

# **DISCIPLINE AND PASTORAL CARE**

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## **Introduction**

Webster's dictionary describes discipline as "training that develops, corrects, moulds, or perfects self control, mental faculties, and or moral character, or orderliness, and efficiency".

I know discipline also has several other meanings. But I will use the idea of disciplining as correcting men and women, so that they are able to have self control, have a Christ-like mentality, and live a Christ-like life, morally and ethically. This paper will study how we, as theological training institutions, can promote that discipline. I will use the Nazarene Bible College as a model of the idea of discipline, and pastoral care.

## **College Objective**

1 Cor 9:24-27 (NIV):

- v. 24 Run in such a way as to get the prize.
- v. 25 We do it to get a crown that will last forever.
- v. 26 I do not run like a man running aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air.
- v. 27 No, I beat my body, and make it my slave, so that after I have preached to others, I, myself, will not be disqualified for the prize.

I believe the Apostle Paul is saying here that he trains his body hard, or severely disciplines his whole life, so that he lives a godly, Christ-like life, and preaches and teaches a Christ-centred message. For teachers to live and promote self-discipline, the college needs to have an overall objective, or plan, for the students' total training program. With this goal, all activities planned, within and outside, of the campus, must aim toward training, and preparing, the whole man.

I quote objectives from the Nazarene Bible College's 1994 Handbook/Catalogue:

"We believe that education should affect, and train, the whole man. We aim to prepare our students intellectually, socially, and spiritually, to better serve God and the church.

"The College feels very strongly that the life of holiness produces clean and pure standards of Christian conduct."

A proper objective will help theological colleges to design and execute programs that will properly train, and prepare, students to meet the church's needs in PNG.

Each denomination has its own main goal, towards which, all teaching, preaching, and living, is geared.

The PNG church's immediate need is to train persons, who can qualify to pastor our churches. Some years down the road, we can train people, who just want to get a religious education, but now our training should aim to meet the churches' immediate need.

God may call some of our best students, later, to enter seminary, to get higher certificates. Our preparation, now, should prepare the students for such opportunities later. A life that is developed, and tried, in a somewhat protected, open environment on the campus can later be lived in an unprotected, open environment, out where they will go and minister.

### **Staff and Student Discipline**

Staff members are asked to live as role models of a life that honours God, so that students see Christ at work in their lives. Students imitate more of what teachers do than say.

There is a short Bible study and prayer meeting held every Thursday night in one of the staff homes. Teachers meet, and talk over matters related to the running, and well-being, of the college, and any major denominational prayer requests. It is also a time to catch up with the latest news update on certain issues that have been answered by God.

Some gospel crumbs are given during our regular staff and college administrative meetings. The principal usually shares insights, which help, and enhance, our Christian living and teaching.

It is a blessing to know that coworkers bear with us when we stumble, and go through times of testing, or decision making, as well as in times of rejoicing. Teachers are encouraged to take other courses from Fuller, or CLTC, that would help them.

Each director is responsible to counsel, and give guidance, to students in their program.

A lot of Christian living and guidance is given, in the process of classroom teaching, with other practical guidance out of class. The students are involved in ministry, where they can practise the class emphasis. Present ministry opportunities sometimes involve Nazarene Youth International (NYI), evangelism teams, market evangelism, Sunday school, etc.

The student council president, and class captains, are responsible to counsel, and pray with, those students, who have problems. They refer difficult matters to the Principal, or the program directors.

We believe that students are grown-up adults, and there is no need to monitor, or police, their living. We encourage them to live out, practically, what has been taught to them. Sometimes, we have problems that need disciplinary action. The college administrative committee either warns the student, or suspends them from the campus. Many times, they are given grace periods, in which they are expected to straighten out their lives, and become mature in their Christian walk.

Students are encouraged to meet regularly, in groups, or as a team, and have regular fellowship, and daily devotions, in the family, or as singles.

Care for the needy is provided, with used items of clothing given free, while the rest of the used clothing is sold, at an affordable price, to remaining students.

We encourage mixed groups in work, housing groups, and any college-related activities, so that they learn to live and work with people with many cultural differences.

Each class marks a chaplain, to roster and monitor devotions before class, and at the end of the day (at close of night study).

Every Wednesday night, the whole student body meets for a prayer meeting in our chapel. They share their prayer points, and pray together, for about an hour.

Each student is required to do a year of practical service in one of our local churches in PNG, or a year at our extension campus in Port Moresby, after two years of intensive teaching at the Highland's campus. This practical period trains, corrects, and helps them to see, the areas that need more nurturing and shaping. When they return to the main campus for the last year, they work to improve in areas that are lacking.

### **Combined Activities**

We have combined church services on Sundays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. Normally we have outside speakers for the Friday fellowship.

Once every two terms, the college schedules a week of revival meetings, where a special speaker is invited to speak on a given theme for a week. Normal classes are held, but students are given lighter workloads.

### **Others**

The college administrative committee approves the use of college facilities to run Nazarene youth camps, pastors' conferences, youth conferences, Sunday school, and some other church-related meetings. Students are encouraged to participate, and have first-hand experience, in seeing, preparing, running, or even participating in, these meetings.

Once in a while, students and staff have sporting events with other colleges, or training institutions, like CLTC, Kudjip Hospital, etc.

### **Conclusion**

To conclude, I would like to say that we, as theological institutions, have a God-given mandate. Let me sum up what I wrote in the last few pages.

The subjects that are taught should be seen as inter-related, meaning one can be used, or interwoven, into other subjects, to solve problems, and enhance its usefulness. Each should not be seen as an entity of its own.

Our main aim should be to prepare the whole person (intellectually, socially, and spiritually). They should graduate as mature persons reflecting a Christ-like life, wherever they go and minister. The college should first meet the PNG churches' immediate need, and later train persons, who are looking for a religious education.

Our whole educational program revolves around God, and His Word, thus grounding students in the church's main doctrines, and the Bible. The graduates should live in the world, but are not of the world. They should be the salt and light of the world.

Each Christian has a God-given mandate to preach, and make disciples, that is to say, that Christians should change the world, and make it a better place, in which to live. Only persons, who are Christ-like, will change the world. We have too many, who are making the world a terrible and godless place to live.

Finally let me share with you a portion of my graduate's poem, titled. "Recycled in Ningi".

"What have we trained you to be?  
A big boss? No!  
A big man after graduation? No!  
You have been recycled to be a servant of all  
Be a nobody in the church, the silent one.  
But the anointed one with a sacred message.

"The greatest among you must be the servant of all  
Love God with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength.  
Love others with the same standard as you love yourself.  
Take up your yoke, and learn from Jesus, the Supreme Commander,  
Not forgetting your elders, and your seniors.  
God's ambassadors on earth, angels in flesh.

"Be a good example, in word and deed.  
Be a doer, and not a hearer, of the word.  
Live the holy life, uphold the call.  
God will empower, and will go before you.  
You are no orphan, but a King's kid!"