

## **The Church in Europe: Growing and Declining? First European Research on Church Planting**

An overview on research on church planting and mission activity in Europe will be presented. There are many views, but what is really happening in Europe when it comes to church planting? Where is church planting happening? What kind of church planting do we see in Europe? What are the signs of growing church plants? What can we learn from them? What is the state of planting within immigrant communities in Europe? If you want to look into and learn from a growing movement in Europe, this is the workshop for you.

*Martin Robinson is Principal and Chief Executive of Springdale College: Together in Mission. He was born in India of missionary parents and then brought up in Scotland where his father was a church planter. In his early 20's Martin trained for the ministry, and his first church was located in inner-city Birmingham. That multi-ethnic congregation engaged in church planting, and Martin and his wife, Lynda, went to lead one of those church plants. After 13 years in local ministry, he went to work for the Bible Society in a variety of roles. In his role as Director of Mission and Theology, and since, he has written many books on the broad theme of mission, including Faith of the Unbeliever and Invading Secular Space. In 2002 he joined Together in Mission as the National Director.*

### 1. Church Extension versus Church Planting

a. Facilities for the faithful

b. The loss of trust in institutions

### 2. Saturation church planting

a. The arrival of DAWN

b. Deficiencies in the model

3. Missional church planting

a. Mission before church

b. New imaginations around church planting

4. The ethnic contribution

a. Reaching ethnic populations

b. Crossing cultural barriers

5. Church planting movements

a. Multiplication versus addition

b. Cell, organic, simple church

c. People movements

6. Stages in national planting movements

a. The role of foreign missions in Europe

b. Creating indigenous leaders

c. Moving beyond the “bunker mentality”

7. Europe as differently religious

a. The idea of vicarious faith

b. Church planting as a means of creating resilient faith

c. Church planting as a means of renewing the existing church