

Training Center Guidelines

General Guidelines for a New Testament Style Training Center:

This document was written to explain the need for a very different type of training. Almost every city has a Bible college of some sort. These colleges provide theology courses for future church pastors, and some also have lay courses.

These courses are very useful, but unlike the Pharisees, Jesus did not train people this way. This fact is a revelation to some, and can be a threat to others (i.e. those that have sweated over years of formal theology!).

Jesus chose another way to teach his followers. The Holy Way was built on the search to understand this other way, and this Training Center is part of that result. So what method did Jesus use?

1. The Model

Jesus collected a little group and started moving. They saw His miracles and His way of approaching all sorts of people. They observed His teaching to the crowds, His silencing of the Pharisees, His loving ministry of help to the sick and to repentant sinners.

When they had time, Jesus and His disciples sat down wherever they were, and talked over what they were experiencing. His teaching was always non-formal, practical, and related to the reality of the present situation.

In other words, Jesus used practical applied theology. Sometimes Jesus would let the disciples make mistakes and wait for their questions, or even let the theology of the situation speak for itself, and I have never seen that method used in theological college.

Jesus' training of the disciples could not be separated from His fellowship with them. They ate and slept and worked together. The disciples learned by associating with Him, experiencing His love, observing His life-style and ministry', sharing in the secrets of His heart. This was theology understood through truth and relationship.

After Pentecost, the apostles must have applied these same methods to the training of new converts in Jerusalem as the people "continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread, and prayers." Paul used the same method for training Timothy, Titus, Luke, and the others who traveled with Him.

2. The Principles

This method of training is:

1. Non-formal. Jesus never scheduled a class or drew up a curriculum. He lived a life with His disciples. They learned on-the-job (3 years of purpose driven learning where the direct understanding and application [i.e. "the authority"] of what they learnt was paramount).

2. Fellowship-based. In Jesus' training of His disciples, training cannot be divorced from fellowship. The training method was the fellowship (The close fellowship teaches us humility and how live for the Kingdom, not our own ideas).

3. Learning by doing. Jesus plunged His disciples immediately into the experience of the ministry. Then as they had time, they sat down and talked over what they had experienced. Theory was never divorced from practice. The Christian life and ministry is something we do, not just take notes on.

4. Living in the Spirit. Jesus' ministry was carried on in the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. It is therefore a supernatural ministry. He said: "I do not say my own words, but those of

Him who sent me. The works I do are not mine but His." On His Ascension Day Jesus said: "Wait until you receive power from on high ... and you shall be My witness." As His disciples we need to learn to live and minister in the Spirit.

3. The Goals and Objectives

Our objective is to adapt and apply these principles in every possible cultural setting, on the theory that Jesus' methods were deliberately chosen and therefore can be most effective. The Holy Way Mission has applied these principles in several very different cultural settings in Indonesia with outstanding results (Therefore there is no reason why they should not work equally well in other cultures – S.S.).

This training is aimed at preparing people for New Testament type ministry. We are training apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, teachers, etc. (Ephesians 4:11-16, 1 Corinthians 12:28).

It was never God's intention that the ministry should be totally in the hands of a few professional clergy. The Body is not one member, but many (1 Corinthians 12:12-13). It is built up and matures through the working together of all the members (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Today many people are feeling the call of God on their lives. But since the churches have traditionally recognized only the ordained ministry, all who feel the call try to go to seminary and get ordained. This creates a clergy surplus and deprives the church of the ministry of those who are called to the rest of these New Testament ministries.

Therefore, we believe that we need to be training lay members of churches for their proper function in the Body of Christ. New Testament ministries will be trained by New Testament methods.

4. The Recommendations

Such a training program might take this form:

1. **A community.** A small group of people will be living together in some kind of **community relationship, praying, studying, and working together.**
2. **Priorities.** **First** priority would be personal devotional life; **second**, worship together in Spirit; **third**, learning to hear and obey the Lord's voice; **fourth**, Bible study and **fifth**, ministry.
3. **Bible centered.** The patterns of life and ministry will be learned by examining in detail the biblical records and immediately putting them into practice.
4. **Practical.** Every effort will be made to duplicate the radical effectiveness of supernatural New Testament type ministry, realizing that this is going to require some radical adjustment in our own personal lives, our view point, our ways of doing things, our priorities. In short the Cross will be applied to our personal and corporate lives, so that the Resurrection power of Jesus may be made manifest in the ministry.



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