

Diverse churches training their own leaders

In the twentieth century there was a great push by the church to evangelise the world before the end of that century. The sacrifices and commitment that accompanied this endeavour were blessed by the Lord and today the church has been established in numerous societies around the world. Veritas College with its network of colleges is privileged to serve this church in some 30 countries.

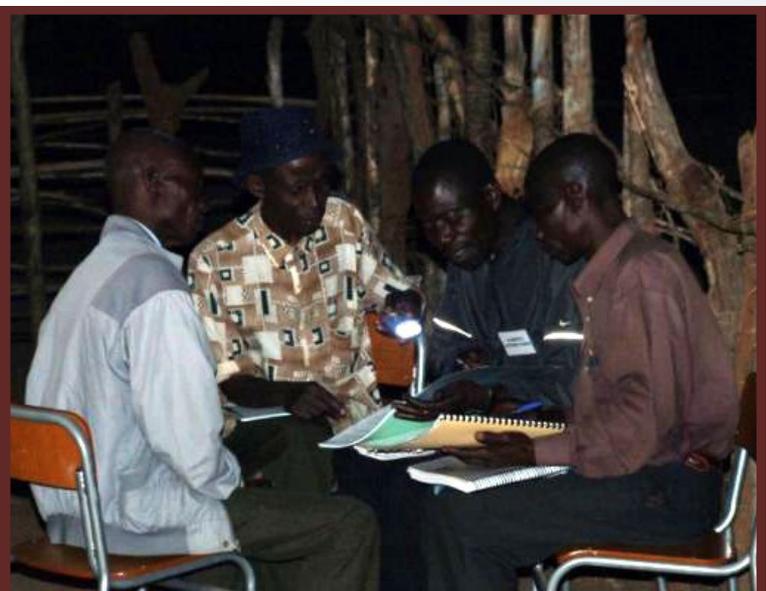
During the past year the Veritas training was offered in at least 800 classes. Some 13 200 module units (a person doing a module) were in delivery. This represents a threefold increase over the last five years.

Veritas sees itself as a training organisation that serves the church with skills and materials so that the church in turn can train its own leaders. Because of the tremendous growth of the church in especially non-Western countries, the training needs are overwhelming. This is exacerbated by the occurrence of one or more factors like extreme poverty, low life expectancy and persecution that churches in too many countries have to battle with.

The Veritas training is church based, using the infrastructure of local churches and numerous volunteers as facilitators. This encourages local ownership, ensuring that the training is contextual and making it very economical.



Students in India



Students in Angola studying by torch light

Accredited Training offered in Egypt

Veritas became a Registered Training Organization (RTO) in Perth, Western Australia in 2007. This has made it possible for Veritas College International Inc (the Australian entity) to issue a Cert IV, Diploma, Advanced Diploma and Graduate Diploma of Biblical Ministry. These are nationally recognised Australian qualifications in the vocational training sector.

Deaf students of the Deaf Christian Ministry Africa in South Africa have been the first to benefit from these qualifications. Of the six deaf students who earned the Advanced Diploma, three have been ordained as pastors in the Apostolic Faith Mission and three in Reformed denominations.

The accredited training is now also offered in Egypt. The local staff are doing the Cert IV, enabling them to know exactly what to expect from future students in Egypt. There should be 60 Egyptian students graduating with a Cert IV during 2011.

Bennie Wolvaardt, the founding CEO of Veritas College International and his wife Moira, who manages the accredited training, have just visited Egypt. During this visit, the staff were trained as 'evidence gatherers', enabling them to understand what evidence is needed from each student to declare them competent in the above mentioned qualifications. Bennie and Moira were very encouraged by the enthusiasm, commitment, focus and hard work of the Egyptian staff who work long hours to make the accredited training a reality for the students in Egypt.



A graduation ceremony of 32 students who finished all 4 modules in Port Said, Egypt. Back Left is Mr Emad Sami, Veritas Egypt Director and Mr Fouad Youssef, General Secretary of the Evangelical Fellowship of Egypt and a Board member of Veritas Egypt.

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