



Introducing GPS

An information booklet explaining the work of the Gospel Patrons Society and how you can become a supporter



Welcome to GPS

Dear Friends,

It is my pleasure to introduce you to the Gospel Patrons' Society (GPS).

GPS was established in 1999 with the primary objective of supporting the work of the Ministry Training Strategy (MTS) in raising up future generations of gospel workers. This is a long term and strategically critical task.

This nation and our world needs tens of thousands of men and women to take up the baton of full time gospel ministry. MTS is about identifying and training those future leaders through the ministry apprenticeship and through the equipping of a nationwide network of trainers.

But as a long term work, MTS needs a sustainable, strategic funding base. This is the role that is fulfilled by GPS which makes up approximately 60% of MTS' annual budget.

Having been involved with GPS from its inception, I commend it to you as one of the most strategic investments you can make in the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our needy world. MTS is a biblically faithful and Christ-centred organisation with a clear focus on its mission. It is professionally run and the funding raised through GPS is used wisely and effectively.

By becoming a GPS Patron, not only are you investing in the raising up of future Christian leaders, you are becoming part of a network of like-minded, gospel-hearted men and women with a shared vision. It has been a great encouragement over the years to meet together at GPS functions and events and share our common commitment to the expansion of the gospel.

Thank you for taking the time to consider GPS as part of your plans to support gospel ministry. We trust that this brochure will be helpful in explaining the vision and work of MTS and how GPS seeks to create a stable, long term funding base for the work.

I welcome the opportunity to answer any questions you may have.

Yours in gospel partnership

Simon Pillar
Chairman

I commend it to you as one of the most strategic investments you can make in the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our needy world.



MTS Vision

I was an enemy of the Lord Jesus Christ for the first 19 years of my life. Despite this enmity God was merciful. He sent two great men into my life. The first was Rhys Bezzant in Melbourne in 1988. Rhys spent months reading through Mark's gospel with me and saw me come to Christ. The second was Gordon Cheng. Gordon helped me to entrust to others the gospel I had received. Gordon gave me the training DNA, the MTS DNA. 15 years later I have been given, by God, the solemn charge to lead MTS. I serve with great passion because of my history and these three reasons:

1. MTS has a Vision

MTS is an organization committed to obeying the words of Jesus Christ in the great commission at the end of Matthew's gospel – to make disciples of all nations. We want every person in Australia to hear the gospel. We pray daily that God would bring 10% of this nation to Christ. Why 10%? Because it is reasonable to assume that one person can proclaim Christ to 9 family & friends within a lifetime...therefore all hear of Jesus.

For that to happen we will need thousands of gospel workers, preachers, evangelists, children's ministers etc. To reach just 10% of the population we will need 10,000 new workers. Our goal is 10,000 apprentices by 2020.

2. MTS has a Strategy

There are four main elements of the strategy... starting with Challenge.



Challenge Conferences are annual, residential conferences where men and women are challenged to think about ministry apprenticeship.

A **Ministry Apprenticeship** is a 2 year, full time, hands on experience of the job of being a gospel worker. The person is supervised, nurtured and trained by an experienced pastor, learning by doing.

We encourage people toward formal **Theological Education**. Those with the training DNA need to fill their theological fuel tank for the next 50 years.

The fourth element of the Ministry Training Strategy is that those we train become **MTS Trainers**. They do for others, what was done for them.

3. MTS has a Proven Track Record

Since 1979 MTS has trained up 1198 ministry apprentices and 350 full time gospel workers. Each one of them is encouraged to live out the Great Commission and to have the ministry multiplication mindset.

Gordon Cheng is an example. Gordon did his apprenticeship in 1983-84 and since then he has trained 26 ministry apprentices who in turn have trained 37. Gordon's apprenticeship has resulted in 63 apprentices. He is just one of many stories.

It is my sincere hope that as you read this booklet, you too will get excited about the prospect of 10,000 new gospel workers being raised up to change this nation and the world.

May God bless you as you consider becoming a patron of GPS.

Your brother in Christ,
Ben Pfahlert



GPS Objectives towards 2012 AD

GPS seeks to create a stable, long term funding base for the work of MTS. You can support the work of MTS by contributing to the Core Fund or the Scholarship Fund or both.

Core Fund

Providing for the core business activities of MTS which include:

- **Vision setting** – MTS encourages Christians to keep the 10% vision front and centre.
- **Challenge Conferences** – the mission critical recruitment strategy.
- **MTS Training Days** – the nation’s best trainers helping gospel workers, apprentices and keen Christians to keep growing in Christ.
- **Resource Development** – books and audio-visual resources published in print and online.
- **Ministry Training Coaches** – our most experienced apprentice trainers travel the nation training future trainers using the MTS course “The Art of Ministry Training”.
- **Website** – the front door to the movement and the resource centre for the worldwide network of MTS trainers and apprentices.
- **Network Expansion** – supporting MTS apprenticeship graduates to establish ministry apprenticeships in Australia and overseas eg. Ireland, South Africa, Japan, Chile.
- **Tracking KPI’s** – MTS tracks key performance indicators in order to get the maximum movement growth for the least amount of resources.

Primary Objective: 300 apprentices training p.a. by 2012
Financial Target: \$435,000 p.a.

Scholarship Fund

The Scholarship Fund was established in 2007 to seed fund new ministry apprenticeships in under resourced long term training centres.

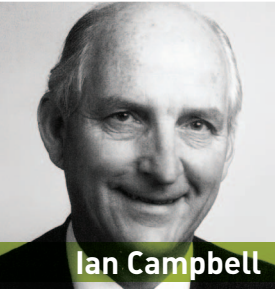
Scholarships are made available to training centres that:

- seek to train apprentices in accordance to the MTS pattern of training as articulated in Col Marshall’s book “Passing the Baton: a handbook for ministry apprenticeship”.
- intend to continue long term financing of the newly established apprenticeship position.
- are actively involved in the training movement by recruiting for Challenge and attend MTS Training Days.

The Scholarship Fund awards \$10,000 in year 1 and \$5,000 in year 2. The sliding scale of support is designed to encourage the training centre to step up to full funding of the training position in year 3.

Primary Objective: Provide scholarships to 10% of apprentices p.a.
Financial Target: \$210,000 p.a.

GPS Patron Recommendations



Ian Campbell

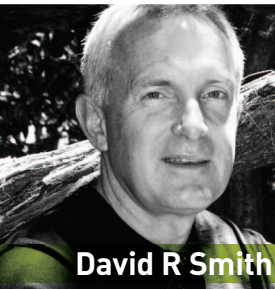
I became a Christian thirty years ago at the age of 28. The “penny didn’t drop” until I acknowledged Jesus was God in human form, he died and rose again so the surety of eternal life would be mine.

As a Partner in a large professional firm it troubles me so many people’s focus is on building material wealth with little or no attention to God’s plan for them. The simple message of God’s grace is not getting enough traction....there aren’t enough Christian teachers!

MTS immediately impressed me with it’s enthusiasm and professionalism in training up many more Christian leaders prepared for the task of increasing the numbers of Australians who truly believe.

Becoming a Gospel Patron was an easy decision for me and a very practical way of being financially involved in the spreading of the good news.

GPS and the MTS program carries my total endorsement.



David R Smith

Genesis Foundation

When our forefathers established Australia, they had a great spiritual vision to make it “the Great South Land of the Holy Spirit”. The church was strong and regular attendance was high.

When we get 10% of Australians attending a bible-based church, our nation will again experience great spiritual blessing and feel our Father’s presence.

Further, there should be a pull through effect (since then there should be 1 Christian in each circle of 10) and we could rise to 20%+ quickly.

The Kingdom in Australia will need strong leaders committed to their call, willing to lead courageously. The call must be clear and Spirit lead. The MTS model provides potential leaders the opportunity to hear their call, make their commitment, and receive systematic training.

We support GPS/MTS because it is driven by a desire to serve the church and engages long term discipline to develop the necessary infrastructure for a thriving Australian church – it is very strategic.



Collin Xavier

Xavier Communications

I became a Christian eight years ago after spending fifty plus years in a group which taught works not grace. It was with great joy that I came to understand what Jesus has done for me on the cross and since that time I have had a deep desire to help to spread the good news about Jesus.

At my first church meeting I was impacted by MTS and since that time the vision to train the next generation of Christian leaders through the Ministry Training Strategy has gripped my heart and has both excited and challenged me.

Becoming a Gospel Patron was a very practical way for me to be involved with the move towards seeing 10% of Australians serving Christ.

I want to commend GPS and the MTS program for prayerful consideration.

I sincerely believe that our commitment to help finance, encourage and train these young men and women is absolutely essential.



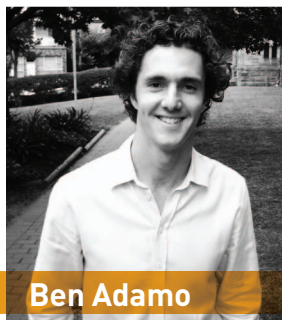
Apprentice Stories



Tessa Rossington

MTS Apprentice 2004–2005 Now in Theological Training

Working closely with someone experienced in ministry was a real privilege and it also made MTS a realistic way to begin learning the skills and knowledge essential in paid ministry. The diversity of experiences I went through, along with the clear teaching and honest feedback I gained, gave me clarity of thought in my approach to ministry for the future. It made me better equipped to multiply myself by training others.



Ben Adamo

MTS Apprentice 2006–2007 Now in Theological Training

Being an MTS apprentice has been an immense joy and privilege. I liked working as a lawyer in 2005, however the encouraging and joyful experience of serving at church convinced me I needed to find out whether full-time ministry was for me. MTS gave me the opportunity to be trained and tested. The first few months were hard-going, adjusting to new work patterns, new ministries and new relationships in a new congregation. But God graciously sustained me and taught me to rely not on my own strength but on him alone. As an MTS apprentice, I've had the opportunity to serve God in a wide range of ministries, including preaching, leading Bible studies and youth ministries, and going on an overseas mission to Ethiopia. The joy of seeing people grow in their love for God and the encouragement I've received from my trainer have helped to increase my desire to go to theological college.



Stanley Gamble

MTS Apprentice 2003–2004 Now an Assistant Minister in Northern Ireland

I've often wondered how I can explain the good news of Jesus Christ in a way which people from any age and background can understand and respond to. Through resources like Two Ways to Live and evangelism training sessions, MTS gave me the know-how and the ability to tell all types of people who Jesus is, and what he has done for them through his death and resurrection.



Sandra King

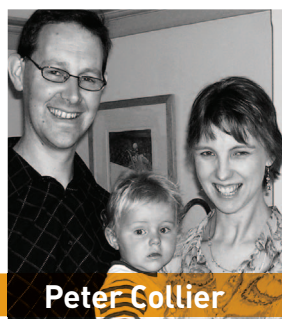
MTS Apprentice 1986–1988 Now a CMS Missionary in France

I was in the MTS program for three years. Early on, I was asked to help organise a student weekend away. That Saturday morning, I arrived for the conference exhausted even before the students arrived. In fact, I was so exhausted, I was sent home to rest and told to come back the next day. That lesson about work, rest and planning is a lesson I remember to this day.

MTS was a life-changing experience for me. Not only did I learn about teaching the Bible and speaking to people about Jesus, it taught me that ministry is a lifestyle. Over the years my ministry has changed form: I've ministered to students on campus, my children, young mums in church, and my neighbours—first in Australia and now in France. My years of MTS have been a constant resource, and I will never forget the practical teaching tools I learned, the richness I felt working in a team, the wisdom of my trainers, the power of the Bible to change lives and the joy of ministry.

MTS Apprentice 1994–1995 Now a Church Pastor in New Zealand

For me, the MTS apprenticeship involved different ways of being trained in Christian ministry. It was like different ways of learning to swim. Running a small church plant felt like being thrown in the deep end with no lifeguards. (They were there, watching from a distance to make sure I didn't drown!) Working in an established ministry alongside experienced ministers was like doing laps beside a former Olympian, chatting together after a few lanes. Overseeing a small part of a thriving wider ministry and receiving on-the-job instruction was like training for a swim meet with a keen-eyed coach spurring me on. During an apprenticeship, sometimes we feel inadequate and at other times we realise more training might help. Sometimes we're all too aware. To push the image too far, being out in ministry now is like being a lifesaver at a tumultuous beach. It was certainly an invaluable experience to have learnt lifesaving well beforehand in a swimming pool under supervision!



Peter Collier

I've had the opportunity to serve God in a wide range of ministries, including preaching, leading Bible studies and youth ministries, and going on an overseas mission to Ethiopia.



Giving Options

MTS over the last 2 decades has produced a large number of gospel workers. A great foundation has already been laid.

By becoming a Gospel Patron you'll be making a very strategic investment.

There are two main giving options with GPS:

The Core Fund

Providing for the core business activities of MTS. The giving options are:

- \$10,000 p.a x 10 years
- \$5,000 p.a x 5 years
- \$3,000 p.a x 3 years

The Scholarship Fund

Providing seed funding for new ministry apprenticeships in long term training centres.

- \$15,000 (Full 2 year Scholarship)
- \$10,000 (Fund 1st year of Scholarship)
- \$5,000 (Fund 2nd year of Scholarship)

Other Forms of Giving

Please request information for the following:

- Bequests
- Tax Effective Distributions

MTS is the only organisation in Australia that is solely dedicated to the task of recruiting gospel workers.

Australia needs 10,000 more gospel workers to reach 10% of the nation for Christ.

[It is my sincere hope that as you dwell afresh on the great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) and ponder the track record of MTS; that you'll consider supporting GPS . . . and change this nation and the world. **]**

GPS Contact Details

Phone +61 2 9238 0271 | Address GPO Box 175, Sydney NSW 2001

Email npowell@gospelpatrons.com | Website www.gospelpatrons.com