

Vietnam Ministry Candidate Training

Level Three Courses

1 CHURCH PLANTING AND CROSS-CULTURAL EVANGELISM

This practical course should equip Vietnamese believers—who are less than 5% of Vietnam’s population—to plant churches and spread the Gospel in the dynamic cultural context of today’s Vietnam where you have modern cities, primitive villages, a population largely unfamiliar with evangelical Christianity, a government that is often ignorant, suspicious or hostile, and tribal areas with different customs and languages.

2 THE EXODUS, THE COVENANT, AND THE PROMISED LAND

This course will examine the calling of Moses, the Exodus from Egypt, the giving of the Mosaic Law/Covenant, the establishment of the Tabernacle, and the entry into the Promised Land under Joshua. A proper foundational understanding of the Tabernacle and the sacrificial system is key to grasping in the New Testament how Jesus is our perfect sacrifice and fulfillment. As you teach this course, you will want to make consistent references to the New Testament fulfillment of these prophecies and symbols. Since Vietnamese believers do not come from a Christian background, although they know about Jesus, they are unaware of these concepts. Your teaching goal is to orient them to Moses, the Tabernacle, and the Law so that they can more fully understand what Christ has done for us in fulfilling and satisfying the requirements of the Law.

3 FOUR GOSPELS

This course has two purposes: (1) To ground future church leaders in the life, ministry and teachings of Jesus, and (2) To compare and contrast the four Gospels. Why four? Why didn’t God give us just one account? What are the distinctions and separate emphases of each of the four Gospels? What are the common themes/narratives?

4 GENESIS

Vietnamese believers do not come from a Christian cultural background and are often unfamiliar with Biblical history. This course is an overview of Genesis and should include the creation account, antediluvian period, the table of nations, and the origin of the Jews from Abraham to Moses as found in Genesis. It should emphasize the covenant between Abram and God and, in particular, Genesis 15:6 as the Scripture from which the doctrine of salvation by faith originates.

5 THE GOSPEL/SOTERIOLOGY

Soteriology will examine and explain the doctrine of salvation to pastors and future ministry leaders. There is often confusion about exactly how someone is saved, what being saved means, and whether once saved you can subsequently become un-saved. This course will examine controlling Scriptural authority about how one is saved so that students will have a clear understanding of the doctrine of salvation and be able to effectively relate these truths to others. It will also discuss the importance of baptism and why it is a picture of salvation without bringing salvation.



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6 THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE TRINITY

The Holy Spirit is often misunderstood and therefore incorrectly taught—either overemphasized to the point that the Holy Spirit and spiritual giftings supplant a focus on Christ, or alternatively, is relegated to a position of little importance. This course will explain the Biblical person and role of the Holy Spirit and encourage believers to walk in His power and presence in their lives and ministries in a way that points to Jesus as the focus and way of salvation. Second, this course will also ground students in Biblical teaching evidencing the Trinity—God as three persons in one.

7 INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY (HERMENEUTICS)

This course is designed to train pastors in how to unpack Biblical truth in context through Inductive Bible Study Method. This course will also explain the science and rules of Biblical interpretation. It will emphasize the truthfulness and accuracy of God's Word. It should also touch on where the Scripture came from and why it is reliable.

8 NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY

This brief review of the various books of the New Testament will provide pastors and future ministry leaders a general understanding of the lay of the New Testament and the various types of books it contains—the Gospels, history of the Church (Acts), doctrinal books (such as Romans and Galatians), pastoral epistles and prophecy.

9 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY

This brief review of the various books of the Old Testament should provide pastors and future ministry leaders a general understanding of the lay of the Old Testament and its major sections—the books of the law (Pentateuch), and the various types of books it contains, such as the history books, poetry and wisdom books, major and minor prophets. This course will also demonstrate how all of these books have a common theme or thread, pointing to and illuminating the coming Messiah.

10 PRAYER AND FASTING

Prayer is much more than just talking with God. It is a mighty spiritual weapon that releases God's power to tear down strongholds and overcome every problem or obstacle. Future ministry leaders will be faced with many challenges in their lives and ministry. Often our knee-jerk reaction is to fight spiritual problems with carnal weapons—which is futile. The course will orient believers on how essential prayer is and what the Scriptures say about it. This course will also explain fasting and its relationship to prayer.

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Level Four Courses

1 ACTS AND CHURCH HISTORY

Vietnamese do not come from a Western/Christian cultural context. This study in Acts provides them a foundational understanding of the events surrounding the establishment of the church and its spread throughout the Roman Empire—from the crucifixion through the ministry of the Apostle Paul. A brief period of time will explain what has happened since the First Century—namely the Catholic period, Martin Luther’s Reformation and modern developments in the church.

2 APOLOGETICS

This course will seek to develop the church leader to be able to articulate why the Christian faith is true and why Scripture is completely reliable by presenting historical, reasoned and evidential bases for Christianity. It is the study of how we give a reason for the hope we have found in Jesus (1 Pet 3:15). It should address the common challenges made to the faith and present solid answers for how to answer those challenges.

3 THE CALLING OF GOD AND FAITH DYNAMICS

This course will explain what it means to really walk with God, how to walk by faith, and the importance of not fighting spiritual battles with carnal weapons. Many believers do not know how to truly walk by faith in their lives and within their ministries. This course will explain what faith is, and how it is that we are called to walk by faith. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith, and then the rest of the chapter illustrates how faith helped believers in all circumstances to overcome and change the world. This course will help believers learn to ignore their five natural senses which tell us something is impossible, and learn to turn on the “sixth-sense” of faith, given only to believers, to see what does not yet exist and to activate the power and provision of God.

4 INTRO TO PROPHECY—DANIEL AND REVELATION

Many believers who are called into ministry have a limited understanding of prophecy, which is the great hope of all believers. This course educates believers in the fundamentals of prophecy using the sister books of Daniel and Revelation to illuminate the events of the last days, coming of anti-Christ and the Second Coming of Jesus to establish the Millennial Kingdom. Emphasis will be on demonstrating how the Old and New Testaments are linked together as one integrated message to inform believers about the events of the Last Days.

5 DAVID, SOLOMON AND THE TEMPLE

Outside of Moses there is no one mentioned more often in the New Testament than David. The Kingship of David points the people of Israel to look for the coming Messiah. David was a man after God’s heart. His Kingdom passed to his son Solomon who built the Temple which became the center of Jewish worship, but also served as a metaphor pointing to Christ and the New Covenant. Vietnamese believers may be unfamiliar with this crucial history and metaphorical and messianic concepts. This course will explain and unpack this for students so that they have an understanding of David, Solomon, and the Temple as a model for God’s relationship with man before and after Christ’s crucifixion.



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Level Four Courses

6 EPHESIANS

This course is intended to be an expository examination of the book of Ephesians and its major themes: that we are saved by grace and not by works, that we were once far away from God and lost in our sin but have now been brought close to Him through Jesus. It should also to help believers understand the dynamics within the family and spiritual warfare.

7 GALATIANS

An expository examination of the book of Galatians and its major themes reveals the freedom we have in Jesus. Paul is reminding us that there is nothing that can be added to Jesus. The flesh adds nothing. We are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone. In a world that keeps pushing us back to works-based salvation, this message is vitally important for every believer to understand. Many scholars consider Galatians to be a continuation of and further expansion of the book of Romans, explaining justification by faith as opposed to works-based ideas of our relationship with God and how it is that we are saved.

8 ROMANS

This course is intended to be an expository examination of the book of Romans and its major themes, in context, to future church leaders who may or may not be familiar with its radical and beautiful truths and teachings. Special emphasis will be given to the five major sections of Romans: (1) All men are under condemnation regardless of their position, (2) How God solves this problem by Justification through Faith in Christ, (3) Sanctification—the process of growing in righteousness bit by bit, (4) Sovereign Election—the mystery hidden “behind the curtain,” and (5) How shall we then live.

9 SURVEY OF THE MINOR PROPHETS

This course is designed to be a brief overview and examination of the smaller books of the Old Testament—often called “the Minor Prophets.” It is intended to briefly explain each of the books and their major themes to provide an overall orientation to these future church leaders who may be lacking in understanding of these smaller books of the Old Testament. Special emphasis should be given to prophetic words about the coming Messiah.

10 SURVEY OF THE MAJOR PROPHETS

The major prophets of the Old Testament conveyed the words of God to ancient Israel, promised the advent of Jesus the Messiah, and are still relevant to our modern setting. This course will examine the role of a prophet and the methods of proclamation used by the prophets. Special emphasis should be given to the fall of Jerusalem, prophetic words about the Messiah, and prophetic words about the end times.

VIETNAM MINISTRY CANDIDATE TRAINING

Level Five Courses

1 BIBLICAL COUNSELING AND CHRISTIAN MARRIAGE/FAMILY

The root word for “pastor” in Vietnamese and Chinese is “shepherd.” A pastor is more than just a teacher. He is the shepherd of the sheep in his care. This course is designed to equip pastors and ministry leaders to deal with real-world problems faced by Christians through Biblically based counseling. Likewise, one need only look at the lives of the great patriarchs of Scripture—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and David—to see that Godly men nonetheless have real world problems in their second most important relationship—marriage. People bring into their marriages baggage and cultural norms that conflict with Biblical marriage. Once we become believers, we are no longer Americans or Vietnamese. We are Christians, and our culture and controlling authority for how we live and deal with each other in marriage must come from the Bible.

2 BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP AND CHARACTER OF A SERVANT

This course will explore and orient future ministry leaders on the character and skills of the man or woman of God who is called into ministry. Examples will be drawn from Christ himself who humbled himself, often did not assert His rights, and who “learned obedience through what He suffered” (Heb 5:8-9). Other examples, both good and bad, are drawn from the prophets, kings of Israel, disciples and apostles as well as more modern radical believers. The emphasis of the course will help students understand that character, service, faith, and skill are required from leaders and that each of these can be developed.

3 CHURCH CONFLICT/DISCIPLINE/RESTORATION

Often Christians have a very glittery view of what it means to be a leader or serve in ministry only to discover that sin, conflicts, and problems have always been part of the package of walking with and serving the Lord. The question becomes, “How will you as a leader handle it?” This course will equip future ministry leaders with the knowledge to deal with personal conflict, church conflict, Biblical confrontation, discipline, and the goal of restoration.

4 ECCLESIOLOGY/CHURCH ADMINISTRATION

This course will explain the practical side of a call into ministry by equipping future ministry leaders in the intricacies and politics of working within a church or para-church organization. What does the Bible say, and not say, about how churches and Christian organizations are to be organized, staffed, and led? What are the practical realities of working within a Christian organization? What practical advice can be given from others who have “been there” to help them succeed?

5 HEBREWS

This course is intended to be an expository examination of the book of Hebrews as written to Jewish Christians, explaining how the New Covenant differs from the Old Covenant. It should draw heavily on the Old Testament, demonstrating how Jesus is better than all of the forms and roles described there. The course should also emphasize the importance of faith.



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Level Five Courses

6 JAMES

This course is intended to be an expository examination of the book of James. It should cover the major themes and the radical and beautiful truths and teachings contained in James, including treatment of the outsider, the neglected, and the connection between our faith and how we live.

7 PRINCIPLES OF PREACHING AND TEACHING (HOMILETICS)

This course will equip future Christian leaders in how to effectively preach and teach. But preaching and teaching, while similar in some ways, are also very different. This course will explain the differences in presentation and in purpose—while helping believers to effectively communicate using both mediums. It will look closely at the use of parables, doctrine, and application. Special emphasis should be given to the Sermon on the Mount, Peter’s sermon at Pentecost, and Paul’s sermons in Antioch and Pisidia (Acts 13:16-41).

8 1 & 2 TIMOTHY AND TITUS A MODEL FOR BIBLICAL DISCIPLESHIP

We are trying to do two things with this course. First, this course is an expository study of 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. Second, we are using these pastoral epistles as a model for how Paul discipled Timothy and Titus. As you are teaching through these books, emphasis should be given to how these books are a model for Biblical discipleship. Jesus called us to make “disciples”—not just converts. He spent 3 years of His life intensely sowing into the lives of 12 men. Likewise, in these books Paul is discipling Timothy and Titus. This course should emphasize the importance of and provide instruction in Biblical discipleship. The course should also examine the distinct roles and qualifications of leaders in the church.

9 WORK OF A PASTOR

This course will explore the high calling of the office of pastor including its various separate functions: teaching, shepherding saints, church government and administration, etc. It should include an examination of the Scriptures that describe this office, as well as passages that demonstrate effective pastoring from the lives of Jesus, Paul, Timothy, Peter, James, and others. This course also includes practical instruction from experienced pastors to future pastors regarding what they can expect and how to overcome and succeed in their calling.

10 WORSHIP LEADER

Many believers have the idea that worship is limited to singing songs to God. But a true Biblical understanding of worship is any act in a believer’s life that glorifies God. This course will explain what true Biblical worship is and isn’t. And while any obedience on the part of a believer is a form of worship, this course will also help future church leaders understand the importance of musical worship and to develop music worship into their ministries—whether it be in a church setting, orphan ministry, drug rehab ministry, evangelism or in primitive tribal areas. This course should draw heavily on the Psalms and what they teach us about worship.