



WALES
EVANGELICAL
SCHOOL OF
THEOLOGY

Starting
September
2008

Fast-track Training for Long-haul Ministry

A glowing red spiral graphic is positioned behind the word 'binary'. It starts as a small bright yellow-orange point at its center and spirals outwards, becoming more diffuse and red as it moves away from the center.

the
binary
course

2 years 2 bases 2 degrees

Year 1

The first year is campus-based for the two semesters (September-December and February-May) and the *Summer Season* (late May-June). We believe that even this minimal exposure to a collegiate experience can pay tremendous dividends. Quite apart from the obvious advantages of the instant access to expert human and material resources afforded by a seminary environment, there is immense and lasting value in the relationships forged between faculty and fellow-students as they worship and work together. Despite this, we will still do our best to assist those who are forced to live at a long distance and need to minimise their time on campus.

Year 1 is mostly spent working towards the degree of Licence in Theology. The LTh is offered by only three British universities and, as a one-year, full-time, vocational 'conversion' course, only by our accrediting institution, the University of Wales, Lampeter. We have filled this useful vehicle with the sort of theological and other content we believe Reformed church leaders of the 21st century require. Academically, it is pitched and assessed at the level of a final year BA (Hons) course. Regular lectures and seminars are reinforced by creative workshops, enabling subjects to be investigated in greater depth. Course members take *all* core modules and *any two* option modules. Assessment is by essay and/or examination:

LTh Programme Structure

Core Modules

Studies in Systematic Theology
Studies in Biblical and Historical Theology
Preaching and Pastoral Theology
Greek or Hebrew Grammar

Option Modules

Theology and Culture
The Church in the Modern World
Contextualisation
Medical Ethics
Independent Study

Year 1 reaches its climax with the *Summer Season* – up to six consecutive weeks in late May and June – where various specialist ministry training courses take it in turns to showpiece their particular contribution to the UK church scene. During part of this time, course members will benefit from the teaching and mentoring of a resident guest theologian or preacher of international standing. They must also successfully complete a module on Research Methods in preparation for Year 2.

During Year 1, *Binary Course* members are permitted to audit any WEST lectures they wish at BA (Hons) level.



This is just what many church leaders have been crying out for – a route into pastoral ministry that is rigorous yet accessible. If we are going to close the training gap that threatens many independent churches and release an army of new gospel workers to re-evangelise our nation we need this new fast-track approach that will take students where they are and launch them into a lifetime of sustainable service for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Richard Underwood, General Secretary, Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches

Year 2

Provided at least an average mark of 50% is attained in the LTh, course members proceed to Year 2 – where everything changes! Men are now based primarily in their training churches for a ‘super-apprenticeship’, which will concentrate on the promotion of preaching, pastoring and other leadership skills. This will last from September to at least the following May, and will be subject to a contractual agreement drawn up between WEST and the training church. Ideally, this will be the course member’s home church but it must be able to supply the right quantity and quality of ministry opportunity and supervision. This placement will be assessed and count substantially towards the second degree component of *The Binary Course*.

The MA Theology (Contemporary Church Leadership) has been developed at WEST with *The Binary Course* exclusively in mind. The Church Placement aside, it is delivered by the block teaching method, generally in two week periods in September, January and March. Each module is covered in one week of twenty contact hours. The only exceptions are the Greek and Hebrew Textual Exegesis, which are taught in a less concentrated manner:

MA Theology (Contemporary Church Leadership) Programme Structure

PART ONE

Core Modules

Church Placement
Leadership
Biblical Exegesis (English, Greek or Hebrew Text)

Option Modules

Contemporary Pastoral Practice
Church Planting
Contemporary Missiology
Urban Mission

Course members take *all* core modules and *any two* option modules. The Church Placement is worth twice the credits of any other module. Assessment of Part One is normally by coursework.

PART TWO

Part Two of the MA Theology (Contemporary Church Leadership) consists of a 20,000 word dissertation on a subject which engages with issues relevant to today’s church. The dissertation carries one third of the credits required for the degree.

During Year 2, *Binary Course* members are permitted to audit any WEST lectures they wish at masters level or below.



The need to offer strong, practical and accessible training for the pastor-teachers of the future is more urgent than ever. At Proclamation Trust we warmly welcome this creative initiative which combines formal theological training with supervised ministry experience. I am glad to commend this and wish you God’s rich blessings.

Christopher Ash, Director, Cornhill Training Course

How much does it cost?

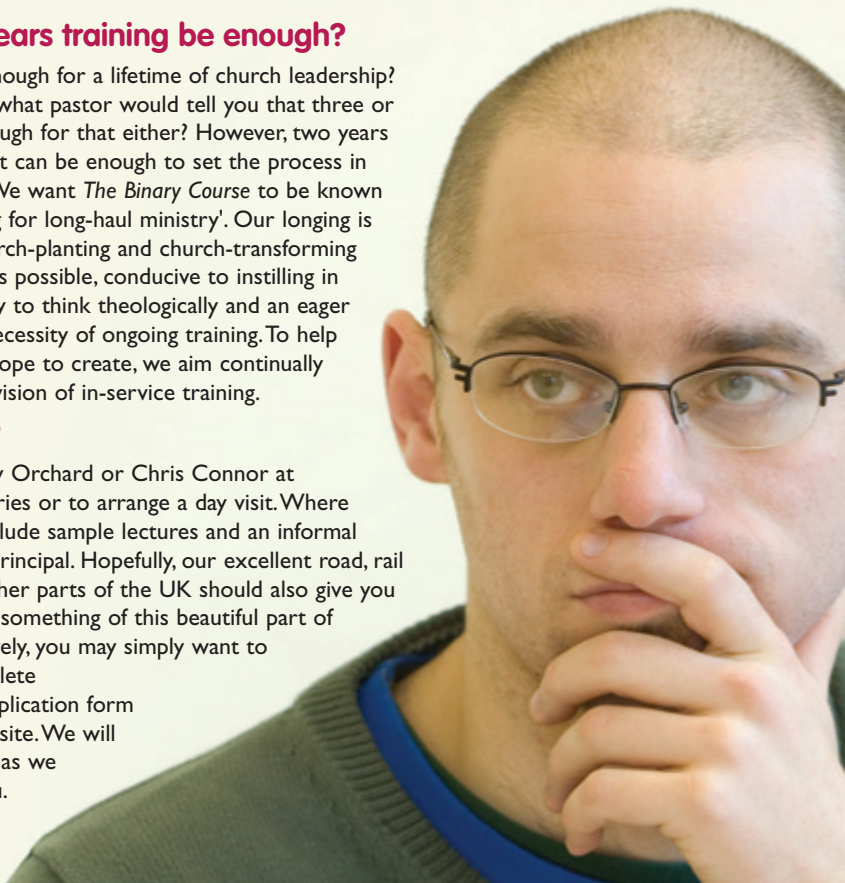
We have been determined to ensure cost-effectiveness in every aspect of our course design. Also, in order to encourage a good first intake, fees are initially being kept at the very lowest, feasible level. For 2008-9, the course fee will be just £6,000 per annum, with students having the option of paying upfront for both years at the starting rate. For details of our extremely reasonable, on-site, term-time accommodation, please see the website. Relatively low-cost rental property is also readily available locally. We invite you to make appropriate comparisons in terms of the return you are getting for the investment of your time and money.

But can two years training be enough?

Enough for what? Enough for a lifetime of church leadership? Of course not! But what pastor would tell you that three or four years were enough for that either? However, two years fully and wisely spent can be enough to set the process in the right direction. We want *The Binary Course* to be known as 'fast-track training for long-haul ministry'. Our longing is to get men into church-planting and church-transforming ministry as quickly as possible, conducive to instilling in them both the ability to think theologically and an eager acceptance of the necessity of ongoing training. To help meet the need we hope to create, we aim continually to increase our provision of in-service training.

So what next?

Please contact Kerry Orchard or Chris Connor at WEST with any queries or to arrange a day visit. Where possible, this will include sample lectures and an informal interview with the Principal. Hopefully, our excellent road, rail and air links with other parts of the UK should also give you the time to explore something of this beautiful part of the world. Alternatively, you may simply want to download and complete *The Binary Course* application form available on the website. We will be in touch as soon as we have heard from you.



The spiritual and academic integrity of WEST is well established, and I am pleased to recommend its new Binary Course for prospective pastors and church planters. It will help supply us with the godly hands-on thinkers that we so much need in Christian leadership today.

Stuart Olyott, Pastoral Director, Evangelical Movement of Wales

the binary course

has been devised in collaboration with many UK church leaders as a radical alternative to a conventional seminary education. Its prime purpose is to help address the chronic shortage, and often inadequate preparation, of men entering pastor-teacher and church-planting ministries within the independent sector of Reformed evangelicalism. In

these days of shifting doctrines and general uncertainty, there is a desperate need for godly leaders who have learned how to think theologically and act strategically. Recognising and accommodating the complementary strengths of campus and church-based training, *The Binary Course* not only provides a unique, express route to a master's degree in theology, but also aims to nurture growth in personal holiness and to develop essential ministry skills.

Who is it for?

Because of its necessarily intensive nature, *The Binary Course* is not a suitable pathway for all. Likely candidates will typically already possess a good honours degree in a non-theological subject, appropriate service experience in a church context, and evidence of clear gifting and potential – especially in preaching and teaching. Maybe they will have completed something along the lines of FIEC's *Prepared for Service* programme or Proclamation Trust's *Cornhill Training Course*. They might well be keeping in touch with future possibilities via the 9:38 network, or seeking the next step as they approach the end of a church apprenticeship scheme. We are particularly thinking of men who sense the call of God on their lives, know they must be properly equipped, but cannot face (or afford) the prospect of returning to a further three or four years of cloistered, college existence!

[Please note that the traditional route into pastoral ministry provided by our three-year BA (Hons) in Theology remains the best option for many – particularly those who are younger and have less academic and/or Christian service experience.]

Who teaches it?

Details of the faculty at WEST are available on the website, and it is not possible to profile them all here. *The Binary Course* will be largely in the hands of those who have themselves successfully led churches for many years – a fairly obvious pre-requisite not always met in theological colleges. Our systematic and historical theologian, Bob Letham, recently appointed as External Examiner in Systematic Theology at Oak Hill College, continues to serve as visiting professor at some of the world's leading seminaries. WEST is one of the UK's leading centres of evangelical, theological research, and Tom Holland's groundbreaking work in Pauline Studies has attracted a cluster of PhD students who are exploring some of its implications. Jonathan Stephen, in his continuing role as Director of Affinity, maintains a comprehensive, watching brief on the current evangelical church scene. His passion for preaching and for the preparation of sound, Christlike leaders who 'understand the times' is well known, and underlies the whole concept of *The Binary Course*.

How does it work?

The Binary Course is so called because it takes two years, has two bases and results in two degrees.



The Binary Course will be the best of both worlds for some – intensive theological study and church based ministry experience. An ideal preparation and stepping stone into set-apart, lifelong, gospel ministry.

Matt Morgan, Administrator, 9:38

the binary course

WEST combines high academic standards with practical training for Christian ministry, and all in the context of warm Christian fellowship between students and lecturers. It is a joy to study theology here and I expect the new Binary Course to prove a very attractive option.

Mike Partridge, ex-UCCF Team Leader and current WEST student



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