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practical

faith mission  
**bible college**

# Prospectus 2011

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**fm**  
The Faith  
Mission **Bible College**

*...studying for the Master's approval*



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## a word from the principal



Thank you for obtaining our Prospectus. I hope you enjoy reading through what we have to offer as a College. There is enough basic information contained here to allow you to get the feel of what life is like at The Faith Mission Bible College.

The Faith Mission is an organisation that works in rural areas, and the College exists primarily to train people for this work. But ever since its inception the College has had a wider remit of training people for other spheres of Christian service.

People who come to our College are from a wide variety of backgrounds.

- Some are already ordained ministers of various denominations, and they have come for the emphasis we place on practical evangelical outreach and deepening of the spiritual life.
- Others have studied to degree level in various disciplines and now feel they want to further their knowledge of the Bible and Christian doctrine.
- Many have no background at all in academic study of the Scriptures, and our two-year course is just the foundation they need to get them started in the direction of preparing for their future ministries.
- All are here as students because they have heard God's call upon their lives, and part of their response to that call is to study and train with us.

After you have read through this Prospectus, if you still wish to explore the possibility of studying at the College, complete a Preliminary Questionnaire which can be found at the back of this Prospectus or [online](#) and send it in to us. If you have questions that are not answered in this Prospectus, please feel free to contact us by email to [admin@fmbc.ac](mailto:admin@fmbc.ac).

Please be assured that we will be praying for you as you seek God's will for your life.

Yours sincerely,

**Rev. John D. Brand** (Principal)



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## entrance requirements

The Faith Mission Bible College exists to equip men and women for Christian ministry. The College training is designed to address every aspect of a Christian's life – spiritual, academic and practical.

There are no academic requirements for entrance to the College, other than for students from outwith the European Union (see \* below).

The College adopts an open access policy, meaning that it is open to any student who shows evidence of being able to complete the course of training offered both in relation to standards of achievement and in focus of professional practice.

Students accepted on to the course will be those who give evidence of:

- a clear conversion experience to a personal faith in Christ
- a clear testimony to growth in grace and spiritual maturity
- a clear leading to and desire for preparation for Christian ministry
- a clear potential to meet the aims and learning outcomes of the programme demonstrated, for example, by appropriate prior experiential learning

Students applying to the College will be interviewed by members of The Faith Mission as part of their application process.

Students for whom English is not their first language are normally required to have achieved an overall IELTS score of 6. If an applicant does not have a qualification of this type but, through an interview, demonstrates an ability to manage the course, that may be acceptable.



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## diploma in theology course

The Diploma in Theology course prepares students for a wide variety of Christian service, equipping them to think in a biblically balanced and creative way. The third term includes an extended period of summer mission work as an integral part of the course.

Our goal is that at the end of training students will be recognised as spiritually mature believers, able communicators of the Christian message and capable leaders in Christian work.

### Biblical

The two-year course has a strong biblical and theological content. It includes the following:

- An overview of the Old and New Testament Scriptures
- Introduction and exegesis of individual Bible books
- Introduction to Biblical and Systematic Theology
- Homiletics
- Church History
- Christian Ethics
- World Religions and Cults
- Missiology

### Spiritual

Everything in the course contributes to a student's spiritual formation in Christ. Great emphasis is placed on the importance of the development of lifetime habits of prayer and devotion. Special periods are built into the weekly timetable for this important part of the training we offer.

### Practical

Ample opportunity is given for student involvement in missions, conferences, preaching engagements, outreach and evangelism.

Placements are arranged in local churches and Christian organisations, allowing students to develop their skills and learn in real situation about various aspects of Christian work.

### Academic

The Diploma in Theology, internally validated by the College, is awarded to all students who successfully complete the course.





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## diploma in expository preaching

The Diploma in Expository Preaching is offered by the College to train and encourage those involved in a Bible preaching and teaching ministry. It is hoped that experienced preachers will also find it helpful in refreshing and developing their own ministries.

### Structure

This part-time course occupies one day a week during normal academic term time and lasts for two years. It overlaps with and supplements the full-time Diploma in Theology course.

### Practical

A key feature of the course is the 'apprenticeship' factor in which students are formally assigned either to their home church or to one designated by the College where, with the full agreement and partnership of the Minister, they are mentored and encouraged. There is ongoing communication between the church and College as to the student's progress.

### Curriculum

The course consists of four modules:

- **Biblical Interpretation**  
the doctrine of Scripture, how the Bible came to us, principles of biblical interpretation
- **Bible Overview**  
A 'bird's eye' view of the Bible, showing where and how the biblical books fit together and also giving an overview of the books not covered in more detailed exegesis elsewhere in the course.
- **Theology**  
Covering the main doctrines of the Christian faith, providing the vital theological context for expository preaching.
- **Expository Preaching**  
the biblical basis for preaching, the history of preaching, the process of sermon construction, the personal life of the preacher, sermon clinics



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## studying for a degree

### The — OPEN — THEOLOGICAL College

Students of the Faith Mission Bible College who have successfully completed their Diploma in Theology and wish to do advanced study have the option to continue their studies with the Open Theological College.

The Open Theological College is a consortium of British Bible Colleges committed to creating wider access to theological education and training up to honours degree level. Its aim is to provide for theological education what the Open University has done for secular education.

Through 'assessment of prior learning' it is possible for graduates of The Faith Mission Bible College to be admitted to the second level of a distance learning honours degree programme in theology. This normally entails another two years of study and has further financial implications for any student wishing to pursue degree studies. The advantages of studying with the Open Theological College while still being part of The Faith Mission Bible College are many.

- OTC students have access to The Faith Mission Bible College's well-equipped library.
- They also have tutorial guidance from The Faith Mission Bible College staff.
- It secures them a good quality British degree, fully accredited in the university sector.
- It also ensures that their academic work is not divorced from the practical and spiritual emphasis of The Faith Mission.

Students who intend to pursue a theology degree are given every encouragement in their diploma course to work with that goal in mind. The College staff are available to give advice as to the feasibility of students being granted advance standing with the OTC in order to pursue the BA(Hons) degree in theology.

The arrangement The Faith Mission Bible College has with the Open Theological College enables us to retain our own ethos, identity and remit as part of The Faith Mission and at the same time provide academic opportunity for students who are capable of achieving more than the diploma course provides.



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## other courses

### Modules

The standard college course is a full-time two-year course but for those for whom that is not a possibility we can provide a part-time modular format.

### Diploma in Biblical Exposition (online)

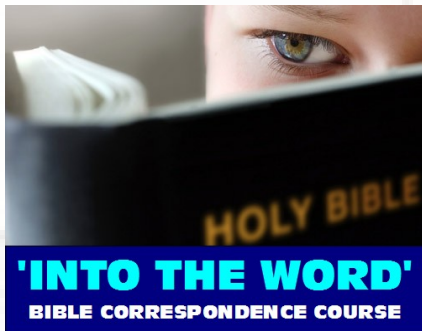
This course is a modified version of the part-time Diploma in Expository Preaching. Course material is downloaded from a designated website. Students can work at their own speed so the course is flexible to fit in with personal circumstances.



### Certificate in Theology

The Certificate in Theology is awarded to students who, for a variety of reasons, successfully complete only one year of the Diploma in Theology course.

### 'Into the Word' Correspondence Course



This is a course of home Bible Study notes specially designed to encourage and assist the student to explore the Word of God. The course consists of 36 Units, alternating between Old and New Testaments. There is no time limit and students can work as slowly or quickly as they wish. Questions are set following each unit and a certificate is awarded to those who successfully complete the course. Download full details [here](#).

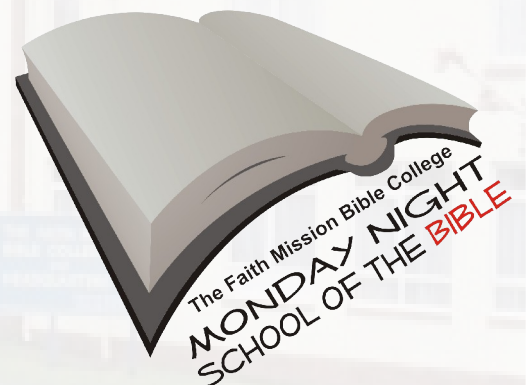
### Monday Night School of the Bible

Run on Monday evenings of term time, School of the Bible draws in folk from all over the area to join with the College students for an evening of ministry and study.

There are two sessions each evening with a short refreshment break in between.

There is a small charge for attendance.

Full programme and information [here](#).





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## fees and living expenses

The gospel is free but evangelism is costly, and anyone contemplating Bible College training needs to consider the financial implications and obligations of beginning a course of study.

Adequate financial provision is often God's seal on a person's call to College. Wherever possible, students are encouraged to think through this aspect of their time at College before they come.

While it is true that 'the Lord will provide', potential students should anticipate their financial needs well in advance of starting as a student. It is in the period prior to coming to College that such a promise is put to the test. Having these practical aspects of the call removes many of the strains and stresses associated with student life. While the figures change from year to year, students should budget for their time at College using the following guidelines. (These fees refer to the full-time Diploma in Theology course.)

### Fees

Single residential students (tuition, accommodation and meals): **£4910.00** per annum.

Married or non-residential students (tuition only): **£2620.00** each per annum.

These fees have been reduced to take account of a bursary which we make available to students who do not receive a Local Authority Grant.

If a student withdraws before commencing a course, any fees paid by them will be reimbursed in full, apart from any charge made by our bankers in respect of transactions with overseas banks.

If a student withdraws after commencing a course, any fees paid by them will be refunded on a pro-rata basis taking account of the amount of the course they have attended.

### Course Books

Books are a student's tools. Every student is encouraged to build up a personal library that will be of immense value in the years to come. As well as essential course books, recommendations are regularly made by lecturing staff, and students should budget accordingly.

First year: **£100**    Second year: **£50**

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### **Accommodation**

The College has a limited number of 2/3 bedroom flats available for married students. Rents vary from **£48** to **£63** per week with additional costs for gas and electricity.

Since availability is limited, some married students have to live outside the College and are responsible for arranging and financing their own accommodation in such circumstances.

### **General Living Expenses**

Students should also budget for the cost of personal items, and single students should note that they have to provide their own meals on Saturdays, at half-term breaks and during holidays.





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## faculty

### Rev John D Brand (Principal)

Following training at the Bible Training Institute in Glasgow John pastored churches in London and Liverpool before joining the home staff of AIM International where, for 8 years, he was European Director. John is the author of 'Mission Matters' and ministers at churches and conferences around the country. John came to FMBC as Vice-Principal in 2007 and was appointed Principal in 2009. At the College he lectures in Theology, Homiletics, Missiology and Bible Exegesis.



### Staff Lecturers

Mrs June Chambers

Dr Adrian Holdsworth (Vice-Principal)

Mrs Heather Holdsworth

### External Lecturers

Dr Ian Balfour

Rev Angus Bayne

Mr Alex McLellan

Rev Frank Parker

Rev John A Riddell

Rev Dr Sandy Roger





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## about the faith mission

### History

The Faith Mission came into being in 1886. It was the brainchild of John George Govan, a Glasgow businessman who had a great concern for the rural areas of the country that were unreached by the gospel of Jesus Christ.

He and his wife (pictured) literally took people into their own home to provide them with basic training in the principles of mission and evangelism. These 'Pilgrims', as they became known, then went out into the work of rural evangelism. The Faith Mission today operates in Scotland, England, Northern Ireland, Wales and The Republic of Ireland. There are also links with Faith Mission work in Canada and France and with organisations engaged in similar ministry in South Africa.



Many former Faith Mission workers are now engaged in world-wide Christian service, through various agencies, as ministers and pastors, evangelists and missionaries, leaders and Bible teachers.

### Mission

The Faith Mission exists to reach people with the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As an interdenominational agency, it works closely with all Christian churches that share a similar concern for passionate evangelism and evangelical truth, especially in areas where there is little or no biblical witness.

Missions, conferences, conventions, teaching and training events are all part of the Faith Mission's ongoing work. A high priority is given to preaching the gospel and teaching the faith.

### Organisation

Workers in The Faith Mission enjoy a high degree of freedom to exercise the ministries to which they have been called and for which they are best equipped. To maintain this freedom and flexibility every attempt is made to keep structures to a necessary minimum. The work is directed by The Faith Mission Council, and the day to day running is in the hands of a General Director. Scotland, England and Ireland also have Directors. Those at the frontier of mission comprise:

- Superintendents with overall responsibility for a district.
- Workers with a special remit for an area.
- Itinerant workers who operate in various locations.



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### Origins

Just three years before the 19<sup>th</sup> century ran its course the first training programme of The Faith Mission, founded by J. G. Govan, was put in place.

Evangelism of the least evangelised areas of Scotland and then Ireland was the driving force of both the evangelistic endeavours and the training course for that ministry. Bold and audacious gospel adventures were blessed by God's Holy Spirit: the evidence being the transformed lives of many who became faithful disciples of Jesus Christ at that time.

Substantial property was donated in 1912 to give a permanent home to what would become The Faith Mission Bible College. Then, exactly one hundred years after the formation of the Mission, the College moved, in 1986, to the spacious premises that it now occupies on the south side of the historic city of Edinburgh.

### Govan and Guthrie

On Edinburgh's impressive Princes Street you can see the statue of Thomas Guthrie (pictured), preacher and philanthropist (1803-1873). His evangelical zeal and Christian compassion were demonstrated by his founding of schools for the poorest children in the old city of his era. Perhaps it is not without significance that one of his educational establishments is now part of our Bible College.

Govan, like Guthrie, shared his compassion for people. An incident from Guthrie's life illustrates this. One day Guthrie was visiting a dying lady. On enquiry he discovered she was without peace and afraid of death. He read the Scripture to her, prayed with her and led her to Christ and then stayed with her until she died. Later he summed up the incident: "I met her in a state of grief, led her to a state of grace and left her in a state of glory."

### Motivation and Mission

All that happens in the College now at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century should motivate the students to exemplify a similar compassion for people. Our mission is to minister to the people of this generation.

Pictured: The former Dr Guthrie's School for Girls, now home to The Faith Mission Bible College.

