



introducing the ministry papers

the MINISTRY PAPERS

introductory papers

* FOUNDATIONAL PAPERS
the ministry training church 5
meeting one-to-one 9

* TRAINING MINDSET PAPERS
getting ministry done 13
church calendar 17
building a Christian library 21

growth groups papers

* RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
daily time with God 27
one year bible reading plan 31

* RELATIONSHIP WITH
OTHER BELIEVERS
joining a growth group 35
leading a growth group 39
prayer in growth groups 47
Hospitality 51

* RELATIONSHIP WITH
FAMILY/HOUSEHOLD
christian households 57
marriage preparation 65
raising kids to follow Jesus 69

* RELATIONSHIP WITH UNBELIEVERS
personal evangelism 75
personal apologetics 79
giving your testimony 83

* RELATIONSHIP WITH
CHURCH MISSION
joining a ministry team 89

ministry teams papers

* MINISTRY TEAMS
management committee 95
creche ministry 100
kids church ministry 104
kids club ministry 108
primary school scripture 112
youth ministry 116
high school lunchtime groups 120
university ministry 124
pre-school mums ministry 128

* MAIN MEETING MINISTRY
welcoming ministry 135
excellent sundays 139
music ministry 143
sound ministry 147
preaching that connects 151
giving a short talk 160
kids talks 165
leading church 170
setup-pieces/drama 175
bible readings in church 180
leading prayer in church 185
child protection 190

Welcome to the MINISTRY PAPERS. These ministry training papers have been developed in a local church context at Southern Cross Presbyterian Church Lismore NSW in partnership with Presbyterian Youth. They aim to provide an integrated approach to training for the local church. The MINISTRY PAPERS present a training model that goes beyond events, to relationships. They aim to equip the whole local church in service of Christ and his gospel.

Steve Cree

Southern Cross Presbyterian Church Lismore, June 2008

read this first

As you flick through this folder of MINISTRY PAPERS hopefully you'll be excited by what you see. There are papers addressing a wide variety of ministries and issues in the local church. You might be eager to get the **welcoming ministry** paper in the hands of the welcoming team, the **music ministry** paper to your musicians, or the **leading a growth group** paper to your growth group leaders. You might be excited by the possibilities of equipping those who serve in your main meetings through **kids talks**, or **bible readings** or **leading prayer**. You might also see the potential to strengthen your whole church family in their growth and witness for Christ through such papers as **daily time with God** or **personal evangelism** or **giving your testimony**. That's great. We hope you're excited by the potential of these papers. But here's the product warning: you will in no way fulfill that potential unless you first understand your role.



it starts with you

You have picked up these MINISTRY PAPERS because you're a minister or ministry leader or someone motivated about training in the local church. That's fantastic. You're aware of training needs right across your church family life. That's important. But slow down for a minute and understand this: training in your church starts with you. It sounds obvious but training starts with the trainer(s). Training is much more than handing around some pretty pieces of paper. Training requires a mindset. Training means relationships. Training takes time. Training isn't a part of ministry. Training is ministry.

There's a way that you can use these papers that will have very little impact. And there's a way that you can use these papers that will have great impact. The difference starts with understanding what the Bible says about training and what it says about trainers.

...turn over the page and we'll talk through the difference...





introducing the ministry papers

the MINISTRY PAPERS

different churches...

Different churches will need different approaches. As outlined, everyone should start by getting familiar with the two foundational introductory papers. From there, it depends on your context. At one extreme, a church might be ready to implement the whole model. At the other extreme, just picking one ministry (e.g. welcoming) to focus on might be a realistic way to start. If your church presently has no growth groups, just getting one group started in the next year might be your goal. If you do have growth groups, growing the way you train and support leaders might be the next step to focus on. But wherever you start, remember it's all about relationships. Even if you start with one person to train them in their ministry, who can then train someone else...

ministry papers info

pricing structure

full set: \$130 updates: \$35

website

annual subscription \$50
(12months access included with purchase of papers)

copyright

once you buy them (both papers and website access), you can print out as many as you need for your church family—so you're not buying one set of papers, you're buying unlimited copies of a training resource for your church.

ministry centre website

www.ministrycentre.org.au gives you access to the papers online so that you can download them in pdf form and print from digital originals, or email them out to people in your congregation. You can also send use it to send links to your friends and encourage them to get more strategic about training in their context.



two ways to train

There is no quick fix. Most people are looking for one. Maybe you are. But at that point you're going to have to swim against the tide. Becoming a ministry training church is a process. It's an exciting process, but it takes time.



Here's the quick fix approach: grab these papers and randomly throw them at a few people and hope something comes of it. Nothing will. Here's a better approach: start with getting your head around training. Think bigger about training. Training must move beyond being just an *activity* in your church to being the *culture* of your church. The quick fix approach is to hand the kids talk paper, for example, to the person on the roster for Sunday and hope it makes a difference. The better approach is to sit down with them *before* the talk to work through the paper together, and again *after* the talk to give some feedback. Training is about relationships. The paper is a useful tool but much less so outside of a training relationship.

where do I start

- * there are **two introductory papers** you need to work through first, that explain the training model: 'the ministry training church' and 'meeting one-to-one'. They are foundational to understanding the whole approach.
- * there is another cluster of introductory papers all about developing a **training mindset**. They are also vital to thinking bigger about training.
- * as explained in 'the ministry training church', all other MINISTRY PAPERS are clustered into **two main arms** of training: growth groups & ministry teams
- * the papers are in a **standard format**, with most designed to be printed as a double-sided A3 sheet. While containing significant content, the 'single piece of paper' makes the papers very accessible as an entry point to training.
- * the papers include a **variety** of bible study, illustrations, stories, ideas for discussion, as well as recommended further resources. Some papers also have accompanying tools (e.g. with 'kids talks', a kids talk feedback sheet).
- * certain key bible passages about church and ministry are **repeated** throughout the papers (as well as some key ministry concepts). This repetition is intentional. It is part of building an integrated mindset and approach to training and ministry throughout the whole church.
- * we have tried to achieve a balance between making the papers *general* enough to be transferable, but *specific* enough to show how they are used in one local church context. You'll need to **adapt** them to your own context.
- * **more papers** will be added to the website on a regular basis, and existing papers updated. Another major revision has just been completed, along with the addition of several new papers. Feedback is welcomed!

