

PartnerNews



Ministry Training Strategy *Expands in Western Australia*

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Tim Thornburn was trained as a ministry apprentice in 1979-1980. Tim then received theological training and became one of the very first WA trainers when MTS was formally established in Perth in 1993.

He has been faithfully training apprentices for more than 15 years during his time as the Regional Director of Australian Fellowship of Evangelical Students (AFES) in Perth.

"I am now going about building up a further generation who will, like me, return to the ministry to be trained and then sent out."

Tim was trained to train others and that ministry multiplication mindset is now bearing fruit in WA.

A good example of this fruit is seen in the life of Rory Shiner, one of the



Rory Shiner with his wife Susan

students Tim trained as an MTS apprentice at the University of WA. Rory is now joining Tim in training the next generation of Christian leaders in the West.

Rory recently shared how he came to this commitment...

"I first came across MTS as a student in the 1990s at the University of Western Australia. Tim Thornburn had started with the Christian Union

at UWA a couple of years before I arrived and was in the early days of building up a generation of young people who would return to UWA to be trained in ministry apprenticeships and then be sent out into Gospel ministries.

"I began my apprenticeship in 1997, immediately on finishing my degree. Being an apprentice, the training involved doing all sorts of things Gospel ministers do under the guidance and direction of Tim. On any given day, I could be meeting with somebody, leading a Bible study, organising a camp, chairing



Tim Thornburn, one of the first WA trainers

a meeting, stuffing an envelope or giving a sermon.

"I have since been to [Bible] college and am now back in Perth, leading the ministry team at Unichurch, one of the St Matthew's congregations, and helping out on the campus with Christian Union.

"The training I received was invaluable in shaping how I approach ministry, the convictions I bring to it, and the goals and outcomes I look for.

"In conscious imitation of the ministry I was exposed to under Tim, I am now going about building up a further generation who will, like me, return to the ministry to be trained and then sent out. God willing, I will be able to take on my first two apprentices in 2008."

Since MTS formally began in Perth in 1993, 25 apprentices have participated in the program with...



MTS "Challenge Conferences" Inspire Hundreds of Participants

More than 1,200 men, women and children attended eight Challenge Conferences around the country in August and September—with more than 700 attending in NSW alone!

Nationwide, over half those in attendance (629) were there pondering the idea of signing up for a

been the one ministry that has accelerated the church's growth more than any other initiative."

Thank you for your prayers and gifts which are so crucial to making these Challenge Conferences possible. Please continue to pray for those who attended, that they'd seek first God's Kingdom and

"The mentoring has been the one ministry that has accelerated the church's growth more than any other initiative."

two-year full-time ministry apprenticeship. "I was challenged in my life personally, and in how I can serve the Kingdom more in my life," said one of the participants.

One of the highlights was the encouraging report shared about the grass roots growth of the ministry training mindset in Tasmania.

"More than 100 people are being mentored in our church," said Brian Vaatstra, the Senior Minister of Kingston Reformed Church. "The mentoring has

His righteousness (Matt 6:33)... and pray that many more Apprentices and Network Co-ordinators will join with MTS in the coming year. ■

**→ For your diary...
An outdoor adventure Challenge Conference called "Challenge: 6 Foot Track" is planned for Katoomba 15-16 March 2008. Mark it in your diary now!**



...continued from page 1 seven more currently being trained. Gradually churches are developing more of a training culture and a growing number of MTS apprentices are expected in the future.

Thank you for your support for MTS, which is vital as we expand the ministry in WA and around the nation. And if you'd like to help recruit, train and sustain more Gospel workers like Rory, please refer to your enclosed response form. ■

CrossCoaching:

A Vital New Program to Help Raise Up 10,000 Gospel Workers Through MTS

As you may know, the vision of MTS is to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ to every person in Australia.

We believe when one person is trained, we can expect that person to share Christ with nine friends and family members—so we're committed to depending on God to win 10 percent of Australia to Christ.

To enable that to happen, we have a goal to raise up 10,000 full-time Gospel workers and 100,000 keen church members through formal and informal training programs. And to help achieve this goal, MTS has launched a new mentoring program called CrossCoaching.

CrossCoaching is a mentoring program that is designed to help Christian men and women to train in godliness (1 Timothy 4:7-8) whilst they consider the possibility of doing a ministry apprenticeship. CrossCoaching is like a local mini Challenge Conference.

CrossCoaching involves a Coach (former ministry apprentice) training a Delegate (yet to do a ministry



apprenticeship) during at least six training sessions during a year. The aim is to develop Christ-like convictions, Christ-like character and ministry competency—and for the Delegate to become self-replicating.

CrossCoaching is operating in nine different locations around Sydney. If you'd like to find out more information, please visit www.mts.com.au and contact the CrossCoaching Co-ordinator near you.

MTS was a very encouraging and challenging time for me. Some specific areas of growth were: learning how to be godly, speaking the truth in love, evangelism, reading the Bible with non-Christians, being pushed to think theologically, and working with an awesome team. My time as an apprentice really helped me to grow as a Christian, and know, love and trust God more deeply.

Gloria Gadsby, Apprentice (2004-2005),
University of Sydney, NSW

Update from Colin and Jacquie in Ireland



Colin and Jacquie are currently in Ireland expanding the work of MTS

MTS recently received the following update from Colin and Jacquie Marshall who moved to Ireland in July to expand the work of MTS in that country.

"It has been gratifying to see the fruits of our last visit in 2004 and the International Conference. Evangelicals

generally are aware of MTS and six churches and university ministries have ten apprentices currently.

We are working with Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Baptist, IFES Ireland (equivalent of our AFES) and a few other para-church leaders. The opportunities are endless.

Jacquie is ministering to various ministry wives and apprentices and conducting some seminars for women—including non-Christians—on marriage and family.

I am involved in running training sessions for local churches, Challenge Conferences, meeting with apprentices, Training the Trainer workshops, meeting with ministers

and denominational leaders, Sunday preaching etc.

There is a generation of young Church of Ireland ministers whom we are very committed to. They are outstanding godly leaders with a passion both to preach and defend the Gospel. They are very committed to the MTS idea and several have apprentices already. They are the future of the Church of Ireland.

The challenges are many in getting MTS established and useful in this context. Training generally is a new concept for evangelicals here and ministers need the training mindset. Thank you for your prayers for us!"

Letter from Ben



Ben Pfahlert, Director

Dear Friend,

As Director of MTS I often feel a tremendous tension. On the one hand I feel deeply thankful to God for all that he has done, and is doing, through MTS.

But at the same time the Scriptures yell in my ear, “the time is short” (1 Cor 7:29). And I am gripped with the urgency to reach men and women for Jesus Christ...an urgency I know you share.

Last Sunday, less than 5 percent of Australians were in Bible-believing churches. And that will be the case next Sunday...and the next...unless something radical happens to change it.

You and I have the opportunity to be a part of a radical plan to bring change to our nation—
it's a plan to train 10,000 Gospel workers to evangelise Australia.

God willing, this vision will come to fruition with the continued support of friends like you!

You will read on page 1 the encouraging testimony of Rory, a former apprentice in WA who is now gearing up to train his first two apprentices next year. He is one of many young leaders who are now multiplying themselves by training others.

And following the recent Challenge Conferences, there are many potential apprentices who are prayerfully considering their next steps. Some of them are attending our new mentoring program called CrossCoaching, which you can read about on page 3.

Momentum is gathering as MTS continues to expand in every state. More churches are developing a training mindset... a wonderful answer to prayer!

Thank you for your faithful commitment to reaching our nation for Jesus Christ. Through your gifts and prayers, a new generation of Christian leaders are being raised up to share the message of salvation with men, women and children.

Your brother in Christ,

Ben Pfahlert

PS As we continue moving forward with the Gospel, please pray for the lost in Ireland and WA...and also for people in your city, suburb and street!

You're invited to... MTS Training Day: 7 Feb 2008

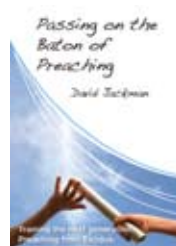
Join us for training, inspiration and fellowship from 9am to 3:30pm on Thursday 7 February at Scots Presbyterian Church, Corner of Margaret & York Streets, Sydney.

Ray Galea is our keynote speaker and the theme of the day is “Evangelism Now—The Lost in Rome”. Ray is the minister at Multicultural Bible Ministry and author of “Nothing In My Hand I Bring.”

Please register online at www.mts.com.au by Friday 1 February.

See website re: MTS Training Days near you

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