



# cornhill sydney

Dear MTS Trainer,

At the end of 2010 we made a decision at our church that we would seek to include the *Cornhill Sydney* preaching course in our MTS apprenticeship.

At one level this was an easy decision – preaching the word in a clear and compelling way is a fundamental ministry skill, especially for those whose gifting and planning has set them on the path to paid vocational ministry. It had also become clear to many of us in our network that, while specialist theological colleges prepare ministers for their work in other vital ways, teaching the skill of preaching is something they are not able to do effectively. The ‘typical’ pathway in our context (MTS followed by Moore College) has not consistently produced preachers that sharpen people’s minds, thrill people’s hearts and change people’s lives. We see Cornhill Sydney as fulfilling a crucial role in this area.

The culture of Cornhill is also consistent with the training philosophy of MTS. Cornhill believes that ‘doing’ is an essential part of training, and so it has a focus on the practice of speaking rather than the practice of writing sermons. The students grow in confident proclaiming by actually preaching over and over again, whilst receiving wise and constructive feedback.

There is no doubt that including the Cornhill course in an MTS apprenticeship requires some adjustment to the ministry load of each apprentice. The time commitment is two mornings a week, and so it cannot be simply added to the standard apprentice program. We made the decision to take several areas of ministry off the plate of our second-year apprentice so that he could do the Cornhill course this year. Having watched the work of Cornhill this year in developing the gifts of these young preachers, I have no regrets about making this decision. Of course, if we are truly engaged in MTS for the long-term benefit of our apprentices, rather than as a convenient, short-term, ‘cheap labour’ scheme, then decisions like this make sense. It may not be right for each apprentice, but I can see a role for training like this in the majority of cases.

I’m really happy to talk with you if you would like more information on how Cornhill can tie in neatly with an MTS apprenticeship program.

Warm Regards

Gavin Perkins

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