Taster Programme

Local Church Bible College

LOCAL CHURCH BIBLE COLLEGE
TASTER PROGRAM
"Oh taste and see that Vision is good..."

FROM THE PRESIDENT AND FOUNDER

Let me commend this "taster" programme to you. It is an ideal way for the pastor and ministry team of a local church to assess several things –

- Would setting up a college campus in our Church be beneficial?
- Is there sufficient interest in the congregation to justify a campus?
- Does the Vision programme fit your culture, circumstances, and needs?
- Do you have the resources (office capacity, teachers, commitment) to make a long-term programme (two or three years at least) feasible?

Vision College is built upon a philosophy of "taking the whole Word to the whole world". Rather than pull people out of their local Church, away from their homes and jobs, to attend some central campus, we resolved to take the college to the churches to serve them and their pastors.

We fully agree that a central campus is the best choice for some people, but for many others, it is impossible. We also believe there is no better place for most people to receive excellent theology and ministry training than their local Church.

The extraordinary success of our programme around the world (now in more than 150 countries and thousands of churches) is living proof of its utility, effectiveness, and benefit both to the Church and its people.

Your Church could be part of this worldwide community of learning and church planting. Since the turn of the century, our graduates have planted more than 10,000 new churches.

Try us! And we think you'll like us!

Rev. Dr. Ken Chant

WHY A TASTER PROGRAM?

Our Taster Programme is a unique opportunity to engage with and discover the benefits of Vision Colleges to your ministry.

If you are in the early stages of considering a Bible college for your Church, the **Taster Programme** is an ideal way to find out if Vision Colleges is right for you

Through the **Taster Programme,** you will run a series of Vision Lectures precisely as if you were a college. You will:

- Gain an understanding of your skillset
- Understand how you can use your skills to have a profound impact on your Church, your community and the world beyond
- Create your own tailored training plan based on your skills and aspirations.
- There is no obligation. After the taster subject, you decide whether to continue or not.

WHAT IS THE TASTER PROGRAMME

No greater responsibility has been given to the Church than training and equipping men and women for ministry. After all, Jesus himself said, "Go and Make disciples!" not converts, but disciples. So there is no surer way to grow your Church than to train men and women – and release them into ministry.

For many pastors, the challenge of training others seems to be too great. How can I teach them? Where can I find a suitable programme that is recognised? Who will do the teaching? Where do I get the time? What of recognition?

Solving these problems is our ministry; it has been our mandate in the Lord since 1974.

Vision Colleges are specialist Bible colleges. From the beginning, we have specialised in two fronts of ministry training,

1. Distance education for individual students and
2. Establishing local church Bible colleges.

Both programmes are now worldwide, with students in over 150 nations.

The strength of Vision Colleges lies in our conviction that the best people to train men and women for the work of the ministry are the pastors and ministry team in a local church. Supporting this conviction has been the heartbeat of Vision Colleges since it was founded in 1974. We aim to be a tool in the hands of the local churches, a marriage of skills and resources. Vision Colleges provides what most pastors cannot – a good teaching programme to develop understanding, knowledge and wisdom. The Church offers what Vision Colleges cannot – the practical experience and teaching from the coal face of ministry.

Preparing men and women for ministry – this task of fulfilling of the Great Commission – can require a huge commitment of time, money and personnel that few churches or ministries have the resources to make such training possible. With Vision Colleges, you can do it!

How can you be sure that Vision Colleges is right for you, that we will be there helping you to fulfil the vision God has given you, a "silent partner" that does not impose its will on you or your ministry?

To find out, we invite you, your ministry team and your Church to try us, test out our "**Taster Programme**" to "taste us" as the scripture says:

> *O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusts in him. Psalm 34:8*

HOW DO YOU RUN A TASTER PROGRAMME

For one month, your local Church presents a single subject, just as you would if you had set up a campus in your Church.

Your ministry team selects a subject from the Vision Colleges curriculum. Your teacher presents it using the methods best suited to your team and students for the month. During the month, the students take in the lectures, study, and complete the assignments.

Send the assignments to Vision Colleges for assessment at the end of the month.

Discuss the Value of the college with your student body, teachers and so forth to determine if Vision is the right choice for you.

Should you decide to continue with Vision Colleges you will complete the application form to be a resource Centre, enrol your students and order your next subject.

If you decide not to continue, you have taught an excellent subject and enriched your members. All of the students will have a textbook – everyone benefits.

Who should attend the "Taster" class?

Anyone who:

- is serious about Bible college.
- who is curious about the Bible.
- who would like to "learn that subject".
- Anyone who wants to be in the ministry.

What is taught?

The Pastor (or a delegate) selects a subject from the Vision Curriculum. We can make suggestions if you need help.

Who Teaches the subject?

The local Church should nominate someone capable of and who enjoys teaching. They do not have to be "qualified". The bible college offers an excellent opportunity for those adept at teaching.

Having attended the Taster Programme, do I have to finish college?

Not at all - this is an opportunity to find out for yourself if Vision is the right choice for you.

What do I get from the Taster Programme?

A month of sound teaching, a textbook on the subject of choice and the option of continuing studies.

What is the cost of the Taster Programme?

$45.00 Australian per student per subject. (The Church may charge more or less, but the College fee must be met).

What is the cost if the Church does not want to continue with the Colleges?

Nothing more. There is no further obligation.

If the Church decides not to run a college, can students continue to study individually?

Yes, they can enrol as distance students with Vision Colleges.

Can I get academic credits for the Taster Subject?

Yes, if you complete the exam and enrol to continue your studies, we grant you the credits at no extra cost for the "***Taster Subject"***.

Suppose I fail the Taster Subject?

If you fail the "Taster" subject and choose to continue, you will be given an honourary pass so you do not have to "Catch up". This is a taster to see if you like the programme and processes.

How many students are needed for a Taster programme?

As many or few as you like, this is your ministry. We want to encourage, not restrict or restrain you.

How many taster programmes can we have?

One. It is a once-off opportunity to try the colleges.

If a taster is tried but does not work as it is not the right timing, we will reconsider after two years,

When can we start

Whenever you want to, Vision Colleges has formal start or finish times. This is your Bible College.

What happens to students who want to continue College studies if we start a college but cannot continue as a church after some time.

That is not a problem. They can continue as individual students and study at their own pace. They will not lose the study credit.

Who Can Apply?

Any Pastor or his representative who would like to try Vision Colleges as the training program for their Church.

What do we do next?

Contact Vision Colleges and ask for details about a Taster Program.

Some other benefits of the local church bible college.

At Vision, we firmly believe that the ministry team of the local Church is uniquely positioned to equip its members for effective ministry.

Embracing the five-fold ministry concept, we recognise that God has placed pastors, teachers, evangelists, prophets, and apostles within the local Church to perfect the saints and reach the local community. However, the development, nurturing and release of these giftings usually require the support and training of the local assembly, mirroring the example set by Paul throughout Acts.

Our Local Church Bible College programme provides an opportunity to cultivate the skills of your members and provide meaningful ministry experiences within the context of the local Church. By establishing a local church Bible college, you can fulfil your responsibility to train and raise ministries that will impact your local community and possibly extend to the world beyond.

The Taster Programme is a great way to test the concept obligation-free and develop your team and church members' skills.

We understand that establishing a local church Bible college may present challenges, such as issues of credibility and curriculum selection. Rest assured, our program addresses these concerns.

We have carefully developed a comprehensive curriculum from reputable sources, ensuring our students receive a high-quality education. Our college is recognised by churches and denominations worldwide, granting our graduates the credibility they need to pursue ministry opportunities confidently.

Together, let us embark on this transformative journey of equipping and empowering your members to fulfil their God-given callings. The local church Bible college is the bridge that will connect your vision with the needs of your community, enabling you to make a lasting impact in the Kingdom of God.

Vision Colleges Distance Education Bible College

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