

PartnerNews



Advancing Ministry

What's new in 2014:

- A **new** batch of MTS Apprentices & Scholars hit the ground running.
- Programs reaching **new** generations & cultures.
- A **new** certificate course from MTS & The Timothy Partnership.
- A **new** app developed by Matthias Media.
- A **new** method of support through apprentice internet portals.



Looking to a new year of exciting developments for gospel growth

On 1st of January 2014, MTS launched arguably its biggest innovation: The MTS Scholarship – now available to all. The effect is to reduce the cost of an apprenticeship and open up new gospel opportunities.

We now pray that God may use this initiative to raise up our target of 10,000 Gospel Apprentices by 2020!

In 2013, 1,075 men and women went to a recruiting conference to think about embarking on the 2 year full-time ministry apprenticeship – a 12% increase on the previous year.

At the end of 2013 there were 250 MTS Apprentices in training across the nation

(our second largest number ever), under the guidance of 141 individual trainers in 88 training centres (Churches/Ministries). A highlight of the year was the brilliant MTS G8 National Apprentice Conference that moulded first year apprentices and prepared those in their second year, to train others.

In 2013, MTS also put in place systems to monitor the training of all registered MTS Apprentices, which has had a high approval rating from participants.

Another 2013 initiative was to introduce exciting developments for widening the scope of apprenticeship opportunity.

In our society, neither age nor profession

act as barriers to gospel ministry, and yet we are used to the idea that ministry leadership only attracts younger well-educated professional members of our churches.

Yet when we look back to biblical times we can see that God's leaders were both young and old (like Joseph and Moses), professional and trades people (like Luke and Peter).

So MTS is moving apprentices into a number of new ministry areas including Blue-Collar, Cross-Cultural and Prime-Time Ministry. Read on to see how these are areas where opportunities for gospel ministry abound.

The Scope of Gospel Apprenticeships

Young, gifted and on fire for the gospel



*Craig Effenbein,
a new apprentice at
Crossroads Christian
Church, Canberra*

In 2012 I was challenged to consider my role in the body of Christ and have since spent considerable time seeking guidance from church leaders, trusted Christian friends, and reading my Bible and other books on the subject. Throughout this process, the friends and key leaders I spoke to encouraged me to think about doing a two-year ministry apprenticeship.

So now that I have taken up the challenge what next? During my apprenticeship I have the privilege of being involved in a wide variety of ministry activities. My main ministry priorities are serving with the ANU Christian student group (FOCUS) and working with international students as part of the Crossroads International Fellowship. I also will be part of a mission trip with Crossroads

to India in October to teach Moore College PTC courses to local pastors and will spend a few hours each week apprenticing to sports chaplains across a rotation of sports and clubs.

Beyond MTS I would like to go on to Bible college. And beyond that I am open to going wherever needed. Thanks again to all of you for your support not only to me, but to all of the MTS apprentices. It is my prayer that God will see a great return on all of your investments!

MTS Blue Collar Ministry takes off



*Andrew Beddoe reports
on the value and growth
of MTS' 'Blue Collar
Apprenticeships'*

When I was at Theological College, I became good friends with a carpenter in my year. He told me that he felt like a square peg trying to fit through a round hole.

I'd also noticed that churches were struggling to reach Blue Collar people.

I then realised that if churches are to effectively reach and minister to these people, they need Blue Collar Christian leaders who understand the challenges they face. They need gospel workers who can overcome the prejudices that exist between white and blue collar people.

In 2010 through MTS we started to train men and women for Blue Collar Christian ministry and leadership in the way an apprentice carpenter trains to be a chippy. Over the last 4 years we have developed a 2 year

vocational course that does the job. It works and it provides a square hole for the square pegs in our churches for those whose learning styles don't suit traditional higher education.

These are the Peter and Andrew, James and John sorts of Christians whom God will use to both reach the many unreached Blue Collar people in our community, and grow others already in our churches.

9 people began an evening course in the Blue Collar Ministry Apprenticeship in 2013. It was encouraging to have so many people engaging in the training each Monday night. We saw their love for Jesus grow, their confidence to read God's word increase and greater boldness to share Jesus with their friends.

At the end of the year, Brett, a plumber said, "Everybody should do this training".

Across Generations and Cultures

Bridging the cultural divide



Ellyn Rowe heads up the push for Cross-Cultural Apprenticeships

I am excited to be piloting a new MTS program with a cross-cultural focus. The goal of this new program is to train and equip workers for gospel ministry and furthering their holistic understanding of cross-cultural gospel ministry.

My apprenticeship is with EV Church, Erina, where I will be partnering with Australian Indigenous Ministries (AIM) for the cross-cultural components. I will be attending the Missions Interlink Short-term Training (MIST), which will introduce me to significant issues relating to life, work and Christian faith for those serving in a cross-cultural setting.

During my apprenticeship I am planning to go on two field trips and run a Mission Awareness Tour through AIM. In addition to this, I will also be involved in local ministry

to women and youth involving; High School Scripture, "Flipside" Christian lunchtime groups in five high schools, and mission conferences such as ReachOut.

I will also be undertaking a Research Project on "the biblical and practical methodology of the church's role in mission: choosing, training, sending, supporting missionaries. And the relationship between church and parachurch in relation to findings."

I am thankful to God for the opportunity to undertake this two year Cross-Cultural MTS Apprenticeship and look forward to being trained and equipped for a lifetime of gospel ministry!

Where age is no barrier to sharing the good news



David Bell says that it's never too late to do gospel work

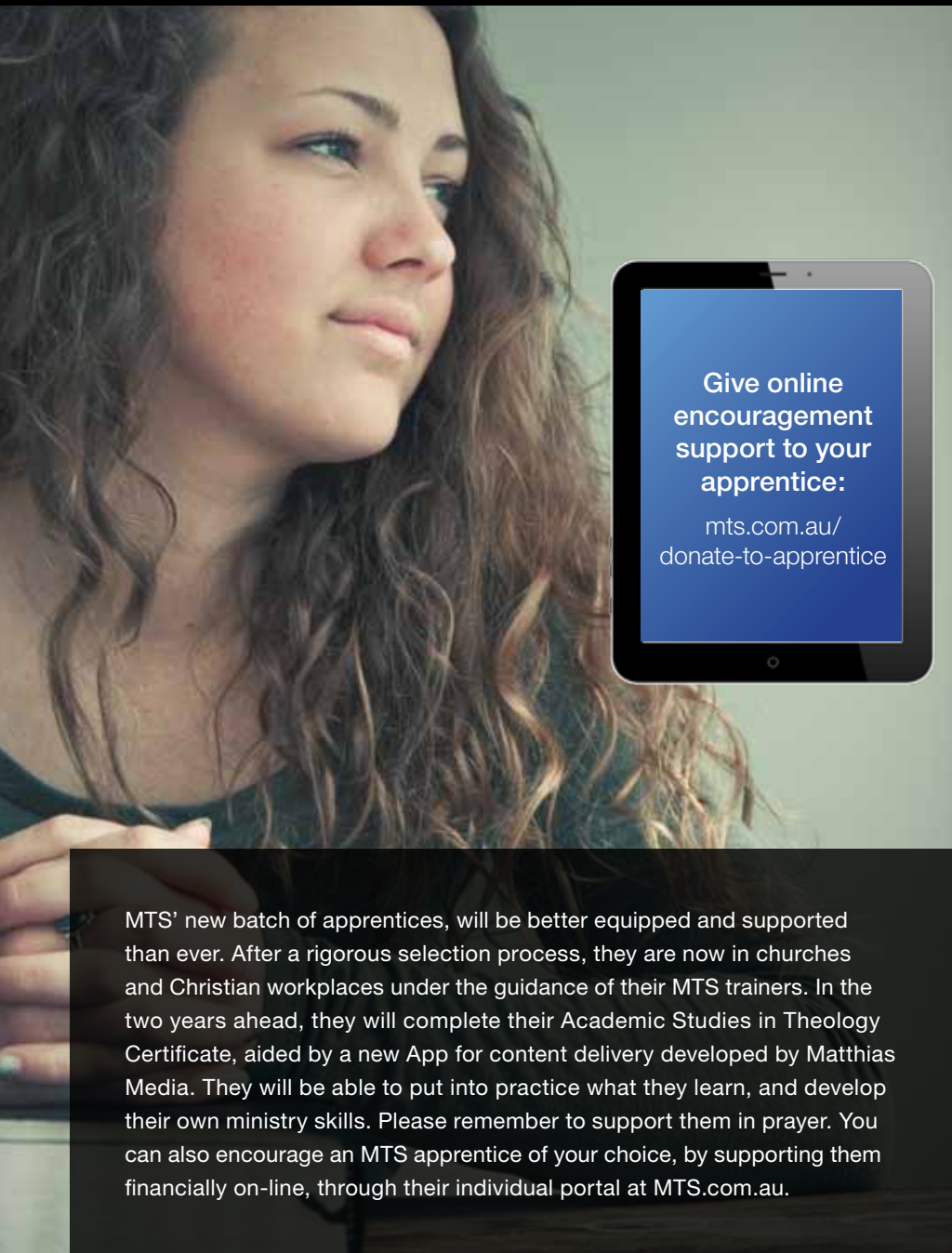
It is my privilege to do part-time ministry work in our local high school assisting in the Christian Studies Program. In addition, my wife and I attend youth camps as mentors to the leaders and assist in proclaiming the good news of salvation through Christ.

I have found that age is not a barrier to ministry, and that younger Christians often appreciate the perspective that older Christians bring. Age gives testimony to the way in which Christ has worked through us, and in us.

MTS Prime Time encourages those approaching retirement to take up a new lease of life in gospel ministry. The program encourages us to do ministry work, in a structured environment, with experienced trainers from whom they can learn.

Whilst MTS has a strategic role in training up future generations of church leaders, for those who do not go into a full-time paid ministry, the MTS experience provides a strong basis for effective witness in the home, workplace and amongst friends. MTS Prime Time training gives a degree of confidence and competence. It provides a sound springboard for those contemplating a ministry in their Prime Time.

We are privileged to be able to serve the Lord at any stage of our Christian life. Much needs to be done. After all, Timothy was mentored by Paul. The biblical precedence is clear. Let's get moving. If you want to work in the harvest field, contact MTS. It would be wonderful to hear from you.



Give online encouragement support to your apprentice:
mts.com.au/donate-to-apprentice

MTS' new batch of apprentices, will be better equipped and supported than ever. After a rigorous selection process, they are now in churches and Christian workplaces under the guidance of their MTS trainers. In the two years ahead, they will complete their Academic Studies in Theology Certificate, aided by a new App for content delivery developed by Matthias Media. They will be able to put into practice what they learn, and develop their own ministry skills. Please remember to support them in prayer. You can also encourage an MTS apprentice of your choice, by supporting them financially on-line, through their individual portal at Mts.com.au.

Fuel your passion for Christian Ministry



National Ministry Conference

4-7th August 2014

MTS is proud to be a major sponsor for this year's Oxygen conference and is encouraging our readers to register and participate.

MTS will be using the conference as a platform to encourage and challenge churches and other Christian workplaces to take on gospel apprentices.

The goal is to increase the number of MTS apprentices to over 500 by 2016.

As a means of encouragement, MTS is introducing a stimulus contribution, designed to make apprenticeship even more attractive and affordable.

It is our hope and prayer that increasing the number of apprentices training across Australia will multiply the number of people hearing about our Lord Jesus, *"the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world"* (John 1:29).

Make a date for "MTS Sunday"

Get your church to join with us in prayer on the 27th of July. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

Other key events to look forward to...

- G8 Conference 10-12th June, early-bird registration open now see www.mts.com.au/g8-2014
- SPUR NSW, 12-14th September
- Graduation, 13th of November



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