

CHURCH PLANTING RESIDENCY PROGRAM BEREAN FELLOWSHIP

Our Vision

The vision of the Residency Program is to recruit, train, and release church planters by providing an immersion-based ministry training experience which will lay a solid foundation for a long and fruitful life of learning, leadership, and ministry in the context of the local church. By the grace of God, we are planting at least 3 new churches every year.

Why immersion? We believe that the values of the kingdom of God are better “caught than taught.” This means that in order to really learn how we do ministry within the context of the Berean movement, a potential church planter needs to be immersed into the culture of a healthy reproducing church at an intense leadership level to really get it.

Someone once said, “Being around someone who performs a certain ministry skill successfully (or demonstrates personal maturity) is the best way to learn to do it (or be it) yourself.”

We want to create an environment where this can happen – where potential church planters can spend an intensive year interacting with, learning from, and being ministered to by seasoned pastors and active church planters, in the context of a local church.

The benefits of this type of training include:

- Hands-on experience throughout the life of the local church
- Developing a holistic view of what goes on in each area of ministry
- Practical training within a healthy, reproducing church and mentoring pastor
- Interaction with multiple church planting pastors on many different levels
- Developing a missional way of life
- Leadership opportunities within all areas of ministry
- Strengths-based personal coaching with a mentoring pastor
- Life on life discipleship with a mentoring pastor
- Create an individualized coaching strategy for you

This will be a one-year intensive, experiential learning school with a focus on giving you hands-on practical experience within a healthy, reproducing church while teaching you core ministry philosophy and tools for a solid foundation of life, learning, ministry and leadership.

We will break the year down into four seasons of development that will focus on different critical themes and aspects of personal discipleship and ministry leadership.

Season 1: Formation of the Inner life, Sustainable Pace, and Missional Living

The experience starts off by helping you enter your inner world to address and master the critical areas of creating a healthy spiritual life, experiencing emotional health and freedom and embracing healthy singleness or fostering a vibrant marriage. This is a time of intense soul-searching, discovering a deeper relationship with Jesus and forming disciplines for leading out of a place of wholeness, connection and healthy rhythms/pace.

- Grow in healthy singleness or developing healthy marriages and family life through Biblical counseling and mentoring
- Silent retreats and other opportunities to practice and grow in the spiritual disciplines
- Building a life of character, integrity, and sustainable pace of life that can weather

- the storms and hectic ness of ministry
- Make friends, win trust, observe, listen, practice the lost art of hospitality, build friendships with people that do not follow Christ
- Books to read may include: A Long Obedience in the Same Direction, Practicing the Presence of God, Celebration of Discipline, Forgotten God, Sacred Rhythms, 5 Love Languages, What Wives Wish Their Husbands Knew About Women, Tangible Kingdom, Compelled by Love

Season 2: Reaching, Connecting & Building People / Discipleship

Discovering practices of ministry. You will learn and experience how to build into people, build community, and teach them to be students of Jesus. You will have the opportunity to communicate God's empowering Word to his people.

- Giving away what you received in the previous season
- What does a disciple of Jesus look like and how do you intend to make one, or many
- Developing a plan for intentional discipleship
- Learning to communicate the gospel story and God's Word through life on life relationships
- Small group involvement, leading and shepherding a small community of people
- Follow the process of discipleship to community building/fellowship starting
- The sign of maturity is reproduction. All healthy things reproduce.
- Books to read may include: The Lost Art of Discipleship, Lifestyle Discipleship, Spiritual Leadership, House To House, Multipliers, Tribes, The New Christians

Season 3: Discovering Vision & Values & Calling

Discovering your personal call to ministry and an overarching vision for your life, leadership, and ministry. To help further formulate this, you will capture the local church values and philosophy of ministry through intense study and experience.

- Maturity is reproduction
- Values and Philosophy of Berean Church Planting
- Exposure and Understanding of a variety of models and style
- Gospel centered communities
- Books to read may include: Planting Missional Churches, Visioneering, Radical, Starting A House Church, Hybrid Church, Lost and Found

Season 4: Doing Church / Leadership Implementation /Preparation for Assessment

Having experienced some of the mechanics of working with people, you will now gain experience and wisdom related to actually running a healthy church. Starting with broader topics like understanding how to reach the culture of their world and city to more practical topics like managing finances, week to week planning and leading effectively, you will acquire the nuts and bolts of how to effectively pastor this thing that we call church.

- Developing a holistic view of what goes on in each area of ministry and provide a vision toward which you will grow your own church.
- Planning, Visioneering
- Communication / Teaching / Preaching
- Budgets, Fundraising
- Team formation / Development / Meyers Briggs stages of a team
- Preparation for Assessment Center pending a recommendation from mentoring pastor and Berean Church Planting Director
- Books to read may include: And, Getting Things Done, Team Building, People Raising, The Art and Craft of Biblical Preaching, Communicating For A Change, Failing Forward, The 360 Degree Leader, Breaking The Missional Code

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is the primary goal of the Program?

The primary goal of the Program is the development and deployment of new church planters who will plant churches that are passionate, mature, and reproducing. It is our aim to pass on to the Residents the accumulated experience and knowledge of the mentoring pastors within the Berean Fellowship, and prepare approved Residents for the Church Planting Assessment.

2. What Berean pastors and church planters will be involved with my Residency?

The Residency will be overseen by the Berean Fellowship National Church Planting Team. Each Resident however will have a 'Lead' Mentoring Pastor and local church providing the immersion-based ministry training. In addition, Residents will interact with other Berean and non Berean pastors and church planters in the region and country.

3. What qualifications are needed to be accepted into the Program?

We are looking for people who have a passion to plant a new Berean church and are daring enough to dream big dreams for the Kingdom of God. Additionally, we are looking for individuals with previous related ministry and leadership experience. Finally, we place a high value on a positive "can do" attitude, flexibility, a strong work ethic, being a team player, and a willingness to grow in awareness of oneself and others.

4. What are the dates for the Program?

The Residency is a 12 month intensive.

5. What is the admissions process?

You must complete the initial stages of the Berean Church Planting Interview process. <http://bereanchurchfellowship.org/national-church-planting.aspx>

6. What financial support is available as a Resident?

Some financial assistance is available for moving expenses and fundraising training.

7. Will I get any financial support when I plant a church?

We recognize that financial considerations for church planting must be addressed. Currently, the Berean Fellowship offers a small grant for those who are accepted to plant a Berean Church.

8. What if I have a question that is not answered here?

If you have any questions about the Program or the application process that is not answered in this document, you can email us at cheek.kris@gmail.com or call us at 303-532-9104.