

September 22, 2006

## **What Is M.I.T.?**

At first glance, you might say it is what you use to catch a baseball or to take something hot out of the oven. But it is a whole lot more than that. M.I.T. stands for "Morningview Institute of Theology", and it is a new ministry through which all of our membership can take classes in both doctrinal and practical matters. As you can see on the diagram on page 3, there are four different ministry tracks to choose from.

The *Christian Life Studies* track is structured to set you on the right road to spiritual maturity by teaching classes on practical dynamics of the spiritual life, as well as how to serve and witness. The *Family Ministry* track will focus on a host of family issues such as parenting, strengthening marriages, and setting forth the Scriptural grounds for family life. The *Leadership and Ministry* track is to help prepare those who sense God calling them to positions of leadership in the church. If you desire to teach, develop lessons, and minister in the community, this track would be for you. Finally, there is the *Theology* track. This is for those who want to go a step further and be challenged by some of the same classes that you would receive at a seminary. Such classes would be excellent preparation for ministers and excellent training for those who feel led to serve as deacons or elders.

The M.I.T. program will replace our existing Discipleship Training program, and upon finishing the 24 classes in a given track, our members will be granted a certificate of Lay-Theological Training. My primary hope is that through this program, we will build and feed a deeper hunger for the Scriptures and the glory of God in our lives. My second hope is that we will be more faithfully equipped as God's people to engage our culture with Biblical truth and to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to all nations.

I hope you will take some time to pray about your involvement in this new ministry. Don't feel intimidated by it – I promise you will enjoy taking the classes! We are never so old or so young or so busy that we cannot make time to study the Word and grow in our faith. Classes will start in January. I look forward to seeing you in class!

### **CORE classes offered Winter Quarter** (January 14 – March 18)

Theology 101, New Testament Survey, Baptist Distinctives, Intro to Christian Hedonism

### **CORE classes offered Spring Quarter** (March 25 – June 10)

Theology 102, Personal Evangelism, Spiritual Warfare, The Worshipping Church