

LIFE POINT MINISTRIES

Bible Institute And Life Learning Center Finding Life's Purpose in Christ

Welcome

Welcome to the Life Point Ministries. This ministry consists of a Bible Institute and a Life Learning Center. You may be wondering, what is a Bible Institute, how does it differ from a college and why would we need one? These are all good questions and worthy of attention. Historically, the Bible Institute movement began in the late 1800's by men such as A.B. Simpson and D.L. Moody. The purpose of the Bible Institute was to "train lay people for ministry within the local church at home and abroad." Among the most common traits of a Bible Institute include (1) Wholeheartedly evangelical in basic theology (2) The central part of the curriculum was the study of the English Bible (3) An emphasis on practical Christian service (4) A strong emphasis on missions. Over the course of time the Bible Institutes began to train, not only lay people, but to also train men and women for "full time Christian service".

The purpose of this Bible Institute is to return to the original purpose of Bible Institutes which is to train lay people for ministry. We now live in times where people do not have a good background in Bible study. Believers find themselves trying to teach a Sunday School class without a good understanding of the Bible or the skills needed to teach. People come to church and find themselves listening to sermons that are over their heads. Unfortunately many Pastors have chosen to dumb down the sermon rather than find a way to build up the Saints. This version of shallow preaching has resulted in shallow Christians. Here at EBC we have chosen to raise up the Saints rather than dumb down the preaching and teaching. So how do we raise up the Bible knowledge level of those coming to our Church? How do we teach the necessary skills to do ministry such as teach a Sunday School class? The Bible Institute becomes the answer to these important questions.

Another area of concern is how can we become a church of irresistible influence in our community? What if an unbeliever wants to know what the Bible says but does not want to come to church? What if an unbeliever would like to learn the difference between the Christian world view and their own and if it is a better one? What if there was a vehicle whereby a logical intelligent defense of the faith could be made to anyone who has any interest? What if there was place where people could receive benefit from instruction in practical day to day life skills? Such a place is the Bible Institute and our Life Learning Center.

This ministry has a two fold purpose. One is to teach and train the Saints first at EBC and then as a ministry for other small churches who do not have the resources for such training. A second purpose is to provide a touch point with the community around us that we may minister to them in the areas of both biblical and practical education and how both of these work best in conjunction with each other. The obvious difference between a Bible Institute and a Bible College/University is that a Bible Institute is non-accredited, low cost and focused on training lay people rather than the professional.

On the following pages you will find a prospectus which begins with brief statements of purpose and definition. This will be followed by paragraphs of more lengthy explanation; followed by a proposed course schedule.

Prospectus

1. To be called Life Point Ministries (LPM)
2. The purpose of LPM is:
 - To teach, train and equip believers to do the work of the ministry.
 - To provide a place for non-believers to come and learn what the Bible teaches and the claims of Christianity.
 - To provide life skills training and education.
 - To provide advanced studies in Urban Ministries

3. Mission Statement:

Life Point Ministries (LPM) exists as a non-degree granting school of adult education, primarily for lay people, to provide advanced training and equipping in biblical and doctrinal studies, ministry skills and leadership skills so they may be prepared to do the “work of the ministry.” LPM is open to anyone searching to know what the Bible teaches.

4. Is an outreach and training ministry of Evangelical Bible Church (EBC).
5. May also be seen as a ministry of Omaha Outreach. Omaha Outreach is an outreach ministry of EBC
6. Life Point Ministries will be organized with a Constitution and Bylaws (see Para. 4).
7. LPM will be located at EBC and/or any other outreach facility that will be conducive to serving the Church of Omaha and reaching out to non-believers.
8. Days/nights of the week for classes will be determined by those interested in attending. Sessions will run for one hour for 12 weeks (unless our survey shows otherwise and in the event of special times on a Friday night and all day Saturday seminars).
9. Courses from the Bible Institute may also be used in conjunction with EBC Christian Education Curriculum under the leadership of the Discipleship Team.
10. The Life Learning Center exists to provide educational and counseling services to the Omaha community in basic life skills.
11. The Life Learning Center will act as a touch point to the community and as a place where a person might find the grace of God in the Gospel. Once a person has trusted Christ the Center will then serve as a place for discipleship with a view toward that person becoming a member of EBC.

Vision

We are seeking to establish a ministry which will include a Bible Institute and Life Learning Center to act as a Bible education and training center for the Saints and as an outreach center to reach unbelievers.

Mission

Life Point Ministries has a twofold mission. We are seeking to train the Saints for ministry through systematic Bible study, theological themes and “how to” courses for effective ministry. We are also seeking to provide needed courses in basic “life skills” as a ministry to the community of Northwest Omaha. This ministry will act as an outreach of EBC as it will provide opportunities for giving the Gospel. Once a person trusts Christ they will already be in an environment where they can be discipled and brought into the church.

Spiritual

Most people now realize that people need to develop spiritual roots that provide a foundation for virtues such as respect, integrity, honesty, self-discipline and self-esteem. We offer a life style based on loving your neighbor, fathers loving and caring for their families, a life free from dependence on drugs and alcohol, being an interdependent and productive citizen, the value of education, plus honesty, respectfulness, giving, discipline, and personal responsibility. This is achieved through Bible study programs in our Bible Institute. Our Bible Institute is a certified program that includes a diploma by the Evangelical Training Association

There is also a great need to train and equip ministers for Urban Ministry. There will be an extensive training program with both the academic and practical training to minister in both American cities and the cities of the world. Studies have consistently showed that the populations of the world are moving to the city.

Philosophy

Our philosophy is summarized in the words “Servant Leader”. We will practice servanthood and lead by example. Our purpose is to serve by empowering others to do for themselves. We do not wish to provide yet another service that result in causing people to become more dependent. Our programming is designed to provide a “hand-up” to bigger and better things through Bible based education. We will reach and serve without consideration for race, color, religion, or social and economic differences, while at the same time maintaining respect for other cultures. We will avoid becoming an island separated from all other services and organizations, but rather a network incorporating other services and organizations.

Resources

The ministry volunteers will come primarily from the EBC community of faith. Funding for this ministry will be a part of the operating budget of EBC and any appropriate fund raising avenues. Research will continue in a search for Grant money toward the building of a community center to help facilitate the ministry and to provide for the Christian education needs of EBC.

Leadership

Life Point Ministries is not intended to be a “para-church” organization but rather is a ministry of Evangelical Bible Church. The Church is God’s special ordained institution on the earth as clearly taught in the Scriptures. Therefore, the local Church will provide the leadership structure and authority for Life Point Ministries. For the purpose of fund raising, the Ministry may need to form its own board of directors. However, for the present time the Ministry will operate under the authority of Board of Elders of EBC. The day to day operations and oversight of the Ministry will come under the leadership of the Pastor of Outreach who will coordinate with the Chair of the Discipleship Team (Youth Pastor) and their Ministry Council Teams respectively.

Statement of Faith

The Bible – We believe in and teach the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be the inerrant, inspired Word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:21).

God – We believe in the one true living God who is perfect, infinite, and eternal, and who coexists in three persons, namely the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 28:19; John 4:24).

Jesus Christ – We believe that Jesus Christ is the eternal Son of God, that He came in the flesh and took upon Himself the form of man, being born of the virgin Mary, in order that He might redeem us through His vicarious suffering and death on the Cross of Calvary, that He was raised from the dead (bodily) for our justification and is now at the right hand of God interceding for us (John 1:1-3; Heb. 1:5; 1 Pet. 2:24).

The Holy Spirit – We believe that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He convicts, regenerates, empowers and indwells the believer (Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19; Gal. 5:22-23).

Satan and Sin – We believe in the personality of Satan, judged at the cross, ultimately to be cast into the lake of fire, that in this age he is the tempter, the seducer, and the accuser of the brethren (Job 1:6-7; Isa. 14:12-15; John 16:11; Hebr. 2:14; Rev. 20:10-15).

Sin and Salvation – We believe that mankind in his natural state is depraved and in need of a Divine Redeemer (Gen. 3:1-24); Rom. 3:23; 5:12). We believe that salvation is a free gift of god’s grace, offered to us on the basis of Jesus Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross, received personally by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. This salvation renders a believer secure in Christ and provides deliverance from the guilt and penalty of sin, a righteous standing before God, victory over the power of sin, and the promise of future glorification in God’s presence (John 3:14-18; 10:17-18; Acts 20:21; Rom. 6:23; Eph. 2:8-9; Titus 2:11-14).

The Church – We believe in the church as a fellowship of true believers in Jesus Christ (John 3:5-6; 1 Tim. 3; Eph. 2:19-22; 4:4-15).

The Return of Christ – We believe in the personal, visible, imminent, premillennial return of Christ, with the rapture occurring before the tribulation (Acts 1:11; 1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Pet. 4:7; Rev. 3:10; 19:11-18).

Bible Institute Sample Course Schedule:

Year One - Foundational Church Ministries (Certificate)

Fall Semester:

Growing Toward Spiritual Maturity

Understanding People

Spring Semester

Old Testament Survey 1

Sunday School Ministry*

Year Two – Standard Church Ministries (Certificate)

Fall Semester

Old Testament Survey 2

You & Your Bible

Spring Semester

New Testament Survey

Teaching Techniques*

Year Three – Advanced Church Ministries (Certificate)

Fall Semester

The Triune God

Biblical Beliefs*

Spring Semester

Your Ministry of Evangelism*

Understanding Music & Worship*

Year Four – Leadership in Church Ministries (Certificate)

Fall Semester

Biblical Leadership: Developing Church Volunteers

Perspectives from Church History

Spring Semester

World Missions Today*

Church Educational Ministries*

*These are elective courses and may be substituted by any non-required ETA course.

Classes which may be substituted for elective courses include the following:

Understanding Teaching

Teaching Youth with Confidence

Christian Ethics in a Post Modern Word

Beyond Reasonable Doubt

The Truth About Worldviews

Teaching Adults with Confidence

Note: Classes will be 1 hour in length with another ½ hour of homework. Homework will consist of writing out answers to the questions at the end of each chapter and there will be an outside of the class assignment or research paper with each class.

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Training for Urban Ministry:

All of the above and the following: (Evangelism is required)

Introduction to Sociology
Introduction to Urban Ministry
Introduction to Public Administration
Urban Ministry (Leadership and starting a ministry)
Practicum
Field Work

These courses were once taught at an accredited Bible College and therefore are College level work.

Life Learning Center

Programs that can be included in the Life Learning Center

- Adult Education – Including but not limited to: GED, Reading, ESL, Finances, Marriage & Parenting, Employment; Health care
 For Example:
 - Getting your GED
 - Financial Planning – Household budget
 - What does it mean to be a good husband/wife?
 - What does it mean to be a good parent?
 - Keeping House – shopping for bargains, meal planning, household chores
- Technology – How to use a computer, email, internet, powerpoint
- Counseling – Networking with area Christian counselors
- Overcomers – Program for overcoming addictions of all kinds
- Latch key – Providing a place for school children just after school & until their parents arrive home
- Tutoring – Helping students with their homework and academic skills

The Bible Institute Courses and the Life Learning Center Programs are all in the planning stage and will be implemented incrementally as needed resources and interest increase. However, our intent is to have full implementation soon.