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YOUTH WITH A MISSION

BELT M
GUIDING
DOCUMENT

Purpose of the Document

To provide a synopsis of Biblical Education & Leadership Training (BELT), its history, its ministry scope and how it operates. Further, to provide a roadmap for those interested in being involved with BELT, along with opportunities for participation and resources for those already involved.

The desire of BELT is to see God's Kingdom expanded on earth through the transformation of individuals, families, churches, and communities by the Word and Spirit of God. To that end, we seek the help of God and partnerships with those who love Him. Thank you for taking the time to learn who we are and what we are about.

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History of BELT - the Wycliffe connection

The first BELT seminar, conducted in a remote language group in Papua New Guinea, saw God impact many lives. The synergy between YWAM and Wycliffe Bible Translators in that first seminar began a partnership resulting in BELT teams assisting in Scripture engagement activities in many language groups around the world. The Transformation Series (TS), BELT's initial primary training tool, was developed with a purpose of making the Bible understandable and culturally relevant in people groups who had limited access to Bible training. Since 1995, BELT teams have conducted over 200 Bible seminars in 50 language groups in more than 30 countries, in partnership with Wycliffe, YWAM and local churches.

Vision and Mission

The vision of Biblical Education & Leadership Training is to see communities and people groups transformed by the Word of God through empowering community and church leaders who have limited access to Biblical training.

Our mission is to partner with mission organizations (prioritizing Wycliffe Bible Translators) and indigenous churches to develop leaders through culturally relevant Bible training that teaches them to apply the Scriptures to every area of life and equips them to teach and influence others. 2 Tim 2:2

Core Values

The following statements are the behavioural characteristics that distinguish us.

Reliance on the Holy Spirit – We recognize that experience, expertise and skills in no way can replace the probing, convicting and life-altering activity of the Holy Spirit. As such, we teach, mentor and lead in humility and in dependency on Him.

Multiplication of truth - We seek to multiply learners who can reason from the Bible to every area of life and influence community transformation. We see the Bible as the primary instrument for effecting change in people and the world.

Cultural Diversity - We seek to be international and interdenominational in our scope and on our teams. We seek to contextualize our training and ministry to be relevant among cultures with various ways of learning and in their heart language.

Teamwork - We affirm the importance of Christian unity and teamwork, where each member's unique gifting and input is affirmed, where healthy communication and accountability exist, and all members take ownership for their part. We believe in serving in interdependent partnerships with mission agencies and indigenous churches as an expression of the unity of believers.

Excellence - BELT workers seek to be life-long learners, striving for maturity in Christian character and for quality in Bible training. We live and serve out of love for God so people of all nations might know and glorify Him.

BELT's connection to the BSN

Eight years after BELT commenced, the Bible School for the Nations (BSN) was developed with the goal to:

- Multiply and train BELT workers and YWAMers to have a greater Biblical foundation in knowing God and His message along with tools to communicate the Bible
- Provide deeper, accessible, practical Bible training in the nations

Many on the BSN pioneering team were involved with BELT in some way. So what had been developed in BELT over the years influenced the teaching methodology of the classroom, and the BELT seminars provided a practical vehicle to bring transformational content taught in the BSN to the nations.

The relationship between BELT and BSN continues to be mutually beneficial. The BSN helps to strengthen BELT staff with a deeper Biblical foundation, while BELT helps to provide significant outreach opportunities to grow BSN staff and students in leadership and cross-cultural training skills and kindle a passion for teaching the Bible in the nations. BELT additionally provides an avenue to BSN graduates who are passionate about discipleship to continue teaching the Bible through a YWAM global ministry.

Curriculum and Resources

The Transformation Series, TS, are 2-3 week seminars, with three levels aimed to challenge and equip participants personally and in their leadership. It is available in the more recent Storying version (discussing key Biblical stories relating to seminar themes) and the original Classic version (topical thematic approach) at www.ywambelt.org/resources.

The goal of the TS is to see individuals transformed, churches strengthened, and communities impacted.

- **Transformation of the Heart**, TS1, focuses on a leader's relationship with God and his/her response to the Gospel message.
- **Transformation of Character**, TS2, deals with the importance of discipleship and skills for godly leadership.
- **Transformation of Society**, TS3, discusses how to impact a society (focusing on the family, the church and civil government).

The Storying version of TS2 and TS3 additionally provide a chronological overview of the Bible while examining key biblical leaders (TS2) and related seminar themes (TS3).

University Credit and use of the BELT curriculum

Although BELT's TS material is available for anyone to use, in order to qualify for credit with the University of the Nations and/or to receive a BELT certificate, certain elements must be in place to help ensure a quality seminar, which include: a BELT qualified team leader or coach in attendance (see description below); team members trained in BELT's philosophy and methodology; seminar duration of at least two weeks with an outreach component; 80% attendance by the participant.

Though BELT teams have cross-cultural and communications training, we rely on experienced local workers to help with contextualization and rely entirely on the Holy Spirit to bring transformation. The document, "BELT Best Practices" and the BELT Information Packet expands further on these things.

BELT Initiatives

Within the global scope of BELT, God has opened doors allowing for strategic partnerships and programs and regional projects.

- **Democratic Republic of the Congo:** In partnership with Wycliffe Bible Translators, BELT is empowering church and community leaders in 11 regions in the north-east, containing more than 30 people groups.
- **Mexico:** The vision is to reach, equip and mobilize 53 unreached people groups in the least evangelized area in the Americas.
- **Nepal:** BELT is training and equipping national YWAM church planters in 18 unreached people groups, as well as equipping church leaders of the Himalayan region.
- **Yachts for Life:** Two sailing vessels are delivering Bible training and community development to remote outer Pacific island communities.
- **Audio Bibles:** Providing those with limited access to the Bible and oral learners an audio Scripture resource in the vernacular language.

Levels of BELT Trainers

Within BELT, there are three levels of trainers, depending on experience, training and capability. To ensure and sustain quality in BELT seminars, it is encouraged that a BELT team include at least one team leader or coach.

1. **Instructor** – has completed a BELT Instructor’s orientation seminar. A BELT Instructor is guided, assessed and approved by a BELT Coach or a BELT Team Leader.
2. **Team Leader** – has completed at least two BELT seminars with experienced BELT trainers that includes BELT Levels 1 and 2, has completed a BELT Instructor’s orientation seminar, has a good understanding of the BELT vision, content and methodology and is able to mentor others on their team. A BELT Team Leader is assessed and approved by a BELT Coach.
3. **Coach** – has completed all three levels of BELT seminars, has completed a BELT instructor’s orientation seminar, has a thorough understanding of the BELT vision, content and methodology, has completed a BSN or equivalent and is approved by a BELT elder. The BELT Coach should be involved in on-going mentoring and empowering of BELT Team Leaders and Instructors.

BELT Instructors’ Training

There are three training paths for those wanting Instructor’s training or to become qualified BELT instructors.

1. **For BSN participants**, the one-week Cross-Cultural Training (CCT) module (taught by BELT staff or BSN staff having BELT experience), provides a foundation in teaching the Bible in a cross-cultural setting. For BELT seminars led by these BSN staff and students, BELT certificates can be issued to seminar participants and potentially U of N credit can be received if the seminar qualifies. See University Credit and Use of BELT Curriculum for more details.
2. **For YWAM Bible school graduates** (SBS, BCC, DBS) desiring to teach TS Seminars, BELT’s 3-week BUCKLE training provides more advanced training in BELT content and methodology. For BELT seminars led by those completing BUCKLE, BELT certificates can be issued to seminar participants and potentially U of N credit can be received if the seminar qualifies.
3. **For others**, BELT offers a 1-2 week BELT Instructors Orientation Seminar, offering the basics of teaching BELT content in a cross-cultural setting. Although further BELT staff involvement is recommended in running a seminar, it is not necessary. U of N credit or BELT certificates, however, cannot be given for participants completing these BELT seminars unless BELT seminar standards are met.

Support

We are excited about the grassroots multiplication of Biblical truth around the world, and we hope to see this continue through the use of the BELT materials. We would be happy to assist you or connect with you for any additional training or resources.

BELT Eldership Team