Bivo/Covo Definitions

Definitions: Short Versions

A **Bivocational** Church Planter is one who works a second job to supplement the salary the church provides. Their hope is that the church will eventually be in a position to provide the financial support for the planter to leave his second job to focus full-time on the church plant.

A **Covocational** Church Planter is one whose primary vocation is in the marketplace and at the same time is called to start a church. A "covo" planter is one who has a clear calling in the marketplace that he never intends to leave. He knows God has called him to be a teacher, mechanic, graphic designer or doctor and he desires to weave that calling into the plan to plant a church.

Definitions: Long Versions

A **Bivocational** Church Planter is one who works a second job to supplement the salary the church provides. Historically, the language of "tentmaker" (the Apostle Paul's trade described in Acts 18) has been used to define this type of church planter. Typically, a "bivo" planter is one who has a marketplace job that he views as temporary. His hope is that the church plant will eventually be in a position to provide the financial support for the planter to leave his second job to focus fulltime on the church.

A **Covocational** Church Planter is one whose primary vocation is in the marketplace, but at the same time, is called to start a church. A "covo" planter is one who has a clear and definite calling in the marketplace that he never intends to leave. He knows God has called him to be a teacher, mechanic, graphic designer or doctor and he desires to weave that calling into the plan to plant a church. The prefix "co" is the reduced form of the Latin "com" which means "together" or to have "in common." English words like cofounder, copilot or co-author are examples of words that denote partnership and equality. Covocation embodies the reality that if a person is called to the marketplace; and at the same time are called to start a church, the different callings are not isolated from one another, but instead are actually interlinked and equal.