch. ISBN: 978-3868273199

Fill in the Blanks

1. If you are gathering information that is necessary for your church planting but have not enough access to resources. Instead of researching yourself, you can do one of the following:

a. _____

b. _____

2. Name a few tips for a good questionnaire

3. Why should an existing congregation continue to pursue collecting information through questionnaires?

4. What are some of the example given, in which you can involve your congregation in local research?

5. What does the core team/church plant congregation try to look for?

6. What does SWOT stand for in detail?

a. "S":

b. "W":

c. "O":

d. "T":
