



Global Church-Based Theological Education

*Accelerating Church Planting Movements Worldwide by
Training Leaders in "the Way of Christ and His Apostles"*



philosophy



curriculum



network



BILD International

Answering a Need—A Return to Training Leaders in “the Way of Christ and His Apostles”

A New Era of Church History

We are entering a new century, a new millennium, and a new era of history, including church history. Huge shifts like this only happen every 200 or 400 years.

Modern to postmodern

Critical to post-critical

Industrial to technological

Enlightenment to post-enlightenment

The world is being reshaped and new worldview constructs are beginning to emerge!

A Massive Shift to the Global South

There is a massive shift in Christianity to the Global South. Listen to the following statistics:

- By 2050, 1 of every 5 people will be Latino.
- Africa grew from 10 million in 1900 to 360 million in 2000.
- Asia is ablaze with the spontaneous expansion of the gospel. Large-scale conversions are predicted in India.
- A major organization predicts tens of millions of new churches over the next few decades.

A New Apostolic Church Age

George Hunter wrote on these combined realities, in a way that helps us see the importance of the time we are entering.

- Christendom has largely dissolved; and peoples of Europe and North America are mostly secular.
- The Enlightenment, which provided the worldview for the West, is spent.
- Once again, we are in an Apostolic Age—much like Early Church Christianity experienced.

A Call for New Paradigms

We fail to realize how dysfunctional and inhibiting our Western leadership structures are today and how poorly they position us to respond to the needs of the new millennium.

For over 20 years, BILD has argued that we need radical restructuring of Western enterprises, paradigms with 200- and 400-year histories:

- theological education
- mission agencies
- theological disciplines
- hermeneutics
- the entire Christian education and adult learning structures

BILD International is a serious, long-term answer to help call the Church back to the New Testament, as we enter this new era.

Why is this so important?

20th century example: Latin America and Africa.

Almost every mission field planted by the Western missionary enterprise, which depends on Western formal theological institutions to develop its leaders, is experiencing common problems—a massive lack of leadership in the 2nd generation, and they are on course for major nominalism in the 4th generation.

21st century example: Asia Church-Planting Movements.

The gospel is spreading like never before in Asia.

Over the last 5 years, millions of dollars have been invested in various training programs, yet the leadership challenge has not been met in any comprehensive way. The attrition rate in some movements is very high. A major solution is needed now.

That solution rests in a radical return to the way of Christ and His Apostles!

BILD International

Training Leaders “in the Way of Christ and His Apostles”

Vision

Our vision is to see well established church-planting movements (CPMs) in each of the nine major civilizations, led by leaders, fully trained in “the way of Christ and His Apostles,”

who are designing and implementing effective strategies for civilization-wide progress of the gospel.

Mission

We exist to train networks of leaders, grassroots to national, in the way of Christ and His Apostles, in partnership with CPMs in each of the nine major civilizations.

Four “Great Group” Initiatives (Master Plan)

1. Ames Antioch Center

The Antioch Center is located in Ames, Iowa, and is built in partnership with Oakwood Road Church. Following the model of the Antioch church in Acts 13:1–14:28 and the Antioch/Alexandrian Center traditions of the Early Church, BILD has established a Resource Center that houses the ministry of BILD and its resident leaders—a modern expression of the “Pauline team” found in the missionary journeys in Acts. This Center is the global “back office” for our partner large-scale Church-Planting Movements (CPMs) and a training center for Program Designers worldwide.

2. Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development

BILD University’s Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development is a church-based, competency-based school for assisting church leaders in training future leaders in the context of their churches. The primary motivation of the school is to raise a future generation of church planters in North America. But Type III–V Leaders of partner CPMs worldwide can also get degrees right in the context of their ministries.

3. Antioch Initiative—North America

BILD has initiated a North American church-planting movement with the goal of seeing a whole new generation of churches emerge from leaders trained “in the way of Christ and His Apostles.” Our goal is to see 20,000 churches planted from leaders trained in the Antioch School. Our initial models will be in our own Judea—Des Moines and Minneapolis.

4. International CPM Partnerships (Type I–V Programs)

This is the primary ministry initiative of BILD and is at the core of its founding vision. Our goal is to see 10,000,000 leaders trained worldwide in “the way of Christ and His Apostles,” through partner CPMs who are strategically identified in each of the 9 major civilizations, with a special focus on India, China, and Southeast Asia. We will work with each partner to build an integrated system for training their Type I–V Leaders (grassroots to national) in church-based, nonformal programs.



philosophy

Training leaders and developing churches in “the way of Christ and His Apostles”

Pages 4–7



curriculum

A unique learning system based on “the way of Christ and His Apostles”

Pages 8–13



network

A global network of leaders and churches committed to “the way of Christ and His Apostles”

Pages 14–17

The Pauline Cycle



BILD is a philosophy.

It is a philosophy rooted in “the way of Christ and His Apostles. It is also a paradigm. Let’s explain these two concepts.

Paradigm

A paradigm is “an entire constellation of beliefs, techniques, and so on shared by members of a given community.”

Western formal theological education is a paradigm. All theological schools have professors, classrooms, tests, degrees, etc. Although the models vary, they all share the same “institutional” paradigm—the same rules and boundaries.

We are introducing a new paradigm—church-based theological education—a paradigm based on the way Christ and His Apostles developed leaders, very different from our institutional model.

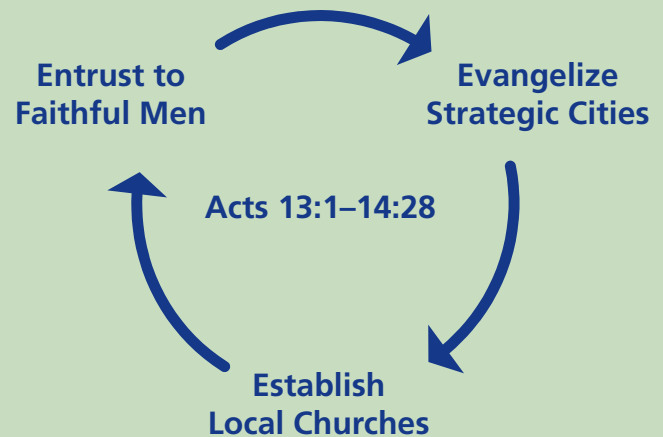
What do we mean by the phrase “the way of Christ and His Apostles”?

It can be summarized with the four charts listed on these pages. The first of these charts is “The Pauline Cycle.” The Pauline cycle is built from a careful study of Paul’s four missionary journeys in the book of Acts. The core of the pattern is found in Acts 13:1–14:28.

Paul began his work by taking the gospel to strategic cities, maybe better referred to as strategic areas. He preached the gospel and then gathered the believers together around Christ’s teaching and quickly formed them into a church, appointing elders in every church. He then moved on to a new area, expecting the churches to permeate the surrounding areas with the gospel.

On future missionary journeys, he would send letters, key men on his team, or personally visit them, seeking to establish them more firmly in “the teaching,” in order that they would become strong. An established church is not one with a pastor and a building, but rather a community of believers with strong leadership, so rooted in the gospel and “the teaching” that no one can come in and upset entire families with another teaching.

The Pauline Cycle



“...people have adopted fragments of St. Paul’s method and have tried to incorporate them into alien systems, and the failure which resulted has been used as an argument against the Apostle’s method....When these false and partial attempts at imitating the Apostle’s method have failed, men have declared that the apostolic method was at fault and was quite unsuited to the condition and circumstances of present-day missions. The truth is that they have neither understood nor practiced the Apostle’s method at all.

“St. Paul’s method is not in harmony with the modern Western spirit....We cannot imagine any Christianity worthy of the name existing without the elaborate machinery which we have invented.”

Roland Allen, *Missionary Methods: St. Paul’s*

Paul's Letters as Establishing Tools

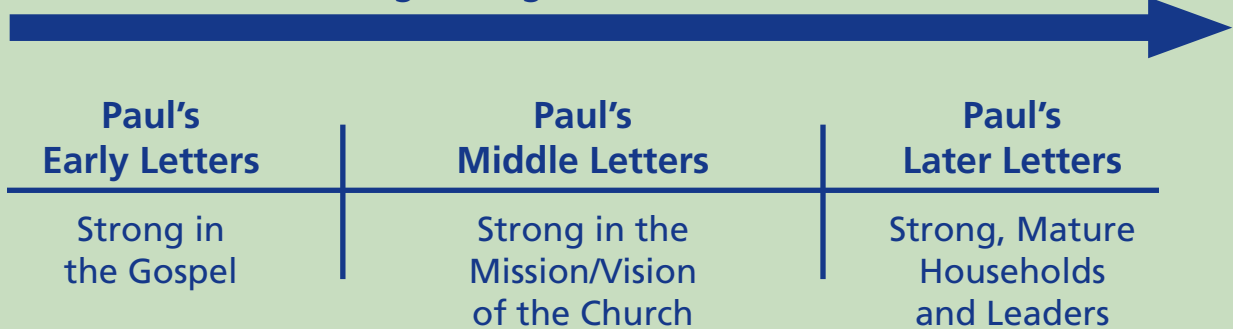


The second idea focuses on the second part of the Pauline cycle—establishing churches. It follows a biblical theology approach, which means that we let the Bible unfold naturally and categorize itself before we impose our own categories. In this case, we cluster the early, middle, and later letters of Paul together, naturally, as they were written.

What *are* the letters of Paul and the other Apostles that are included in the New Testament? They are letters intended to establish the churches in the Apostles' doctrine—"the faith," "the deposit," "sound doctrine"—all terms used in the letters for the teaching of Christ, deposited through the Apostles to the churches.

Paul's Letters as Establishing Tools

The Process of Building Strong Churches



Early Letters of Paul

The early letters of Paul were all intended to establish the churches in the gospel. If this foundation was not laid, then they could not go on to be mature churches. Think through these letters: Galatians—don't follow a different gospel; 1 & 2 Thessalonians—stand firm in the gospel; 1 & 2 Corinthians—defense of the gospel applied to lots of divisions and confusions; and Romans was written as the great treatise of the gospel—Paul's intent was to establish the Romans in the gospel (Romans 16:25–27).

The Middle Letters

The middle letters are all similar in terminology and emphasis. The full plan of the Church is revealed in Ephesians and Colossians. The churches are encouraged to strive together for the progress of the gospel, and this can only be done if they are one-minded around the plan of Christ, the Church.

How could they be one-minded if they were not established in the gospel and were not willing to build their churches around Christ and His administration, the Church?

The Later Letters of Paul

1 & 2 Timothy and Titus are Paul's final letters. They are all similar in style as well. Paul reviews for Timothy and Titus how to build strong families and leaders in the church and how to make each church a big household—a family of families. If the churches did not have strong leaders, no one would protect the community from false teachers coming in and upsetting whole families. And without a strong church family (community), there would be no impact in the city.

The Didache: Establishing Believers and Families



The third concept focuses on the didache. This is the Greek term in the New Testament for “the teaching.” The Early Church devoted itself to the Apostles’ teaching (Acts 2:42). In the letters, the Apostles’ teaching is called “the faith,” “the deposit,” and the “sound doctrine,” which they were to hold to. Believers and churches were considered established when they were rooted in this teaching.

What are the core elements of this teaching? At no place in the letters to the churches is a doctrinal manual given of this teaching. There is never just a cold doctrinal statement to learn, as in our doctrinal statements in Western theology today, based upon the controversies of Western theology. Instead, “the teaching” is found woven into the letters to the churches, addressing real life situations.

Again, a careful study of the Apostles’ letters to the churches makes it easy to identify this teaching, since the elements are repeated again and again in the letters.

The structure of Paul’s letters to the churches is fairly consistent. First he focuses on the kerygma and then the teaching, or didache.

Kerygma—The term used by the early Christians for the essence of the gospel message; the Greek word means proclamation.

Jesus died, was buried, and rose again, and we are saved by trusting in His work on the cross for forgiveness of sins, and we now have a new identity in Christ.

Didache—The teaching they were to be established in.

Letter by letter, again and again, they were told to put off the old man and put on Christ, to walk in the fruit of the Spirit, to have orderly households, to love and serve one another, to submit to governing authorities, and to live sober watchful lives, waiting for Christ’s return.

“The teaching” (called sound doctrine) has become a cold, abstract proposition known as theology or denominational doctrinal statements. It is built upon centuries of Western controversies, which almost hide the natural process of learning doctrine in the context of family and community life.

The Didache:* Establishing Believers and Families

Core elements:

- reform conduct—“put off/put on”
- virtues—“fruit of the Spirit”
- family relationships—“households”
- true community—“love”
- conduct toward outsiders
- submit to governing authorities
- responsible living—“sober, watchful”

* *Didache means “teaching” in Greek and refers to the teaching of Christ as delivered to the Apostles.*

“Today theology has become a mastery of academic disciplines for professional ministerial preparation, rather than an orientation of the soul for the purpose of acquiring wisdom, which all men and women need, regardless of their station in life.”

Edward Farley
Theologia: The Unity and Fragmentation of Theological Education

The Paul and Timothy Model

The final piece of the philosophy is now ready to be put in place. This regards the third part of the Pauline cycle—the training of leaders. Paul refers to this as entrusting the deposit (of sound doctrine) to faithful men.

There were two spheres of leaders to whom Paul entrusted the churches.

Local leaders (elders, deacons, deaconesses)—based on age, character, family, and sound doctrine.

Ministers of the gospel (Timothy and Titus types) who moved amongst the churches, strengthening and establishing them.

Most people don't know it, but Timothy went with Paul on his team when he was in his late teens and was used to take the letter to the Thessalonians and help establish them when he was about 20. But he worked on Paul's team until he was fully commended as a master craftsman, in his late 30s. Today, in our modern Western theological institutions, we give young people masters' degrees before they have mastered anything!

This philosophy, which we refer to as "the way of Christ and His Apostles," is characterized by tenets of a new paradigm in theological education called global church-based theological education.

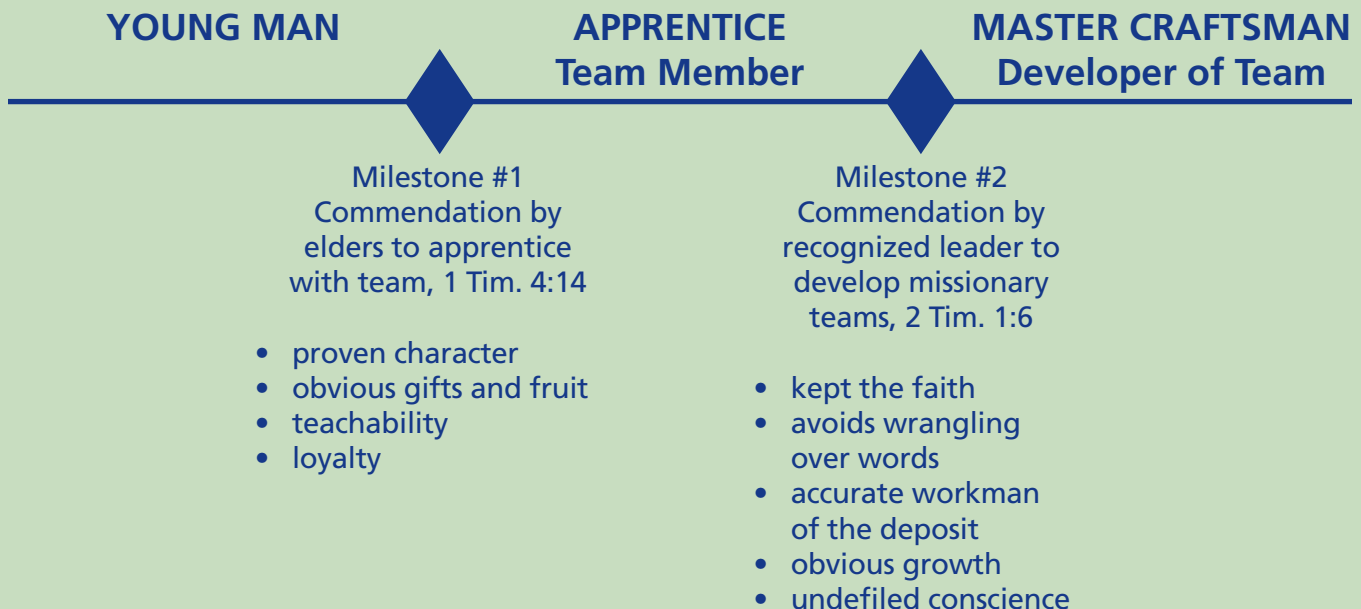
5 Major Philosophical Tenets of Global Church-Based Theological Education (C-BTE)

1. C-BTE must be based in the life of a local church and a movement of churches.
2. C-BTE must be primarily viewed as a process of entrusting (modeling and mentoring) sound doctrine to faithful men.
3. C-BTE must take place in the context of establishing churches.
4. C-BTE must be viewed as a need for all men and women regardless of their station in life.
5. C-BTE must begin with the first principles of the faith.

Paradigm Papers

The global church-based theological education paradigm has been developed in 9 paradigm papers over a 12-year period by Jeff Reed. Most are posted on the BILD website (www.bild.org).

Paul and Timothy Model (2 Tim. 2:2)



A Unique Learning System

Based on “the Way of Christ and His Apostles”



curriculum

We chose to call the second part of the ministry of BILD “curriculum.” But the by-line is very important: “a unique learning system based on the way of Christ and His Apostles.”

Paul and Timothy Model

Curriculum refers to materials and resources and a path to guide an ordered learning or developmental process. Too often we think of curriculum as just courses. In BILD, curriculum refers to a whole learning system. Before explaining the learning system, let me return once again to the way of Christ and His Apostles. What were the core ingredients of the learning system used by Paul?

1. Context (in-ministry training)
The training took place in the context of ministry. Timothy was with Paul. They were co-workers. Paul modeled and mentored every aspect of the training.
2. Content (mastery of the Scriptures)
The training involved character development, ministry skills, and biblical mastery. Timothy needed to build his life and ministry around sound doctrine and then master the Scriptures and the issues of culture that affected the churches (doctrines of demons).
3. Assessment (qualifications)
Paul spent a lot of time in 2 Timothy talking about qualifications and assessment.

BILD’s Unique Learning System

BILD has built a unique learning system based on the way of Christ and His Apostles. The system has 3 parts:

1. 5-Type/5-Level Program (in service)
BILD has designed a system that creates an ordered training (nonformal) that goes all the way from illiterate to doctoral level work, without ever leaving the ministry.
2. BILD Courses (mastering the Scriptures)
BILD has created resources for all 5 levels. The main tools are *The Leadership Series* (25 courses) and *The First Principles Series* (13 courses).
3. Portfolio System (mentoring/assessment system)
BILD has created a state-of-the-art portfolio system to anchor mentoring and assessment, as the center of the training system.

Nonformal education is a very important aspect to the design of BILD’s system. (See “Church-Based Education Which is Truly Church-Based,” by Jeff Reed)

- Formal Education—Our global Western university, degree system.
- Informal—Little structure, like Deut. 6:6a and Jesus’ training of the 12.
- Nonformal—Serious ordered learning, but fitting to the culture, combining elements of formal and informal, outside the Western system (idea developed by UNESCO).

Another important aspect of our system is the idea of a 5-Type/5-Level leadership training, popularized by David Bennett’s India Leadership Study research (see Elliston), which is also seen in such research as Jim Collin’s “Level 5 Leadership” (HBR).

Level 1—Grassroots
Level 2—Overseers and Assistants
Level 3—Vocational Leadership
Level 4—Regional Leadership
Level 5—National Leadership

BILD has established a nonformal paradigm system for developing indigenous programs, but with a serious ordered learning backbone. Each of the 5 levels is progressive, has church-planting movements in mind, and can sustain the learning process from illiterate to doctoral levels.

BILD Programs

There are two main options for building programs in partnership with BILD International: licensed programs with BILD International, or degree/certificate programs with BILD International University. Both of these options are built around two very important ideas.

1. Church-based
Every BILD program is designed to be church-based. The programs are designed to be led by church leaders, training future leaders in the context of their churches, not in some sort of schooling or extension context.
2. Competency-based
Every BILD program is designed to be competency-based. These programs focus not on courses and grades, but on measuring competencies based on carefully designed outcomes.

BILD Licensed and Degree/Certificate Programs

Based on "the Way of Christ and His Apostles"



curriculum

TYPE I LEADERS—GRASSROOTS

LEADERS

Small group leaders, household clusters, household heads

1-YEAR PROGRAM (average)

BILD's *First Principles Series I*

BILD Certified Programs

1-Year Ministry Experience and Portfolio

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION**

Leadership Mastery I (L.M. I)

* Offered through BILD's Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development or partner academic institutions.

** Granted through partner church-planting movements and/or church networks.

TYPE II LEADERS—OVERSEERS AND ASSISTANTS

LEADERS

Elders, deacons, women's ministry workers, youth, parents, church workers, etc.

1–2 YEAR PROGRAM (average)

BILD's *First Principles Series II and III*

BILD Certified Programs

2-Year Ministry Experience and Portfolio

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION**

Leadership Mastery II (L.M. II)

TYPE III LEADERS—VOCATIONAL/NON-VOCATIONAL

LEADERS

Pastors, church planters, elders, evangelists, etc.

1–2 YEAR PROGRAM (average)

BILD's *Leadership Series I and II* (25 courses—Basic Edition)

BILD Certified Programs

3-Year Ministry Experience and Portfolio

CERTIFICATES/DEGREES*

(COMPETENCY-BASED)

C.Min., C.Th., B.Min., B.Th.

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION**

Leadership Mastery III (L.M. III)

TYPE IV LEADERS—REGIONAL

LEADERS

Leaders of leaders: pastors, church planters, regional leaders of church-planting movements (CPMs) and ministries

2–4 YEAR PROGRAM (average)

BILD's *Leadership Series I and II* (25 courses—Advanced Edition)

BILD Certified Programs

4-Year Ministry Experience and Portfolio

CERTIFICATES/DEGREES*

(COMPETENCY-BASED)

M.Min., M.Th.

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION**

Leadership Mastery IV (L.M. IV)

TYPE V LEADERS—NATIONAL

LEADERS

Leaders of church-planting movements and ministries, denominational leaders, pastors of strategic churches, etc.

2–4 YEAR PROGRAM (average)

Paradigm Transformation Projects (5 D.Min. courses)

BILD Certification Program

5-Year Ministry Experience and Portfolio

CERTIFICATES/DEGREES*

(COMPETENCY-BASED)

D.Min., D.Th.

MINISTRY CERTIFICATION**

Leadership Mastery V (L.M. V)

Leadership Series, First Principles Series, and Portfolio System



curriculum

The BILD curriculum, itself, is way outside the formal theological education paradigm, and it is important to understand this from the outset, although it can interface with creative theological institutions very well.

This curriculum has been under development for over 30 years. Walter Kaiser helped Jeff Reed, the founder of BILD, rebuild the entire “theological encyclopedia” of the curriculum from 1974–1985, restructuring it on a biblical theology rather than a systematic theology base. At that time, it was used in ORC’s apprenticeship, before being developed and published as BILD’s Leadership Series.

Ted Ward came into the picture in 1985 and brought an understanding of nonformal education, educational processes such as Bloom’s taxonomy, and a decade of mentoring in issues of theology in culture. The BILD curriculum would never have developed without the decade of help from these two giants in the evangelical world.

Two Big Ideas

(from the way of Christ and His Apostles)

1. The 2 Timothy Framework for the Leadership Series

Paul reviews his training of Timothy in his epistle entitled 2 Timothy. It focuses on his life and ministry preparation and then the importance of him mastering the Scriptures. 2 Timothy forms the structure of the Leadership Series.

2. The First Principles Concept

In Colossians 2:6–8, Paul talks about the importance of establishing the churches and believers in the first principles of the faith. These principles, the core of the teaching, form the “biblical theology” framework of The First Principles Series.

The Curriculum—5 Levels of Integration

The Leadership Series

The Leadership Series is the flagship series of the BILD curriculum. It consists of 25 courses, Basic and Advanced (undergraduate and graduate levels respectively). The 25-course series is equivalent to a 90-hour M.Div. in terms of work but is an entirely different process. The use of the courses is very different from academic institutional courses.

Use and design of courses:

1. They are to be done in community, in service.
2. They are dialogue/project-based not lecture/testing-based.
3. Each has a “theological reader” to inform the discussion.
4. Issues and projects are adjusted by need and cultural setting.
5. The work level accomplished with the course is integrated into the portfolio to demonstrate the level of development and competence.

The First Principles Series

The First Principles Series is based upon the didache (see chart on page 6) rather than on some man-made set of basic categories. It is designed to respect the process of learning the faith in the context of daily, family, and community life, not as an intellectual set of theological doctrines.

The Leadership Mastery Portfolio System

The final component of the BILD core training system is the portfolio system. It is an extensive set of ministry, academic, family, and character outcomes and assessment worksheets based upon the way of Christ and His Apostles. In addition, indigenous assessment guides are created to measure outcomes of the indigenous elements of each level of training.



The Core BILD Curriculum

curriculum

TYPE I LEADERS—GRASSROOTS



The First Principles Series I

- Becoming a Disciple
- Belonging to a Family of Families
- Participating in the Mission of the Church
- Cultivating Habits of the Heart

Teaching the First Principles Leader's Guide

TYPE II LEADERS—OVERSEERS AND ASSISTANTS



The First Principles Series II

- Enjoying Your Relationship
- Passing on Your Beliefs
- Envisioning Fruitful LifeWork
- Building for Future Generations

The First Principles Series III

- Handling the Word with Confidence
- Unfolding the Great Commission
- Laying Solid Foundations in the Gospel
- Catching God's Vision for the Church
- Living in God's Household

TYPE III LEADERS—VOCATIONAL/NON-VOCATIONAL



Basic Edition (25 Courses)

Leadership Series

- Acts: Keys to the Establishment and Expansion of the First Century Church
- Pauline Epistles: Strategies for Establishing Churches
- Understanding the Essentials of Sound Doctrine
- Leaders and the Early Church
- Preaching, Teaching, and Worship in the Early Church
- Shepherding, Counseling, and the Early Church
- The Family and the Early Church
- Evangelism and the Early Church
- Habits of the Heart
- Character of a Leader
- Ministry Priorities and Personal Management
- Ministry Perspectives: Conflicts Without, Fears Within
- Interpreting the Word I: Principles and Procedures
- Interpreting the Word II: Linguistics, Languages, and Study Aids
- Covenants, Unity of Scripture, and Biblical Worldview
- Toward a Theology in Culture
- Old Testament Theology: The Law
- Old Testament Theology: The Former Prophets
- Old Testament Theology: The Latter Prophets
- Old Testament Theology: The Writings
- New Testament Theology: Luke-Acts and the Pauline Epistles
- New Testament Theology: 1 and 2 Peter, James, Jude, and Hebrews
- New Testament Theology: The Gospels of Matthew & Mark
- New Testament Theology: John; 1, 2, 3 John; and Revelation
- Pathways to Constructing Theology in Civilization

TYPE IV LEADERS—REGIONAL



Advanced Edition (25 Courses)

TYPE V LEADERS—NATIONAL



Licensed Programs



Degree and Certificate Programs



BILD Certification System (20 weeks)

- Paradigm Transformation Projects
- Certified Nonformal Indigenous Programs
- BILD Resources



Antioch School Programs

curriculum



Bachelors Programs (International: Type III—10%)

Bachelor of Ministry

The Bachelor of Ministry degree (B.Min.) is granted for demonstration of basic competencies associated with being a minister of the gospel (pastor, church planter, missionary) and other ministry leaders.

Bachelor of Theology

The Bachelor of Theology degree (B.Th.) is granted for demonstration of basic competencies associated with being a minister of the gospel (pastor, church planter, missionary) and other ministry leaders.



Masters Programs (International: Type IV)

Master of Ministry

The Master of Ministry degree (M.Min.) is granted for demonstration of competencies associated with being a minister of the gospel (pastor, church planter, missionary) and other ministry leaders who are actively engaged in ministry.

Master of Theology

The Master of Theology degree (M.Th.) is granted for demonstration of advanced competencies related to building biblical theology and doing theology in culture, particularly by those in ministry with responsibility extending beyond the local church level.



Doctors Programs (International: Type V)

Doctor of Ministry in Global Church-Based Theological Education

The Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) in Global Church-Based Theological Education (GCBTE) is granted for demonstration of competencies associated with being a minister of the gospel (pastor, church planter, missionary) and other ministry leaders who are situated to have significant influence in formal or informal church networks.

Doctor of Ministry in Theology in Culture

The Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min.) in Theology in Culture (TIC) is granted for demonstration of competencies related to building biblical theology and doing theology in culture, particularly by those in ministry with responsibility extending beyond the local church level and who are actively engaged in ministry and positioned to have significant influence on formal and informal church networks.



The **Antioch School ePortfolio System** is a web-based software program that provides extensive, robust, multi-faceted assessment. Students post evidence of their competencies, and local leaders use the system to assess development and provide initial approval of competencies. Antioch School Associate Faculty members also assess evidence for each item in the portfolio transcripts in order to validate competencies and grant credit to students.

A Global Network of Leaders and Churches Committed to “the Way of Christ and His Apostles”



We need to return one more time to the New Testament to examine the way of Christ and His Apostles. Early on in the expansion of the churches, it is clear in Acts that networks began to form: the Jerusalem Council, the letter to the churches from the Council, the gift collected for the Jerusalem churches from the Gentiles churches, the network of letters circulated, etc.

In one generation these small churches turned the world upside down and in three centuries radically transformed the Roman Empire. The chart on this page shows the multiplication of churches from the first to the third centuries.

This tradition, based upon the way of Christ and His Apostles, is known as the Antioch Tradition. It survived to the 4th century but was replaced by western Greek and Roman traditions. As the gospel expands now to the Global South, we need to return to the Antioch Tradition—to the way of Christ and His Apostles.

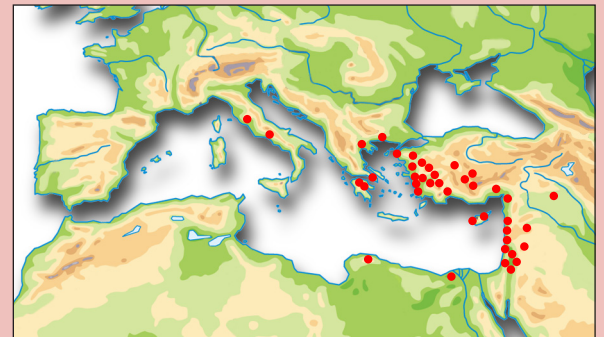
The Great Commission, recorded in the gospel and unfolded in Acts, is a worldwide multiplication of churches.

Today, missions, driven by Western enterprises, see the mission as primarily a multiplication of individuals, as epitomized in parachurch organizations propagating an American “discipleship movement” that focuses on the multiplication of individuals not churches.

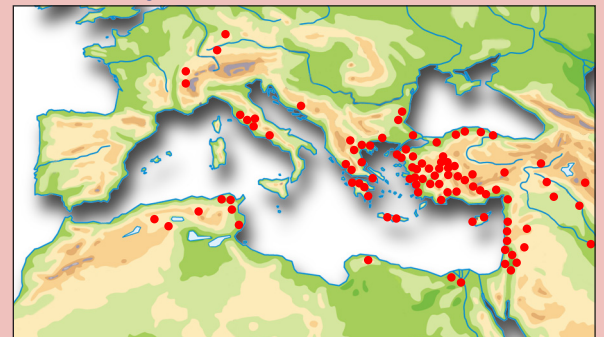
As the gospel shifts in the 20th and 21st centuries to the Global South, especially to Asia in this century, we are quickly returning to the apostolic era. It is essential that we visit the New Testament afresh in these historic times.

Growth of the Early Church

1st Century Churches



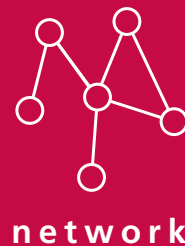
2nd Century Churches



3rd Century Churches



The Complex Network of the Early Churches



As the Early Church expanded, the shape of the early church networks that emerged is also important to understand as we strive to get back to “the way of Christ and His Apostles.” From a careful study of the New Testament and early church research, we have attempted to map the complex network of the early churches that emerged towards the end of the apostolic age.

It is very important for both the Global South church-planting movements and the churches in the declining West to rediscover their roots as found in the apostolic traditions in Acts and the Apostles’ letters to the New Testament churches. It is very important for us to look closely and carefully at this early church-planting movement to discover its success. We must understand why these churches were so strong and the secret of why they so successfully multiplied across the Roman Empire, until they turned the entire world of that day upside down.

²²For this reason I have often been prevented from coming to you; ²³but now, with no further place for me in these regions, and since I have had for many years a longing to come to you ²⁴whenever I go to Spain--

Apostle Paul
Romans 15

Complex Network Mapping Around 100 A.D.

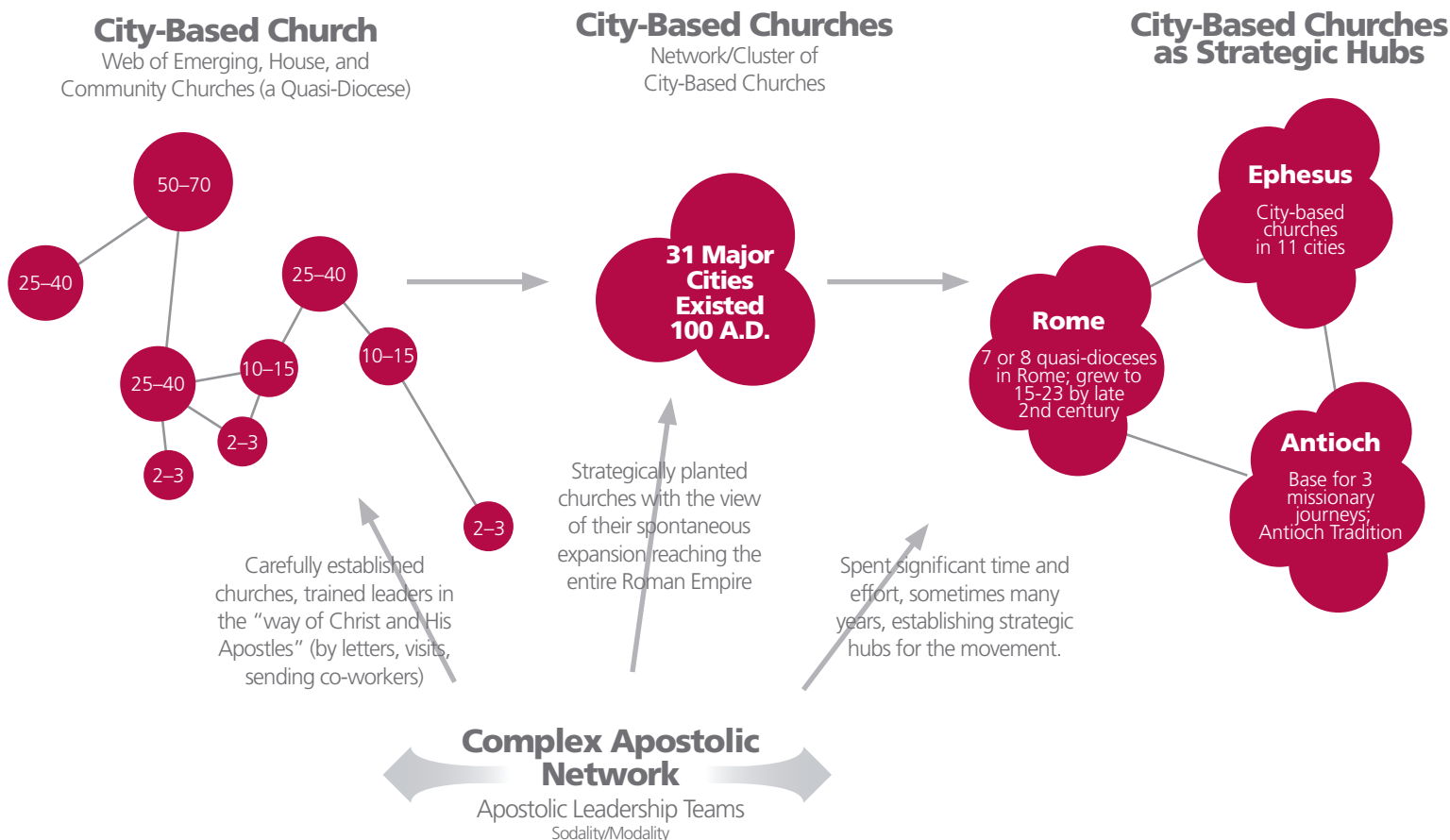
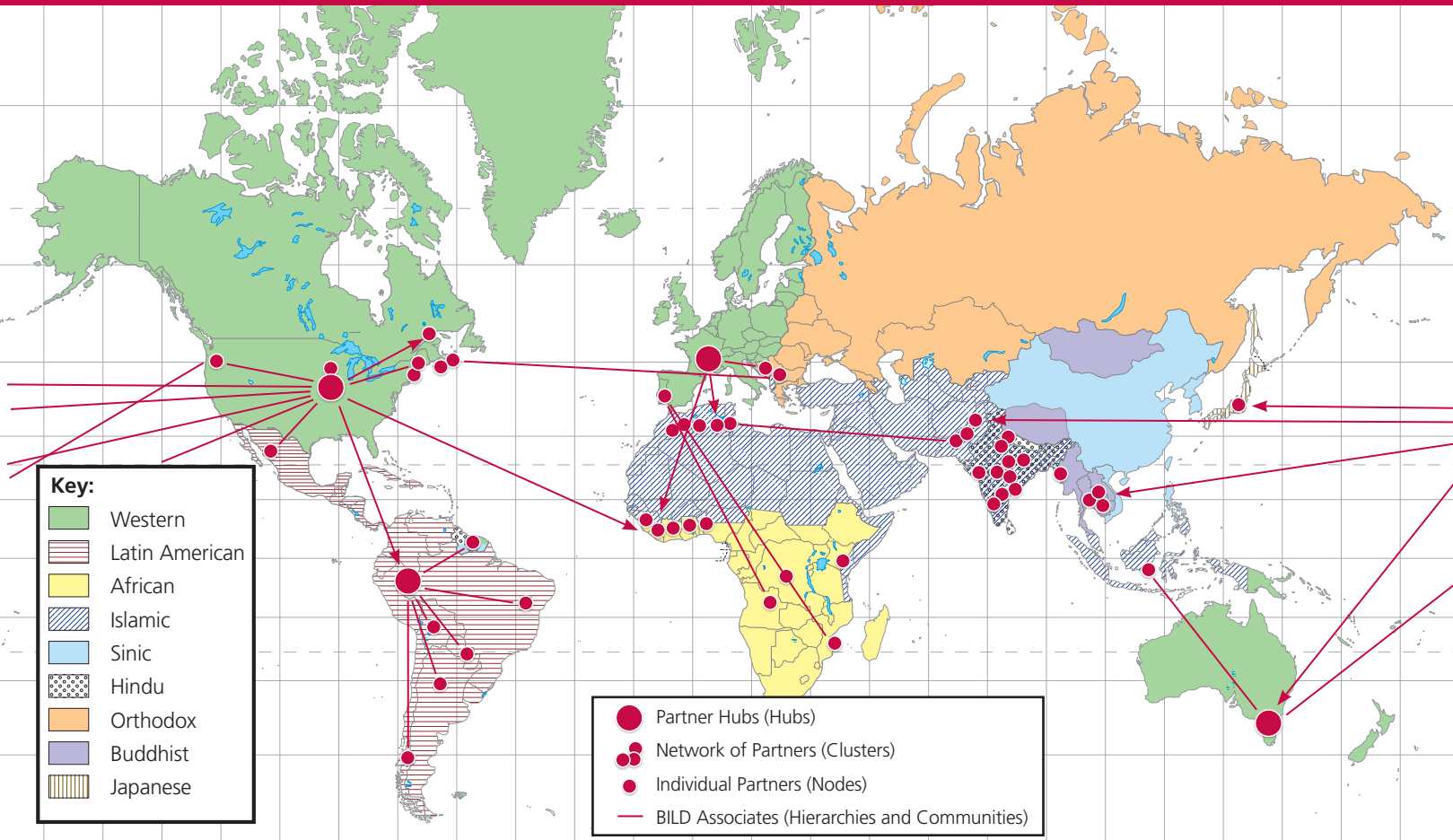


BILD International: A Complex Apostolic Network



A Modern Day Complex Apostolic Network

Illustrated by the map above, BILD International is a modern-day complex apostolic network. Over the past 30 years, BILD has matured into a worldwide network comprised of Partner Hubs, Networks of Partners, and Individual Partners all linked together by BILD Associates—leaders who move in and amongst these churches, church networks, and church-planting movements for their establishment and the ongoing progress of the gospel in their villages, towns, cities, countries, and ultimately their civilizations.

Today, we are continuing to develop both a strategic network of leaders and partnerships with church-planting movements in each of the following 9 major civilizations:

- Western
- Latin America
- Africa
- Islamic
- Sinic
- Hindu
- Orthodox
- Buddhist
- Japanese

Major Focus—India

We currently have 135,000 leaders in training in BILD Partner Programs across all major civilizations, with the exception of China (Sinic). Our energy is focused on India where 90,000 leaders are currently training in BILD programs and are on course for training 1 million leaders.

“Paul was a master of first-century social and religious links, the only network at the beginning of the modern era that could carry and spread a faith.”

Albert-László Barabási
Linked, p. 5.

Building Licensed Programs (Large-Scale Type I–V) with BILD International



These programs are primarily designed for church-planting movements worldwide, especially large-scale movements. There are two ways to initiate these programs.

1. Strategic Partnership Programs

These partnership programs are considered strategic to BILD's global focus and limited resources. In these partnerships, usually large-scale or globally strategic, BILD will commit to a 5-year process, including training 2–3 times a year on site in the country.

2. Self-Start Partnership Programs

These partnership programs are initiated by one of the 5 types of groups listed below. They must commit to BILD's Certification System; find their own resources; and come to the training at the BILD Center in Ames, at a future BILD International Research Center, or contract with a BILD Trainer, certified in Global Church-Based Theological Education.

Partnership Memorandum of Understanding

All partnerships will begin with a Memorandum of Understanding between BILD and the partner seeking to build a program. This memorandum will spell out BILD's responsibilities and the partner's responsibilities.

Each partner will be responsible for building a self-sustaining program within the 5 years. Part of the understanding will be to build a budget that reflects the following elements and the beginning of the process. Each budget must include:

1. sweat equity/own monies
2. annual funding request for 5 years
3. plan for becoming self-sustaining in 5 years

Upon building this understanding, BILD will establish a restricted fund for the project under its 501(c)(3), making it easy for partners to receive donations in the USA. BILD will also promote the project on the web (if it is safe), assist the partner in building a fund development plan, and introduce the partner to foundations and major donors. BILD does not have the capacity to raise funds for partner projects but will assist their endeavors in any way possible.

Five Types of Partners

Several types of networks are envisioned as prototypes for partnership with BILD International. Some are underway as prototypes, and some are currently being sought as partnerships. Their final shape is yet to be completely determined, but they generally will look as follows.

Types of BILD Partnership Programs and Prototypes:

1. **An Association or Denomination of Churches.** A network designed within the infrastructure of an association or denomination, fully interfaced and integrated with all formal theological education structures.
2. **A Church-Planting Movement or Consortium of Churches and/or Mission Agencies.** A network designed by a consortium of different associations/denominations of churches and mission agencies and/or training organizations/institutions.
3. **A Theological Seminary or Bible College.** A network designed by a seminary or Bible college serving as a resource network for an identified cluster of churches.
4. **A Church-Supporting Mission Agency.** A network designed within a mission agency for the purpose of equipping its missionaries to establish BILD programs on their fields or to help their network of churches become fully established, through building BILD programs within their churches.
5. **An "Antioch Church."** A network designed by a strategic church's leadership team, following the ancient Antioch and Alexandrian examples, that develops a BILD program fully within the sphere of ministry or stewardship of that local church.

Building Antioch School Degree & Certificate Programs



If you are a leader of an association or denomination of churches, a church-planting movement or consortium of churches or mission agencies; a theological seminary or Bible college; a church-supporting mission agency; or an individual "Antioch" church who would like to build a partnership with BILD to offer degrees from the Antioch School, you should:

1. **Inquire (for North American Partners).** Visit the Antioch School website (antiochschool.edu), call 515-292-9694, or e-mail info@antiochschool.net.



View the Antioch School Introductory Video

A 10-minute introduction to the biblical and philosophical foundations of the Antioch School.



Attend an e-Luncheon (Free)

An online, 40-minute multimedia conversation that explores the distinctives of the Antioch School.



Attend a Webinar (Free)

An online, 4-hour seminar that explains the biblical and practical principles that undergird the Antioch School.

2. **Become Certified.** Each Antioch School partner organization must have at least one leader who has been certified.



Attend Certification Training

Four days of training in the use of the BILD philosophy and resources, paradigmatic perspective on theological education, and preparation for coaching students in building portfolios.

Basic Certification Training for international partners fulfills the requirement for Antioch School Initial Certification.

3. **Design Program.** Each Antioch School program is tailored to fit its specific cultural context. Certification training equips church leaders to design their own distinctive programs using BILD's integrated core of resources, supplemented by unique learning experiences that are based in local church life and ministry.

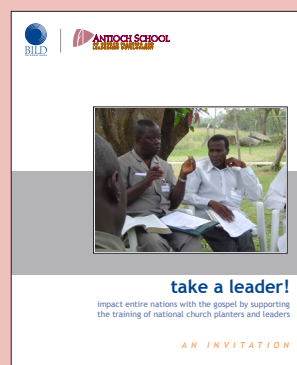
4. **Recruit Students.** A certified leader may immediately commend students to be admitted to their program. No student will be admitted to a program without the commendation of the certified leader.

5. **Launch Program.** Certified leaders enlist local mentors, local teachers, and local ministry leaders to coach students in building portfolios, completing course projects, and ministry practicum. Students begin personal assessment, development plans, coursework, and ministry assignments. Certified leaders give oversight to the whole program and review student evidence of competencies for quality assurance.

6. **Strengthen Program.** Other Antioch School faculty provide further quality assurance through additional review and confirmation of student evidence of competencies. Ongoing training to maintain local faculty certification is offered annually. Local faculty and students are welcome to participate in BILD's global network of church-based programs.

Take a Leader & Take a Project Strategy

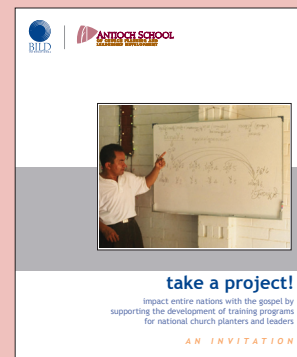
BILD International has developed two extensive programs to assist in raising support for the training and project needs of our partners. Both programs are customized around the needs of our partners and have individual websites designed to educate about the programs and to receive sponsorship monies.



take a leader!

Impact entire nations with the gospel by supporting the training of national church planters and leaders.

This program is designed to raise scholarship money for leaders in our international partnerships who will train in the Antioch School of Church Planting and Leadership Development. BILD will take the the primary responsibility in raising the scholarship money for these leaders.



take a project!

Impact entire nations with the gospel by supporting the development of training programs for national pastors and leaders.

This program takes the costs needed for a partner to launch a Type I-V leadership training program and bundles them into smaller "projects." As part of this program, our partners will commit leaders and resources to the project. BILD will assist partners in preparing grants and scheduling donor events and will serve as a fiscal sponsor in the stewardship of the grant money.

BILD Partner Certification System

Basic and Ongoing Certification Training

Introductory Seminar 1st Year Only

Program Development Workshop 3 Days Per Year

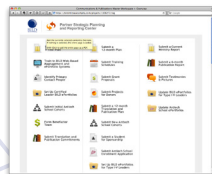
Day 1

Day 2

Day 3

Day 4

Day 5



Global Church-Based Theological Education: Intro Seminar All Day

An introduction to BILD's certificate and degree programs—the philosophy, the program options, and how to set up a program.

Topics:

Church-Based Theological Education

Curriculum for Type I and II Leaders

Global Church-Based Theological Education: Intro Seminar All Day

An introduction to BILD's certificate and degree programs—the philosophy, the program options, and how to set up a program.

Topics:

Curriculum for Type III and IV Leaders

Designing a Certified, Nonformal, Indigenous, Level I–V Program

BILD Partner Strategic Planning and Reporting Center Morning

An introduction to BILD's web-based tool for international partners who are developing leadership training programs with BILD.

Strategic Planning Workshop (12-Month Plan) Morning

Utilizing the Strategic Planning and Reporting Center, participants will develop, shape, and record a detailed 12-month plan for their leadership training programs.

Antioch School ePortfolio System Morning

An introduction to the Antioch School's web-based portfolio system, which accompanies all Antioch School degree programs.



Strategic Planning Workshop (5-Year Plan) Afternoon

Utilizing the Strategic Planning and Reporting Center, participants will develop, shape, and record a 5-Year Master Plan for their leadership training programs.

BILD ePortfolio System Afternoon

An overview and workshop covering the use of BILD's web-based portfolio system in the training of Type I–V Leaders.

Current Ministry Reporting Workshop Afternoon

An overview and workshop covering the use of BILD's web-based tools for submitting ministry reports.

Basic Certification Training:

Basic Certification Training is a comprehensive, 10-day training process that introduces paradigm issues related to church-based missions and theological education, provides training in BILD's web-based systems for developing leadership training programs, and equips leaders to use the core BILD curriculum within their training programs.

Outcomes:

- Become certified to develop BILD Certified Programs for grassroots to national leaders in your church, church network, or ministry.
- Become certified to offer Antioch School Accredited Degree Programs for Type III–IV Leaders in your BILD Certified Program.

BILD Resource Workshops 4 Days Per Year

Paradigm Transformation 1 Day Per Year

Day 6



Teaching the First Principles (Conversation #1) All Day

Develop your understanding of the foundational educational principles of BILD through the use of BILD's First Principles discipleship materials.

Day 7



Teaching the First Principles (Conversation #1) All Day

Demonstrate your understanding of the foundational educational principles of BILD resources and develop your ability to use them effectively in teaching BILD's First Principles discipleship materials.

Day 8



Teaching the Acts Course (Conversation #2) All Day

Develop your understanding of the Acts course as foundational in content and format for teaching Leadership Series courses.

Day 9



Teaching the Acts Course (Conversation #2) All Day

Continue to develop your understanding of the Acts course as foundational in content and format for teaching Leadership Series courses.

Day 10



The Church as Theological Education (PTP-I) All Day

The Paradigm Transformation Projects lead participants through the global C-BTE paradigm and help them think through the philosophy of their programs.

Ongoing Certification Training: Years 2–5

Basic Certification Training is the beginning of the 5-Year Certification Training System, designed to help partners build quality training programs. Each year partners will revise their training plan and engage in further training, addressing paradigm issues and the use of the core BILD curriculum.

	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5
Program Development Workshops 3 Days Per Year	Strategic Planning & Reporting Workshops	Strategic Planning & Reporting Workshops	Strategic Planning & Reporting Workshops	Strategic Planning & Reporting Workshops
BILD Resource Workshops 2 Conversations Per Year 4 Days Per Year	Pauline Epistles: Strategies for Establishing Churches (Conversation #3)	Leaders and the Early Church (Conversation #5)	Preaching, Teaching and Worship in the Early Church (Conversation #7)	Toward a Theology in Culture (Conversation #9)
	Understanding the Essentials of Sound Doctrine (Conversation #4)	Interpreting the Word I: Principles and Procedures (Conversation #6)	Covenants, Unity of Scripture, and Biblical Worldview (Conversation #8)	Old Testament Theology: The Law (Conversation #10)
Paradigm Transformation 1 Day Per Year	The Church Doing Theology in Culture (PTP-II)	The Church as Missions (PTP-III)	The Church as a Hermeneutical Community (PTP-IV)	The Church as Christian Education (PTP-V)

“The Lord is doing something very different in India because of Jeff. I have never seen Christian leaders, who are mightily used by the Holy Spirit of God, spontaneously coming together to say ‘Yes, this is what I am looking for,’ while Jeff presents BILD materials with passion for Christ and His Church in India.”

Emil Jebasingh
Founder of India Believers' Fellowship Churches
and Vishwa Vani Network

“For the past 19 years, I have worked, struggled, and engaged myself with the problem of the Western missionary model of theological education in Africa. My search has been that of finding a relevant and effective alternative. As a theologian, an educationist, and a church leader within an African context, I know what is good and relevant in Africa and what is not.

I first came across BILD in 1989. This new model was not marketed or sold to me, but I saw it and became very interested in it. Since that time I have studied its philosophy and its relevance to our context and have found it to be most relevant to our context and need. BILD is biblically and culturally relevant. It is church based, and it is also both spiritually and academically balanced. BILD is flexible enough to allow creativity, control, and relevance. The “theological idea” in BILD is in itself liberating.”

Yusufu Turaki
Director
International Bible Society-Nigeria

“Church-Based Theological Education (CBTE) is one of the most well thought out and comprehensive plans for building strong churches and training leaders I’ve seen. Your investment in them has the potential of impacting entire nations.”

Tom McCallie III
Executive Director
The Maclellan Foundation

“After years of dreaming and encouraging a truly church-based, non-formal education of leaders in ministry—as an alternative to the proliferation of institutions of formal theological education—I can see it coming to fruition in the BILD International program of education ministry experience...BILD is doing what so many have only talked about: putting the local church at the center of pastoral ministry preparation.”

Ted Ward
Professor Emeritus of International Studies and Educational Research,
Michigan State University,
Professor of International Studies, Mission, and Education, ret., Trinity
Evangelical Divinity School

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