

Nurture Program

Why does Bethlehem have the Nurture Program?

The Nurture Program exists to prepare future global partners with the basic knowledge, character, and skills that are required for effective cross-cultural ministry. In doing so, it allows members of the Nurture Program to both *know* and *be known* by Bethlehem Baptist Church so that the local church can recognize and affirm the Holy Spirit's calling on their lives and send them in a manner worthy of God. All who desire to be sent out as global partners must complete the Nurture Program.

What is the Nurture Program?

We perceive there to be three key dimensions in which the future global partner needs to develop within the context of the local church. These dimensions are *knowledge*, *character*, and *skills*. As members work their way through the Nurture Program, each level of the program will seek to address these aspects of global partner growth by means of various seminars, courses, books, and other resources. Each member of the Nurture Program should contact the GO Dept (nurtureprogram@hopeinGod.org) when he or she is ready to advance to the next level for application materials.

How does one move to the next level of the Nurture Program?

Once the majority of the components for each level have been completed, Nurture Program members should contact the GO department to receive an application for the next level. The Nurture Program components do not necessarily need to be completed in any particular order (for example, someone may complete a Level 2 component while remaining in Level 1), but one must complete Level 1 components before advancing to Level 2 status.

If someone has already completed a component prior to joining the Nurture Program, this component does not need to be re-done. Likewise, the GO department does accept functional equivalents on a case-by-case basis. Members should contact the GO department for any proposed functional equivalents.

What is the format for writing reflections for each component?

Each Nurture Program component other than the various courses requires a one-page reflection to be written and submitted to nurtureprogram@hopeinGod.org. The format for this reflection is dependent upon what is most helpful for the Nurture Program member. A helpful option might be to write two paragraphs summarizing the material covered in the component and two paragraphs applying this material to cross-cultural ministry. These reflections are intended to help the GO department see how members are processing different components as well as serve as a helpful tool as members prepare for the Level 3 application.

For more information about the Nurture Program contact nurtureprogram@hopeinGod.org.