

## Veritas impacts local churches

A healthy church is characterised by having mature and active church members. This is also the case where churches are persecuted and lay men and women have to keep the church alive and expanding without the help of full time clergy.

For church members to be active and mature, they need to be well equipped for their service in the church. Veritas helps to fulfil this need by serving churches to equip their own members from pew to pulpit. In the past year 1,164 Veritas training classes have taken place in local churches in 30 countries. These classes were led by Veritas staff and some 550 volunteer facilitators. Churches use their own facilities to run these classes for their own members and for the benefit of neighbouring churches.



Veritas training in a church in Hamilton, New Zealand (report on next page)

We are told by participants that they appreciate the Veritas approach to train them to discover biblical truths themselves through an in-depth analysis of Scripture. They are empowered by their newly acquired skills of Bible interpretation and encouraged to be actively involved in ministry in their churches. The communication skills taught by Veritas, for example how to bring a biblical message or how to lead a Bible study group, have led to many passive members becoming youth group leaders, Sunday school teachers, Bible study group leaders, preachers, etc.

Veritas finds that in many cases teenagers and young adults are challenged spiritually when they learn to interpret the Bible in-depth and apply it to their own situation. Each generation of believers has their own context and challenges and needs to find answers for themselves from Scripture and apply these effectively. Sometimes young people in the church lose interest because they are not challenged in this regard and the answers provided to them by older generations are not relevant to where they find themselves.

During its 22 years of serving the church, Veritas has found that its training works in very diverse settings. In almost every country where we work, participants vary from professionals to those who are barely literate. In some countries the church is persecuted. Skills are imparted and the purpose of the training is to help every participant to improve their skills in interpreting, applying and communicating the biblical message. Veritas believes that God has given his Word to his church around the world and therefore the skills to interpret it can be acquired by every believer in any setting.

Most of the training courses that are running are foundation courses (modules). These are offered on different levels according to the needs and abilities of the local participants. The four vocational diplomas that are accredited in Australia, are currently on offer in a quarter of the countries in which we work. The MA in Biblical Ministries has 34 students enrolled while our Doctor of Ministry programme has 7 students.

### In a nutshell

Number of countries:	30	Number of classes:	1,164
Number of enrolments:	13,697	Number of volunteer facilitators:	550
Levels of training: Foundation Courses, Diplomas, Graduate Degrees			

# A Church in New Zealand Reports on their Training

Veritas training started in our congregation in Hamilton in February 2011.

It was initially started as a training tool for our youth ministry leaders, but when an open invitation was directed to the congregation, we kicked off with a class of 34 on the first evening!

The outcome to date of what began that evening is truly amazing and all praise to God for what He has achieved in the lives of so many since then. Even those who only completed a module or two, speak highly of the changes that the training made to their understanding of the Bible.

Some participants have moved on from the modules to do further Veritas training. Five of them are doing the Veritas Certificate IV, four of them are doing the Diploma and one is doing the MA. All of these students are in active ministry in the congregation with some of them doing an internship. Two of them have a calling for full-time ministry.

The Veritas students are involved in our congregation in the following ways:

- leading our outreach ministry
- leading Bible Study groups
- leading youth groups
- running a prayer ministry
- running the evangelism programme of the congregation
- presenting an Alpha training course
- preaching in our congregation and other congregations of the denomination
- doing internships in the congregation
- preparing themselves (two students) for full-time ministry with the help of the Veritas training in the church.

By Rev Johan Hendricks



Certificate IV and Diploma students with their pastor and trainer, Johan Hendricks second from right in the back row.



Veritas students Hendra van Vuuren and Salmon van Huyssteen blessed as interns.

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