



PROSPECTUS 2020



For we are God's [own] handiwork [His workmanship], recreated in Christ Jesus, [born anew] that we may do those good works which God predestined [planned beforehand] for us [taking paths which He prepared ahead of time], that we should walk in them [living the good life which He prearranged and made ready for us to live]. (Ephesians 2:10)



INVESTING IN THE KINGDOM OF GOD AND IN YOUR FUTURE

We are a people passionate for God, who desire to see Jesus exalted and glorified, who believe that Jesus will build His Church, who have a deep love for His Word as truth and who believe in the present-day ministry of the Holy Spirit to enable us and to empower us to do those things that God has called us to do.

Each of us is called of God in varying roles, each with varying responsibilities and with different giftings and callings. God is raising up men and women of purpose, who are courageous in God and submitted to His will.

Our vision with **Issachar Ministry Training Academy** is to equip God's people for their place in His purposes and to build committed relationships with those we minister to, so as to walk with them in on-going encouragement and leadership, in their journey of serving the Lord.

For the Church in the nations to biblically understand God's prophetic and redemptive purposes and His prophetic timetable, we must embrace the biblical roots of our faith. Also, and imperatively, we must understand God's purposes

for Israel in these last days if we are to have a biblical understanding of the day and hour in which we live.

We are excited that you are considering our Academy and that you have a heart to be equipped for the purposes of God in your life. We look forward to having you join with us and to walking together in God.



Peter Whitcombe
Overseer / Teacher

IS GOD CALLING YOU?

ARE YOU PREPARED FOR GOD'S PURPOSES?

Our vision for the Issachar Ministry Training Academy is to train people for ministry as members of the Body of Christ and also to train and to send out those with a heart for Church planting. **Our vision is encapsulated in the statement: Equipping, Empowering, Sending.**

- Scripture speaks in 1 Chronicles 12:32 about the men of Issachar as those “who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.” God’s children today, must know the urgency of this hour and what God requires of us in His plans and purposes and we need to respond in obedience to that which He calls us to.
- Paul speaks in Ephesians 4:16 about the Body of Christ and about the proper working of every part, so that “the body grows and builds itself up in love.” Every believer is a full-time minister for the Lord, whether we serve full-time in a Christian ministry or whether we are fully employed in secular employment. We each need to be fulfilling our God-given responsibilities and being trained for service is an important aspect of that.
- Is God calling you to a time of specific training and equipping to better prepare you for this strategic hour?

**These are urgent days in the plans and purposes of God
and He is calling those who will answer
“Here I am Lord, send me.”**



OUR TWO-PART VISION AND MANDATE

Training God's people for ministry from a Messianic Jewish perspective

We teach from the perspective of embracing the Messianic Jewish roots of the Christian faith whilst, those of us who are Gentiles, remain Gentiles who are grafted in! This means that we:

- seek to understand Scripture in the Jewish context in which it was written
- present the Person and teachings of Jesus in the context of His earthly culture and traditions, thus enhancing the students' understanding of the text
- seek to learn from the prophetic revelation that God set in place within the practices and ordinances that He instituted for His people Israel
- promote the literal, historical method of Bible interpretation
- look to God to unite Jew and Gentile as one new man in Messiah Jesus ([Ephesians 2:15](#)).

While we are not bound to embrace Jewish culture and tradition, we understand that Scripture teaches us much from the Messianic Jewish roots of our faith.

Equipping, empowering and sending out church planting teams

We are committed to EQUIPPING, EMPOWERING AND SENDING believers out to be disciple-makers, to do the works of service that God has called them to, to be able ministers of the New Covenant and, especially, to plant churches and to lead churches wherever God gives them opportunity.



EQUIPPING, EMPOWERING, SENDING

OUR EMPHASIS IS ON TRAINING FOR MINISTRY

Equipping God's people for the work of the ministry

In [Ephesians 4:11-12](#), the apostle Paul says that Jesus, the Head of the Church, has given gifts of gifted individuals to the Church and that He has set them in the Church specifically to: equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ ([verse 12](#)). This involves training in biblical truth, in life skills and in ministry development and it incorporates the work of the Holy Spirit in empowering people for life and ministry. Our focus is training God's people rather than merely educating them.

There will be four key components to our ministry training programme:

- Building solid biblical foundations
- Spiritual and personal development
- Building ministry skills
- Practical ministry experience

Ministry training that is word-based, spirit-empowered and relational

Biblical ministry is founded on truth according to God's Word and it is outworked in the power and the enabling of the Holy Spirit. Both aspects will be central to our training programme. On-going relational commitment to course participants will also be a core feature of our training.



OUR STATEMENT OF BELIEFS

Christianity is invested in truth because Jesus declares in [John 14:6](#) that He is “the Way, the Truth and the Life.” The Bible is the inerrant Word of God. Its sixty-six books are not a collection of religious writings, advancing certain theories, but they constitute one body, breathing with life and power. [Arno C. Gaebelein]

We believe...

In the One true and living God

In the one true and living God, eternally existent in three Persons in unity: God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ

In the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in His virgin birth, in His sinless life, in His miracles, in His vicarious and atoning death, in His bodily resurrection, in His ascension to the right hand of the Father, in His continuing intercession for all believers and in His personal return to consummate history and to receive all born again believers to Himself.

In the Holy Spirit

In the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, sent from the Father, to bear witness to Christ.

In the Bible as the sole basis of our belief

In the Bible as the sole basis of our belief, the divinely inspired Word of God and the final, absolute and infallible authority on all matters of faith, conduct and practice.

That man was created in the image of God

That man was created in the image of God but that by voluntary disobedience he fell from perfection; that while we were yet sinners separated from God, Christ died for us, signing the pardon of all who believe in Him; that we have no righteousness in ourselves and must come to God pleading the righteousness of Christ. Upon sincere repentance and a wholehearted acceptance of Christ, we are justified before God but those who reject Christ will be eternally separated from God.

In the ministry of the Holy Spirit in Spirit Baptism

That God's purpose for all believers is that they are baptised in the Holy Spirit, continually filled with the Holy Spirit and that they are empowered by the Holy Spirit for Christian life and ministry. “Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts” can simply be a Scripture that rolls off our tongues, rather than our hope, our need, our expectation and our experience in Christian life and ministry. **It is not churches filled with people that will change the world but people filled with the Holy Spirit.**



In the Church that Jesus said He would build

In the Church that Jesus said He would build. All who repent of their sins and confess Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour are regenerated by the Holy Spirit and form the living Body of Christ of which He is the Head and of which we are all members.

In the imminent return of Jesus

That Jesus will return for a Church that is the manifestation in the earth of Jesus in all His fullness and a Church that is walking in the fullness of all He achieved through His victory at Calvary.

In the ascension ministry of apostles, prophets, evangelists, shepherds and teachers

In Christ's leadership of the Church through the ascension ministries of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of the ministry and for the unity, maturity and growth of the Church.

In the Lord's Supper, water baptism by full immersion, laying on of hands and anointing with oil

In the partaking of the Lord's Supper in memory of His death, resurrection and imminent return; in baptism by immersion for believers; in the laying on of hands and the anointing of the sick with oil.

In the privilege and responsibility of wise stewardship

In the privilege and responsibility of wise stewardship of all that God has given, including the giving of time, money and talents as the Lord directs.

In the place of Israel today in God's purposes

That Israel was called by God as His chosen people, that He made an everlasting, unconditional covenant with Israel (the Abrahamic Covenant) that included giving them the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession, that though God said the people of Israel would be exiled from that land due to disobedience, He promised to bring them back, not just once, but this second time as well. Scripture calls Christians to comfort Israel ([Isaiah 40:1](#)), to bless Israel ([Genesis 12:3](#)), to pray for her ([Psalm 122:6](#)) and to encourage her with God's precious Word. We stand with Israel and for Israel simply because God is with her and because He calls us to stand with her as well.

In marriage as defined by God and His Word

That marriage was ordained by God at creation as

the sacred union of one man and one woman, to the exclusion of others. All sexual relations must therefore be reserved for that union. Christian marriage is a representation of Christ's relationship to His church. We also believe that children are a blessing from the Lord. Thus all human life is sacred and worthy of protection from the moment of conception. [Genesis 1:26-28; Genesis 2:24; Psalm 127 and 128; 139:13-16; Matthew 19:1-10; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Ephesians 5:22-33; Hebrews 13:4]

Those who are called to office in the church are to lead a life in obedience to Scripture and in accordance with biblical standards for behaviour and conduct. Among these standards is the requirement to live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness. Scripture condemns sexual sin including:

- adultery [Exodus 20:4, Matthew 15:19, Romans 2:2, Romans 13:9, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Hebrews 13:4, James 2:11]
- fornication [sex outside of marriage] [Acts 15:20 and 29, Acts 21:25, 1 Corinthians 6:9, Hebrews 13:4]
- homosexual practices [Romans 1:26-28; 1 Corinthians 6:9-10; 1 Timothy 1:9-10]



Christians are therefore not to promote or celebrate sinful practices, but are to be free from them in Christ, through repentance and through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and the Word of God. Anyone refusing to repent of any self-acknowledged practice which the Scriptures refer to as sin should not be ordained and/or installed as deacons, elders, ministers, or in any position of leadership in our churches.

Issachar Ministry Training Academy

Ministry Training Course

The **IMTA Ministry Training Course** encourages the development of individual ministry giftings and leadership skills through:

- **COURSE WORK** which includes course reading assignments, lectures, classroom discussions, study assignments and evaluations
- **PRACTICAL MINISTRY** opportunities in home group situations, in evangelism and outreach, and in local churches
- **RELATIONAL INTERACTION** with other students, with lecturers and with local churches

The course aims to integrate biblical truths, beliefs and principles so as to provide for the growth of students in their personal relationship with the God of the Word and in their understanding and application of the Word of God. Along with seeking to grow people spiritually in their ministry callings and giftings, we seek to encourage and to facilitate growth in personal Christian character and in the students relationship with the Lord and with His people. Courses will be taught in modules.

COURSE SUBJECTS

Theological/Doctrinal Studies

- **Theology:** A study of the major Bible doctrines with a focus on the place of Israel in Scripture and in the major doctrines of the Christian faith. This subject covers the doctrines of God, of Christ, of the Holy Spirit and of the Bible.
- **The Life of Messiah:** Exploring and explaining the Life of Messiah from a Jewish historical, cultural and hermeneutical perspective for both Jews and Gentiles. Yeshua was born into a Jewish household, He attended a Jewish synagogue, His earthly ministry was spent among Jewish people. He was crucified, buried, and then rose again to provide proof of His redemptive power to the Jew first and also to the Gentiles.
- **The Plan of God and the Covenants:** An overview of the plan of God as revealed in the Scriptures from Genesis to Revelation. Students will gain a broad picture of God's plan and His purposes through the ages and of His dealings with Israel, the nations and the Church.

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- **The Feasts of the Lord, the Law of Messiah:** This study looks at the redemptive and prophetic truths inherent in the Feasts of the Lord that God instituted as divine appointments. They were both reminders of God's dealings in the past and prophetic rehearsals for events to come. This subject also looks at the Law of Messiah in the New Covenant.
 - **Core Convictions:** A study of key, non-negotiable doctrines and core convictions that are important for Christian service, especially for those who may be involved in a Church planting team. These core convictions include the place of Scripture, the importance and significance of truth, the place of Israel and the Church in God's purposes, what is the true gospel and why is that important... plus...
 - **A Biblical Christian Worldview:** Students study the essential components of a biblical, Christian worldview and the sufficiency, authority and relevancy of Scripture to speak to all of life. The student will develop skills to accurately discern and understand the basis of what is being presented to them by the surrounding world (pagan) culture and be able to defend the biblical alternative.

Ministry Training

- **Principles and Practices of Bible Interpretation:** The principles and practices of Bible interpretation from a literal, historical and grammatical perspective. This means a practice of interpretation that follows the biblical, Jewish Messianic/Hebraic view of biblical interpretation, as practised in the early Church.
- **Principles and Practices of Preaching:** Learning and practising the principles of research, sermon preparation and sermon delivery. This is a helpful study for anyone involved in Christian service and leadership, especially for those who may be involved in a Church planting team or in leading small groups.
- **Intentional Disciple-Making:** In the Great Commission of Matthew 28:19-20, we are called to make disciples of people from all nations. This means that we who are disciples, need to be disciple-makers and that we need to be intentional about disciple-making. This subject addresses this important truth instructionally and practically.
- **Church Planting:** The second aspect of our mandate and vision for the Issachar Ministry Training Academy is to see some who do this course equipped, empowered and sent out as part of a Church planting team. This

study covers principles and practices involved in planting new Churches and will prepare those who will go out to plant Churches in New Zealand or overseas.

- **Personal Evangelism:** This study will help to strengthen each student's understanding of the true gospel that is the saving message of Jesus Christ. Students will learn how to engage the unsaved in personal evangelism through personal testimony and discipleship. Practical outreach opportunities, group discussion, evaluation and encouragement are part of the course.

Personal Life and Ministry

- **My Identity In Messiah:** It is powerfully significant and important to understand and know who we are in Christ through new birth. We have a unique redemptive and prophetic identity in Christ and this subject will help students to know the power and the significance of their identity in Messiah.
- **Personal Life, Ministry Philosophy, Spiritual Gifts:** God is more interested in our character than He is in our gifting. This study teaches important biblical principles and practices that need to be built into our personal lives and into that which is outworked in whatever area of ministry we may be involved in.

Further information

- Graduates will receive an **Issachar Ministry Training Academy Certificate in Ministry** which will be presented at the Graduation ceremony at the end of the course.
- We will run this course in modules. This means that only one subject will be taught at a time and that specific lecturers will come and teach the subject they are responsible for over the number of days necessary to complete the module. Then we will begin the next module and so on.
- Some modules will be made available for people to join with us to study that subject only. Those who participate in this way can choose to do the homework and the assignments associated with that module and will then be eligible for a Certificate (issued by I.M.T.A.) for that module.
- Costs for these individual modules will vary because each module will not necessarily be the same in length and time. We will advertise these modules on our website, including the dates and costs for each module we offer to visitors.
- All those who are enrolled for the **IMTA Ministry Training Course** will be expected to participate in the life and ministry of a local Church. Preferably, although not essentially,

this will be Jesus First, North Shore which is the church carrying the vision and the oversight for I.M.T.A.. This involvement will include:

- participation in the Sunday morning meetings including the pre-service prayer meeting. This could include involvement in worship ministry, children's ministry and youth ministry. In some cases, it may include preaching or ministering around the communion table.
- participation in a mid-week "home group" meeting, including leading such a group from time to time.
- participation in the outreach ministry of the local Church or the outreach programme that is part of the Personal Evangelism course.

- The **IMTA Ministry Training Course** will run for 22 weeks, with a two-week break part way through the course.



A week in the life of....

A typical week for those involved in the **IMTA Ministry Training Course** will be:

- Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
 - 9:00am - 9:15am Worship
 - 9:15am - 10:30am Lecture (session one)
 - 10:30am - 11:00am Morning tea
 - 11:00am - 12:15pm Lecture (session two)
 - 12:15pm - 1:15pm Lunch
 - 1:15pm - 2:30pm Lecture (session three)
 - 2:30pm onwards Study/assignments
- Friday - as above except for the time after lunch:
 - 1:15pm - 2:30pm Corporate prayer
 - 2:30pm onwards Study/assignments

DATES FOR 2020

Ministry Training Course



Ministry Training Course

Because of delays with the registration processes involved with I.M.T.A. seeking to be registered as a Private Training Establishment through the New Zealand Qualifications Authority, we will only run one course in 2020.

Dates for the 2020 Course

- Monday, July 13th to Friday, September 26th (1st 11 weeks)
- Monday, September 29th to Friday, October 9th (2 weeks holiday)
- Monday, October 12th to Friday, December 11th (2nd 9 weeks)

GRADUATION: Friday, December 11th, 7:30pm



ENROLMENT FEES AND OTHER COSTS

Entry Requirements for All Students

- Be at least 18 years of age.
- Have been a committed Christian for at least twelve months.
- Be presently involved in the life of a local church, and demonstrate levels of mature discipleship.
- Have the approval of your pastor/minister for your application into College. [A satisfactory Pastor's reference is required].
- Have a conviction that there is a call of God upon your life. [A detailed testimony is required as part of application.]
- Be assessed by Issachar Ministry Training Academy staff as likely to successfully complete the course.
- Have evidence of English proficiency if English is your second language. [An IELTS score of at least 5.5 is required.]
- Submit a completed application at least two months prior to the course start date. This includes completing and submitting an ENROLMENT FORM, an APPLICATION SUPPORT FORM, and a PERSONAL REFERENCE FORM from our website.



- Have successfully completed NCEA level 1 or equivalent. This is not always essential, but is preferred.

Completed application papers must be returned to Issachar Ministry Training Academy, accompanied by payment of the \$100.00NZ non-refundable Registration Fee. The Registrar will notify the applicant of a decision concerning their acceptance as soon as possible after receiving all the required forms and materials.

All student fees are paid directly to the Public Trust Office to protect all fees paid by students in connection with their study. Public Trust transfer these funds to I.M.T.A. in monthly instalments

spread over the enrolment period. Students will be provided with an invoice that includes all fees and payment details for Public Trust.

Fees for 2020

IMTA Ministry Training Course

The fees for the 22-week full course are \$5,500.00NZ (including tax) per student.

Details regarding fees are subject to change. Please contact us for confirmation of current fees and services.

Late Payment of Fees

While there is no late payment penalty for unpaid fees, applicants may be prevented from commencing study at the start of the course or withdrawn from I.M.T.A. completely.

Students may enquire about special financial arrangements. I.M.T.A.'s policy is to work with students who are struggling with fees, recognising that every person's situation is unique. The Lead Shepherd of I.M.T.A. is available to discuss matters and to come to definite arrangements on how fees will be paid. However it should be clearly noted such an arrangement will only be granted in exceptional circumstances.



Where a student has not fulfilled their financial obligations to Issachar Ministry Training Academy, they will not be entitled to receive their certificate at the end of the course.

Student Fee Protection

IMTA has chosen to use a New Zealand Government guaranteed Student Fee Trust Account managed by the Public Trust to protect student fees.

In the unlikely event that IMTA is unable to complete a course that students have paid fees for, the IMTA will reimburse student's fees under the same conditions stated in the withdrawal and refunds section above. There will be no deduction of the registration fee.

Refunds and Withdrawals

When a student is considering withdrawal from a programme, he or she should discuss matters with the Lead Shepherd of I.M.T.A. as early as possible. In the event a student has to withdraw from their programme of study the following refund policy will apply.

Withdrawals within the first eight days

A full refund of tuition fees, excluding any applicable registration and administration fee, will be granted to any domestic student withdrawing from a programme before its start date or up to and including eight days after the commencement of study.

Withdrawals after eight days

Domestic students who withdraw after the standard eight day period are not entitled to a refund of tuition fees. In such cases, any refund will be at the sole discretion of The Lead Shepherd of I.M.T.A., and will be less the registration fee paid when the student applied to IMTA. In the first instance, the student should apply in writing to the Principal outlining any extenuating circumstances that may have contributed to the withdrawal, and include a medical certificate if the withdrawal was health related.

Computer Requirements

It is expected that all students will have access to a computer for the purpose of study and the preparation and submission of assignments.

Additional Costs

In addition to the course fees, all students should allow for the following additional costs, if applicable to their personal requirements:

- Books for various subjects. Each student should allow \$250-\$400 for books that will be required for the course. These books will be helpful in building up your own study resources
- Personal expenses: stationery, pocket money, travel, telephone calls, postage, personal contents insurance, snacks, toiletries and clothes
- IELTS Test (or an equivalent): the cost of the English Language proficiency test is approx. \$385.00NZ.

PLEASE NOTE

We have chosen to use biblical terms to describe the roles of those involved as “faculty and staff” at I.M.T.A. For example, we are using the term Lead Shepherd instead of Principal, not only because it is biblical, but because it better describes the role and the function this person carries.

We use the term teacher for those teaching and training our students, as opposed to calling them lecturers.

IMPORTANT LINKS AND ADDRESSES

Issachar Ministry Training Academy

Postal address: PO Box 305-063, Triton Plaza, Auckland 0757, New Zealand

Phone: Ph: 64-9-442 2530

Email: office@issachar.nz

Website: www.issachar.nz

Enrolment Application Form

<https://www.issachar.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Enrolment-Application-Form.pdf>

Application Support Form:

<https://www.issachar.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Application-Support-Form.pdf>

Personal Reference Form:

<https://www.issachar.nz/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Personal-Reference-Form.pdf>



EQUIPPING • EMPOWERING • SENDING

Ministry Training With A Jewish Roots Focus

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