

Intern and Workshop Options

Hamilton OH

Introduction

In 1012 Lucinda and I moved to Hamilton to pair up with Byran and Amy Smucker who had moved here for Byran's job. We were newly married, trying to learn a new culture, and start an Anabaptist church. We firmly believed we had to become "Hamiltonian" if we wanted an indigenous church. The question was how do we learn to live and think like "Hamiltonians".

I had spent time in 10 or more cities in WATER, Missions Involvement, and Internships etc. I never learned how to become part of a different culture. We had some ideas, but we learned that this was one area for which we were not very well prepared.

Lucinda and I spent about 18 months studying the city and people here before we really started in ministry. It was another 6 months before our Bible study really got off of the ground. Looking back, only after those 2 years of learning did we become "Hamiltonian" enough to be effective in ministry. I believe if we would have had a better idea of how to adopt a culture we may have been able to shorten this time.

One of the shortcomings of Anabaptist missionary efforts has been that we arrive in a new location already set with a program such as a Christian school, kids club, street ministry etc. Instead we should arrive with the gospel message and learn what programs/methods will be most effective.

Your primary occupation when arriving in a new place should be that of a detective. The objectives are to learn about the community, determine the felt needs prevalent in the community, and consider how the talents of your team could be used to meet those needs. During your short time in Hamilton your primary purpose will not be to minister to people. Instead you will spend most of your time observing and investigating Hamilton and the people who live here. Only in learning the culture can you be prepared to minister in an effective way. Paul on Mars Hill spoke out of the observations he had made earlier that day/week. Because he was a student he was able to become the teacher.

We use the inductive study or OCIA method in our investigation.

Observation - Study the city and its culture

Correlation – How does Hamilton compare to your home culture

Interpretation – What are needs of the local culture

Application - How to meet the needs of the local culture

By no means have we become experts on urban ministry. However, I wish I had the opportunity to learn in a setting such as this prior to moving to Hamilton. If you are interested in a **weekend workshop**, a **10-day discovery Course** or a **Internship** please contact Jason at jallgyer@gmail.com

In His service
Jason Allgyer

Weekend Intro to Culture Workshop

Schedule

Friday evening

Introduce yourself in 3 min.

Where do you live? What is your culture?

Describe your family and close friends.

What would you like to do if money was not an issue.

Introduction to the weekend and instructions for Saturday's research

Before you will be effective in evangelism you will need to “know” the people/culture you are attempting to reach.

Observation Looking for clues.

Day 1 you are going to need to “get in the books” to find your answers. The library, Internet and interviews can be helpful. You need to do more than just come back with the answers you need to process the answers to understand how the geography, history and demographics impact the local culture and values.

- Geography of the city and surrounding areas can give you many clues to the culture of the people you are attempting to reach. A solid understanding of geography will greatly help you develop an effective ministry. If your location is not a good fit for the type of ministry you are attempting, it will greatly hinder your efforts.

- A good understanding of the history of the targeted people is imperative before you begin to minister. The ethnical background and historical events greatly impact the culture. We will study the history to understand the foundation of the culture. Without understanding the history of a culture you have no chance at understanding that culture.

- The third academic clue to culture is the demographics? Age, economics, White collar/Blue collar are a few of the demographical questions that have a large impact on the culture and values of a people group. If you don't get a grasp on demographics, you might end up starting a ministry without a clear audience.

Day 2 We will attend local churches to get a grasp of the spiritual health of the culture. More than gathering information you need to process the information to get answers to these questions. Interviewing people will help, but you can learn just as much putting on your Sherlock Holmes cap and observe the culture around you.

- What are the values of its people? What do they see as important? Can you use their values as a hook to lead into your message about Christ? “Paul on Mars Hill”

- What is the attitude of the people? (For instance: carefree, depressed, stoic, hedonistic, optimistic, pessimistic, etc.) “Jesus with the woman at the well”

- What is the religious climate of the city? (For instance: number of churches, vibrancy of churches, non-Christian religions, secularism, apathy) “Peter at Pentecost”

Wrap up Sunday Afternoon

We spend 1-2 hours comparing Hamilton’s culture to the your culture.

- **Geography;** What are similarity’s and differences.

- **History;** Describe a point of historical note and how this impacted the culture.

- **Demographics;** Pick a demographic of interest and identify a way to reach them.

- **Values;** Describe the values of Hamilton What is important to Hamiltonians?

- **Attitudes;** What is the general attitude? What are the cultural speed bumps to avoid?

- **Religious climate;** What are the weakness of the existing churches? Why plant a new one?

10-Day Discovery Course

Schedule

Friday Evening Introductions / Move in

Introduce yourself in 3 min.

Where do you live? What is your culture?

Describe your family and close friends.

What would you like to do if money was not an issue.

Saturday Introduction to the course

Classroom

Intro to the OCIA Method / Developing your ministry plan

Observations from Geography and Demographics

Introduction to Real Estate

Field Study

Scavenger hunt in Hamilton

Sunday - Observation

Field Study

Attend local church

Observation of religious climate

Classroom

Developing a cover story

Dissecting the local spiritual health.

Discernment in working with local ministries

Monday - Observation

Field Study

Investigate local History

Research at historical center, library, internet, etc

Classroom

Intro to Church History

Tuesday - Observation

Field Study

Observations from Culture

Social Media

Government

Economic and social groups

Classroom

Perspectives Course

Wednesday - Correlation

Field Study

Identify a local career you could use to support you in ministry.

Classroom – Review of our primary culture and comparing it to the local culture. Identifying areas of attraction and tension.

Thursday - Interpretation

Field Study

Identify a neighborhood/people group you connect with; Identify the felt needs of the neighborhood you study.

Classroom

Interpretation

Building altars to “Call on the name of the Lord”.

Finding the “idol to the unknown god.”

Friday - Application

Field Study

Application: Identifying a Fishing Pond

Classroom

Teaching: – Seven laws of the learner

Saturday - Free Day

Free Day tour regional area to identify how Hamilton fits into the larger area.

Sunday – Wrap up

Field Study

Visit local churches

Classroom

Present your ministry plan

Feedback on the course