



PREP YEAR FACT SHEET

A preparation year is the perfect way to prepare for a METRO traineeship.

Planning Ahead

The decision to enter METRO is a very significant one. Ordinarily, it's a decision that's made (or is already being considered) twelve months ahead. This twelve month period can be used to prepare for the traineeship in a number of ways, especially with regard to the key relationships involved. If, for some reason, the lead time is a shorter period (e.g. 6 months), the preparatory steps below can still largely be put in place, with time-frames adapted accordingly.

Meeting One-To-One

The heart of METRO is the discipleship relationship between the trainee and the trainer.

In a prep year the trainee can start meeting one-to-one on a regular basis with their trainer to read the Bible & pray together. There is no better way to grow a training relationship.

At the beginning of your meeting time it is recommended you work through the two introductory Ministry Papers: "The Ministry Training Church" and "Meeting One-To-One".

Three Strands

Within METRO there are three important strands:

- Being Like Jesus - Personal Godliness
- Thinking Like Jesus - Theological Reflection
- Serving Like Jesus - Ministry Training

During the prep year some thought should be given to spending time on each strand.

Thinking Like Jesus

In METRO prep we encourage the trainee to begin to explore theological ideas. This will largely happen through reading but not exclusively and the trainer should guide the trainee through this.

Being Like Jesus

Within gospel ministry godliness is more important than skills. Christian ministry is about character (1Timothy 4.12,16). This is not to say that skills are unimportant. But

they are only to be valued in the context of godly character. That's why reading the Bible and discussing its impact on your thinking and living and praying together are so important in the training relationship.

Serving Like Jesus

Supervised experienced within a particular ministry is recommended. This might be leading a Bible study group, Scripture teaching, Sunday school teaching etc. Supervision by the trainer is very important including feed-forward on teaching tasks, support & encouragement in responsibilities etc.

Reading Guide

Reading forms an important part of your training in METRO. In the prep year we recommend that you read a book each term with your trainer. Read individually and discuss your reading in your meeting times together. This should not replace prayer & Bible reading but rather supplement it.

Some suggested books (in no particular order and this is not an exclusive list)

- Back to Basics (Steve Cree & Dave Thurston)
 - Aim: To develop an integrated gospel mindset about church and Christian living & to ensure daily bible reading & a prayer diary is in place (studies 4 & 5) as well as personal evangelism (study 7).
- Encouragement (Larry Crabb)
 - Aim: To gain understanding about people, within a gospel framework, and especially to be better equipped for meeting one-to-one
- Guidance & the voice of God (Phillip Jensen & Tony Payne)
 - Aim: To think through commitment to the authority of God's Word as underpinning all ministry.
- The Unity Factor (Larry Osborne)
 - Aim: To think through specific issues to do with leadership, ministry planning and strategy
- The Trellis and the Vine (Col Marshall & Tony Payne)
 - Aim: To help develop a ministry mindset with discipleship at its heart.
- 1-2-1 discipleship-helping one another grow spiritually (Christine Dillon)
 - Aim: To think clearly about discipleship and how to disciple others.
- God's Big Picture (Vaughan Roberts)
 - Aim: To understand how to read and understand the Bible as a whole unified book.