

Introduction to Vision Christian College

Bible College by Distance Education

*Study from your place at your pace
On-line or correspondence
No lectures to attend
No distance can restrict you
No time frame to restrain you*



External



Studies

Program

Vision Christian College

**Recognised
Bible Study Programme**

Through

Distance Education Learning

Certificate in Biblical Studies

Associate in Biblical Studies

Diploma of Ministry

Diploma of Biblical Theology

Pastoral Enrichment Counselling Programme

Bachelors Completion

Master of Theology

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From the Australasian President and Founder

Dear Fellow-Student,

I write to you as someone who, after 55 years of ministry, still yearns to know more and more about the Word of God. Its treasures are inexhaustible!

The following pages will show you how *Vision* can help you to discover those treasures yourself. Indeed, our aim always is not to indoctrinate our students, but rather to show them how to handle scripture wisely and well, and how to gain maximum benefit from their study of the Bible.

So *Vision Christian College* is a charismatic school with a difference. Through our courses you can expect to grow spiritually and to be better equipped to serve both the Lord and the Church well.

VCC is different because of a combination of several features. We are

- *charismatic* in practice
- *loving* in fellowship
- *conservative* in doctrine
- *evangelistic* in emphasis
- *bold* in faith
- *distance* in method

We hope also to impart to you something of the unique giftings of teachers and writers who are anointed for their task by the Spirit of God, and who can help to create in you a vision of an exciting and prosperous future in the service of Christ.

Vision is a school that places major emphasis upon helping people to discover and to develop their God-given ministry potential. Our goals are certainly academic; but much more, they are spiritual and practical. For that purpose, we believe that our programmes are both adequate and admirable. You can find more information about this philosophy, and about the principles upon which *Vision* operates, in our *Student Handbook*.

The union of all its various features creates in *Vision* an exciting potential for you to expand your grasp of scripture, to enrich your relationships with other Christians, to increase the vigour of your faith, and to better fulfil all that lies in the purpose of God for your life.

Since you are reading this letter, I hope that you are already on the verge of deciding to enrol in *Vision*. But in any case, I do pray that your mind, your spirit, your life, will continue to be open to the Holy Spirit, and that you will cease growing in understanding and in spiritual maturity, always keeping Christ pre-eminent in all things.

If you have already done some *VCC* courses, then I trust that you will find the will and the wisdom to complete well what you have well begun. Thus you will prove to be a good worker in the Word of God, trustworthy in smaller things and therefore deserving of greater.

In the love of Christ,

Ken Chant (M.R.E, Ph.D)

From The Principal

Dear Student

I am so delighted to welcome you to *Vision Christian College*. We have been at the forefront of Bible College ministry since 1974, with our distance education programmes by mail order or through the Internet and local church based Bible College programme, which we refer to as a Resource Centre

Our resources are rich, our history is unique, and our ministry is dynamic and faith building.

Our vision and determination to place sound, quality Biblical and Christian ministry studies into the hands of students everywhere at an affordable rate, is now enhanced with our accredited programmes, we can be found in over 150 countries around the world.

I truly believe that no study is as valuable to an individual or group of people as the study of the word of God. No study can so affect a man or woman as the study of the word of God.

This is a study that changes the life of the student, and always for the better, but beyond that the lives of those who come into contact with a student of God's world must be impacted for the better. This study can heal, no-matter the sickness. This study brings life and vitality where there was hopelessness and despair. This study brings joy and peace regardless of the turmoil, this study is the study of the word of God therefore it is the study of God himself.

While you attend to the business of study, I want you to know that I and my staff are at your disposal. We want you to complete these studies and to complete them well. If we can be of assistance to you at any time please feel free to call on us and allow us to help you as you work through issues that will challenge you, confront you, bless you, and be a catalyst in your development. Be assured of our prayers for your well being.

We look forward to both a long and fruitful relationship and to the reports that we shall receive of your continued growth and effectiveness in the Kingdom of God because you were a student of *Vision Christian College*.

Blessings upon you in Jesus name

Denis Plant (M. Th; Ph.D)
Principal/CEO

Statement of Faith

We are a conservative and charismatic school, working within the mainstream of Christian belief and practice.

We accept the divine inspiration and authority of the Bible, and we endorse those formulations of the faith that have been received by all the major branches of the church across the centuries.

Our theme could be summarised as: the Word of Christ preached; the Name of Christ believed; the Power of Christ experienced; the Love of Christ shared; the Coming of Christ expected; the Splendour of Christ exalted.

1. That there is only one God, who has revealed himself in Three Persons as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, who is self-existing and the Creator of all else that exists.
2. In the absolute lordship and deity of Christ, including his pre-existence with the Father, his virgin birth, his sinless life, his atoning death, his bodily resurrection, his ascension into heaven, and his eventual return to Earth in glory and power to establish his eternal kingdom.
3. In the full spiritual authority, the reliability, the divine inspiration of the Bible, and its inerrancy in all that it actually affirms.
4. That nothing can replace the importance of the local church in the programme of God.
5. That the great task of the church is worldwide evangelism, through preaching the gospel and planting other churches.
6. That entrance into the church is through the "new birth", which is brought about by genuine repentance of sin, confession of faith in Christ as the only Saviour, and surrender to him as Lord, and that proclamation of this gospel ("good news") must be the supremem content of all Christian preaching and teaching.
7. That membership in the church is signified by joyful participation in its worship, fellowship, sacraments, witness, and by acceptance of its discipline.
8. In Holy Spirit baptism as an experience discrete from and usually subsequent to the new birth, and normally attested by glossolalia, and that the ministry of the Holy Spirit is an essential component of effective Christian life and witness.
9. In the presence and use of the charismata in the local church and in Christian ministry.
10. That the universal church cannot fulfil its mission apart from the five ascension-gift ministries that Christ has sent into the world: apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, and that it is part of our responsibility to help people to recognise their calling, gift, or ministry, and to assist in equipping them to fulfil that call.
11. In the reality of Satan, and the kingdom of darkness over which he reigns, and in the absolute triumph of Christ over the devil and all his works.
12. That victorious Christian life is built upon a proper understanding and exercise of the spiritual authority conveyed to the believer by the gift of righteousness in Christ.
13. In the resurrection of the dead at Christ's return, in the certainty of God's judgment, and in the inescapable result of that judgment foretold in the scriptures for the just and the unjust.

About Vision Christian College

Vision Christian College offers you a variety of study options both Accredited and Recognised.

The unique difference with *Vision Christian College* is that we are dedicated to “Distance Education” as a learning method, whether by correspondence, online studies, or attendance at a local church learning centre.

This means that you, as a student of the word of God can begin your studies with us at any time and finish when you are ready. There are no fixed classrooms, no terms, no time frame imposed upon you by the College

No matter where you live, no matter what your job, regardless of the level of commitment or involvement you have in your local church, your ministry, or your family, you can now continue with your studies without having to attend a central campus or take valuable time out from work or leave your own home.

Vision Christian College is not new to the business of Bible colleges. In fact we have been engaged in distance education for more than 35 years, effectively teaching and ministering to individual students and colleges. As of this writing there are more than 150,000 students in more than 100 countries studying the word of God, being released into ministry, and developing their ministry skills as they go.

As a distance education programme we do not operate by semester or by term, but rather by subject and by award level. The benefit of this kind of programme is that you are not required to begin at a particular time nor exit at a particular time; your time frame is your own.

You are not required to attend college nor to take time out for “intensives” that consume your employment leave entitlements.

We are flexible in our delivery. The material can be posted to you or emailed. It is left for you to decide the order of the subjects you will undertake in each award level, thus allowing you to take some control over the structure of your curriculum.

A Short History of Vision.

The beginning

Our story began in 1974 when Ken Chant started the *Launceston College of Theology* (in Launceston, Tasmania), and simultaneously, Joseph Bohac and Stan DeKoven (in San Diego, California) began *Logos Institute*, a local-church training programme in practical ministry and counselling.

Four years later Dr. Chant moved his school to Sydney (Australia), while in the USA *Logos Institute* continued as a counselling ministry and training centre, and Dr. DeKoven pursued personal studies in psychology and theology.

More changes took place in 1982 –

Dr. Chant moved to the United States, where he established his programme in Minneapolis (Minnesota)

Dr. DeKoven returned to San Diego (having earned his doctorate), where he continued to expand the *Logos* programme, and in the same year Dr. Randy Gurley (who is currently

Introduction to Vision Christian College

Chairman of the Board of Regents and Executive Vice-President of *VIU*) began a teaching ministry that eventually merged with *Vision*.

Then in 1985 Dr. Chant brought his programme to San Diego (California), where *Vision Bible College* was legally established as a non-profit corporation, and where two years later, in the providence of God, he met Dr. DeKoven. They found an immediate affinity in Christ, united their hearts and visions, and began the network of affiliated campuses that (three decades later) is now established world-wide, with some 150,000 students.

Dr. Chant and his family returned to his native Australia in 1990, but prior to his leaving, *Vision Bible College*, under Dr. DeKoven's direction, had expanded to its present university status. A site was purchased in the beautiful community of Ramona, California, where its world headquarters are still based. A local campus and a counselling centre are also located at this site.

In 1992 the American college applied for and was granted full institutional accreditation with the *Accrediting Commission International of Schools, Colleges and Theological Seminaries*.

In 1993 *Vision Christian Ministries* (USA) affiliated with *St. Michael's Baptist Church* and was renamed *Vision Christian Church International*, and *California Christian College* was renamed *Vision International University*.

In the meantime, in Australia, the college was re-named *Vision Christian College*, and its programme has continued to flourish under Dr. Chant's leadership. We now have local church (or Resource Centre) campuses established in many parts of Australia and New Zealand, plus several hundred students in both countries who are doing the course by correspondence.

Dr DeKoven has provided the entrepreneurial drive for the expansion of *VCC* internationally, and Dr Chant has provided much of the teaching material (especially in theology). But the educational philosophy under-girding the college, its international vision, its dynamic concepts, all stem from the work of the Holy Spirit in both men and in the team that works with them.

More Innovations

In 1998 Pastor Denis Plant became involved initially with the development of the *Internet Bible College*. Having been involved in teaching ministry for over 25 years, established two Bible colleges and pioneered several churches and served as a missionary in Papua New Guinea at Lighthouse Bible College with the Foursquare Churches. He decided that the syllabus of *Vision Christian College* was the most suitable for the Internet Bible College and it was one of the first Bible colleges to offer teaching through the internet. Denis has since been instrumental in gaining accreditation for Vision International College and the continued development of the Australian mission wing of the college

VETAB Accreditation

In 2003 *Vision Christian College* was granted accreditation through VETAB and *Vision International College* was born, allowing us to offer accredited courses, in addition to our recognised studies, under an internationally accepted banner. We are delighted to add our VETAB accredited programme to our range for our students. For further information on the accredited programme request our *Introducing Vision International College* booklet from our office today.

We are excited about our programmes! They have grown from a local church Bible college to an internationally recognised organisation that spans the globe.

Recognised Study Course

What is “Recognised”?

Vision Christian College (distinct from *Vision International College*) is not accredited. That is, we have chosen not to submit the programme to any national educational accrediting body for formal academic recognition. However, local and denominational churches, mission groups, para-church groups, and the like, do recognise *Vision Christian College* awards for formal ministry training in over 150 countries around the world, including Australia, the United States of America, and New Zealand.

The advantages of recognised studies with *Vision Christian College* are □

- the flexibility of the study programme
- studying the word of God for ministry preparation or personal development
- no secular requirements in the programme, since it is a Christian Bible college not a secular college
- much less costly than accredited programmes
- wide international recognition
- wide interdenominational recognition.

While *Vision Christian College* is not accredited, many colleges and universities in Australia and overseas do grant recognition to our awards at varying levels of acceptance. However, for credit value, graduates of *Vision Christian College* need to make their own inquiry of the other college or workplace.

For those who prefer or require accredited study options we refer you to our sister college, *Vision International College*, where we offer accredited undergraduate and post graduate study options that attract Austudy and full academic recognition throughout TAFE colleges, universities, and other accredited colleges

Vision Christian College offers four levels of Recognised Awards, from Certificate in Biblical Studies to a Diploma of Theology. These awards are issued through our Australian office in Macquarie Fields, NSW.

A path to a Bachelor’s Completion through to a Doctorate is also available through sister programmes in Ramona, California, USA, through *Vision International University*. *Vision Christian College* does not and is not authorised to issue degrees. For more information on degrees, see the section on *Degree Options*.

Vision Awards are highly sought after.

Currently there are over 150,000 students around the world (through our affiliated colleges and networks) in more than 153 countries, and serving in excess of 8,000 churches, denominations, and para-church groups who prefer and use our ministry as a training option, including Australia, the United States and New Zealand

Flexible Programme

Most colleges utilise a curriculum that demands the completion of set subjects, with occasional “electives”, which must be completed in order to progress to the next level of study. Vision, however, is built around a credit point system rather than a fixed curriculum. This allows greater flexibility of study options for students, while ensuring an appropriate balance of study through our "Study Streams".

Study Options with Vision

Personal Distance Education

To enter into the Recognised programme a student must first enrol for the Certificate in Biblical Studies.

Advanced standing may be available in the form of

- Academic Credits for those students who have completed prior studies with another Bible college; and/or
- Life (Ministry) Skills credits for ministry experience. See the section on *Advanced Standing* for details.

Students are encouraged to self select in rotation from the Study Streams the next subject they wish to undertake. That is, the next subject should be taken from a different stream than the stream of the previous subject. This ensures that no two consecutive subjects are taken from the same stream. This process also enables students to select subjects that are of particular relevance, interest, or need to them, and so maximise the value of their study, while at the same time maintaining balance in their studies.

We do have a model curriculum for students who may prefer to use it; or we can customise an individualised study plan, or we can suggest subjects for the student if they prefer.

There are 8 Study Streams:

1. Foundational Studies
2. Bible Studies
3. Church Studies
4. Christian Life Studies
5. Counselling Studies
6. Doctrinal Studies
7. General Education Studies
8. Mission Studies

Local Church Bible College

For more than 35 years we have been in the business of establishing local church Bible Colleges, which we call “Resource Centres”.

The difference between the Personal Study Programme and a Local Church Bible College lies in the method of selecting subjects. In a Local Church Bible College the pastor or his ministry team selects the subjects and their order, rather than the student.

Any church group, parachurch body, group of individuals, or Christian organisation can run a *Vision Christian College* Resource Centre. Thus, a local church can establish its own on site Bible College, using *Vision* material as its curriculum and its own resources and ministry for its training programme.

Typically the Centre is run by the pastor or his ministry team as their own college. *Vision* does not interfere with the running of an autonomous Resource Centre. We are committed to the concept that the best people to train men and women of God for the ministry are their own

local pastors. They are the front-line people who are best able to meet the training needs of the student, right there in their own church.

The Resource Centres have proven to be invaluable to churches, for they train and develop the skills of their members while keeping them active in the church and absorbing its vision.. To date there are over 5,000 such groups around the world in over 140 countries. These Resource Centres are ministering to over 100,000 students.

For more information, please contact us and ask for our handbook on Resource Centres.

Although a Resource Centre is not a formal part of the VETAB accredited programme, VETAB students may attend, and indeed, if one is nearby, are encouraged to attend its classes for the benefit of mutual study and support.

Missions Programme

We embrace an extensive missions programme by providing missionaries with ongoing support. *Vision Christian College* accepts missions as a part of our responsibility to take the "Whole Word to The Whole World". We have an exciting missions programme.

Jesus' great commission applies to us and we are excited with the options open to us. The programme takes two basic thrusts, that of supporting what we call our "Missions Students" and our "Mission Bible College" programme.

No other writing has a lasting positive effect on human beings like the word of God. Nothing can change lives or people groups or whole nations like the word of God. The word of God, empowered by the Spirit of God, reaches deep into the human soul and changes people dramatically. Souls are saved, bodies healed, deliverance brought to tormented individuals, lives given hope and a future, governments changed □ and all by the word of God. Yet as Paul declared in Romans 10:14-15 (NASB) □

"How then will they call on Him in whom they have not believed? How will they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how will they hear without a preacher? How will they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, HOW BEAUTIFUL ARE THE FEET OF THOSE WHO BRING GOOD NEWS OF GOOD THINGS!"

We are in the business of training men and women for the work of the ministry, and thanks to the Internet we are able to reach out and teach men and women in countries where the gospel is forbidden. No boundaries stop us, no time frame nor legal system, nothing can stand between us and our call to take and to teach the "Whole Word to The Whole World".

You can be trained to go, and go to the fields well equipped for service. Or perhaps you cannot go yourself, but now you can send another. But rather than send the person, send the teaching by sponsoring a student. Help us to train national men and women in their own culture to reach their people. Indeed our mission programme is exciting, but we need your help through sponsorship.

A Mission Student.

Is an individual student who is supported by a sponsor. The student is treated exactly the same as any full-fee paying student, and is given the same opportunities as any other student, except that his or her fees are paid through our sponsorship programme. We sponsor a number of students directly though the college and also make provision for others to sponsor a student.

While we do normally exchange email addresses between the Mission Student and the Sponsor, to allow for contact, they may choose not to meet nor make contact. Such issues are

left between sponsor and student. Yet, even though you may not make contact, you, the sponsor, will have the satisfaction of knowing that you are involved in the training and development of an individual ministry in a local community.

For more details on how you can support an individual student, see our Missions Student option; or you can send us an email asking for more specific information on the "Missions Student Programme".

The Mission Bible College.

This option allows us to deliver an entire internationally recognised Bible college programme to the mission field. When placed in the hands of a local pastor or missionary, it enables them to teach the material to local people, in their own culture, by their own leaders. This helps local churches to release not just an individual student but an entire college of students into their own nation for God. It also helps local churches to equip missionaries to go out into the world.

While we do normally exchange email address between the Missions College and the Sponsor to allow for contact, the sponsor and the student may choose not to meet nor make contact. As with individual students, such issues are left to the sponsor and the local college to decide.

We need your help to continue this programme. If you would like more specific information contact us (write, phone or send an email), asking how you or your church can support a recognised Bible College on the mission field.

Study Method

The unique difference with *Vision Christian College* is that we are dedicated to "Distance Education" learning methods. As such, we do not set a start date, nor school terms or semesters of study. This means that you, as a student of the word of God, can begin your studies with us at any time and finish when you are ready.

While *Vision* will impose no class rooms, no school terms, nor any time-frame upon you, a local church operating its own Bible college will obviously need to do so.

The following method applies with minor variations to all students whether they are in a distance education programme, a local Bible college, or a mission college programme.

When students receive their text book and assessment they are advised to read the material three times.

1. The first reading should be a "scan read" which will provide the student with an overview of the subject.
2. The second read is to study the material in depth, research it, and mark it, seeking to understand the subject matter.
3. The third reading, with the "open book"¹ assessment questions, is then made to find the required answers.

¹ Vision's assessment policy is that of an "Open Book" assessment. This method permits students to use their text book as a resource when answering the assessment questions. The questions are written to test a student's comprehension of the subject, not his or her memory. This is in keeping with "competency based" learning principles adopted throughout all Vision colleges and the Australian Adult (AQTF). This assessment method has been the policy of Vision for over 35 years.

We are concerned with a student's comprehension or "competency" in the subject, rather than an ability to remember a particular set of scriptures or principles.

The student must answer the questions with direct reference to the text book. Note, too, that an examination of this sort is not designed to test your personal beliefs, but your knowledge and understanding of your text book. You may not agree with all that you find in the text book (we make no claim of infallibility!), but even if the required answer to a question may conflict with your personal beliefs, you should still try to answer each question according to what the text book says.

The assignments attached to the books are mostly multiple choice tests; however, some books use instead short-answer questions. In a few cases an essay may be required.

When the assessment is completed it must be sent to *Vision's* office for marking and at the same time a new subject ordered. The student's results are recorded on our database and returned as quickly as possible, often along with the new subject. As the student's points accrue, a new award will be issued automatically from the office.

This cycle of ordering a subject, studying, completing the assessment, returning the assessment and reordering, continues until a student has reached his or her desired award level.

After an award is issued, a student who wishes to advance further must enrol into the next level of award. Each new level requires a new enrolment.

Our process is kept as simple and easy as possible, thus enabling students to concentrate on the issues of learning rather than being mindful of protocols, principles and administration.

So, with Vision your distance education options are the regular mail service, or through our online school, the *Internet Bible College*. A further option, if one is nearby, is to enrol in one of our local church satellite campuses.

Graduation Ceremony/Celebration Service

As a distance education provider it is impractical to hold a formal graduation service for every student at the offices of *Vision Christian College*. We do however recognise the great value of a graduation ceremony for students, and we acknowledge the level of self esteem that a graduation service can provide. So we offer the following options to those students who gain an award, and upon their request we will

- provide an opportunity to participate in our annual Graduation Ceremony in January of each year; or
- send the award to your local Pastor (or other designated person) to present the Certificate or Diploma to you during a church service or special Graduation Service, either of which would provide opportunity for the recognition of the student's achievements; or
- upon invitation, if suitable arrangements can be made, we will come to your church to present the awards in a Graduation Service; or
- send the Certificate or Diploma, transcript, and congratulatory letter by mail.

Vision Study Programmes

Recognised Undergraduate Programme

All our programmes are available to all our students, regardless of the study options they are involved with. Therefore an individual distance student, or a local church student body, or a mission student can all study from Certificate to Master's programmes.

Pre-requisite

None

Certificate to Diploma of Theology

This is the original *Vision* programme, and the model has been so successful it has been duplicated around the world in thousands of locations.

It is most suited to

1. those people who seek to understand the word of God, whether for personal enrichment, or to be trained for ministry in the local church.
2. people who cannot attend a Bible college.
3. people who are in pastoral ministry and seek to further develop excellence in their ministry.
4. people in eldership or leadership in a local church.
5. people already in ministry under the oversight of their church.
6. pastors who seek to establish a Bible college in their own church.
7. missionaries desiring further study and development.

The **Recognised Programme** is built around a credit-point system. Awards are earned by accumulating credit points instead of completing a set curriculum. This means that any suitably gained credits can be applied anywhere in the programme. We offer the following awards

Awards

Award	Pre-requisite
Certificate in Biblical Studies	None
Associate in Biblical Studies	Certificate in Biblical Studies
Diploma of Ministry	Associate in Biblical Studies
Diploma of Biblical Theology	Diploma of Ministry

Typically a student earns credits by successfully completing a subject, which brings 3 credits. Additional credit points may also be earned by completing an optional essay (1 additional point), or by completing a Student Study Guide (2 additional points). The benefit of the additional work lies in the value of additional study in greater depth on the subject. The extra points also allow students to fast track at their own pace and there is a cost saving as well.

1. Certificate in Biblical Studies = 30 credits (total credits = 30)
2. Associate in Biblical Studies = 30 further credits (total credits = 60)
3. Diploma of Ministry = 30 further credits (total credits = 90)
4. Diploma of Theology = 30 further credits (total credits = 120)

Thus the full Diploma of Theology requires 120 credit points and is the prerequisite for the Bachelor's Completion with *Vision International University*

Pastoral Enrichment Counselling Programme

This Diploma level course is offered to a specific target group: Pastors, Elders, Leaders and others who are already involved in counselling ministry, but desire to improve their counselling skills and to become more effective.

We recognise that while many of these men and women of God are already successful counsellors, for some that effectiveness is “experience” or “anointing” based and may lack formal training. We are offering those counsellors a study programme to assist them in enriching and strengthening their ministry, and also to gain a formal qualification.

Note: those who desire to learn the skills to become a counsellor, but do not yet have the required experience, will not be eligible for this programme. However, they may enter into our Diploma of Theology course, with a major in Christian Counselling, along with a range of theological study options.

Entry Requirements:

Pastors in ministry who –

- recognise the need to develop further their counselling skills;
- already have a Diploma of Ministry from *Vision Christian College* or equivalent institution and a minimum of 2 years pastoral experience; or
- have a proven record in effective counselling.

Elders, Leaders, Church Counsellors who² –

- already have a Diploma of Ministry from *Vision Christian College* or equivalent institution;
- have a minimum of 2 years’ pastoral experience;
- have an endorsement from their local pastor or other significant members of their community.

The Subjects

There are eleven subjects³ for the counselling enrichment programme, and each subject comes with a Text Book, Student Study Guide, Assessment, and a complete set of Audio CD’s by a highly qualified Christian Counsellor.

1. Authenticity and Authority of the Bible.
2. Journey to Wholeness
3. Introduction to Christian Counselling
4. Marriage and Family I – Marriage and Family, Divorce and Remarriage
5. Marriage and Family II – Parenting on Purpose)
6. Crisis Counselling,
7. Human Development – A Christian Perspective
8. Family Violence
9. Cross Cultural Counselling
10. Dazzling Secrets
11. Pastoral Leadership

² **Note:** Some students *may* be required to complete some doctrinal studies to provide a sound foundation before undertaking these subjects.

³ Further subjects will be added to this range of options in the future.

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Each subject will attract its own Certificate. Any 10 subjects in this range will qualify for the **Diploma of Pastoral Counselling** from *Vision Christian College*.

Additional Requirement:

Students will also be required to purchase the book, "How to Start a Counselling Ministry."

Awards Offered:

- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Authenticity and Authority of the Bible.
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Journey to Wholeness
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Introduction to Christian Counselling
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Marriage and Family I, – Divorce and Remarriage
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Marriage and Family II – Parenting on Purpose
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Crisis Counselling
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Human Development – A Christian Perspective
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Family Violence
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Cross Cultural Counselling
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Dazzling Secrets
- Certificate in Christian Counselling: Pastoral Leadership

Degree Programmes for Ministry Preparation

Vision International University (USA) offers degree programmes for students seeking academic advancement and preparation for professional service in Christian Ministry. The University was founded in 1990 as a sister institution of *Vision Christian College* Australia. With administrative headquarters in Ramona, CA, the University specifically offers flexible and affordable distance/online education in a variety of delivery methods.

While *Vision Christian College* issues awards from Certificate in Biblical Studies to Diploma of Theology, all degrees are issued through *Vision International University*, USA.

Through the *Internet Bible College* we are authorised to offer you the *Vision International University* Degree Programmes as a path to a Bachelor's and Master's degree.

Mission Statement:

The mission of *Vision International University* is to educate and train, by means of distance education, men and women called to Christian service. The academic model is biblically based Christian higher education (undergraduate through graduate), for preparing Christian pastors, missionaries, church leaders, educators and other professionals for leadership in various fields of Christian service. This mission is to be accomplished through a Christ-centered distance education curriculum, of academic excellence, intellectual inquiry, spiritual and moral integrity, and practical experience.

VIU is committed to maintain the following principles:

- An identity as a Christian institution of higher education, serving qualified applicants without sectarian discrimination.
- A firm biblical emphasis, both in curriculum and in principles for praxis, based upon acceptance of the authority of the scriptures.
- A competent, theologically diverse faculty committed to a quality academic programme.
- A comprehensive educational philosophy, the practices of which are supported by rigorous empirical research.
- A sense of community that fosters positive relationships among faculty and students of diverse backgrounds.
- A learning environment supportive of the local church.
- A commitment to a progressive approach in addressing the technological nature of our changing society.

The *Internet Bible College* is pleased to offer the **The Bachelor's Completion Programme and the Master of Theology** (Integrated Studies) from *Vision International University*, San Diego, California, USA.

Bachelor's Completion

Purpose

The **Bachelor's Completion Programme** is designed to provide the student with a broad understanding of vocational Christian Ministry in the context of the local church. The programme incorporates courses from the core and from the emphasis areas.

The **Bachelor of Ministry (B.Min.)** degree completion programme is designed to prepare men and women to serve in Christian Ministry. It includes systematic study, wide reading, and practical ministry education. The Bachelor of Ministry degree is a vocational, pre-professional degree, designed to transition the student into graduate-level theological education. The programme consists of 30 credit hours, which must be from *Vision International University's Bachelors Completion Programme*. The student must complete the five core courses and select the remainder from the ministry specialisation courses listed below. After completing the B.Min. degree, you should be able to:

- Lead congregations to creative, biblically–informed transformational endeavours;
- Respond appropriately to societal trends that impact church ministry;
- Critically and sympathetically engage new models with the historic resources of the Christian tradition
- Demonstrate biblical literacy and theological reflection;
- Serve in a variety of ministry service roles;
- Demonstrate a range of general and specialist ministry skills;
- Minister to people with a wide range of needs, selecting appropriate approaches;
- Demonstrate practical skills in Christian teaching, preaching, leadership, pastoral, counselling, and cross-cultural situations.

The Prerequisite

A student who completes the Advanced Diploma of Christian Ministry and Theology from *Vision International College* or who completes the Diploma of Theology from *Vision Christian College* or the *Internet Bible College* or other similar recognised college or university is eligible to enter the bachelor's completion programme. To gain a bachelor degree, a student must complete the core programme of 5 Units followed by 5 Units from their preferred emphasis. Assessment Requirements for each subject are:

1. usually a multiple choice, sometimes short answer, and occasionally an essay, plus
2. complete the appropriate Student Study Guide.

Please Note: A Unit typically comprises of one subject, however in some cases two subjects are required for a Unit. Those subjects are identified in the curriculum below.

In most cases *Vision Christian College* will provide all the materials required, a. In some cases this is not possible and you will be required to source the study material for yourself, either from *Vision International University* or a quality book store, at your own expense. We will advise you of your options in such cases.

The subjects for the core and emphasis are listed on the following page for the Bachelor's Completion programme.

Bachelor's Programme of Study

Required Core Programme

Num	Unit	Subject
BI 400	Advanced Hermeneutics	Understanding Your Bible, KD Chant
RS 442	Church Growth and Development Part I	Building the Church God Wants, Chant
RS 442	Church Growth and Development Part II	Better than Revival Chant
CC 401	The Pastor in Counselling	On Belay, DeKoven
RS 444	Advanced Christian Worldview Studies	Strong Reasons, Chant
RS 435	Christian Theology	Great Words of the Gospel, Chant

Emphasis in Theology

Num	Unit	Subject
RS 439	Pneumatology	Clothed with Power, Chant
RS 436	Ecclesiology	The Church, B Chant
RS 437	Christology I	Immanuel I, Chant
RS 437	Christology II	Immanuel II, Chant
RS 438	Eschatology	When the Trumpet Sounds, Chant
RS 419	Systematic Theology	Dynamic Christian Foundation, Chant

Emphasis in Counselling

Num	Unit	Subject
CC 402	Crisis Counselling I	Crisis Counselling, DeKoven
CC 402	Crisis Counselling II	Grief Relief, DeKoven
CC 404	Counselling the Dysfunctional Family I	I Want To Be Like You, Dad, DeKoven;
CC 404	Counselling the Dysfunctional Family II	Behind the Masks, Oates
CC 405	Addiction Counselling	Addiction Counselling, DeKoven
CC 406	Counselling and Family Violence	Family Violence, DeKoven
CC 407	Human Development	Human Development, Bohac

Emphasis in Leadership

Num	Unit	Subject
CC 415	Human Development	Human Development, Bohac
RS 440	The Challenge of Leadership	The Challenge of Leadership, Manika
OL 440	Conflict Management and Resolution ISG:	Conflict Management, Walters
RS 441	Strategic Church Administration Strategic	Church Administration, DeKoven
OL 460	Ethics in Leadership	Shades of Gray, Bernie

Thesis

The Thesis provides students with an opportunity to research and develop a subject of their own choosing and to demonstrate their capacity to explore, understand and develop issues. The Thesis must be based on the emphasis the student has chosen; and an outline submitted to the office for approval. It must be between 15,000 and 20,000 words not including embedded scriptures, references, introduction or dedication pages, indexes or such like. In other words, 15,000 to 20,000 of your own words. and students must submit an outline for approval to the principal of the college. Guidelines for writing the thesis maybe found in our document "Student Study Helps And Hints", which is available from our office.

Master of Theological Studies

Purpose

The Master of Theological Studies is a 36 credit hour programme which integrates theological education and professional courses. The Master of Theological Studies may serve as the foundation of the Master of Divinity, which is an academic degree. It is a 90 credit hour programme. These programmes are especially suited for students desiring to continue on towards doctoral preparation.

All of the Master's programmes are viewed as complete programmes. However, transfer of up to 6 credits may be allowed if course offerings from other institutions are substantially equivalent to the programme of Vision and are recognised by C.H.E.A. or a foreign equivalent. No modifications of the basic programme listed here can be made without specific permission of the University.

Goals

1. To provide advanced knowledge and understanding of the Bible and the relationship of scripture and the applied discipline.
2. To provide knowledge and skills in effective professional ministry in the area of specialisation.
3. To provide academic and professional training equal to programmes required for advanced vocational placement.

Emphasis in Theology

The twelve courses listed comprise the degree of Master of Theological Studies. Substitutions are subject to the approval of the Academic Dean. Substitution may be made if some of the courses listed below have already been taken (graduate transcripts of courses must be furnished) from the graduate section of the catalogue.

The curriculum, produced by some of the world's top biblical scholars and theologians in cooperation with The Institute of Theological Studies (ITS), serves persons who wish to explore disciplines within Christian theology.

There is a required thesis of 20,000 to 25,000 words. Students may submit their own topic for the thesis, which must be relevant to the emphasis chosen.

Objectives of the Programme

The M.T.S. is especially suited for persons interested in some aspect of teaching and research or engagement in socio-religious issues. The M.T.S. programme may be a bridge to further studies toward a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or to a doctoral degree. The programme is designed to equip men and women for further study, research or teaching.

Enrol into the Degree Programme

To enrol into the Master of Theology, complete the Degree Application form and submit it to our office with the appropriate fees, as outlined on the form, along with relevant evidences such as your academic transcripts and resumé or portfolio.

We will accept a photocopy or scanned copy of your academic transcript FOR THE PURPOSE OF ASSESSMENT ONLY. Before you can graduate with your degree, we will require an original copy of your transcript. If you have any problems with this you should discuss them with the principal at the commencement of your course.

Masters Programme of Study

The programme focuses on historical, systematic, and biblical theology. Professional ministry issues are not a focus of this programme. Nevertheless, the programme is designed to provide a theological foundation for ministerial service. The programme consists of 12 Units and a Thesis. Each of units attracts 3 credit hours, for a total of 36 credit hours.

Leadership Studies

CE503 Advanced Leadership & Administration

Church History

CH505 Survey of Church History

CH510 History of the Charismatic Movements

Ministry Studies

MT504 Evangelism and the Local Church

New Testament

NT502 The Pastoral Epistles

NT504 The Gospels/Life of Christ

NT508 New Testament Survey: The Epistles and Revelation

Old Testament

OT505 The Book of Psalms

OT509 The Christian & Old Testament Theology

Philosophical & Systematic Theology

PT504 Christian Worldview

ST 503 Contemporary Theology

World Missions

WM501 Introduction to World Missions

Thesis

The Thesis provides students with an opportunity to research and develop a subject of their own choosing and to demonstrate their capacity to explore, understand and develop issues.

The Thesis for the MTS must be between 20,000 and 25,000 words, not including embedded scriptures, references, introduction or dedication pages, indexes or such like – in other words, 20,000 to 25,000 of your own words.

The student must submit an outline for approval to the principal of the college. Guidelines for writing a thesis may be found in our document “Student Study Helps And Hints”, which is available from our office.

Advanced Standing

Advanced Standing is given to someone who can show that he or she has gained knowledge legitimately through various means. It may come through study at another college, or from practical experience, or other means.

We at Vision recognise those factors and do not believe that every student must start at the beginning. We allow for and recognise learning that has occurred in various ways.

This recognition is offered through Academic Transfers if a student has completed formal studies at another acceptable college, we are pleased to recognise those studies.

We also offer Life (Ministry) Skills credits for students who have gained ministry experience over the years, we recognise the value of ministry towards academic achievement.

Up to 60% of the total credits required may be claimed in advanced standing. The actual amount of Advanced Standing will vary from person to person and will depend on the subjects they have completed and at what level, and also the nature and length of their life experience.

Academic Transfer

If you have completed or are undertaking formal studies and you would like to transfer to *Vision Christian College* then request an Academic Transfer application form. There is a cost to assess and transfer the credits from another college to *Vision*.

Note: due to the variety of standards between institution, we cannot guarantee that all awards will be given the same value; however we do treat all such requests with equal integrity.

Life (Ministry Skills) Experience

We recognise the value of ministry experience as a valid means of prior learning and of contributing legitimate credits towards your Award. Life skills credits are available up to and including the Diploma of Theology and are not available for the Bachelors Completion or Masters programmes.

It is difficult in this space to present a formula for Life Experience Credits as the mix of experience, expertise and ministry of individuals varies greatly; however, in general you will be eligible to apply if:

1. you have been involved in any form of full-time recognised ministry for a period two years; or if
2. you have served the local church in a legitimate office or offices continually for five years; or if
3. you can show a combination of both.

You will be required to submit a CV of your experience. Once assessed, you will be advised of the number of Life Experience Credits that may be offered to you. Those credits may then be purchased and applied to any part of your course in lieu of studies. Note,, however, that such credits can be applied only once and they cannot be claimed with *Vision Christian College* if they have been claimed in another college.

To apply for Life Experience Credits simply request the application form. We will send it to you to complete and to return to us for assessment.

Credit Points

The programme is built around a Credit Points system of study rather than a fixed curriculum. This allows a greater flexibility of study options for the student while ensuring an appropriate balance through our "Study Streams". We encourage students to select from our range of subjects those subjects that are of greater interest or of personal ministry value to them. The depth and breadth of the range of subjects provide for a well balanced programme tailored to each student's needs.

How do you earn Credit Points?

A student begins with the Certificate in Biblical Studies and accumulates credits for each award level. By completing a Certificate in Biblical Studies a student will accrue 30 credit points. By the time students have gained a Diploma of Theology they will have accumulated 120 credit points and will be eligible to enter into the Bachelor's Completion programme.

1. Subject Credits: 3 credits. All our subjects have the same value; that is, by successfully completing a subject a student earns 3 credit points. Most students earn their first award by successfully completing any 10 subjects. This gives the student the advantage greater flexibility of choice in the subjects studied.

2. Essay Credits: One (1) additional credit point per subject may be earned by writing an optional essay. This option is additional to the regular assessment and cannot be used as a replacement of the assessment. The Essay must be of 1,500 to 2,000 words and follow the guidelines set out for writing an essay by Vision Internet Bible College.

The benefits of undertaking an essay are that it will reduce the number of subjects required to complete an award, lessen costs, and enhance the student's understanding of the subject, thus better equipping students for their calling.

If a student completes an essay with six books, he or she will then need only to complete a further two books (instead of four) to earn an award.

3. Study Guide Credit: Two (2) additional credit points per subject may be earned by completing an optional Student Study Guide. This option is additional to the regular assessment and cannot be used as a replacement of the assessment.

The Student Study Guide takes a student through the text book in greater detail. The benefit of undertaking a Study Guide is that it will reduce the number of subjects required to complete an award, lessen costs, and at the same time enhance the student's understanding of the subject, thus better equipping students for their calling.

Students who complete a Student Study Guide with each subject will need to complete only 6 subjects and 6 guides to earn an award.

Complete Subject List ⁴ by Study Stream

STREAM	BOOK	AUTHOR
FOUNDATIONAL STUDIES		
	Dynamic Christian Foundations	Alison Chant
	Foundations of Faith	Harvestime Int. Inst.
BIBLE		
	Authenticity and Authority of the Bible	Ken Chant
	Basic Bible Survey N.T.	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Basic Bible Survey O.T.	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Biblical Typology	Barry Chant
	Church Triumphant The (ACTS)	A. Gill
	First Corinthians	Ken Chant
	Creative Bible Study Methods	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Developing a Biblical World View	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Introduction to Bible Study	Stan DeKoven
	Journey Through the New Testament	Stan DeKoven
	Journey Through the Old Testament	Stan DeKoven
	Patterns for Living from the Old Testament.	A. Gill
	Understanding Your Bible	Ken Chant
	Women's Biblical Profile	Harvestime Int. Inst.
CHURCH		
	Building the Church God Wants	Ken Chant
	Church Triumphant The (ACTS)	A. Gill
	Praise and Worship	A. Gill
	Songs to Live By	Ken Chant
	Supernatural Architecture	Stan DeKoven
	The Church	Barry Chant
	Unsung Heroines	Alison Chant
	World's Greatest Story The (1st 1,000 years)	Ken Chant
CHRISTIAN LIFE		
	Authority of the Believer	A. Gill
	Battle For the Body	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Blood Covenant of God	Denis Plant
	Celebrating God	John McGeorge
	Christian Life	Ken Chant
	Dazzling Secrets	Ken Chant
	Discovery	Ken Chant
	Intercessory Pray	Ken Chant
	Kingdom Living	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Spiritual Warfare Part I	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Spiritual Warfare Part II	Harvestime Int. Inst.

⁴ Some books are listed in more than one stream such as "church Triumphant, it is found in "Church" and "Bible"

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STREAM	BOOK	AUTHOR
CHRISTIAN LIFE	continued	
	Supernatural Living	A. Gill
	Prayer Bring Heaven to Earth	A. Gill
	Principles of Praise and worship	A. Gill
 COUNSELLING		
	Counselling Ministry & Family Violence	Stan DeKoven
	Crisis Counselling	Stan DeKoven
	Forty Days to the Promise	Stan DeKoven
	Grief Relief	Stan DeKoven
	Group Dynamics	Stan DeKoven
	Human Development	George Bohac
	I Want to be Like You Dad	Stan DeKoven
	Journey Into Wholeness	Stan DeKoven
	Marriage and Family Life	Stan DeKoven
	On Belay (Introduction to Counselling)	Stan DeKoven
	Parenting on Purpose	Stan DeKoven
	Substance Abuse	Stan DeKoven
	The Healing Community	Stan DeKoven
 DOCTRINE		
	Angelology	Ken Chant
	Attributes of Splendour	Ken Chant
	Authority of the Believer	A. Gill
	Clothed with Power	Ken Chant
	Cross and the Crown	Ken Chant
	Cameos of Christ	Alison Chant
	Demonology	Ken Chant
	Emmanuel Part I	Ken Chant
	Emmanuel Part II	Ken Chant
	Equipped to Serve	Ken Chant
	Faith Dynamics	Ken Chant
	God's Provision for Healing	A. Gill
	Great Words of the Gospel	Ken Chant
	Healing in the New Testament	Ken Chant
	Healing in the Old Testament	Ken Chant
	Highly Exalted	Ken Chant
	Knowing God's Voice	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Ministry Gifts	A. Gill
	Ministry of the Holy Spirit	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Mountain Movers	Ken Chant
	Overcoming the Darkness	John McGeorge
	Power Principles	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Royal Priesthood	Ken Chant
	Strong Reasons	Ken Chant
	Throne Rights	Ken Chant
	Walking in the Spirit	Alison Chant
	When the Trumpet Sounds	Ken Chant

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STREAM	BOOK	AUTHOR
GENERAL EDUCATION		
	Christian Character Development	Stan DeKoven
	Dynamics of Teaching	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Sociology of the Family	Stan DeKoven
	Introduction to Psychology: On Belay	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Homiletics: Speech and Communication	Stan DeKoven
	History of Civilization: World's Greatest Story	Ken Chant
	Cultural Anthropology: Environmental Analysis	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Management Principles	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Human Development	E. Fox
	Comparative Religions	John McGeorge
MISSIONS		
	Better than Revival	Ken Chant
	Bringing Heaven to Earth	Timothy Dailey
	Developing a Biblical World View	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Jail & Prison Ministries	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Leadership – Vision for the City	Stan DeKoven
	Leaven-Like Evangelism	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Methodology of Multiplication	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Miracle Evangelism	John Ezekiel
	Mobilisation Methodologies	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	Multiple Choice	Stan DeKoven
	Strategies for Spiritual Harvest	Harvestime Int. Inst.
	The Pentecostal Pulpit	Ken Chant

Contact Vision Christian College

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