

Church Planters Initiative

(A ministry of PLANT! - OM)

Concept

The Church Planters Initiative (CPI) is designed to be a training course in church planting with the end objective to plant a Vibrant Community of Jesus Followers (VCJF – used interchangeably with the word “church” throughout this document). Qualified individuals will be prayerfully chosen by the CPI leadership team to take part in a cohort of 5-8 (subject to change) lead workers, not including their respective teams and families. The course will take 24 months. The class will be a mix of Portuguese disciples and International applicants recruited from a variety of networks.

The CPI will look to be a strategic ministry for OM’s PLANT! Network in the Catholic Europe region. The first two cohorts of church planters should seek to plant within a 2-hour driving radius of Porto, where the CPI will be located. After a couple successful cohorts, the planting could be opened up to Spain, the rest of Europe and then even beyond into Northern Africa, etc.

The Porto location is to capitalize on the success and experience of two church plants that have already started within the PLANT! Network. These are Surf Church Porto, and Surf Church Viana. As well, Porto is the city where a large number of the stakeholders and leadership team of the CPI currently live.

Additionally, it is strategically very important that cohorts plant their churches within a two hour driving radius, in order to continue meeting monthly during and after the completion of the CPI course. This is to continue with encouragement, accountability and support, challenging each other to move forward well. This should help to avoid the common loneliness generally associated with pioneering ministries, and create the momentum of a movement, as opposed to an individual effort.

Potential planters (lead workers) will need to demonstrate proof of certain qualifications like spiritual maturity, some form of previous Bible training, a clear calling from God, a solid home network of support, and a humble and teachable heart.

An important aspect of the CPI is to engage in practical ministries in association with any local PLANT! approved VCJF. Preferably, each participant should experience leading for a time, every facet of the VCJF program, (i.e. bible teaching, worship, community outreach, etc....) Additionally, it is expected that in working with the

VCJF, the participant develops in each of the 10 principles for VCJF as shown in the PLANT! Document.

Another important aspect of the CPI is to teach once through the bible in a survey classroom setting, stretching through the coursework over the first year. All church plants associated with the CPI will be Bible teaching churches; therefore it is essential to have a thorough overview of “the whole counsel of God” as Paul called it. Further, the CPI will be accepting applicants from various levels of biblical training and this aspect will ensure at least a general basis for the biblical narrative as a whole.

The final aspect of the CPI is, from the beginning of the program, with the help of the assigned coach/mentor, to prayerfully choose a location within the 2 hour driving radius, recruit a team, develop a strategy (which includes an eventual handoff to local leadership within 3-5 years), and work the logistics of planting an actual VCJF. This includes a workable plan to learn the language and culture of the community in the proposed location of the new church. **EVERY CHURCH PLANTER THAT JOINS OUR PROGRAM UNDERSTANDS THAT THE FINAL PROJECT AND OUTCOME OF THE CHURCH PLANTERS INITIATIVE IS TO PLANT A REAL CHURCH.**

Coaches/Mentors will be assigned to each lead worker in the cohort, and will walk with them at least through the duration of the 24 month course, hoping that a long term relationship will be made that continues into the future of the lead worker’s church planting efforts. While we hope that this relationship will always focus on the good development and momentum of the lead worker and his project, we need to understand that sometimes things turn difficult under the stress and spiritual attack associated with church planting. Coaches/Mentors will be the first line of defense against this with struggling participants.

Essentially, a coach/mentor will help to keep the lead worker accountable in all things, relying on both that specific personal relationship, as well as the supervision of the CPI leadership team to help identify unhealthy patterns that could be emerging in the lead workers life, both personally and professionally. Member care will then be offered within that coaching relationship, then eventually from OM Portugal if needed, and finally the lead worker’s sending field. Only if unhealthy patterns can’t be rectified, and if all of the above levels of member care agree, will the lead workers’ project be put on hold, or terminated, and the lead worker sent home.

How Will We Plant?

In keeping with the general strategies employed by Surf Church Porto, we will keep the theme of simplicity, as it seems to be a winning one. We say, ‘do what you love for the One you love’, as a missional strategy, integrating intentional discipleship into

all relationships made through that activity. For example, our activities are surfing and skateboarding but can include any other calling or passion.

On the discipleship road, when someone becomes a believer in Jesus, we teach him or her to immediately engage in sharing his or her new life change. In the same simple way the message of the Gospel changed their lives, they will seek to share with others.

We immediately teach reproducibility in all that we do as a church. We look to empower people very early on, to develop the ability to serve in these ways. This means that everyone in the church is essentially being trained to be an active part of the growing church. That further means that everyone in the church can be effective in being a part of a new church planting team, a concept which we have been faithful to in the planting of the second Surf Church in Viana and a third church in Leça.

The strategy of each Lead Worker's project will vary slightly, as they are empowered in their training to seek God's specific will and desire for their specific project. However, for most projects, we will encourage the simple concept of "doing what you love for the One you love," as a way of integrating into a community, meeting others, and developing relationships. That will be the primary means of engaging the specific community.

The Lead worker should aspire to move into their chosen community, with their team, employing their chosen strategies at some point toward the end of the first year of the CPI program.

In terms of starting to actually implement the structures of one of the appropriate VCJF models (I.e running actual church programs), the planter will need to prayerfully sense the right time to begin. To be clear, any of these models as outlined on page 6 of the PLANT! document (House communities, Gathered communities, Cell communities), need to have within them what we believe to be the prescribed necessary pillars of any VCJF, which are outlined in Acts 2 (teaching the word, prayer, fellowship and communion).

At that point, the lead worker should then combine the strategies that they've employed from the beginning to engage the community, with the actual church model principles that will become the rhythms of the church's life.

An example of this is the pre-bible-study meals that Surf Church puts on every Sunday after the community engagement surf time. It is a very easy and culturally relevant thing to invite someone to a meal with the rest of the group after meeting him or her at the beach to surf. While this has proven to be very successful, again each planter's strategy in this area will have freedom to vary.

However, we believe that the structures of the church should be implemented as soon as possible, and the VCJF able to be functioning within the first 6-12 months of the

lead worker moving into the community, essentially completing the CPI program. We realize that one of our new VCJF projects, especially in Europe, may not fulfill the description of a VCJF as seen in page 3 of the PLANT! document within that 6-12 month time frame (sustainable, interdependent, culturally relevant, and reproducing, etc.) but we do believe that the proper structures and practices should be at least established within this time frame.

Accommodation and Operation

Clearly, a specific building with lodging, living and training capabilities would be very useful in the practical development of this Institution. Until the leadership team discovers this location, classes can easily take place in homes, or monthly rented local offices.

Living quarters can be rented in the areas close to the training location of the CPI.

It is hoped that PLANT! will eventually be involved in resourcing potential operations locations.

VISAS – Visas can be relatively easily acquired now for non-EU applicants, as the Portuguese govt. recently passed legislation approving and accepting many more foreigners.

European participants can potentially enjoy the program without obtaining a visa as EU Citizens.

Cost of Program:

-Initial one time set up fee	1500 euros
-includes potential rental contract fees, general set up costs, visas, etc.	
-lodging with basic utility costs	400 euros per month*
-food and basic necessities	300 euros per month (per individual)
-transportation costs	50 euros per month (per individual)**
-communication costs	30 euros per month (per individual)
-additional spending money	50 euros per month
-course administration fees	250 euros per month *
-language class	200 euros per month
Total Monthly Costs	1280 euros

*If a building is obtained where lodging and training can be combined, costs of living and admin fees will be subject to become lower, as individual costs will be combined.

**This cost is subject to rise in the course of planting, and could vary for a number of reasons, including distance to location, families, strategies, etc. The lead worker should become aware of actual costs during the course of the project, and will be responsible for those additional costs.

When other extracurricular opportunities arise, that require additional costs, the planters will need to raise the additional funding through their own support network.

The CPI Leadership Team in conjunction with the PLANT! network will seek to raise external funds to allow more potential flexibility for participants in program opportunity. Potentially, these funds could offset and subsidize additional program opportunities that were not already included in the initial program budget.

Potential Leadership Team

*All the below remains to be developed between the current church planting team in Porto, the PLANT! network and various OM leadership. Below is just a suggestion of what the leadership and stake holding could be, and all is potentially subject to approval from the PLANT! steering committee.

Troy Pitney – CPI leader – Lead Worker Mentor, Teacher, Practitioner.

Greg Weaver - CPI leader – Lead Worker Mentor, Teacher, Practitioner.

CPI Council (Stakeholders)

Hans Van Baaren – OM Europe Area Leader and PLANT! network leader. – Key Stakeholder.

Shaun Rossi – OM Europe Church Planting Leader (title?) – Lead Worker Mentor, Teacher, Practitioner and Key Stakeholder.

Sam Cianelli dos Anjos – Leader of Surf Church Porto, Mentor, Teacher, Practitioner.

Nuno Moleira - Leader of Surf Church Viana Mentor, Teacher, Practitioner

Denis Couto - Leader of Toda a gente (3rd project), teacher, mentor, practioner.

Loren Morrall - Church planter in Alaska, Acts29

Joaquim Couto - Local church elder

Tobias Schultz - Near East church planter, church plant network leader.

In addition, we seek to have other Portuguese pastors and teachers, as well as OM pastors and teachers to engage and lead in the program as well.

OM Portugal should/could have a stake in the project and the teaching as well.

What we are, and what we aren't

To be clear we want to be a program that, by the very nature of the project, plants churches. We believe there are many equipped, trained, qualified, and ready to move Christians in the world, that simply need the push and empowerment to move forward and plant a VCJF! We aim to recruit those, and move them through our unique program, into the beginning of an actual Church plant!

We are not a Bible School; though we will teach the Bible (a lot). There are many Bible schools that are very good, and OM even has good connections and partnerships as seen on page 14 of the PLANT! document. We only want to promote and bless those schools, and encourage as many people as possible to go to them and become trained in Bible, missiology, etc... We are not a replacement option for those who are interested in church planting but don't have any bible experience. Bible College and formal training is very important.

We won't seek immediate affiliations, or accreditation. Our main objective is to take the momentum of our current church plants in Portugal and the PLANT! Network, and apply it directly to new VCJFs.

Concluding statements

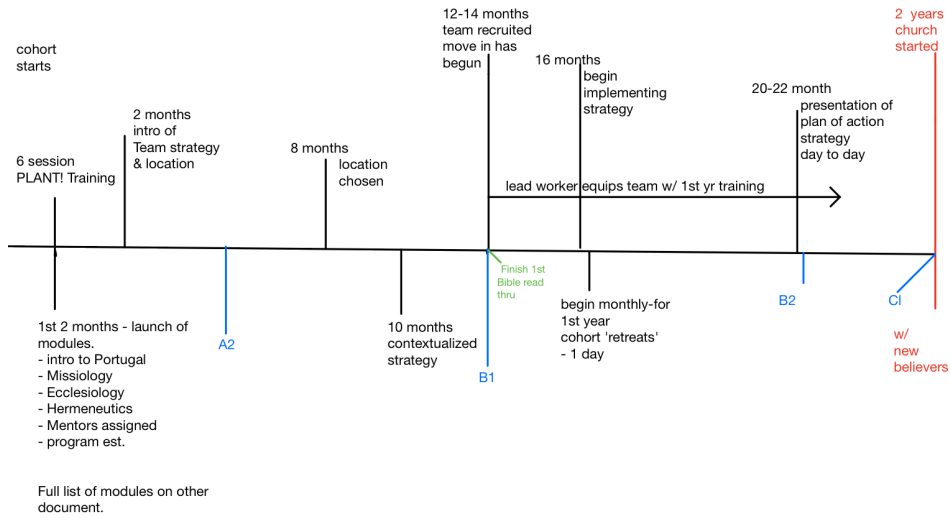
We are seeking to do something that hasn't often been done before in the western world! We want to plant more churches, and move and mobilize and equip many others with the same calling.

At some point, especially in regards to church planting, we need to step out of the board room and strategizing process, and take the practical step to move forward and begin!

We seek to empower and equip anyone that finds himself or herself in that particular season of life, with that particular calling.

Through the CPI and in working within the parameters of the PLANT! Network, we want to see at least 50 VCJFs planted in the next 15 years.

General 2 year Coursework Timeline:



- 1st 2 weeks- should arrive at least 1 wk earlier families-2-4 weeks
- basic set up
- orientation
- General program
- Personal development plan SF
- Bible reading-3 ch a day-through in 1 year
- solos retreat-personal
- 2 day 'retreat' team
- team building

In regards to language, we are working with professional tutor to determine the appropriate times necessary to reach each of the language goals. Therefore, these times may adjust as we get more information from her.

Years 3-5

