

Accreditation Update

An explanation to BibleSchools as to where we are at — the plans for '15

Business Plan for Calvary University Requested

Two weeks ago the minister of Education, Blade Nzimande asked our mediator to produce a Business Plan for **Calvary University**. This is a significant step forward for CLT.

What is Accreditation?

A value estimation by an authority over a set learning curriculum of an institution, which may grant 120-credit qualifications to students who have successfully completed courses according to agreed and accepted standards. The qualifications may be degrees or diplomas, and the evidence of learning may be gathered by evaluation of the student or by means of RPL of past learning evidence, which may exist as formal, informal, or non-formal learning.

You need accreditation to study further at a state university in exactly the same direction as your previous studies. CLT offers a Ministry programme and Universities offer theology programmes — practical versus theory, the one for a calling, the other being merely academic.

Short Courses

All CLT students are part-time students, as the Phase-courses were designed for equipping working church members to be equipped for their God-called ministry role in the Church. Part-time students can only manage 80 of the 120 credits for full-time university students. A course less than 120 credits is called a **short-course** and **cannot** be accredited by SAQA. The fees can be three to four thousand Rand, but by law, all (un-accredited) short courses **MUST** be recognised as prior learning — called RPL — by **any** institution where this experience can be discounted when studying a similar course. Unfortunately most institutions are very ignorant about RPL, and perhaps many times are so on purpose, as the student will pay them up to R35,000 per year to redo their studies at the "accredited" institution. Calvary will change this!

Business Plan: Calvary University

Many students have earned credits over the past 30 years — about 57,000 students. An institution must be called into being to take the short-course credits and recognise these into **qualifications**. An existing e-learning institute which has been operating since the 29th of October 2003 as an international business company, is registered as *"a fully registered university and educational institution"*. For its operation within South Africa, a process is under way since 2012 to get this existing body to be accredited by the **local** Department of Education. This is different from *a college* which has only one field of study such as ministry, working much wider.

The term "University" — from Latin

Universitas means *"a number of persons associated into a society ..."* and is a degree granting learning institution, teaching on both **under-graduate** (Certificates and Diplomas) as well as **post-graduate** level (Master and Doctorates). CLT did get accreditation up to Doctorate level but lacked the breadth of fields to be called a University. To be a University we must have more than the seven Phases in Ministry which we now have. In the past few weeks that changed. We added three important fields: Counselling, Business Leadership/Admin and Education. If someone takes a mixture of these subjects or courses we will call it a Bachelor of **Arts**. At this moment we have **thirty Phases** instead of seven. The **Business leadership** will start at phase two (students first do Ministry Phase one) and **Counselling** and **Education** start at Phase three (after Ministry Phase two). To this we may still add Agriculture, Nursing, Tourism and Security.

Quality Control

To make the move into accreditation and also into "University", the institution must do more in the area of **quality control**. CLT has done this through sharing of information and feed-back, but the term **e-learning** has the potential for far-reaching possibilities. These have not yet been fully utilised by other e-Learning institutions. For many, e-learning has just meant capturing a lecture on video. Learning in general still means by rote learning of factual knowledge. CLT has changed that and will continue to break new ground towards a life-changing experience, from now till 2027 and beyond. Our 12-year plan is just the fifth phase. 1985-98 — 1999-2004 — 2005-9 — 2010-15 were the first four phases of development. Quality control will be **pivotal** till 2027.

Credits, Learning, Tertiary

These three words also spell CLT. **C** The different courses put together in Phases for attendance certificates; **L** which Bible Schools offer all over the country according to specific guidelines; **T** facilitated to a tertiary level by an Internet learning platform — which is **Calvary University**. Calvary Academics develop the material as **colour pdf's** and in printed format. CLT will distribute these, promote Bible Schools and provide guidance for running these tuition centres. Calvary University will operate the **e-learning platform** where the student data is stored, their marks, the electronic media, the software for learning and a sophisticated fees-handling system — but which is controlled by the Tuition Centre. On the whole this will enable us to lower the fees, and bursaries can be given to performing students. With Calvary, we are fully entering the *electronic era in learning*.

Changes to Come

Over the years a lot of infrastructure will be financed. We are planning 8 **campuses**, 40 **support centres** and 400 **Community Colleges**. These will be near, or be integrated with, clinics and schools. As we mentioned, the faculties will multiply to incorporate many more needed fields to train professionals. The **CAP** e-learning platform will be established and allow some administrative actions to be handled centrally by computer. Many things will be *driven by choices* made by the *student* or the *TC*. Problems with fees can be solved by charging the student's bank account as the credits or portions of credits are completed. It is possible to make 40 payments of R80 during one academic year (and this can be stretched over two years), as finances are available. Brilliant or participating students can be rewarded for hard work — to earn part of their fees. Every student must have a tutor. **Distance training** will become a possibility as the student will still be in contact with his or her Tutor. Text books will have covers in full colour. All **text books** will also be available in **colourful pdf's** on resource DVD's. Test can be written on-line with **flexible testing methods**: brilliant students can get tougher questions but then may write shorter tests. Phases can be linked with endorsements according to **specializations** which individual students are interested in. These endorsements will add 15 credits to the 80 credits of the Phase load. Undergraduate students will get an attendance certificate from "**Calvary college**". The certificate will be designed to have an integrated **transcript** on the left side, for employers to see which subjects were followed.

New Wording on Certificates

We have gained wisdom from years of experience with credits and RPL. On the certificate we will put a note saying: "**These credits are typical of the learning level offered world-wide by a higher educational Academic College.**" We will negotiate closely with other universities who also have been told that they must get involved with communities. Bible Schools are a type of **Community Colleges**. The church is a unique environment to start, run, and maintain affordable and *locally available learning centres* which will raise the standard of living through life-long learning for all. This does not only include the few that have the money for it. We can uplift a whole nation through these above-mentioned combinations which we call "Calvary University".

Dr. Paul Banting and CLT team

30th April 2015