Ministry Training Centre

THE WHOLE WORD
VISION
TO THE WHOLE WORLD

Vision Christian College

An Invitation from the Australasian President and Founder Dr Ken Chant (OAM, MRE, PhD)

Dear Pastor,

May the Lord surprise you today with an unusual gift of his joy!

You hold in your hands an invitation to an enriching learning experience. This booklet will tell you about *Vision Christian Colleges*, a charismatic school with a difference. Through our courses, you can expect your people to grow spiritually and to be better equipped to minister the Word of God with power.

VIC is different because of a combination of several features. We are

- *charismatic* in practice
- *loving* in fellowship
- *conservative* in doctrine
- *evangelical* in emphasis
- *bold* in faith
- *distance* in method.

Then there is the lead name of our programme: ***"Vision"***. It expresses our aim, which is to impart to you and your church something of the unique giftings of teachers and writers who are anointed for their task by the Spirit of God and who can help to create a vision of an exciting future in the service of Christ.

We are a school that places a major emphasis on helping local churches develop their own Bible college to train and release their members into ministry. Our goals are certainly academic, but much more. They are spiritual and practical. For those purposes, we believe that our programmes are both adequate and admirable.

We are ideally suited to partner with the local Church in developing each member's ministry skills and enhancing the church's growth.

I invite you to contact our office and enquire about our local church satellite programme. I hope that your expectations of the college will be surpassed.

In the love, grace, and joy of Christ,

Ken Chant

Vision Colleges Ministry Training Centre

The heartbeat of *Vision Colleges* is to assist the local church in the task of "*Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the Body of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:12).

With our *Local Church Bible College Programme*, you can offer our awards, from a **Certificate** to a **Bachelor,** while developing your church's strength, growth, and ministry.

In our view, this is YOUR college for YOUR people, in YOUR church, for YOUR community, and - the world beyond!

We are committed to the idea of training people within the walls of their local church and to providing excellent teaching material.

Where better to equip people than in the very place where they serve Christ? Who better to train them than the successful pastors who are engaged daily in fulfilling the principles of the gospel?

Indeed, we see the entire local church environment as part of the campus activity. Students entering into their church's worship, witness, fellowship, teaching, and ministry will enhance the process of equipping them to serve Christ.

Our function is to provide a theological, academic, and personal development programme that few churches can provide by themselves. We leave the practical element of training to the local pastor and ministry team.

You determine what is taught by selecting subjects from the dynamic and comprehensive syllabus developed by *Vision Colleges*.

Students study under your supervision with your emphasis on the subjects you select from our syllabus to build your curriculum. Further: while students primarily belong to your campus, they are also part of the *Vision Colleges* international body of over 100,000 students in some 150 countries around the world. If they relocate, they can continue pursuing their studies through distance education.

Students can extend their studies beyond the Bachelor's to a Master's degree or even a Doctorate (from the USA). And your local church enjoys the esteem and confidence of an internationally recognised school.

Benefits Of Our Unique Programme

- Students enjoy being taught by their local ministry team while being part of a worldwide network of several thousand satellite campuses.
- We use a flexible points-based programme. Rather than a "one size fits all" structure, you and your students may tailor your curriculum to meet your needs as you go, choosing from our wide range of subjects. If you prefer, we can provide a curriculum for you.
- The ministry abilities of your church team will be enhanced and developed through opportunities to provide teaching and use administration skills.
- You, your team, and your students will gain access to legitimate, faith-building, empowering material that is accepted and recognised worldwide.
- Your church will enjoy the benefits of being allied to a trained and equipped body capable of meeting its local ministry needs and reaching the world beyond.
- No longer will you need to send your members to a seminary to be trained – instead, you and your team can prepare and release them.
- You can better fulfil your role to *"equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the Body of Christ"* (Ephesians 4:12).

A Partnership Between The Local Church And *Vision* Means

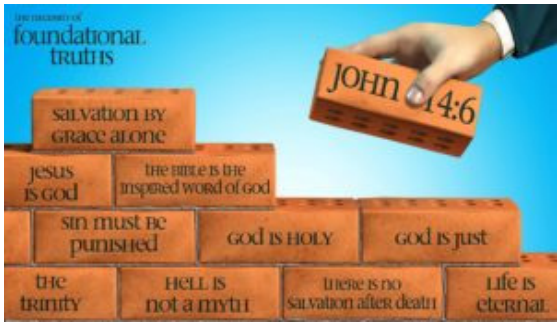
<u>*Your Role*</u>: You select the subjects from our syllabus, tailor the studies for your people to meet their needs, promote your college, teach the material (or appoint the teacher), and release graduating students into ministry or service.

<u>*Vision Colleges*</u>: we provide the study material, handle the student records, mark the papers, issue awards, develop the syllabus, maintain accreditation, provide international recognition, and upon request, help you to structure your curriculum.

Foundations

We are committed to:

- the absolute lordship of Christ over the church
- evangelism as the supreme task of the church
- charismatic renewal as the great need of the church
- the supreme importance of the local church in the programme of God.



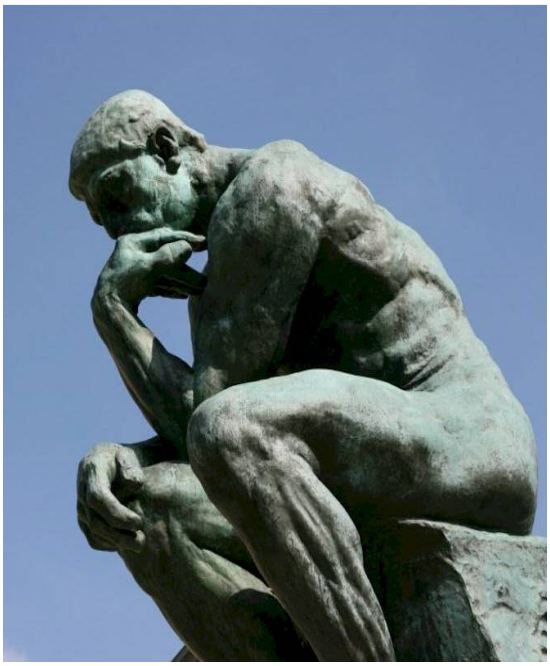
Within that broad framework, we aim to be impartial. Where there are significant differences in views held by Christians, we try to present the essential alternatives.

Thus, our curriculum is effective for anyone who shares our general philosophy and accepts the authority and divine inspiration of the Bible. But note that *Vision* is a

conservative, charismatic school with an evangelical, but not fundamentalist philosophy. Our approach is not legalistic but positive, not inflexible but generous, not wedded to rules and denials, but affirmative and free.

Points To Ponder

Bible Study Groups



Bible study groups can take advantage of our study material. For the many churches who do not want to run a college but would like sound teaching materials, our subjects provide an excellent teaching option, with or without exams or college status.

Who will administer your College?

We have no set requirements but suggest the Senior Pastor or, if they are too busy, any suitable team member or congregation member. However, the Senior Pastor must always be fully supportive of the campus. In any case, the manager should see the Ministry Training Centre as essential to "their ministry".

Who will teach?

While *Vision* lecturers will visit your campus by invitation, we usually expect each college to provide its teacher(s) if practicable.

Do we insist upon qualified teachers?

No, not if you mean someone with a teaching degree. Instead, you need people capable and willing from your ministry team or another church, whom God gifts to teach, whether or not they are ordained, trained, or formally qualified, but whom God has gifted. Such will be your best teachers!

Will the college be recognised for ministry training?

Vision Colleges are recognised or accredited in many countries worldwide, including Australia. Your local church college will enjoy the same status. We continually work toward better accreditation but cannot guarantee that any specific entity will recognise our awards. Should a graduate hope to use a Vision award to secure a position or employment, they should inquire whether the proposed employer will recognise it.

Choosing Subject Material.

There are more than 100 subjects from which to choose in 8 study streams. We encourage the Resource Centre to select subjects from each stream in rotation. This process gives the local training centre greater control over the subjects taught while maintaining depth and breadth of learning.

Are there exams?

Students who are seeking recognition complete an assessment for each subject. The exam is usually a multiple-choice, open-book assessment. The assessment should be completed in their own time (that is, away from the classroom).

Audit students who do not seek recognition do not sit for an exam.

Who marks the exams?

Assignments are returned to *Vision Colleges* for marking and returned to present to the student and for your records. This process ensures the same standard throughout our network, no matter where you are. It leaves you free to teach, administer, promote your school, and care for your students.

What about practical training?

Practical training is the responsibility of the local church ministry team. You know your people and their strengths and weaknesses. Who better to train them than the local ministry team on the front line of spiritual warfare and church growth?

Is practical training a requirement

Not all students want to be a minister. Some only want to learn. We leave this issue to the local church and student body.

Does Vision send students or graduates elsewhere?

No. We do not have churches of our own, nor do we establish ministries. We provide teaching materials and leave ministry opportunities to the local church.

What is a sufficient student body?

There is no minimum number of students to run a local church Bible college. However, to be formally recognised by *Vision Colleges* and enjoy the status and discount of a Resource Centre, you will need a minimum of 5 students.

Who can be a student?

Anyone who wants to learn the word of God is encouraged to attend. We encourage **full-time students** who plan to participate in every session;

part-time students who cannot attend every session or every subject;

cherry-pickers who only want to do the subjects that attract their attention, and

audit students who are happy to come and learn but do not want to sit an exam. But in the end, each local church must decide who may attend its classes.

Running A Ministry Training Centre

We recommend that you consider the "Taster Programme". It is an obligation-free opportunity at a minimal cost to see if *Vision Colleges* is right for you. See further in the booklet.

Starting and running a college is easy with *Vision Colleges* Ministry Training Programme. It is affordable, and the process is straightforward and easy.

We believe the best people to teach and train church members are the ministry team that God has given the church. Use those members of your church gifted in teaching. They may or may not have secular qualifications. Still, those anointed teachers at the local church level who are called to do the task often provide rich insight and Spirit-inspired teaching.

Because large churches have needs that differ from smaller churches, and every church is unique, we leave many decisions about their campuses to the local church. We have few requirements, but here are some things you will need to consider before starting a college campus –

- The teachers should be willing and called to teach.
- The team should have the desire to make disciples.
- Two or three members should stand with you in teaching and administration.
- While you need at least five students to start a formal college in your local church, you can begin an informal college with fewer students.

Awards and Credits

As a local church, you can offer any or all of the following awards –

Award in Biblical Studies
For the successful completion of 5 subjects (=15 credits).

Certificate in Biblical Studies:
For the successful completion of 10 subjects (=30 Credits).

Associate in Biblical Studies:
For the successful completion of 20 subjects (= 60 credits).

Diploma of Ministry:
For the successful completion of 30 subjects (= 90 credits).

Diploma of Biblical Theology:
For the successful completion of 40 subjects (= 120 credits).

Bachelor Completion:
For the successful completion of 52 subjects and a Thesis. (=150 credits)

Awards may be issued with "honours" to any student with a minimum grade of 96% for each subject.

Credits can be gained in either of two ways **–**

- Each subject completed at a passing level is worth ***three*** credit points. This method requires students to complete ***10 books*** to gain 30 credit points.
- Writing an additional optional essay may earn a further credit point per subject.

Advanced Standing

Advanced standing is available for those who have completed prior formal biblical studies and wish to advance in their learning.

Students may also be eligible for "life-experience" credits if they have been involved in ministry for at least two years.

Time Required

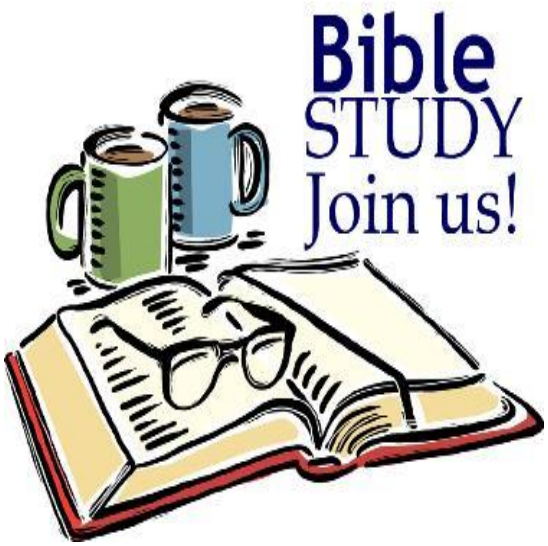
You can start your Ministry Training Centre at any time. It is your college for your people in your church.

Subjects should be presented one per month, covering one award level per year.

While we do not have semesters or terms, we recommend that the local church college operates with the state school calendar.

Taster Programme

Try us out. Taste and see that *Vision Colleges* are good! Test your options with an obligation-free Taster Programme. For one month, you (or your chosen teacher) will present one subject as if you were running the college. At the end of the month, send the exams to us for assessment.



Every student who completes the taster subject and enrols is given full credit for that subject. There is no additional cost to the student for that subject.

Discuss the programme with your people. If you are all happy with it, apply for Resource Centre status, enrol your students, and order your next subject.

What next?

Contact our office and inquire about our options, make an appointment to visit us, or invite us to come and explain the taster programme and Ministry Training Centre options to you.

Contact Details

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