

# Discipleship Information

## Discipleship and Ministries Program

The purpose of Maranatha College is to know the Son, to honor the Father, and to move by the Holy Spirit. Our specific mission to accomplish this purpose is to train men to follow Christ, teach men to lead, and help men to serve. We are committed to the development of men and women who will give up everything in life to be true followers of Jesus Christ in every facet of their lifestyle and ministry. We believe it is in learning to follow Christ that a life is equipped and anointed to serve others in ministry and to be chosen by God to provide leadership in the church.

The Discipleship and Ministries Program is designed to accompany classroom learning by providing personal training in dedicated discipleship, and to open opportunities for organized and supervised ministry. Day by day, Maranatha students learn how to be more fully dedicated vessels for God's use by developing and maintaining a Christ-like lifestyle, and by serving the church and all humanity through practical ministry experience.

It is hoped that the biblical disciplines learned and experienced at Maranatha College will be utilized faithfully throughout each student's life, and that these disciplines will bring many rich and rewarding blessings to each participant.

## Scripture Memorization & Meditation

Maranatha encourages its students to participate in a scripture memorization program that will equip them with powerful verses on a wide variety of subjects relating to everyday living. This program will also help the students to personalize God's Word to their own lives, and help them develop the discipline of scriptural meditation. We know that the Word of God is living and powerful, and when taken into the human heart will be a constant source of strength, guidance, correction, and inspiration.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (2 Tim. 3:16,17)

## Prayer & Fasting

A serious study of God's Word allows for an opportunity to develop the essential disciplines of prayer and fasting. Students are encouraged to join or make small prayer groups for men and women through the week to provide training in effective praying. Different aspects of prayer can be experienced, including the daily prayers of a disciple, intercessory prayers, prayers of worship and thanksgiving, prayers of cleansing and confession, upholding one another in prayer, how to be watchful in prayer, and more.

## Christian Service

Maranatha students have the opportunity to volunteer a minimum of one hour per week in Christian service to those in need, for which credit toward their diploma will be received. Special emphasis will be placed upon ministering to the needs of the elderly, to those with physical challenges, to children and teens, and to those who are faithfully serving in the ministry.

Christian service may include helping with physical chores, such as house-cleaning, lawn care and yard work, laundry, car washing, reading to and visiting with the sick and lonely, teaching or assisting children's classes, being a "big brother" or "big sister" to a certain child, or helping to

organize and minister to youth. Special services may also be provided to ministers by doing typing, helping to file or clean his office, mowing his lawn, or helping in the physical care of the church building.

This discipline is expected to provide a dynamic blessing not only to those receiving special ministry, but also to the students doing the ministries. God always blesses us richly when we bless others, and we believe that every student will continue doing practical ministry throughout their lives.

## **Mentoring Program**

Maranatha College understands that there is much more to Bible college life than working toward a diploma and attending classes. For advising and encouragement on a personal level, Maranatha College provides each student with a caring faculty “mentor” who will help assist the student through sharing and counseling. This mentor will also support the student by prayer, and will work in coordination with the academic advisor to help provide the student with the optimal environment for learning and spiritual growth.

Mentors are chosen from among those established Christians who have demonstrated the character and faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Each student will be coupled with a mentor to discuss life situations, the Bible, and prayer. Mentors are made aware that they are a valuable resource to the students they work with, and that the student may call upon them even between scheduled meetings. It is hoped that a mentor-student friendship of mutual concern will develop where both individuals will draw strength and insight from each other.

As the mentor works with the student, he/she will also be instructing the student on how to become a mentor to others. Even prior to graduation, students may apply to begin mentoring someone younger in age and/or newer in the faith. Upon acceptance into the mentor program, the students would be equipped with the same training as their mentors were. It is hoped that graduating students will continue looking for opportunities to help younger ones with mentoring guidance and encouragement.