

Rooted in Jesus—Diocese of George, 22-24 February 2013

Bishop Martin Breytenbach led a team of RinJ trainers to train clergy, churchleaders and laity who serve in the Diocese of George. Below are comments made by team members:



“I just attended my first Rooted in Jesus training, and the experience was amazing. On the outset, Rooted in Jesus may look like a simple course in Christian discipleship; but upon a closer look, it is a powerful and meaningful course, equipping Africans in their faith in a context that is relative for them. These disciples in turn lead Rooted in Jesus groups, making more Disciples of Christ.

I had the privilege to teach the Christian Leadership workshops, and it was a joy to discuss together the traits of servant leadership. Even as a trainer, I was challenged to think about how I support and encourage my own leaders, the clergy and lay people who help shepherd my life of faith.

One of the things I enjoyed most about Rooted in Jesus was the visualization of parables and concepts. These illustrations open up the visual senses, helping people relate to scripture in new and engaging ways. I will never again read the Parable of the Sower without visualizing the skit that accompanied the reading.

What I enjoyed the most, however, was the relationships. From the clergy to the lay people, there was such a tender and gentle spirit among all the participants and leaders. Having a collective tender heart allowed room for the Spirit to move, which he did. For me, one of the highlights of the training weekend took place in a small group practice session. One person sharing about his son’s drug addiction and eventual deliverance from his addiction led to other people sharing about how addiction has affected their lives. One young woman piped up saying, ‘These stories give me hope. I had stopped praying for my father and for his deliverance from drugs because I had given up hope. Now I can have hope again.’ It was a blessing and a joy to see how group members ministered to one another in this session. It was a beautiful picture of the Church being the Church.”

- **Nicole Corlew – GtC’s Youth Development and Resourcing**

“Every Rooted in Jesus Conference is different. What an amazing time we had in the Diocese of George. The feelings of being intimidated by clergy wearing their clerical collars in the beginning soon disappeared. The interaction between group members and clergy was stunning, such transparency! Unlike other times when parishioners make themselves vulnerable, the clergy did so instead. This resulted in a commitment made by parishioners to be more supportive of their priests.

During the workshop “Leading a RinJ Group”, looking at what a leader should be like, a group member, Chris, confessed his alcohol addiction and shared that he had just come out of rehab, which his employer had organized. He joined the Church Mens’ Society group to be surrounded by people serving God and was then invited to join the RinJ Conference. He was thrilled to have been considered for the training.

One young lady Michelle was encouraged by clergy to consider going into the priesthood as they recognized her gifts to serve in the church.

People shared about the challenges they face with regard to family pressures to submit to ancestor consultations. Having shared testimonies of people who had similar challenges, they realized that their situation was common and that through being disciplined, and the bible, they have discovered the solution to their problems.”

- **Estelle Adams, GtC**

"I just loved the Rooted in Jesus training weekend. I wanted to be equipped to run a group in Cape Town - a diverse group of believers and non-believers, speaking three different languages. I found the training incredibly helpful - it has given me a new perspective on being a leader and a new confidence in Jesus and what the Holy Spirit can do if he is given free reign. I can see how R in J is a God-given tool for making and multiplying disciples.

The biggest gift for me was meeting the amazing Bishop of George - a spirit-filled, servant leader - what a fantastic example of what a bishop should be! Both he and Bishop Martin exemplify the kind of leaders the Lord envisages for our church. I feel filled with hope that our church has people of this caliber and humility in it. All the people from the George Diocese were just wonderful too. Mixing clergy up with lay people worked very well and was fun! God is on the move and I am convinced that GtC is part of this great move. R in Jesus is 'good news' for our Anglican church.”

- **Alison Bourne GtC Intercessor**

“Greetings to all in God's glorious Name! My report could make up a little book, however, I have been allowed to write one paragraph. In the past, my memories about George was always about gloomy weather with lots of wind and rain. Yet this time around God showed me a New Thing. The Sun was shining on George throughout the weekend. Smiles, hospitality, food, food and more food!

We started the programme by forming small groups which became our family for weekend. Members showed concern and even wanted to know if we had slept well. Our 'family' was excited to learn and absorb what God had prepared for them. We just gave and gave what God had equipped us with and laid on our hearts. Personally I just could not stop thanking God for this opportunity and I am truly humbled to be part of the Rooted in Jesus Training Team to serve His people. Everyone from Bishop Brian to the ordinary parishioner showed such love which reflected how Rooted they are in Jesus they already are. Thank God for showing me His Love from the time I travelled with my three sisters (the team of trainers) to George, to time spent with the family in George Diocese. Thanx to GtC for all you doing in God vineyard.”

- **Amanda Ohlsson**

