

ANDREW CARDEN

CHRISTIAN MINISTRY/THEOLOGY

Senior School Subjects

- Year 11: English, History, Music, Further Mathematics
+ 4 Advancement, Religion and Society Units 3 + 4 Advancement,
- Year 12: English, History, Biology, Music (Group Performance), Mathematical Methods.



What resources did you use to choose subjects? Teachers, parents, Senior Course Guide, university course outlines and university prerequisites.

What was your course like? Christian ministry and theology was very convenient to study: I was able to slot it in amongst uni and part time employment - it was essentially just an extension of the ministry work I was already doing with an additional 10 hours per week of program development, study, assignments or meetings.

What did you enjoy about your course? My course was industry based, so aside from learning the theology and logical discussion, review and arguments/relationship building with God, I was also able to learn what working in the church environment was like, as well as make many contacts. Most of all, being part of a Christ focused community at work meant I was able to engage with God very easily in the work place, and often felt like I wasn't doing any formal study or employment at all.

How did the subjects at school prepare you for your course? A huge aspect of any ministry work is communication. Written or verbal, you can't escape it. If you want to do any sort of ministry you need develop solid writing skills and the ability to present an idea in a format others can get. It may be to a group of 4 people. It may be to 4000. The bottom line is you need to be able to write programs, interpret the bible amongst current socio-political context and have the ability to listen to people and really allow God to use you to connect to their needs. Religion and Society gives a good intro to theological concepts and church history, which will make life easier later on (especially the reformation). If you are 100% committed to pursuing a career in ministry I'd recommend studying things like Media, Business Management, English and some humanities.

What are you doing now in your graduate position? I worked as an itinerant preacher for small churches and camps. I also hosted and frequently guest hosted on a local Christian radio program. I wrote curriculum for youth and children's camps and ministries and designed programs alongside my wife working with high school students. I also frequently am involved in informal counselling as we seek to plug people into more appropriate healthcare and resources.

What do you enjoy about your job? That I get paid to do what I'm passionate about: loving God and loving people. Also, working in such a God focused environment. Whether it's in the formal paid capacity, or sponsored volunteer work, there's always someone who needs help, and always another job that needs doing. The world is always changing and there are always new and exciting challenges to be faced. Few things are better than facing the problem of having a ministry quadruple in size within 12 months forcing you to re-think your approach from the sheer necessity of increased numbers.