

EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

BOOKLET AND STUDENT APPLICATION

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A Short History of the **EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONS**

Vision for a “ministry training programme“ started in the minds and prayers of different people independently in CE (Central Europe) and WE (Western Europe) and became reality as a combined effort between WE/CE. It also fostered the decision to become one Regional Family (Western Europe).

Being blessed and well equipped with experienced teachers and trainers, staff and non-staff, we met in Paris in 2017 after seeking input from most existing schools of missions. After developing the curriculum, format and other aspects of the programme, the first session was held in August 2018 in Les Diablerets, Switzerland, with a cohort of over 30 students.

Since 2020 we have partnered with the Beam Missions Foundation, now CHORD (www.chord.org).



STRATEGY AND VISION

A great future lies ahead. **Next generation Christians are willing to grow and take responsibility!** We desire to build vibrant and venturing churches as well as to plant new churches in the years to come.

Learning from the past, we decided to train staff and non-staff leaders together through ESOM. One implication of this decision is a broader view of candidates who are selected for the opportunity to benefit from ESOM training.

We believe that this broader inclusion will provide one answer to the challenges we face in reaching out to a new generation in this fast-changing world.

OBJECTIVES

1. Training European missionaries and ministers (staff).
2. Training European next generation leaders (non-staff) to strengthen and grow next generation ministries in existing churches as well as church plantings.
3. Connecting European next generation leaders to foster our unity and cooperation among the Western European churches.

Requirements & Commitments

EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

STUDENT REQUIREMENTS

Every ESOM student must be approved and sent by their local church leadership.

Criteria for ESOM applicants:

- A stable and faithful disciple of Jesus and committed member of a local congregation
- Solid in the convictions covered by their local Bible study series and able to help others grow in these convictions
- A demonstrated pattern of servant leadership for at least one year in a recognised ministry responsibility
- At least one year in an intentional training relationship with a more experienced leader
- Regular participation in Bible studies and able to lead a study under supervision
- A desire for further training and greater responsibility, open to the Spirit's calling into different leadership roles
- Demonstrated experience initiating with and shepherding others, as well as walking alongside peers
- A solid level in reading and listening comprehension in English. The program is taught in English with most reading assignments only available in English.



STUDENT COMMITMENT: THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME

- Each student must have a local trainer actively involved in their life and ministry
- Both student and trainer commit to intentional engagement
- Students must attend all sessions (live and online) and complete all assignments
- Required reading must be completed, including book reviews on assigned reading in preparation for live sessions

TRAINER COMMITMENT: THREE-YEAR PROGRAMME

- Trainers must have sufficient experience, maturity, and availability to train the student
- Trainers should join the trainer calls and attend the annual train-the-trainers day
- Trainers are expected to cooperate actively and proactively with ESOM as well as with local leadership

What does it mean to be part of the CHORD NETWORK OF SCHOOLS OF MISSION ?

THE BASICS

The name CHORD comes from the vision of each gift working together in harmony like the notes in a musical chord. While each note has its unique sound, together they blend to make a harmony.

All CHORD Schools of Mission are designed to prepare students for leadership and ministry by providing them with a solid foundation in their faith and practical skills for serving their communities.

Each school is staffed with local teachers, trainers, and directors who guide the students through their learning journey. The curriculums are tailored to meet the unique cultural and local needs of the students, ensuring that their training is relevant and impactful. The programs typically last between two to three years, depending on the specific goals and requirements of each school.

CHORD PARTNERING SCHOOLS

Asia Pacific School of Mission
Bangalore School of Mission
Brazil School of Mission
Central Africa School of Mission
Dan Kuria School of Mission
European School of Mission
French West Africa School of Mission
Latin America School of Mission
New England School of Mission
Southern Africa School of Mission
West Africa School of Mission



IMPACT & STATISTICS

- \$11 million USD Granted Since 2011
- 19 Schools supported since 2011
- More than 70% of Graduates Enter Full-Time Ministry
- 390 Graduates
- 409 Students



SEVEN VALUES OF SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP

CHORD embraces a vision of holistic biblical leadership that is grounded in the ministry and the teachings of Jesus. CHORD's values for its network of Schools of Mission are:

- Transformational Spirituality
- Learner's Humility
- Spiritual Identity
- Healthy Relationality
- Development of Giftedness
- Vocational Competency
- Christocentric Leadership

For more information about CHORD and our schools worldwide, please visit our website at chord.org

EUROPEAN SCHOOL OF MISSIONS

FINANCIAL PRINCIPLES

1. Tuition fee: 1 000€/ year
 - Tuition covers **cost of teaching**
 - Tuition is **paid by the student's church**.
 - Travel cost (est. 1000€/year) for students is paid by the intern's church; room and board cost will be kept to a minimum but required for each session.
 - Travel and room and board need to be paid before each session.
 - A surcharge of 200€ a church will apply for churches not part of the EFCC (European Federation of Churches of Christ).
2. Payment Information:

European Federation of Churches of Christ (EFCC) – Petit-Lancy
IBAN: CH16 0900 0000 9190 4556 4
BIC: POFICHBEXX
Bank: PostFinance Ltd
Mingerstrasse 20
CH – 3030 Berne
3. Payment schedule:
 - Travel and room and board before each session
 - Tuition:
 - 50% by May 15 = 500€
 - 50% by January 15 = 500€

ESOM SERVICE TEAM

ROLE	CONTACT	CHURCH	EMAIL
Director	Micha Brück	Amsterdam	michabrueck@gmail.com
Academic Directors	Brad and Ann King	Paris	brad@kingsrus.net, ann@kingsrus.net
Training Directors	Jon and Rachel Buchholz	Milan	jonathanmbuchholz@gmail.com, rachelmbuchholz@gmail.com
Finances and Operations	Yannick and Emma Le Noan Dani Brück	Paris Amsterdam	yannick@lenoan.com, emma@lenoan.com danibrueck1@gmail.com

REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Students can join ESOM at the beginning of every academic year (August).
Exceptions can be discussed.

For registration or if you are considering supporting our work financially, please contact Micha Brück at michabrueck@gmail.com

Curriculum

KNOWING (98 HOURS)

Head: Brad King

OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY / OLD TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION	A survey of the contents and backgrounds of the Christian Old Testament with an emphasis on learning to interpret the OT texts accurately.
NUMBER OF HOURS	20 hours over one year
REQUIRED READING	Motyer, <i>Loving the Old Testament</i>
FURTHER READING	D.A. Carson, <i>Exegetical Fallacies</i> Douglas Jacoby, <i>A Quick Overview of the Bible</i> Philip Yancey, <i>The Bible Jesus Read</i>

NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY / NEW TESTAMENT INTERPRETATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION	A survey of the contents and backgrounds of the New Testament with an emphasis on learning to interpret the NT texts accurately.
NUMBER OF HOURS	20 hours over one year
REQUIRED READING	Gordon D. Fee & Douglas Stuart, <i>How to Read the Bible For All Its Worth</i>
FURTHER READING	Gordon Fee and Douglas Stuart, <i>How to Read the Bible Book by Book</i> F.F. Bruce, <i>The New Testament Documents: Are They Reliable?</i> Helmut Thielicke, <i>A little exercise for young theologians</i>

CHURCH AND RESTORATION HISTORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION	Part 1: A survey of the history of the Christian church from the first century AD to today. Part 2: Restoration history and its impact on our hermeneutics.
NUMBER OF HOURS	14 hours
REQUIRED READING	Justo L. Gonzalez, <i>Church History: An Essential Guide</i>
FURTHER READING	David Berçot, <i>Will the Real Heretics Please Stand Up?</i> Bruce Shelley, <i>Church History in Plain Language</i>

Curriculum

KNOWING (98 HOURS)

Head: Brad King

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

COURSE DESCRIPTION	A study of the work of the Holy Spirit as depicted in the Bible and applied to today.
NUMBER OF HOURS	8 hours
REQUIRED READING	Francis Chan, <i>Forgotten God</i>
FURTHER READING	Douglas Jacoby, <i>The Spirit</i>

WORLD RELIGIONS AND WORLDVIEWS

COURSE DESCRIPTION	The most influential and historically significant philosophies and religions (e.g., Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism) will be dissected, with special emphasis on secular outlooks (atheism, agnosticism, postmodernism). A study of Israel and the pluralism of polytheistic Palestine will anchor the study in a scriptural context. Learn the importance of worldview apologetics in “pre-evangelism” and begin to implement new strategies for connecting with outsiders.
REQUIRED READING	Doug Jacoby, <i>Jesus and Islam</i> Doug Jacoby & Joey Harris, <i>Informed</i>
NUMBER OF HOURS	10 hours
FURTHER READING	James Sire, <i>The Universe Next Door</i>

CONTEMPORARY WESTERN CULTURE

COURSE DESCRIPTION	How did Jesus interact with culture? What does he have to say about modern culture? What does he expect of his followers with respect to culture today? Do disciples of Jesus escape from culture, fight against culture, convert culture or embrace culture? These questions as well as matters of biblical justice, ethics, race, socio-economic class and gender will be explored.
NUMBER OF HOURS	10 hours
FURTHER READING	Guy Hammond, <i>Caring Beyond the Margins: What Every Christian Needs to Know About Homosexuality</i> Joseph Henrich, <i>The WEIRDest People in the World</i>

Curriculum

KNOWING (98 HOURS)

Head: Brad King

APOLOGETICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION	This course involves an analysis of the connections between science, theology and philosophy. Consideration is given to the philosophy of science, the relationship of science and religion, and various concepts of cosmology (e.g., the big bang, the anthropic principle, the age of the Universe). Topics include the impact of the Enlightenment, modern and post-modern philosophy, atheism and nihilism, and the meaning of life.
NUMBER OF HOURS	5 hours
REQUIRED READING	Timothy Keller, <i>The Reason for God</i>
FURTHER READING	C. S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i>

STRUCTURE AND FUNCTION OF THE CHURCH

COURSE DESCRIPTION	Overview of the function of the church as a whole and church polity, including the roles of elders, evangelists, teachers and deacons as seen in the New Testament.
NUMBER OF HOURS	2 hours
FURTHER READING	Alexander Strauch, <i>Biblical Eldership</i>

Curriculum

BEING (66 HOURS)

Head: Micha Brück

WALKING WITH GOD: GOD THE FATHER

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>In this course we debate and seek answers to the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is God? We take a deeper look at the character of God. 2. What are spiritual disciplines that help us to connect with God? 3. How are we influenced “in” and “by” our view of God? 4. How do I change my view of God and help others to change their view of God?
NUMBER OF HOURS	6 hours
FURTHER READING	<p>Henry Blackaby, <i>Experiencing God: Knowing and Doing the Will of God</i> David G. Benner: <i>Opening to God: Lectio Divina and Life as Prayer</i> David G. Benner, <i>Soulful Spirituality: Becoming Fully Alive and Deeply Human</i> Jerry Bridges, <i>The Joy of Fearing God</i> A.A. Calhoun, <i>Spiritual Disciplines Handbook: Practices That Transform Us</i> James I. Packer, <i>Knowing God</i> Peter Scazzero, <i>Emotionally Healthy Spirituality</i></p>

WALKING WITH JESUS: GOD THE SON

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>In this course we will focus on Jesus. Jesus is Lord. He is also our friend and brother as well as our role model.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who is Jesus? We take a deeper look at the character of Jesus. 2. What are spiritual disciplines that help us to connect with God? 3. What does it mean to have Jesus as my “Vision”? 4. What does it mean to walk “with” Jesus, not “for” him?
NUMBER OF HOURS	7 hours
REQUIRED READING	J.D. Jefferson, <i>Jesus the Same</i>
FURTHER READING	<p>Timothy Keller, <i>Encounters with Jesus: Unexpected Answers to Life’s Biggest Questions</i> Bruce Marchiano, <i>The Character of a Man: Reflecting the Image of Jesus</i> Jim Reapsome, <i>Knowing Jesus: 150 Reflections on the Life and Teaching of Christ</i> Textus Receptus Study (youtube series): The Gospel of Matthew</p>

Curriculum

BEING (66 HOURS)

Head: Micha Brück

WALKING WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT: THE SPIRIT

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>We will discuss different questions concerning the Holy Spirit:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What does it mean to walk in the Spirit and to be in tune with the Spirit? 2. What are the fruits of the Holy Spirit and how to develop them?
NUMBER OF HOURS	7 hours
REQUIRED READING	Francis Chan, <i>The Forgotten God</i>
FURTHER READING	Douglas Jacoby, <i>The Spirit</i>

RELATIONAL LEADERSHIP: SELF-LEADERSHIP

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>Relational leadership is about being with and influencing people. Self-awareness is a key characteristic of a leader who wants to connect with people and wants to have a lasting influence. We will look at different questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the heart? 2. How do I take ownership of my heart? 3. Deep repentance: What is the connection between the way I think, feel and act? 4. How do people grow? 5. How to set healthy boundaries without building walls? 6. Vulnerability, empathy, humility, courage and curiosity are key values of a leader. What are these values and how do we develop them?
NUMBER OF HOURS	14 hours
REQUIRED READING	Gavin Ortlund, <i>Humility: The Joy of Self-Forgetfulness</i>
FURTHER READING	<p>David G. Benner, <i>The Gift of Being Yourself: The Sacred Call to Self-Discovery</i> Brené Brown, <i>Daring Greatly</i> Brené Brown, <i>Atlas of the Heart</i> Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth, <i>Brokenness: The Heart God Revives</i> Alan Fadling, <i>An Unhurried Leader: The Lasting Fruit of Daily Influence</i> James C. Hunter, <i>The Servant: A Simple Story about the True Essence of Leadership</i> Peter Scazzaro, <i>Emotionally Healthy Leadership</i></p>

Curriculum

BEING (66 HOURS)

Head: Micha Brück

RELATIONAL LEADERSHIP: LEADING OTHERS

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>We will look at different questions on how to lead other people with a lasting influence:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How do I connect with different people? 2. How do I master difficult conversations? 3. What does it mean to lead as a servant? 4. How do I lead to change/transform? 5. Mediation: How to resolve a conflict? 6. How to lead in a team?
REQUIRED READING	Brené Brown, <i>Dare to Lead</i>
NUMBER OF HOURS	13 hours
FURTHER READING	<p>Joseph Grenny, Kerry Patterson et al, <i>Crucial Conversations: Tools for Talking When Stakes Are High</i></p> <p>Henry Cloud and John Townsend, <i>How People Grow: What the Bible Reveals about Personal Growth</i></p>

COUNSELING AND COACHING: THE BASICS

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>Basics in counseling and coaching:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How to define counseling and coaching? 2. When does someone need more than a friend? 3. Where are my responsibilities, competence and boundaries when it comes to mental illness? 4. How do I walk with someone who is mentally ill as a friend or as a group?
NUMBER OF HOURS	4 hours

COUNSELING AND COACHING: SEXUALITY

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>God is the creator of our sexuality, and sex is good! We will focus on these questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is God's view on sexuality? 2. How do we develop our sexuality from childhood to adult? 3. How do we develop a healthy view of sex and learn to live within our God-given boundaries? 4. Can we help others to live in these God-given boundaries? 5. How do we talk about sex in the church, in a small group, individually?
NUMBER OF HOURS	5 hours

Curriculum

BEING (66 HOURS)

Head: Micha Brück

SPIRITUAL FORMATION

COURSE DESCRIPTION	As His apprentice, we will look over the shoulder of our master Jesus, and look at different spiritual habits that described his daily living such as rest & silence, fasting, prayer, mediation, scripture and more. This course will be held at a monastery and includes reflecting on these different habits as well as practicing them.
REQUIRED READING	John Mark Comer, <i>Practicing the Way</i>
NUMBER OF HOURS	7 hours

NEO PERSONALITY TEST

NUMBER OF HOURS	2 hours
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Curriculum

DOING (97 HOURS)

Head: Jon Buchholz

MAKING DISCIPLES: BECOMING WORKERS IN THE HARVEST FIELD

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>This course equips students to be effective in evangelising and converting the lost by covering the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to share your faith • How to lead the first principles studies • How to move the heart of a seeker towards conversion • Answering the hard questions of this generation that hold them back from God
NUMBER OF HOURS	34 hours
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	<p>Memorizing your church's first principles study series Involvement in evangelism and seeker studies in home church</p>
RECOMMENDED READING	<p>Robert E. Coleman, <i>The Master Plan of Evangelism</i> C.S. Lewis, <i>Mere Christianity</i> Greg Koukl, <i>Tactics: A Gameplan for Discussing Your Christian Convictions</i></p>

LEADING OTHERS: BUILDING A CULTURE OF FAITH AND VICTORY

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>This course trains students to build a culture of faith and victory in the settings in which they are called to serve and lead. For this, we develop students in the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building momentum and family • A culture of repentance, courage, holiness and grace • Shepherding a small group and individuals through one-another relationships • Raising others up around them into servant-leadership
NUMBER OF HOURS	34 hours
RECOMMENDED READING	<p>Gordon Ferguson & Wyndham Shaw, <i>Golden Rule Leadership</i> J. Oswald Sanders, <i>Spiritual Leadership: Principles of Excellence for Every Believer</i></p>

Curriculum DOING (97 HOURS)

Head: Jon Buchholz

SPEAKING EFFECTIVELY: PRESENTING THE WORD OF GOD PUBLICLY

COURSE DESCRIPTION	<p>This course teaches students to communicate God's Word to His Church accurately and effectively in various ministry contexts through the following means:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyzing a text for its meaning and application • Preparing and structuring a sermon or lesson for the appropriate ministry context • Delivering the sermon or lesson with real-time feedback • Workshopping rhetorical tools and strategies for delivery
NUMBER OF HOURS	34 hours
COURSE REQUIREMENTS	<p>Prepare a 5-8 minute sermon for the ESOM preaching workshop Watch and analyze several sermons for their form and content</p>
RECOMMENDED READING	<p>Timothy Keller, <i>Preaching: Communicating Faith in an Age of Skepticism</i> Haddon Robinson, <i>Biblical Preaching</i> Andy Stanley, <i>Communicating for a Change: Seven Keys to Irresistible Communication</i></p>

In addition to the courses at the ESOM sessions, the DOING curriculum will have a **strong focus on the practical application and training done in the local setting.**

In order to do this effectively, an effective communication loop with all of the ESOM students, teachers and trainers must be developed so as to keep all parties informed of and focused on specific growth areas over the three-year period.

We look forward to further discussion of how this can be done effectively.

Appendix 1

BOOK REVIEW

The ESOM regulations stipulate that there is a mandatory reading assignment for each ESOM Session as preparatory homework. The following instructions should help you to read the books productively and to summarize what you have learned in writing.

Preliminary Remarks:

The required reading and book review supplement your own personal study, discussion and reflection on each topic. Please submit your written book reviews to your trainer.

Documentation of having done the required reading is a prerequisite for completing your training.

Technical Requirements:

Length: Two sides (DIN/A4) for each book

Format: Typed. Font: 12 point Times, Times New Roman or Palatino. Margins: approximately 3cm on all sides.

Language: Mother tongue or English (your choice)

THE BOOK REVIEW HAS THREE PARTS:

01. Summary (*half page*)

Summarize the main subject and scope of the book.

- What is it about?
- What topics are covered? The author should be able to recognise your summary as factually correct and accurate.

02. Critical evaluation (*half page*)

- What makes this book unique (strong points)?
- What surprised you positively?
- What gaps in content or presentation did you notice (weak points)?
- Did you expect more in any area? If so, what?
- Who should be reading this book and why (information about the target group that the author has in mind)?
- Have you read other books on this subject that you would recommend instead of or in addition to this book?

03. Personal response (*half page*)

The entire second page is for your personal reflection and examination of the book. The following guiding questions can help you:

- To what extent did this book help you gain new knowledge for future ministry work or evaluate past ministry work?
- To what extent did the book help clarify your current views on your convictions/ministry work/counseling?
- What new insights cause you to rethink and possibly make corrections in your lifestyle and/or ministry practice?
- What specific changes in your ministry work need to be made after reading this book?
- How does this book help equip you in the areas of theology, ministry work, counseling or character and walk with God?

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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name (first and last/address/church):

QUESTIONS TO HELP US KNOW YOU AND PREPARE TO SERVE YOU

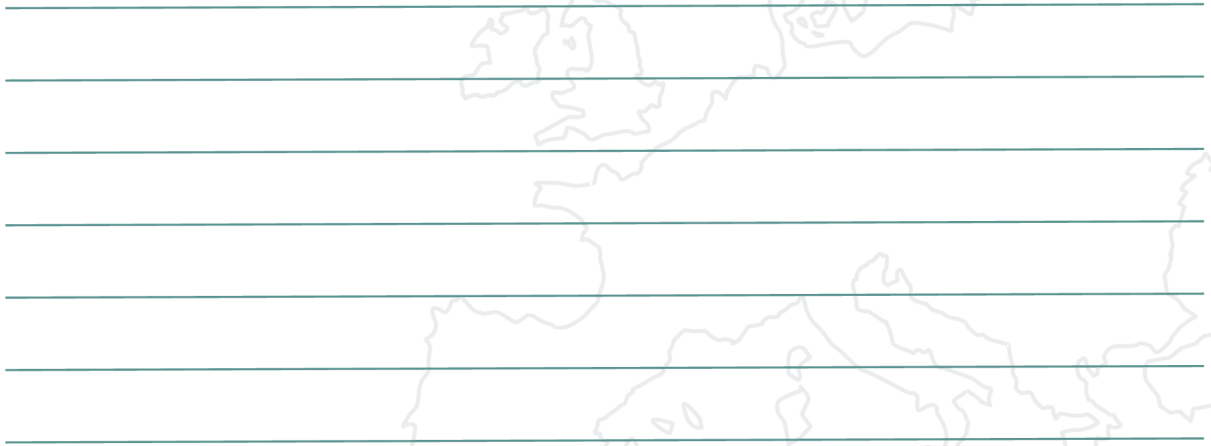
01. How and when did you become a Christian?

02. Why do you want to take part in the ESOM?

03. Tell us about your involvement in your local church.

ESOM STUDENT APPLICATION

04. What vision or dreams do you have for yourself as well as your local ministry?



05. Could you envision yourself working in the ministry (full time/part time)? Why or why not?

06. Share a scripture (please give book, chapter and verse) that has repeatedly blessed or touched you and tell how it has affected your life.

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07. My deepest study has been inspired by
(SELECT ONE)

- A burning question
- A desire to know/understand
- A class I am going to teach
- A Quiet Time I would like to have

08. When you sit down to study the Bible, on which of the following aids do you most often rely?
(SELECT ONE)

- Concordance
- Commentary (ies)
- Bible encyclopedia(s) and/or dictionary(ies)
- Devotional or inspirational book
- Lexicons
- Interlinear translation

09. Which of the following most energises you spiritually?
(SELECT ONE)

- Solitary prayer
- Group prayer
- Corporate worship
- Devotional reading
- In-depth Bible study
- Periods of silence and reflection

10. I also gain a lot of spiritual energy from
(SELECT ONE)

- Solitary prayer
- Group prayer
- Corporate worship
- Devotional reading
- In-depth Bible study
- Periods of silence and reflection

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11. I LEAST OFTEN gain spiritual energy from
(SELECT ONE)

- Solitary prayer
- Group prayer
- Corporate worship
- Devotional reading
- In-depth Bible study
- Periods of silence and reflection

12. Referring to the last three questions about spiritual energy, share insights you have about what draws you to these spiritual practices.

13. Share a snapshot you have in your heart of a recent moment where you knew God had used you to touch someone else's life. What insight did you gain from this experience?

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14. When you consider your life at this point in time, what behaviours would you like to see change or in what areas do you want to grow?

15. What would you say are your three greatest strengths and three greatest challenges?

16. What do you expect from being part of ESOM? What do you need/expect from the teachers/coaches? Who will be your trainer?

Appendix 3

ESOM STUDENT RECOMMENDATION FORM & TRAINER COMMITMENT FORM

Name of ESOM Candidate: _____

Name of Trainer: _____

Church: _____

Administrative contact: _____

Trainer WhatsApp number: _____

1. Why do you believe that this candidate should be an ESOM student?

2. Have you read the ESOM Trainer expectations in this document and do you commit to engage with ESOM and this candidate as a trainer?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Comments: _____

3. Has your church reviewed and approved this candidate's application?

_____ Yes

_____ No

Comments: _____

