

Partnership to help equip Canadian Christians in marketplace

Cynthia d'Entremont
Special to ChristianWeek

FREDERICTON, NB—Two popular organizations that help Christian leaders find ways to use their gifts in the marketplace are joining forces.

IAM Ministries, a Canadian organization with the goal of equipping Christian leaders in the marketplace, will be offering the The Masters Program in Canada. A popular program aimed at helping Christian leaders discover how to use their God-given gifts in their careers, The Masters Program operates out of Orange County, California, a long commute for interested Canadians.

Helps Christian leaders

"The Masters Program helps Christian leaders make the transition from their primary career—the work they are paid to do—to a life that includes the pursuit of their calling—the work they are made to do," says Chris Hornibrook, one of two Canadian graduates of the three-year program.



Chris Hornibrook

Hornibrook and his brother-in-law travelled a dozen times to the United States between 2003 and 2006 to complete the course. "It was a time, expense and energy we felt God wanted us to commit to," says Hornibrook.

But Hornibrook doesn't want those miles to hinder others who might benefit from the program. He recently left his position as vice president of an insurance company to join the founders of the two ministries in creating this partnership.

IAM Ministries' founder Paul Ross says he believes the partnering with The Masters Program will integrate well with his organization's goal to equip Christian leaders in the marketplace.

"Full-time Kingdom work doesn't have to mean leaving your career behind," says Hornibrook. "The Apostle Paul was likely a great tent maker... however, we don't remember him in scripture as a great tentmaker. His calling was as a leader/apostle who wrote for and led the early church.

"This middle-of-life transition is the second-most difficult transi-

tion in life, overshadowed only by their initial decision to follow the life and teachings of Jesus Christ," says Hornibrook. "I feel this is my calling. I want to focus my life's energy on helping men from living a life of success to a life of true significance."

A former social worker and vice president of human resources, Hornibrook says the Masters Program brings an essential element to professional life.

"Change management principles are taught in these professions... what is different in The Masters Program is that the core change management principles are biblically based," he says.

The Masters Program is designed to appeal to successful business professionals. Hornibrook says, "We help people move from success to significance in every realm of life: individual, family, professional and Kingdom."

IAM Ministries plans to offer the first Canadian cohort of The Masters Program for men in January with the hope of eventually adding The Masters Program for women.

Information on The Masters Program and IAM Ministries can be found at www.canada.mastersprogram.ca and www.iamministries.com.



Paul Ross

Calgary youth volunteer accused of sexual assault

Cindy Stephen
Special to ChristianWeek

CALGARY, AB—A former youth ministry volunteer at Centre Street Church is facing charges of sexual assault against three girls.

Kelly Malcolm Grant, 43, is charged with 14 counts including sexual assault, sexual interference with a child under 14 and sexual contact with a youth by a person in authority. He was arrested October 4 after a police investigation.

Calgary police say the alleged offences happened between 1994 and 2003 and that more people may step forward with further allegations. Investigators also allege that some of the incidents occurred at church

retreats out of town.

In a statement, Centre Street Church said Grant, reported by Calgary media to have been a youth ministry director, was only a volunteer and had not "participated in the life of the Church for a period of over two years."

Some parents dropping their children off at Centre Street's west campus for a Bible study on the Friday following Grant's arrest were outraged. Others had words of forgiveness.

Grant, married with three children, left Centre Street and began attending Westview Baptist Church where he was a missions director and a parent volunteer at youth events.

There are no allegations involving Westview Baptist.

Grant and his family have been

informed that they are still welcome to worship there, although he has voluntarily stepped down from his ministry roles.

Westview pastor Dayle Medgett says it will be challenging for people in his congregation to feel safe and to accept the decision to allow Grant to stay, but believes the family needs support and encouragement.

"We need to let the (legal) process work its way out," he says.

Medgett emphasizes that protection of its youth and children is important at Westview. The church has extensive safeguards for volunteers, including criminal background checks, interviews and risk-assessment training. As a parent volunteer, Grant would not have been checked

because his role didn't involve supervision over young parishioners, Medgett says.

Centre Street Church volunteers also have to undergo a criminal background check, but it isn't clear how long the policy has been in place and whether Grant was screened once it was implemented.

Church officials won't comment further on the circumstances surrounding Grant and the alleged offences.

He is expected to remain in custody until his appearance in provincial court.

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