



## Veritas College International

### Serving God's church in a changing world



#### A changing world

We live in a world where it is often said that the only constant is change! Technological advances, globalisation, climate change and demographic shifts are all contributing to the reshaping of countries, societies and continents. It would of course be possible to refer to just about every age of history as a *'time of change'*, but what makes the current age so

unique is the rapid rate at which change is taking place. A few decades ago computers filling large rooms started to make their appearance. These days we all carry more processing power than those early giants in our pockets in the form of mobile phones!

It is not only in the area of technology that we are seeing changes however. In the world of ideas, powerful forces are clamouring for the attention of the people of the world. These range from the denial of the very concept of truth (Postmodernism) to attempts to recreate a 'golden area' experienced in the 7<sup>th</sup> century Arabian desert (Fundamentalist Islam).

There are two extreme responses to rapid change. One is to pretend that it is not happening, the other is to be uncritically swept along by it. The challenge for the church of Jesus Christ is to steer clear of these extremes while proclaiming the message of the One who is the same *'yesterday, today and forever'* (Hebrews 13:8). It needs to do this while it is going through some very significant changes itself!



### **A radically different church**

At the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century the vast majority of Christians were of European extraction and based in Europe and North America. Today Christianity is radically more diverse, multilingual and transcontinental. We have never

been closer to seeing the fulfilment of the vision of people from *'every tribe, language, people and nation'* (Revelation 5:9) worshipping the Lord Jesus as their Saviour. This exciting new phase in the history of the church, where Christianity is becoming a 'local faith' in more and more places, presents the body of Christ with some unprecedented opportunities and challenges.



### **New opportunities and challenges**

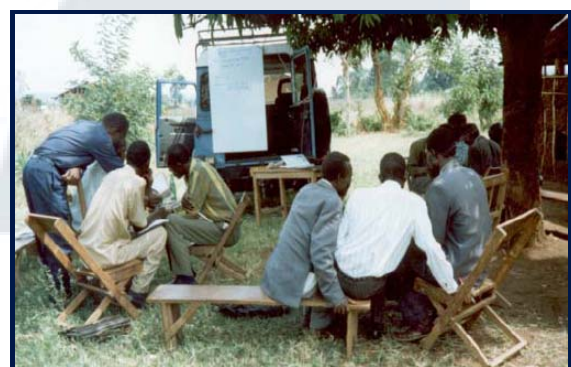
The radically new composition of the church means that we are better placed than ever to take the Gospel to the 'ends of the earth'. There are now new opportunities for evangelism, church planting and community transformation all over the world.

These new opportunities for the spread of the Gospel are not without challenges. Most significant among these are:

- Christianity is not the only belief system or ideology seeking to communicate its message all over the world. Other world religions, radical secularism and cults are all clamouring for the attention of the peoples of the world. In the midst of this many Christians do not have a clear understanding of the Biblical message and the way in which it gives the ultimate answers for life's big questions.
- Crossing the 'last frontiers' in terms of the expansion of the church often means crossing over into areas where the open proclamation of the Christian message is likely to attract a great deal of opposition. This can take many forms of which the most serious is the repression and persecution that threatens the lives and

ministries of numerous Christian believers.

- The Christian church in developing countries is often desperately poor. This means that local believers are often faced with a day to day struggle to have food on their tables.
- One of the most pressing challenges is the fact that the rapid growth of the church in many parts of the world has caused a radical lack of trained leadership. This lack of well-equipped leaders often results in churches that are immature and vulnerable.



## **Veritas College: Dedicated to make a difference!**

At Veritas College International we believe that our specific calling is to serve churches that are being persecuted and/or suffering from a lack of resources to train their own and other leaders for Biblical ministry. We have been doing this since 1992 when the ministry was founded in the United Kingdom, with the first training taking place in Romania shortly after the revolution.

## **Training materials that affirm the power and authority of God's Word**

As a ministry we strongly believe that teaching students to interpret and apply the Bible should be at the heart of everything we do. This is why our core curriculum consists of four modules aimed at teaching students to accurately interpret, apply and minister from all the different parts of the Bible:

**Module 1:** The New Testament Letters

**Module 2:** The narrative parts of the Old Testament

**Module 3:** The Psalms and Old Testament poetic and prophetic literature

**Module 4:** The Gospels, Acts and Revelation

The emphasis that we place on Bible Interpretation helps students all over the world to 'do theology in context' as they apply to their local situation what they have learned from their study of the Bible.

The Veritas core curriculum (Modules 1-4) has been translated into more than 20 different languages.



## **Meeting the real needs of churches**

Veritas College International has developed an approach to training to help meet the leadership challenges in the church worldwide. We call this Integrated Ministry Training.

It is exciting to see how God is using this training to impact churches and societies. Some of the things that people tell us that they value most about our approach and practice of Integrated Ministry Training are the following:

- **The training stimulates character development.** The strong emphasis on the interpretation and application of the Bible promotes holistic life development. Very often God changes people's characters, values, relationships and behaviour through their interaction with the Bible.
- **The training develops skills.** The strong emphasis on developing

skills means students obtain abilities to discover, apply and minister biblical truths. In this way they become agents of change in their churches and communities.

- **The training can be successfully presented in local churches.** Our training model is focussed on the local church and has been designed for implementation at grassroots level. This means that prospective leaders do not have to leave their churches and ministries in order to undergo training.
- **The training has an immediate impact on local churches.** This is the case as most of our students are already involved in some or other form of ministry. It helps them to improve their preaching and teaching, to provide counselling and to deal with various situations, including theological disputes.
- **The training works well in areas where the church is persecuted and/or suffers from a**

**lack of resources.** The Veritas training does not require many physical resources and can therefore be run in situations where other training methods would be very difficult to implement.

• **The training can lead to accredited qualifications if required.** The Veritas College courses have been accredited in Australia and we can therefore work towards the possibility of offering students in many different countries formally accredited qualifications.

Because of this approach, students really value the training that they receive from Veritas College. The following is just a small sampling of the feedback that we regularly receive from students all over the world:

*“I was able to analyze the text in just a few months because of this method of exegesis. Also our meetings were a blessed time for fellowship with the rest of the team. I am really grateful to God for this opportunity.”* **Luci, Iasi, Romania**

*Glory to God for Veritas College training through which I have been nurtured, built up with skills and holistically prepared to help, lead and train others with the truth of the Bible.* **Rev Edward Ochibo, Palissa, Uganda**

*I really had no idea about Bible interpretation but when I joined the study I learnt the five stages of Biblical interpretation and exegesis. I began to apply these stages to my reading of the word of God. It helped me a lot to understand the word of God. I learnt about the characteristics of the leader and leadership skills. I owe a lot to Veritas College because this study changed my life.* **Evan Kamal, Maghagha, Egypt**



### **A worldwide ministry**

A total of 12 504 module units (one person doing one module) were being delivered in the past year in 811 classes in 28 countries, using the Veritas College Curriculum.

This was achieved in an extremely cost effective way with relatively few full-time staff members since the vast majority of the training is done by unpaid volunteers.

Veritas College International is registered as a Charity in the United Kingdom. We operate offices in South Africa (Stellenbosch), the United States (Colorado Springs) and Australia (Perth). National Veritas Colleges, staffed mainly by local staff members, have also been set up in many of the countries in which we work. The full-time worldwide staff component of the College is about 50.

### **How you can be involved**

Ministering effectively in a changing world especially requires:

**Prayer:** We need God's wisdom, guidance and strength as we take this ministry forward in His Name. Please pray for us that we will not take a single step if it is not in total dependence on Him.

**People:** We need the right people in the right places in order to

function effectively as a ministry. It may be that you will fit right into a specific spot in the Veritas ministry jigsaw!

**Finances:** You will be amazed to know how much we can do with very little. Thousands of people are being trained all over the world for much less than the total budget of an average medium sized Western church. Any contribution that you make will therefore have a great Kingdom impact!

### **Getting in touch**

The best place to learn more about Veritas College International is to visit our website at:

[www.veritascollege.org](http://www.veritascollege.org)

We can also be contacted via the website.

Our local offices:

**Australia:** PO Box 2428, Clarkson, Perth, WA 6030

**United Kingdom:** PO Box 100, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 5EU

**South Africa:** PO Box 636, Stellenbosch, 7599