



Porterbrook Network

What is Porterbrook?

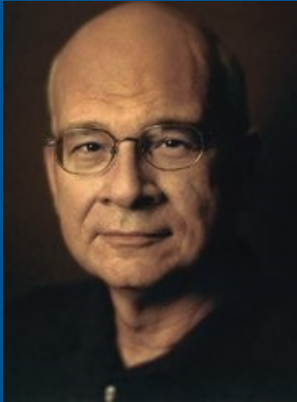
The Porterbrook Network is an evangelical, and non-denominational training network. It was birthed out of 20 plus years of ministry in Sheffield, England and the United Kingdom in 2006.

Steve Timmis and Tim Chester, co-authors of "Total Church" and founders of The Crowded House (which is a network of church plants in the United Kingdom, Australia, and South Africa), created The Porterbrook Network in response to a

conviction for churches to become more Gospel-Centered and for new Gospel-centered churches to be planted.

The vision of Porterbrook is to equip individuals and churches to rediscover mission as their DNA, to become better lovers of God and lovers of others, and to proclaim the Gospel through word and action for the Glory of God. The Porterbrook Network aims to provide education and training to individuals and churches who are enthusiastic to learn more about what it means to love God and love other people.

What makes Porterbrook different?



"The Porterbrook Network is an innovative resource that offers affordable, high-quality training for mission and ministry in the 21st century. I warmly recommend it."

-Timothy Keller

Porterbrook values training that is...

- **Biblical:** deeply rooted in and springing forth from the Scriptures
- **Missional:** starts from the understanding that all that we do in the Christian life is intended to be "missional"
- **Practical:** contains rich theology which is applied in details so as to be relevant to real life
- **Relational:** study in community, discuss online
- **Flexible:** allows one to remain in their everyday vocation and to participate in their local Christian community
- **Affordable:** quality, in-depth training at a reasonable price
- **Accessible:** designed for the ordinary Christian and yet remains compelling for even the theologically trained
- **Comprehensive:** not theology for theology sake, but rather holistic biblical training in the areas of Character, Bible & Doctrine, the Church, and Engaging the World

Therefore, every component of the Porterbrook Learning material is designed to encompass all of these values.

Who is Porterbrook for?

Porterbrook is for the "ordinary" Christian. Whether you are a stay-at-home mom, a working dad, a full-time college student, a church leader, or a vocational minister, the Porterbrook Network provides the opportunity for biblical, missional, affordable training.

Porterbrook Network strives to provide biblical, missional training set in the context of day-to-day life for the purpose of equipping the participant for everyday Gospel ministry.

Through Porterbrook Learning and the Porterbrook Institute, the Porterbrook Network makes biblical training affordable and accessible to believers in every walk and circumstance of life all across the globe.



FOUNDATION YEAR

Character	Bible & Doctrine	Church	World
Gospel Living	Understanding God's story	Missional Community Life	Apologetics
Gospel Relationships	The Holy Spirit	Keeping it Missional	Evangelism
Gospel Change	Union with Christ	Church History in Missional Perspective	Culture

ADVANCED YEAR

Character	Bible & Doctrine	Church	World
Living the Cross & Resurrection	The Bible in Missional Perspective	Missional Church & Church Planting	Engaging with Context
Pastoral Care Part One	Bible Teaching in Missional Perspective	Gospel-Centered Leadership	Engaging with the Urban Poor
Pastoral Care Part Two	Bible Truth in Missional Perspective	Beyond the Church Plant	Engaging with the City

Syllabus

Porterbrook's classes are organized into four "streams," or categories: **Character, Bible & Doctrine, Church, and World**. Each stream contains six modules, or classes—three in the foundation year, and three in the advanced year. Our **regular track** study year is divided into trimesters, with all four streams offered at once. Modules are completed at the pace of about one every two and a half months. You may take as many or as few streams as you want to at a time, however you must sign up for a year of classes at a time, and your class fee covers books for all four streams for that entire year. If you choose to take one stream's classes consistently at this pace, it will take two years to finish a stream. If you have the time and desire for more intense study, you may take the **advanced track**, in which you cover all three foundation-year modules for a particular stream every two months, and complete the foundational year of study in nine months.

What courses does Porterbrook offer?

Online Component

One of the major benefits of studying with Porterbrook is the Online Student Area. The Online Student Area is a place for students to upload assignments for feedback, continue conversations begun with others at their local learning site, share encouragements, ask questions and post any helpful resources they may have found. Connect with other Porterbrook students from across the globe, discuss the material and share resources to encourage others and provoke you to live missionally, and engage with others working out the Gospel in different contexts.

FAQs:

What is the cost?

Each year of study costs \$45. This includes three books, which each contain four modules; one from each stream.

What if I began a course last trimester and was unable to finish?

If you have already paid for a module (class) but were unable to complete it, you are welcome to join the class again in the current trimester with no additional fee.

How much time does a Porterbrook course take?

On average, Porterbrook Learning in the regular track consists of about 5 hours a week of study and practice. Each module lasts nine weeks and there are about ten pages' worth of reading per week. In the advanced track, the pace is between two and three times that.

How often do classes meet?

Classes will meet about once every two weeks. See a current schedule for exact dates and times.

What does the Porterbrook Network believe?

For a complete list of Porterbrook's beliefs, visit their website:

<http://www.porterbrooknetwork.org/porterbrook-network/what-we-believe/>

How do I sign up?

You can sign up either on our church's social networking site, The City (<https://christcov.onthecity.org/>) or on the sign-up sheet at our Welcome

Table in church on Sunday.

Can I see a sample of some of the material before signing up?

Yes. Go to Porterbrook's website and click on the appropriate links to see both samples of the workbooks as well as the contents of each course:

<http://www.porterbrooknetwork.org/syllabus/>

Is the Course Accredited?

The course is not accredited and there is no qualification to be gained from doing the course. Our aim is to equip ordinary Christians to live ordinary lives but with Gospel intentionality.

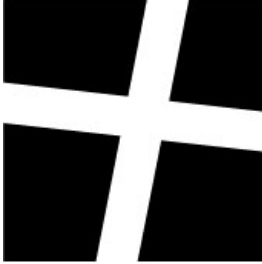
"It's helped us narrow the gap between what we say we believe and how we live.

*-Lucy M,
foundation year
student.*





Christ Covenant as a Learning Site



We first began offering Porterbrook courses as an individualized distance learning option. We have now chosen to become a Learning Site, which is more like a school. It is not closed to one church, and will be advertised on the website. As a Learning Site we are part of the Porterbrook co-operative and have the full range of Porterbrook Learning material available to us. As a Learning Site we can also set the agenda for how courses are run (distance learning / lectures / seminars).

How will this look at Christ Covenant?

A Letter from Pastor Joe

It's my contention that everyone is a theologian and missionary. It just depends what kind of theologian and missionary you are.

One of my primary jobs as a pastor is to equip Christians to do the work of ministry (Eph 4:12). Or to put it another way, to make you a better theologian and missionary. A big part of this "equipping" is teaching and preaching the Bible. This is why I take such care in sermon preparation each week. It's also why the elders decided early on to make the content of our community groups sermon-based. We want to dig deep into God's word about his Son.

And now we want to add another chance for you to receive top-shelf theological education to supplement what you are learning on Sundays. We were looking for self-directed courses that the folks in our congregation could complete on their own time rather than requiring another weekly meeting. We wanted the material to be systematic and topical in nature to compliment what we do in the pulpit, (which is expositional,) as we work successively through the



Bible. We've found what we hope will be the perfect fit for our congregation in the teaching material being put out by the Porterbrook Network.

Porterbrook is a two-year compliment of self-directed courses designed to give you a systematic overview of basic Christian living under four categories: Character, Bible & Doctrine, Church, and World. Each year provides three semester courses (Spring, Summer, and Fall) in each category. Each course is Bible-rich and centered on the person and work of Christ.

If you are wondering if this type of study is right for you, I'd love to talk to you more.

Joe