

**Course:** IC434 (N) – (Legacy) Intercultural Church Planting  
**Credit:** 3 Semester Hours  
**Semester:** Spring 2026  
**Time:** By Appointment  
**Location:** Online through Canvas/Teams  
**Instructor:** Joshua Paxton, [Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu](mailto:Joshua.paxton@calvary.edu), Office: CABRE 108  
Cell:(816)679-9387 Office:(816)322-5152 ext:1353

## I. DESCRIPTION

A practical study of intercultural church planting in tribal, peasant, and urban societies, emphasizing the biblical basis and New Testament patterns as well as modern practices and relevant research on the subject.

*This course is offered in two formats: in-person and online. Students registered for in-person attend the classes in person, online students attend the classes via the online classroom. For both in-person and online students, assignments and interaction outside of the class period are done in the learning management system.*

## II. OBJECTIVES

### A. General competencies to be achieved:

1. Appreciate the relationship between church planting and responsible obedience to the Great Commission. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Gain and understanding of the spiritual and biblical dynamics behind effective church planting. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. Recognize the impact of culture on church planting. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. Become familiar with contemporary thought in church planting strategies. (PLO 2) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)

### B. Specific competencies to be achieved:

1. Trace practical steps involved in church planting from pre-evangelism to the transfer of leadership responsibility. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
2. Distinguish the characteristics of an effective church planter. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
3. Identify some contemporary church planting strategies. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the impact of culture and worldview on church planting strategies. (PLO 2, 3, 4) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)
5. Develop a strategy for a cross-cultural church planting ministry in a specific culture and society of personal interest. (PLO 1, 2, 3, 4, 5) (A 1, 2, 3, 4)

*Our Mission: "...to prepare Christians to live and serve in the church and in the world according to the Biblical worldview."*

### **III. REQUIREMENTS**

#### **1. Reading**

This course consists of discussions that center on the material covered in the textbooks with additional input from the professor and outside guests. As a result, it is absolutely necessary to come having read the portion of the textbook under discussion and prepared to discuss it. Failure to complete reading assignments and therefore non-participation could result in failing the course.

#### **2. Book Summaries**

- a. Write a **5**-page summary of each of the five textbooks. The summaries will be due according to the tentative schedule.
- b. Write each summary in non-research Turabian style. See the style guide in Canvas as well as the document, "How to Write a Book Review"
- c. These are not summaries of the entire book but rather a summary of what you feel are the most important points per our discussion of the book and as it relates to planting a church in a cross-cultural context.

#### **3. Meetings and Forum Discussions**

As a Legacy class the student will largely be engaged in self-study. The professor will arrange for a 1-2 hour meeting each week to cover the course content and discuss the reading. Prior to each meeting the student should post any questions to the discussion posts for that week.

#### **4. Final Project**

This final project is to develop a strategy for planting a church among a people group of the student's choosing and different from their own culture. The student is advised to use previous research from Cultural Anthropology and Intercultural Communication for this project.

1. The final project will be a minimum of **15** pages in length.
2. The strategy should follow everything from pre-field preparation through releasing the church to its own leadership. Therefore, it should include the following stages and what the missionaries' roles and responsibilities will be in each stage.
  - a. Pre-field preparation
  - b. Deploying to the field (including practical living considerations)
  - c. Making initial contact.
  - d. Communicating the Gospel in the cultural context.
  - e. Making Disciples
  - f. Training Leaders
  - g. Handing the church off to national leadership.
  - h. Ongoing follow up/relationship

**IV. METHODS**

- A. In-class methods:** listening to lectures, participating in class discussions, and writing.
- B. Out-of-class methods:** reading, writing, research.

**1. Grading:**

**Points**

- 1. Participation
  - a. Class discussion.....100
  - b. Reading.....100
  - c. Forums.....100
- 2. Summaries.....500 (100 each)
- 3. Final Project
  - a. Paper.....200

**Total**

**1000**

- 2. "See Grading Scale in University Catalog"

**C.** The Bible is a required textbook in every course at Calvary University. To facilitate academic level study, students are required to use for assignments and research an English translation or version of the Bible based on formal equivalence (*meaning that the translation is generally word-for-word from the original languages*), including any of the following: New American Standard (NASB, English Standard Version (ESV), New King James (NKJV), or King James (KJV). Other translations and versions based on dynamic equivalence (*paraphrases, and thought-for-thought translations like NLT and NIV*) may be used as supplemental sources. Please ask the professor if you have questions about a particular translation or version.

**D.** All class papers must follow the Turabian style according to *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, 8th edition. Unless otherwise indicated book reports and study questions may be in non-research format, interviews and other research papers should be in research paper format. A copy of the Turabian Style Guide is available on the Clark Academic Center page of Calvary's website.

**E. Late Assignments:** Assignments will be penalized according to the professor's late policy as explained in Canvas.

**F. Plagiarism:** Plagiarism is defined as copying any content without identifying the source. This also includes taking another person's or AI entity's ideas or constructs and presenting them as your own. The use of AI generated content in student work is prohibited (even if cited) as it does not represent original work created by the student and is an unreliable aggregate of ideas from other sources. Plagiarism of any kind will not be tolerated. *Any assignment that includes plagiarism will receive a zero (0) grade. Students should note that papers will be submitted in Canvas via "Turn-It-In". This program automatically gives the students work a plagiarism score, students should strive for a score less than 20.*

## IC434 D(N) Intercultural Church Planting Syllabus, Spring 2026

- G. Disabilities:** Students with disabilities have the responsibility of informing the Accommodations Support Coordinator ([aso@calvary.edu](mailto:aso@calvary.edu)) of any disabling condition that may require support
- H. The Clark Academic Center** ([learning@calvary.edu](mailto:learning@calvary.edu)), located in the library building, is dedicated to providing free academic assistance for all CU students. Student tutors aid with all facets of the writing process, tutor in various subject areas, prepare students for exams and facilitate tests. Please take advantage of this service.
- I. Attendance Policy** – Calvary has no official attendance policy, the attendance policy of the professor will be explained in class and in Canvas.

### V. MATERIALS

#### Required:

The Bible (Instructor will use ESV)

Allen, Roland. 1962. *Missionary Methods: St. Paul's or Ours?* Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans. ISBN-13: 978-1469940762 (Retail: \$9.75, Kindle: \$0.99)

Hesselgrave, David J. 2000. *Planting Churches Cross-Culturally: North America and Beyond*. Grand Rapids: Baker Academic. ISBN-13: 978-0801022227 (Retail: \$32.00, Kindle: \$17.60)

Hiebert, Paul G. and Eloise Hiebert Meneses. 1995. *Incarnational Ministry: Planting Churches in Band, Tribal, Peasant and Urban Societies*. Grand Rapids: Baker Books. ISBN-13: 978-0801020094 (Retail: \$34.00, Kindle: \$19.58)

Trousdale, Jerry. 2012. *Miraculous Movements*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson. ISBN-13: 978-1418547288 (Retail: \$9.99, Kindle: \$5.00)

Yount, William R. and Mike Barnett. 2007. *Called to Reach: Equipping Cross-Cultural Disciplers*. Nashville: B&H Academic. ISBN-13: 978-0805440669 (Retail: \$24.99, Kindle: \$13.74)

### VI. TENTATIVE CLASS SCHEDULE

\*\*\*Course schedule will be available in Canvas prior to the first class period\*\*\*