



WorldShapers

Ministry Degree Programme

Faith in Action • 2010-2012

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Prospectus 2010-2012

Put your faith into action

We would like to welcome you to this new two year qualification for staff and potential staff within New Horizons Christian Fellowship. This training package has evolved a lot since its beginning in 1998, but the heart of the training is the same; to help people live out their faith and to fight for justice and the poor.

We do not just want to discuss what we believe, but we also want to wrestle with the question of how to live radically for Christ. If our faith does not inform how we live our lives throughout the week, then our faith has no substance and no relevance. Faith in action means that we live different to other people through the way we serve, love, forgive, care, etc.

Our training is based on the mission, vision, values and theology of New Horizons Christian Fellowship. This unique combination will look different in different countries and cultures, but the heart will be the same. This combination helps us to define and follow the heart of the Father - at least to some extent. We believe that we are called to become followers of Christ and not just believers in Christ.

We are therefore looking for staff with a heart for

- » church
- » mission
- » the poor
- » their community
- » justice

Our tutors are actively involved in a local church and they have shown a consistent walk with the Lord. They are all Christians with a wealth of experience. They will be able to help you to take steps of faith as they continue to do so themselves. They will be able to impart what it means to live sacrificially and generously, so are you ready for a steep learning curve?

The week:

A typical week will consist of

- » Cleaning of your flat every morning
- » Morning prayer and worship before teaching
- » 20 hours of lectures
- » Volunteering in the community
- » Volunteering within New Horizons Christian Fellowship, e.g. getting involved in the worship group, home group, youth group or support worker for the debt counselling centre
- » Ten hours of work to cover personal needs
- » Volunteering at the community centre and other projects that can help part-finance the training, and other costs related to the training programme
- » Sunday worship service
- » Friday night prayer meeting

We have seen transformed lives with learners from Europe, Africa and Asia. You can experience the same as you give yourself and commit yourself to engage actively in the lectures/teaching, volunteering in the community and in the church. The more you put in, the more you get out. You will reap as you sow. If you invest a lot in your training, you will also get a lot out of it. Your hunger and willingness to learn and serve will determine the outcomes.



As we fully sponsor your staff training, we expect a high level of responsibility and engagement and we expect that learners will show their gratefulness by giving themselves fully to opportunities to serve others. We value when people are proactive. If we believe in functioning as a body, then every part of the body has a responsibility to make things work and the development of the work and the quality of our outreach and ministries.

You will experience that we value a thinking environment at New Horizons. It means that you will take part in discussions, evaluate views, critique articles and sermons, etc. It is our value to agree to disagree. It does not matter if we agree on the finer details of theology as long as we can argue our point from the Bible. We want to learn and be challenged by each other's views. Only then, do we really know what we believe and why we believe it. We do want to worship God with our whole being, including our mind (brain).

“Principles” and “application” are two words you will hear a lot. We focus on finding principles or applications in the Bible texts. This means that you will be studying the text, interpreting the text and then finding the spiritual principle that works in all cultures at all times. You will be studying God's Word to find answers to problems in your society. Learners have previously looked for answers to problems like polygamy, rape, anti-social behaviour, famine, greed, injustice, women's rights, eunuchs, child soldiers, etc.



One course, two tracks

The whole training package is about ministry or worship in the broadest sense of the word. By this we mean that ministry/worship is about serving God and serving people.

It is explained really well in, "When helping hurts" by Steve Corbett & Brian Fikkert, "Work is an act of worship. When people seek to fulfil their callings by glorifying God in their work, praising Him for their gifts and abilities, and seeing both their efforts and its products as an offering to Him then work is an act of worship to God. On the other hand, when work is done to glorify oneself or merely to achieve more wealth, it becomes worship of false gods. How we work and for whom we work really matters".

The training you will receive will prepare you both for being efficient in making a difference in the community as well as the church. You might minister through serving children in our orphanage or you might minister through pastoral care in one of our churches or by helping the poor to get out of poverty through helping them start micro-enterprises.

We want to train you to become a real change agent in a world with over 2 billion people living in extreme poverty and with 30,000 children dying every day because of lack of nutrition or clean water. This staff training is all about finding the answers to tough questions. What is the good news to people living in poverty or to parents who have just lost their child? If you would like to be part of the answer, then get a team of friends together and submit your personal application forms and your team application form.

All learners will choose between two specialist tracks

- » Worship & Justice
- » Pastoral Care & Health

You will be in your specialist track on average one week per month and everybody will be together for the rest of the month covering the core subjects of the programme.

Core subjects

You will be studying crucial subjects to gain the skills needed to be a community leader and a church leader in a fast changing world. The different areas might include:

New Horizons spirituality

Gain a good understanding of the mission, vision, values and theology of the movement. Explore radical faith and kingdom lifestyle throughout history and what it means for believers today. Subjects will also include areas like listening to God and healing.

Church planting

Explore the whole concept of church and discussions about the different between a hierarchical church and seeing the church as a body. How does this affect leadership structures, decision making, etc. You will also consider the place of church in society, explore radical church history, and learn leadership skills, including mentoring skills.

Creative communication

You will study different ways of communication (including English teaching), new media, preaching techniques, teaching tools and the use of drama, puppets, photography, illustrations, etc.

International citizenship

We are passionate about exposing you to people and cultures that are different from your own. We believe it is the only way to break down barriers, racism, etc. It will also help you to become a world Christian who makes the church a prayer house for the nations and not just for your own people group or town. You will visit and discuss faith with leaders of different religions and you will study cultures and traditions.

Business & Project development

There is a big issue when people finish studying at bible schools or seminaries. They want to go in to full-time ministry where they live on the donations from other people who have to go to work. At New Horizons we believe that it is important that our staff are all involved in raising their own salary, not through donations, but through contracted work. None of the six pastors in our church in the UK receive any salary from the church for being a pastor. Everybody has found creative ways to use work to extend the kingdom of God and at the same time receive a salary to pay the bills and be able to be generous to the church and to others. We will therefore train you in business and project planning, partnership working, financial management, so you can help break the power of poverty over people's lives.



Community leadership

We believe that all church leaders should be community leaders as they service the people outside the church so they also can experience the love of God. You will learn about different approaches to community development, organisation of community projects and events, fund-raising and advocacy.

Justice

God is a God of justice and fairness, but we live in an evil world. We believe that we are called to make a real difference in the world by fighting for the rights of the oppressed in society. You will learn about the heart of God for justice, tools for peacemaking and conflict resolution. It is our aim that you will experience how God wants to use you as a modern day prophet to help bring in a justice revival.

Life skills

Living in community can be challenging and we all have different standards for the work we do. On arrival you will receive teaching in healthy and hygienic cooking, effective cleaning, cultural awareness, living on a budget, etc.



Track I Worship & Justice

For the first time we will be offering you the choice between two tracks. It is helpful if you and your friends are able to cover both tracks between you to be able to return with as many skills as possible. This will help you in meeting the demands of the people you serve.

This track is all about developing your skills as a worship leader with a heart for the poor. Worship is not just about singing in church, but also about the life we live outside the church. We see worship as a prophetic voice to the church, mobilising believers to take action and make a real difference in the world. This track will therefore combine worship, the prophetic and justice.

Your teaching might include

Music skills

You will learn to play an instrument better (guitar, keyboard or African drums), develop your vocal skills, ear training and music theory and music analysis.

Technology skills

You will have the chance to work on recording and mixing of sound.

Song writing

You will write lyrics, poems and music and also work on music arrangements. The teaching will explore the difference between performance songs and congregational songs, worship traditions and writing songs with a specific goal in mind.

Organisation of worship conferences

There is a twist to these conferences or training days. The training days will include teaching, social action and the celebration of God's goodness.

Worship leadership

The course will include how to build and develop a team, team dynamics, leadership skills, considerations about performance style and the effects on the audience/congregation, delegation, etc.

Theological foundations

You will explore what the heart of worship is, Christianity and culture, Christian communication through music, etc.

Assessment

You will be submitting a file where we can assess either your singing ability or your ability to play an instrument. You do not have to be an experienced worship leader, but you need to have reached a certain standard of singing or ability to play an instrument to be accepted on this track.



Track 2 Pastoral care & health

This track will equip you to deal with the most common mental health issues that you will encounter as a community leader and as a church leader. You will be able to offer competent counselling, coaching and mentoring.

Your teaching might include

Understanding children and young people

The teaching will include an understanding of human development, including how the brain works. You will explore the place of children in the Kingdom, youth culture and the development of personality.

Crime

How does the criminal system work and how does it influence people's lives both for the offender and the victim? You will discuss areas like restorative justice, victim support and how to best rehabilitate and support offenders.

Relationships

One of the biggest challenges for all of us is how to develop healthy and lasting relationships. You will learn about the power of relationships, love and boundaries and about the Father heart of God. You will research why love sometimes goes wrong and what happens when people might contract a sexually transmitted disease (including HIV), experience sexual brokenness or have an unexpected pregnancy.

Addictions

You will learn about substance misuse and how the different substances influence our lives. The teaching will also include other addictions, including eating disorders and explore effective ways of rehabilitation.

Trauma & disaster

The teaching will cover the difference between a normal response to trauma and Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and will also consider steps to recovery. You will discuss events and stories from your own life and reflect theologically on suffering.

Mental health issues

You will look at some of the most common disorders and how to help people to health and wholeness. The different mental health issues will include depression, stress, grief, phobias, anxiety, adjustment disorder, obsessive compulsive disorder and anger.

Counselling skills

The whole track is build on Victor Frankl's Logotherapy, but other schools of thought will be included, e.g. solution based brief-therapy, coaching, arts therapy, strengths coaching, appreciative inquiry, etc.

Assessment

We will be asking your referees to comment on your maturity and personal journey towards wholeness. We will also ask you to write what you learnt about yourself, your inner resources and how you found ways to move on after a very challenging and painful situation.

Focused volunteering

You will be volunteering in the local community as part of your training. Depending on your choice of specialisation, we will help you to find relevant opportunities to serve.

The volunteering could include

- » supporting the homeless at a day centre
- » supporting a debt counselling client
- » mentoring children and young people
- » befriending a person with a mental disorder
- » befriending a prisoner

Sponsorship

Your staff training is fully sponsored by WorldShapers Academy. The sponsorship includes flights, food and lodging, training fees, books, travel, etc.

We do need your help to part-fund the training as it is very expensive to run this qualification. On a weekly basis you might be working at Woodhall Farm Community Centre as a caretaker, mentor a child, take part in a Thrive club or any other projects that will help us to fund your training.

We ask students to contribute to the collection in church as the Bible talks about how people generously brought their gifts to the apostles, so they could distribute the money among the poor and needy. At New Horizons we use 80% of our collections on outreach to vulnerable people. It is therefore with boldness that we ask students to help us reach out to people in great need. We will tell you more about this on arrival.



Accreditation

The course is at present validated by the Accrediting Commission International, which is a non-governmental accreditation body.

We offer two different qualifications from this accreditation body

- » Bachelor in Ministry
- » Masters in Ministry

It is important to know that credits taken in one type of educational institution may or may not transfer to another type of institution or programme. This is at the sole determination of the receiving institution. There is no guarantee that a degree from any institution is recognised by employers. Each employer, public institution and nation will have their own criteria for recognising qualifications.

We are also in negotiations with universities in the UK about validation of the course. The negotiations are very positive, but there is still one main point that needs clarification. These negotiations mainly focus on offering a Masters degree validated by a UK university.

If you would like to know more, please contact Arno Steen Andreasen on arno@worldshapers.org.uk



Practical info

Dates

The training starts September 2010 to July 2012.

Can I apply?

Let's just go over the requirements again. This training package is for staff of New Horizons Christian Fellowship or potential staff. We are mainly looking for small groups of friends (3 – 5 people) with a heart for church planting and community ministries. We are looking for sponsoring groups who would like to plant New Horizons churches in the UK or abroad. If you would like to know more about New Horizons, please check out information and listen to sermons on www.nhcf.org.uk

These are some of the requirements for applicants

- » You are passionate about church, the community and social justice
- » You are hungry for learning and have a teachable spirit
- » You work hard and are proactive in taking initiatives to pray, fast and do practical tasks to make a difference
- » You have a good command of English (reading, writing, speaking and listening)
- » You are a committed Christian and have been actively involved in a local church for at least three years
- » Ideally you have a Bachelor degree or life experience that will enable you to study at university level.

- » Married couples are welcome on the course as long as both partners apply for the course and both are interested in coming on staff. Couples with children cannot apply as they are not able to obtain a student visa.
- » We will especially encourage applicants between 23 and 40 years of age

Assessment of application

We will be assessing if you and your team are right for the programme by looking at the following information:

Personal application

It is important for us that we get a good picture of you and what is on your heart. Make sure to fill out all the questions in the application form and answer them as truthfully as possible. We do not expect you to be perfect, but we do expect you to be a person of integrity, hard-working, and trustworthy.

Medical form

It is helpful for us to see that there is nothing that might hinder a successful outcome of your training or that will stop you from becoming a member of staff.

Team application

We are looking forward to hear where you would like to plant a church. Why did you choose that specific town, what are the needs, how can a church help meet some of these needs, how can your team work effectively together, etc.

Track assessment

- » **Worship & Justice:** Submission of an audio file so we can assess either your singing voice or your ability to play an instrument.
- » **Pastoral care & Health:** Submission of a paper telling us what you have learnt from a painful experience in your life. Why did this situation make you a better person and not bitter?

Two references

You will submit references from two different people.

What happens next?

- » We receive your application
- » We will let you know if you have been invited to submit further information, should this not be the case, your application has not been successful this time around;
- » You will return two reference forms to us together with an English test and a medical form;
- » We will tell you if you are invited onto the course.



Further information

First have a good read of our two web sites

- » New Horizons Christian Fellowship
www.nhcf.org.uk
- » WorldShapers Academy
www.worldshapers.org.uk

You are also welcome to contact Arno Steen Andreasen on arno@worldshapers.org.uk after studying our web sites.

All learners from India will first be vetted by our leadership team in Vellore, Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Team Leader Victor Daniel. You can contact him directly on victoryyz@rediffmail.com

Please post your application form to:

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The Community Centre
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