

GREAT COMMISSION RESEARCH NETWORK OFFICERS *(formerly: The American Society for Church Growth)*

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GREAT COMMISSION RESEARCH NETWORK GREATCOMMISSIONRESEARCH.NET *(Formerly: The American Society for Church Growth)*

What is the Great Commission Research Network or GreatCommissionResearch.net?

The Great Commission Research Network is a worldwide and professional association of Christian leaders whose ministry activities are based on the basic and key principles of church growth as originally developed by the late Donald McGavran. Founded by renowned missiologists George G. Hunter III and C. Peter Wagner, the GreatCommissionResearch.net (formally the American Society for Church Growth) has expanded into an affiliation of church leaders who share research, examine case studies, dialogue with cutting-edge leaders, and network with fellow church professionals who are committed to helping local churches expand the kingdom through disciple-making

Who Can Join the GCRN?

GCRN membership is open to all who wish a professional affiliation with colleagues in the field. The membership includes theoreticians, such as professors of church growth, and practitioners, such as pastors, denominational executives, parachurch leaders, church planters, researchers, missions leaders, and consultants. Some members specialize in domestic or mono-cultural church growth, while others are cross-culturally oriented.

Why Join the GCRN?

The GCRN provides a forum for maximum interaction among leaders, ministries, and resources on the cutting edge of Great Commission research.

The Annual Conference of the Great Commission Research Network (typically held in early November each year) offers the opportunity for research updates information on new resources and developments, as well as fellowship and encouragement from colleagues in the field of church growth. Membership in GCRN includes a subscription to the *Great Commission Research Journal*.

How Do I Join the GCRN?

For further information on membership, the annual meeting and registration, please visit www.greatcommissionresearch.com

Membership Benefits

- Network affiliation with leading writers, consultants, denominational leaders, professors of evangelism and church growth, pastors, church planters, researchers, and mission leaders
- Subscription to the Great Commission Research Journal
- Discounts for Annual Conference Registration
- Listing of your contact information on the GCRN website in our Membership Directory

Membership fees (includes the Journal and all the benefits above):

\$49.00/year—**Regular Membership** / \$59.00—Membership outside the US

\$29.00/year—**Student/Senior Adult (65+) Membership** / \$39.00—Membership outside the US

2016 Annual Conference



Location: Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Riley Conference Center

Topics: Church Growth in the Following Contexts: Conflict, Change, Small/Medium Churches

Dates: Thursday and Friday, October 6–7, 2016

Late registration begins at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday.

Lodging: 55 hotel-type rooms; contact info.: www.swbts.edu/riley-center; 817-921-8800

Conference Pricing: GCRN Member \$109, Non-member \$139, Spouse \$79, Student \$39

Register: www.greatcommissionresearch.com

Pay online or mail checks to Great Commission Research Network, c/o Grace Morris, 8420 Whippoorwill Drive. Fort Worth, TX 76123

The Donald A. McGavran Award

Once a year, the Great Commission Research Network (formerly the American Society for Church Growth) presents the Donald A. McGavran Award to an individual who has made a significant contribution to the Church Growth Movement in the United States.

The award recipients to date are:

Win Arn	1989	Ray Ellis	2002
C. Peter Wagner	1990	John Ellas	2003
Carl F. George	1991	Rick Warren	2004
Wilbert S. McKinnley	1992	Charles Arn	2005
Robert Logan	1993	John Vaughan	2006
Bill Sullivan	1994	Waldo Werning	2006
Elmer Towns	1994	Bob Whitesel	2007
Flavil R. Yeakley, Jr.	1995	Bill Easum	2009
George G. Hunter, III	1996	Thom S. Rainer	2010
Eddie Gibbs	1997	Ed Stetzer	2012
Gary L. McIntosh	1998	Nelson Searcy	2013
Kent R. Hunter	1999	J.D. Payne	2014
R. Daniel Reeves	2000	Alan McMahan	2015

The Win Arn Lifetime Achievement Award

Eddie Gibbs	2011	John Vaughan	2014
Elmer Towns	2012	Gary McIntosh	2015
George G. Hunter III	2013		

ASCG/GCRN Past Presidents

C. Peter Wagner	1986	Gary L. McIntosh	1995–96
George Hunter III	1987	R. Daniel Reeves	1997–98
Kent R. Hunter	1988	Ray W. Ellis	1999–2000
Elmer Towns	1989	Charles Van Engen	2001–2002
Eddie Gibbs	1990	Charles Arn	2003–2004
Bill Sullivan	1991	Alan McMahan	2005–2006
Carl F. George	1992	Eric Baumgartner	2007–2008
Flavil Yeakley, Jr.	1993	Bob Whitesel	2009–2012
John Vaughan	1994	Steve Wilkes	2013–2014

INFORMATION FOR SUBSCRIBERS AND WRITERS

Subscription Rates: The subscription rate is \$30 per year for semi-annual issues, \$38 per year for foreign subscriptions. Individual back issues are \$15 each. All prices are US Funds. Please make checks payable to “Biola University.” Subscriptions, renewals, orders, and change-of-address notifications should be sent to: Great Commission Research Journal, Subscription Office-Academic Publications, Biola University, 13800 Biola Ave, La Mirada, CA 90639-0001 USA (E-mail: gcr.subscriptions@biola.edu - Phone: 562-944-0351 ext. 5321).

Submission of Articles: The *Great Commission Research Journal* welcomes articles of original scholarship and of general interest dealing with all aspects of Church Growth, effective evangelism and successful Great Commission strategies. Reasoned responses to past articles will be considered, as well as book reviews. All manuscripts should not have been published elsewhere unless specifically approved by the editor.

- The article should represent original research, never before published.
- Your article should be 12–25 pages in length, double-spaced, Times New Roman, 12 point font in a Word document file format. Book reviews should be 3 to 5 pages and article responses 7 to 10 pages in length.
- Follow the guidelines for style found in *The Chicago Manual of Style* or K.L. Turabian’s *Manual for Writers*. Footnotes should be at the bottom of each page.
- At the top of the page, please include your name, professional title, physical mailing address, email, and phone number. We will not print your mailing address or phone number in the journal.
- At the beginning of your article include an abstract of approximately 100 words. Separate this from the article that follows with a dashed line.

- After your section on References or Works Cited, and separated by a dashed line, include a short biographical sketch (no more than 100 words) for each writer. In the section you may include contact information, title, degree(s), and institution(s) where earned or specialization(s).
- All figures, tables (and linked files), and graphics included in the article should be submitted in a separate .jpeg or .tiff document in black and white format. PDF's are not acceptable.
- Submit your article, supporting documents (figures, tables, and graphics), and copyright release form (downloadable from www.biola.edu/gcr) to the proper editor indicated below. All manuscripts will be acknowledged promptly and processed as quickly as possible.
- Our editorial team will review all submissions and if accepted for publication, we reserve the right to edit for usage and style. Appearance of accepted articles in print is approximately six months after submission or as forthcoming article backlog allows. Contributors receive a complimentary copy of the issue in which their article appears as well as a PDF version upon request. Thank you for your submission!

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Inquiries, Submissions, and Correspondence

1. **Articles related to North America** should be submitted to Parnell M. Lovelace, Jr., North American Editor, Lovelace Leadership Connection, P.O. Box 369, Rancho Cordova, California 95741, Email: parnell@Lovelaceleadership.org, Phone: (916) 441-2223.
2. **Articles related to International contexts** (outside of North America) should be submitted to Leonard Bartlotti, International Desk Editor, c/o General Editor, School of Intercultural Studies, Biola University, 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada, CA 90639-0001. E-mail: lbartlotti@gmail.com.
3. **Book reviews** should be submitted to Mike Morris, Book Review Editor, Roy Fish School of Evangelism and Missions, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, P.O. Box 22207 Fort Worth, TX 76122. Phone: 817-923-1921, Ext. 6470. E-mail: jmorriss@swbts.edu.
4. Inquiries and correspondence related to **dissertation reviews** should be sent to Gary McIntosh, Dissertation Editor, Talbot School of Theology, Biola University, 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada, CA 90639-0001. Phone: 562-903-6000 x5559; E-mail: cgnet@earthlink.net.
5. **All other correspondence** relating to the Journal should be directed to Alan McMahan, General Editor, School of Intercultural Studies, Biola University, 13800 Biola Ave., La Mirada, CA 90639-0001. E-mail: alan.mcmahan@biola.edu. Phone: 562-903-4844, ext. 3269; Fax: 562-903-4851.

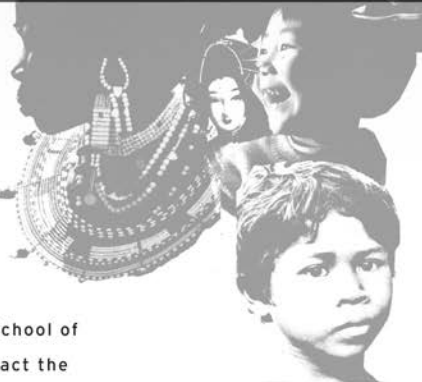


"For me, the professors' missions experience has helped me better understand how I can use my passion to teach English as ministry, and further the Great Commission."

MARK HERBST
(07, M.A. TESOL)

GET EQUIPPED FOR THE GREAT COMMISSION

For over 25 years, the School of Intercultural Studies has been all about the Great Commission. When Jesus said, "go and make disciples of all nations," we believe he meant it. The Clyde and Anna Belle Cook School is committed to continuing and strengthening its tradition of disciple-making - of equipping cross-cultural servants for missions and global impact through doctoral and master's programs in missiology, intercultural studies, linguistics, education and anthropology.



Students like Mark Herbst come to the Cook School of Intercultural Studies with the ambition to impact the world for Christ. They leave with the tools to make it happen.



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*Biola University's Center for Christian Thought is
now accepting grant applications for:*

SUFFERING & THE GOOD LIFE



2017-2018 RESEARCH THEME

BIOLA UNIVERSITY'S CENTER FOR CHRISTIAN THOUGHT invites applications for grants related to Suffering & the Good Life. Topics to be discussed under this year of research will include:

- *What are the conditions under which suffering plays a role in bringing about human flourishing?*
- *In what ways is flourishing in the context of suffering contingent on the response of the sufferer?*
- *What are the psychological effects of suffering and which of these are conducive to character development?*
- *Are there intentional practices the sufferer can adopt to raise the likelihood that suffering conduces to positive growth?*
- *How do scientific studies on post-traumatic growth shed light on suffering and flourishing?*
- *What is the relationship between suffering and pain?*
- *Is there a distinctly Christian approach to the experience of suffering and its connection to happiness?*
- *How might churches and other voluntary associations help their members harness suffering for good in their lives?*

GRANT DESCRIPTIONS

1. RESIDENTIAL RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS. Receive up to \$90,000 for semester- and year-long residential research fellowships at Biola University. We invite Christian scholars from various disciplines and perspectives into integrative and constructive conversation. Fellows enjoy daily interaction in the beautiful CCT offices, meeting for weekly roundtable discussion, as well as seminars from world-class Visiting Scholars, such as:

MARILYN McCORD ADAMS (RUTGERS UNIVERSITY), DAVID BAIN (UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW), LAWRENCE CALHOUN (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE), JULIE EXLINE (CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY), CRYSTAL PARK (UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT), ELEONORE STUMP (SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY), AND RICHARD TEDESCHI (UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHARLOTTE).

2. PASTOR-IN-RESIDENCE FELLOWSHIPS. Receive \$10,000 for one semester in residence with Research Fellows. Intended for Southern California pastors looking for a unique educational experience, Pastors-in-Residence join Christian scholars in weekly discussions on our research theme, and then formulate a sermon series to expose their congregation to the most significant aspects of that research.

3. COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS. Receive \$15,000 (\$5,000 per individual; \$10,000 per institution) for two winning courses. Applicants submit a C.V., course summary, and detailed syllabus.

HOW TO APPLY

Visit CCT.BIOLA.EDU/RESEARCH for application details.

TIMELINE

Applications due: NOVEMBER 1, 2016

Recipients announced: MARCH 1, 2017

Fall program: AUGUST 15, 2017–DECEMBER 15, 2017

Spring program: JANUARY 15, 2018–MAY 15, 2018

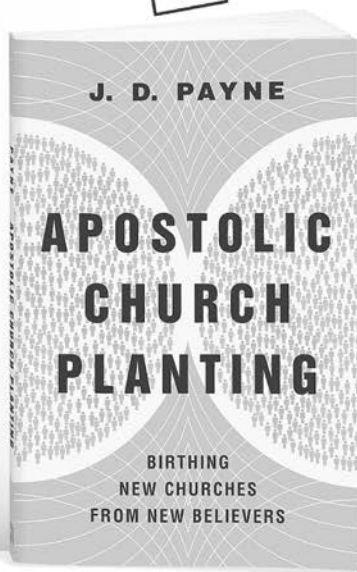


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**FOR MORE INFORMATION,
VISIT CCT.BIOLA.EDU/RESEARCH.**

- 
- Worship team
 - Building
 - Pastor
 - Money
 - Plant a church



Being a church
doesn't require doing
churchy things.

Church planting is not just about gathering new communities of people who are already Christians—it flows naturally out of making disciples. In this concise guide, pastor J. D. Payne explains the process and stages of church planting, with biblical foundations and practical steps for planting teams both domestically and internationally.

"J. D. Payne strategically shows how sustainable and sanctified apostolic church planting (churches birthed from disciple making) is actually simple, and he skillfully does so without being simplistic."

TOM STEFFEN, Biola University