

HELPS Certification Program

Goal: Meeting Bible-training needs on a massive scale – turning no eligible person away.

A massive shift is going on, moving away from Western university degree-systems to non-formal, church-based *certifications*. These are tailored to meet the real needs of people preparing as ministry leaders in the 21st century.

This global strategy is streamlined for Bible-training in the technology-information age. The curriculum is highly interactive with *The Discovery Bible* / *HELPS* software made available to each participant: OT Hebrew and NT Greek. It contains over 3,000 word studies and utilizes more than 1,000 reference works.

Student Advisors:

- Eugene Merrill: Dallas Theological Seminary
- Grant Osborne: Trinity International University/TEDS
- Jerry Horner: Prior academic dean of Regent University and ORU
- *HELPS/Discovery Bible* team: Gary Hill, President (co-editor with Gleason Archer, *The Discovery Bible New Testament*)

Overview: 200, two-hour lessons based on probing the biblical text from its original languages (applied OT Hebrew, NT Greek) and learning sound exegetical methods: competency-driven, hands-on lessons based on a designated OT and NT passage that touches daily Bible reading and reshapes daily life.

Differentiators:

- Unique from Western university approach, i.e. institutionalized theological education – to interactive, dialogue approach (versus lecture/institution based)
- Church-based in the indigenous cultural context adapted to those in, or preparing for, church ministry

- Apprenticeship approach: Studies done in cooperation with qualified local church leaders/mentors of proven experience. The *HELPS* course adapts to ministry life, demands, and goals (versus a formal, institutional paradigm). This non-formal certification program will show competency working in community, in service, and with project-orientations. Strategic partnerships with Christian organizations are welcomed yet distinct from a one-to-one identity.

Background:

This unique training curriculum took 38 years and 3.5 million dollars to develop. Moreover there are no copyright issues; all materials are owned by HELPS Ministries Inc. and can be given unlimitedly and without cost (since paperless). Students may be admitted to the program through scholarships, etc.

These in-ministry training resources work at the grass-roots level and utilize overseers locally and regionally. All materials are based on a given: Scripture is the authoritative, inerrant word of God.