



EQUIP

Training Cross-Cultural Church Planters

www.nycinternationalproject.org

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Introduction to EQUIP

NYC International Project is a multi-agency team of believers who are committed to starting churches among the unreached people groups of the world. Over the past 13 years, we have seen many come to Christ and have seen churches started in least evangelized countries as a result of this ministry. Thousands of internationals from least evangelized countries come to New York City every year. These internationals represent the influential thinkers and policy makers of their nations. Being away from home, they are more receptive to the gospel message. Our focus is on making disciples among these people and training them to start reproducible churches when they return to their home country. Ultimately, we desire to see movements of national-led churches established throughout the least reached corners of the world.

EQUIP is our cross cultural church planting training. This program enables individuals to learn about the DNA of reproducible church planting, cross-cultural ministry, and the gospel while working alongside experienced church planters. Participants have opportunity to start discovery Bible studies and house churches among internationals or unreached people groups within New York City.

Throughout EQUIP we will explore questions such as:

- What are the kingdom values that are the fertile soil for church planting?
- What is the significance of the Ethiopian eunuch and the miracle of Pentecost?
- What enabled Paul to start churches and leave within months?
- Why did Paul spend so much time focusing on influential and international cities?
- What does apostolic ministry look like?
- How do we understand and implement Jesus' strategy in Luke 10?
- How do we plant the right DNA into individuals and groups so they reproduce in kind?
- What are the necessary elements of an effective church planting team?
- How do we effectively share the gospel with Muslims?

For information on why New York City and EQUIP are advantageous for church planting ministry and training, please refer to page 10.

Training Objectives

Our vision is to see church planting movements throughout the darkest corners of the world. Spending a year in NYC in EQUIP will train church planters to see this vision fulfilled.

Our training objectives are:

- To develop within participants Christ-like character for life and ministry
- To equip each participant with a philosophical and practical understanding of CPM principles (including principles of organic house church)
- To guide participants in initiating and living out CPM principles in life and ministry
- To give exposure and practical training to each participant in ministry to different ethnic groups with different types of ministry
- To equip each participant with a general working understanding of the Bible to be used practically in ministry
- To give participants mentoring and coaching as they seek to manage an open schedule and carry out ministry

These objectives are realized through engagement in training workshops, classes, mentoring, coaching, and—perhaps most importantly—practical, hands-on ministry experience.

Workshops and classes include:

- Filling the Earth Seminar (What Is Church and How Is It Reproducible)
- Reaching Internationals to Reach the World (The Why and How of Reaching the Diaspora)
- Discovery Bible Study Method (Church Planting Movement Principles)
- Making Reproducible Disciples
- Evangelism with Muslims and Contextualization
- Chronological Bible Storying and Worldview Based Church Planting
- Strategy Coordinator Training (The Strategies to Reach UPGs)
- Training for Trainers (Church Planting Movement Methodology and Principles)
- Coaching and Mentoring Workshop
- The Glory of the Gospel

Specific Training Objectives (Cont.)

Filling the Earth Seminar

Throughout this seminar we will look at the differences between the institutional church paradigm and the organic/simple church paradigm regarding: 1) outreach, 2) community, 3) ministry, 4) discipleship, 5) training, and 6) multiplication.

The seminar will help participants understand:

- “Z Thinking” and how it relates to our missionary task
- The Great Commission and how it relates to church planting
- Church planting movements (Garrison)
- The values for organic Kingdom growth
- The biblical values /DNA of church
- Who can start a church and what is involved
- What fosters multiplication and movement
- The difference between incarnational and attractional outreach
- A biblical strategy for church planting (finding a person of peace)
- The biblical picture of community and how it relates to CPMs
- Ministry and the priesthood of all believers and how this relates to CPMs
- How we release people to ministry: what prevents it and what fosters it
- The fivefold ministry of the church: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, and teachers (what should these look like today?)
- Jesus’ method of discipleship
- How we disciple people to reproduce
- Multiplication and a citywide network
- Church structures and their effects

Throughout the seminar we look at the differences between the institutional church paradigm and the organic/simple church paradigm in regard to movement

Reaching Internationals to Reach the World

By the end of this session each participant will understand:

- The 10/40 window
- The need to reach unreached people groups and least evangelized countries
- The global trend of immigration and how it relates to world missions
- The two arms of missions in Scripture
- The advantages of reaching internationals
- How to initiate and sustain a campus-based ministry to international students

Specific Training Objectives (Cont.)

Discovery Bible Study (DBS) Method

By the end of this session each participant will:

- Understand the concept of finding a person of peace and entering their “oikos”
- Understand the elements of a DBS and how they relate to starting a house church
- Understand how the DBS method produces leadership and relates to CPM principles
- Practice and receive instruction in leading a discovery Bible study

Making Reproducing Disciple Makers

In this session, each participant will:

- Consider some possible reasons why reproduction does not happen
- Identify underlying beliefs that hinder reproduction
- Identify principles for discipleship that lead to reproduction
- Develop a simple plan to implement neglected principles
- Develop a simple and reproducible method of discipleship

Evangelism with Muslims and Contextualization

These classes will introduce the bridges and barriers to Muslims understanding the gospel and how Christians can communicate the gospel to them in a way that they can understand. Different models of ministries to Muslims will be discussed, as well as the need for, and dangers of, contextualized ministry among Muslims.

The objectives for this session are that each participant:

- Understand the bridges and barriers to Muslims becoming followers of Christ
- Understand different models of ministry to Muslims
- Learn and practice a gospel presentation geared towards Muslims
- Become familiar with various levels of contextualized ministry among Muslims
- Learn ways to address the common questions Muslims have for Christians

Chronological Bible Storying and Worldview-Based Church Planting

These classes will focus on why, when, where, and how to effectively share the gospel and make disciples of oral learners through Bible storying. These classes will also introduce the topic of worldview and why discipleship and church planting must focus on worldview transformation for true discipleship to take place.

The objectives for this session are that each participant:

- Understand the Bible storying process so they could begin storying the gospel with others
- Understand the topic of worldview
- See the need for worldview transformation in the missionary’s own life, as well as in those to whom they minister

Specific Training Objectives (Cont.)

The Glory of the Gospel – A Study of the Gospel in the Book of Galatians

By the end of these ten sessions, each participant will:

- Have a broader grasp of what the gospel means for everyday living
- Gain a clear understanding of Paul's epistle to the Galatians
- Become aware of our struggle to live out of the gospel
- See in increasing measure the amazing power and glory of the gospel
- Learn that our efforts in the Christian life do not change our standing with Christ
- Recognize the idolatries that hinder us from living out of the gospel
- Understand the life-long journey of being formed in the image of Christ
- Understand why many Christians live underdeveloped lives in Christ

Strategy Coordinator Training

By the end of the training, each participant will:

- Understand what missions is, why it is important, and where we fit into what God has done in history
- Understand dynamics of crossing cultures and culture shock
- Understand aspects of spiritual warfare involved in missions
- Understand the character and traits God desires in people who transform communities and start gospel movements
- Understand what skills they need to develop as leaders to see movement activity take place among their people
- Understand what knowledge needs to be gained about their people and themselves for the gospel to be 1) communicated clearly, 2) received in such a way that it is openly followed, and 3) practiced so that worldview is transformed by Christ
- Develop their ability to think strategically about the necessary methods, people, ministries and partnerships needed to reach a people group
- Practice developing strategies and plans for reaching various UPGs

Training for Trainers (T4T)

Through involvement in Training for Trainers sessions, each participant will:

- Regularly share their faith with others with the backing of intentional prayer and communal support
- Meet regularly for encouragement and accountability with other believers who are seeking to obey Christ and be fishers of men
- Learn to lead in ways that empower others to do the same
- Learn a process that has been used more than any other in church planting movements around the world
- Learn a simple and reproducible process to evangelize, disciple, make leaders, and start churches
- Learn about elements that are often excluded from Christian meetings but are necessary for rapid maturity and movements to take place

Academic Coursework

One of our training objectives is to see people equipped with a general, working understanding of the framework of the Bible and the tools to be able to study and teach its various parts. Thus, participants who have not already completed biblical coursework will be expected to complete the following courses. These will account for approximately 8-10 hours of work (class time and study time) each week.

There are four classes, and each is three credit hours. These classes will be lecture and discussion based and will include assigned reading, written papers, and examinations.

- September through December classes:
 - Old Testament Survey
 - Hermeneutics
- February through May classes:
 - New Testament Survey
 - Systematic Theology

Note: Those seeking accredited course work should discuss options with the training team before committing to the program.

What will the year look like?

Orientation will last for approximately four weeks and involve trainings such as:

- Living in NYC
- Effective Team
- Church Planting Mentality
- Dealing with Theological Differences
- Philosophy of Ministry

Training throughout the year will include:

- Filling the Earth Seminar
- Reaching Internationals to Reach the World
- Discovery Bible Study Method
- Making Reproducible Disciples
- Evangelism with Muslims and Contextualization
- Chronological Bible Storying and Worldview-Based Church Planting
- Strategy Coordinator Training
- Training for Trainers
- Coaching and Mentoring Workshop

Books and Articles

Throughout the year, each participant will also read five to seven books and various articles related to ministry and/or CPM. In addition to the above trainings, as mentioned earlier, additional biblical coursework is offered to those who need to fulfill academic requirements.

House Church

- Involvement in a house church community, including discipleship, leading meetings, and ministering within the community
- Initiating house churches among internationals and/or unreached people groups within the city

International Student Ministry

- Leading 2-3 English groups each semester on a university campus
- Leading 3-4 discovery Bible studies with international students
- Meet one-on-one with students for relational evangelism

Muslim Ministry

- Conduct and implement a strategic field survey of a Muslim neighborhood
- Develop a plan for reaching this Muslim community
- Build relationships within this community
- Start discovery Bible studies

Why NYC for Training?

EQUIP gives a unique opportunity for church planters to gain valuable experience and training *before* beginning full-time service, either overseas or in their own community. Participants of EQUIP will *work alongside church planters with years of experience and expertise reaching unreached people groups* right here in NYC, planting churches here and across the globe. This is invaluable experience that most mission and ministry teams are not able to provide.

New York is an ethnically diverse city which makes it a unique training ground for cross-cultural church planters. *If the members of unreached people groups living in Metro New York were collectively counted as a city, they would form the second largest city in the United States.*

- Of the approximately 500 distinct ethnic groups living in NYC, it is estimated there may be as many as *100 unreached people group communities*.
- There are over *800,000 Muslims* in the New York City area. This means that 1 out of every 10 Muslims in the U.S. live in this area.
- Over *400,000 Hindus* live in NYC with very little gospel witness.
- NYC is home to some of the best universities in the U.S., including Columbia University and NYU. Over *50,000 international students* and scholars, many from unreached people groups and least evangelized countries, come here to study every year.
- NYC is home to *2000 foreign-based businesses*, more than any other U.S. city.
- The United Nations has 193 permanent missions and 113 consulates in NYC, employing approximately *25,000 people from 175 different countries*.
- As of 2008, over *650,000 Chinese* live in NYC, the largest number of Chinese in the Western hemisphere.
- Queens is the *most ethnically diverse* county in the U.S. According to the 2010 census, over 36% of the population of NYC is foreign born.
- Approximately *800 languages* are spoken in NYC, making it the most linguistically diverse city in the world. Over 48% of New York residents speak a language other than English in their homes.

Trends indicate that by the year 2030, over 75% of the world's population will live in major cities. Because cities are influential centers, the effects of ministry to unreached people groups in cities will go beyond the borders of the city into the world. Another powerful trend is that the demographics of the world continue to change as people groups from all over the world migrate into foreign international cities. Many of these people represent the influential thinkers and policy makers of their nations. Being away from home, they are more receptive to the gospel message. This shift gives us a wonderful opportunity to reach people who have been unexposed to the gospel and who can have a powerful voice to their own people and in their native lands.

It is for these reasons that NYC is an advantageous location for training cross-cultural church planters. The experience of EQUIP and this direct cross-cultural ministry is designed to increase effectiveness and should be highly considered by anyone who senses the Lord's leading for church planting ministry.

How will EQUIP help my church?

- By protecting the church from the high attrition rate due to missionaries being ill prepared for church planting ministry or unable to deal with the changes necessary to be effective in another culture.
- By giving participants experience and training that can be reproduced and implemented in the sending church community.
- By developing within the participants a philosophy of evangelism, discipleship, and church planting that is organic and highly reproducible.
- By instilling participants with the DNA and skills of church planting that lead to church planting movements.
- By helping participants view all of life, ministry, and church planting from a gospel perspective.

How much will it cost?

For a single person, the cost of the program (including all housing, living, and ministry expenses) is between \$2000 to \$2500 per month. For a married couple, the cost will be roughly \$4500 to \$5000 monthly. For information on families, please contact us.

Contact Us

For more information about the program or NYC International Project, please visit our web site at www.nycinternationalproject.org or email us at nycinternationalproject@gmail.com.