

THE NATIONAL COORDINATORS GUIDE ON HOW TO EFFECTIVELY START A TCCP

The purpose of this document is to give information on how to effectively start a local Training Center for Church Planters (TCCP).

I. The Vision of TCCP

The vision of TCCP is to effectively serve the church in its action toward the fulfillment of the Great Commission around the world by training church planters to spread of the gospel and to plant new churches.

We serve the church. We desire to be used of God to aid the local church to achieve saturation of church planting. We seek to do this by working with local church leaders of various denominations to establish a TCCP in every area in which there are not churches available to reach the lost, grow, worship, and serve our Lord.

II. Communication and Commitment for TCCP Workshop

TCCPs are established in all cities and towns in which there are enough churches to support the work of training church planters. TCCP does not send out church planters because that is the role of the church. Instead, it trains church planters for the churches. The churches shepherd the church planters of their denomination.

It is essential that a pastor who is dedicated to church planting be found in the city or town in which a TCCP will be started. This pastor must agree to become the local Coordinator for the new TCCP before the organizing workshop is held. This pastor should contact pastors from various denominations whom he believes will be willing to become leaders in the TCCP. He should attempt to have twenty to thirty pastors attend the workshop. Those who are initially interested may be willing to invite other pastors they think will be interested. Those who attend should be committed to church planting and to the need for training church planters. If we have these kinds of pastors attending, we actually need only about ten to attend the workshop. Usually, around thirty attend. We do want to have as many different denominations represented as possible.

Members of the leadership team for the TCCP handle responsibilities such as mentors coordinator, materials/facilities coordinator, finance, and records coordinator and promotion coordinator. In addition, trainers and mentors will be needed. So, it would be good to have pastors at the workshop who are willing to carry out those activities and serve as good leaders under the local Coordinator of the TCCP. The Coordinator should invite pastors to the workshop are capable of fulfilling those duties.

III. The TCCP Organizing Workshop

The workshop is intended to train pastors who will take the lead in establishing a TCCP in their community. A workshop session lasting about one and a half hours is conducted for instruction in how to organize and lead a TCCP. At the end of this instruction pastors are asked to sign a sheet if they are willing to be a part of the Organizing Board of the TCCP.

A second workshop session is conducted to train the trainers and the mentors. The instruction for trainers and the instruction for mentors lasts about two hours each. Then, the local TCCP Coordinator leads them in the first Board meeting for one-half to one hour. A suggested agenda for this meeting is given in the box below.

Agenda for First Organizing Board Meeting of TCCP

Begin with prayer.

First Agenda Item: Decide on the number of Omega Course class sessions per week (three hours or six hours per week) and the day of week for training sessions of the TCCP. Note that costs are about twice as high for six-hour per week sessions than for three-hour sessions.

Second Agenda Item: Discuss venue of training (may need to appoint a group to investigate various venues).

Third Agenda Item: Decide on the date and time for the next meeting of the Organizing Board (in one or two weeks, if possible while interest is at its highest).

Subsequent meetings of Organizing Board of TCCP should focus on:

Decide on monthly student fees.

Organizing the leadership team—mentors coordinator, materials coordinator, prayer team leader, etc. This should be done in the second or third meeting so that those who are committed to return for the meetings will be chosen.

Deciding calendar and schedule.

Determine who will contact various church leaders to inform them about TCCP and to interview them as part of the research.

Deciding how to promote the TCCP beyond the calls to church leaders. Decide who will do what and when.

Review results of the contacts with church leaders and finalize the decisions on venue for the Omega Course class sessions and number of Omega Course materials to have available for the first session.

Before the first class begins, trainers and mentors are selected from among local pastors. Each student church planter must have a mentor. If there are not enough experienced church planters for the first class, some students who are spiritually mature and knowledgeable of the Bible may serve as mentors. After the first class has graduated, strong graduates should be asked to become mentors. A mentor may work with several student church planters.

Budget for TCCP Workshops

First Trip to New TCCP City

Copies of “Organizing a TCCP” handout (8 pages X 30 people) =====\$15.
 Communications ===== \$60.

Second Trip to New TCCP City

Copies of “How to Effectively Teach the Omega Course: Training Trainers” and
 "Mentoring Training" handouts (15 pages X 15 people) ===== \$15.
 Lunches (\$5 per person X 15 people) ===== \$75.
 Soft drinks, tea, and water ===== \$45.
 Other miscellaneous expenses ===== \$40.
Total Expenses* \$250.

IV. Training Student Church Planters

The only material taught in the training centers is called the Omega Course. Each manual of the five manuals of the Omega Course has been designed to provide the skills, answers to questions, and work with potential problems that are faced in the phases of church planting. As students proceed through the course they carry out activities, called Action Plans, involved in starting a new church. No one is allowed to join a class after it has been meeting a month.

Class sessions are three-hours per week or six-hours per week. Since there are 127 hours of class time in the study of the Omega Course, TCCPs that decide to have three-hour per week sessions require about one year to complete. Those that have six-hour per week sessions can finish in one-half year. As students begin the Omega

Course, they begin immediately to plant a church by carrying out the assignments that are a part of this course. By the time they finish three of the five manuals of the Omega Course, they should have started a cell group or a new church. To graduate and receive their certificate of graduation, they must have started a new church or a cell group that is intended to become a new church. You can download free copies of the Omega Course on our website <http://www.trainingchurchplanting.org>. A National Coordinator for TCCP serves in each country to start new TCCPs and spread the work to every city and town in the country. In addition the National Coordinator advises, monitors, and assists the TCCPs. This is a part-time position and the National Coordinators continue their pastoring or teaching duties. The churches usually allow classes to meet in their facilities. The TCCPs do not require office space.

The materials coordinator of each TCCP will photocopy one manual at a time of the Omega Course. A registration fee will pay for the cost of copying manual one. A student fee each month will pay for the cost of copying the other manuals in the series. Funds collected during the study of manual five will pay for an honorarium for each trainer and for graduation ceremony costs. Of course, for classes that are to complete a manual in two months (three hours of study per week), the registration and monthly fees are one-half the cost of fees for those who study a manual in one month (six hours per week). The cost of manual one varies with number of pages in the language used and the cost of photocopies in the country. For classes with three-hour sessions, the monthly fee is about \$1.00 USD. Classes with six-hour sessions will have monthly student fees of about \$2.00 USD. TCCPs will use funds collected during the study of manual five to pay for an honorarium for each trainer and for graduation ceremony costs. Registration fees are used to pay for cost of manual one for the each new class of a TCCP. Fees should be kept as low as possible.

V. Role of National Coordinator

The National Coordinator promotes vision, acts as an advisor to all the centers, monitors work of all centers, enables and coordinates the opening of new centers, develops a national network of prayer. The national Coordinator makes quarterly reports on TCCP activities within his country to President of TCCP (See Job Description of the TCCP National Coordinator for details).