



This program is being developed and supported by Lakeshore Community Church of Christ.



# Ministry training Apprenticeship

## Why should ministry training be a key aspect of the ministry at Lakeshore?

Paul says to Timothy "...what you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who also will be qualified to teach others." 2 Timothy 2:2. In this passage Paul is nearing the end of his life and ministry. He is looking ahead to the survival of gospel ministry in the future of the church. He knows that the continued faithful proclamation of the gospel of Jesus will not be secured by the writing of doctrinal confession, or by the creation of institutional structures. The gospel of Jesus will only be guarded and spread as it is passed from one faithful hand to the next; each generation teaching and training the next.

This should be a natural part of the life of the church, particularly the eldership. Each elder should be meeting with a man/men with this intention. As well as this, a formal **Ministry Training Apprenticeship** can be established to see men and women moved towards this end. This would be a part time or full time 2 year apprenticeship involving the candidates spending time doing ministry at Lakeshore. The next step in preparing for full time ministry would be going to Bible College.

This is a deliberate one to one training relationship. The training is in Word ministry - by teaching the Bible. During the apprenticeship, the trainer is seeking to train another in the three areas of Word ministry:

- i) Christian character,
- ii) Christian conviction, and
- iii) Competence in Christian ministry.

Paul's relationship with Timothy gives us a model to follow. Paul urges Timothy to pass on what he has learnt and to "keep a close watch on your self and on the teaching." (1 Tim 4:16) This verse emphasises the two elements of training: teaching and lifestyle.

Teaching involves the passing on of information about God and His Son Jesus. Someone who teaches cannot afford to be careless about what is taught. Lifestyle involves the living out of the Gospel. Our lives have an impact on others, adorning or undercutting our message.



We believe that since God's Word, the Bible, causes his church to grow, God will use ministry apprenticeships that focus on training people in Word ministry to advance his kingdom. This is not employment of an assistant minister or youth minister, so the expectations we have of the apprentice are different. The apprentice is being trained. In fact, they are doing 'on the job' training. This means that they may make mistakes. Dealing with those mistakes is an integral part of their training.

They will do a whole range of ministries with people of all ages. This will include preaching and teaching to large groups and small groups; pastoral visitation; leading Sunday meetings. The apprentice will spend most of their time discipling people one on one and in small groups through Bible reading and prayer.

We are beginning this programme in September this year when our first apprentice begins and will be doing an internship of 3 days a week. His name is Bill Forgeard. He is married to Cathy and they have two daughters. Bill comes to us from working with Student Life at the University of Queensland in Brisbane. He has been leading the team and is wanting to get further training in church based ministry as well as some experience in the secular workforce before undertaking Bible College.

L-T Hopper the teaching elder/pastor will be his trainer. Bill will spend most of his time discipling people one on one and in small groups through Bible reading and prayer. He will also help oversee the running of the Sunday meeting, particularly the music.

### **How will we fund this venture?**

We look to God in prayer to provide through the giving at Lakeshore. This will involve a large expenditure, but we believe there are adequate funds available. In the past we have invested in buildings. This presents a new opportunity to invest in future ministers.

**Please pray for this venture as we look to God to use this to further His Kingdom.**

Adapted from *"Passing on the Baton: A Handbook for ministry apprenticeship"* by Colin Marshall

