



Our Vision: To be a vibrant God-centred Anglican Church, clearly growing spiritually, numerically and holistically.



GtC UPDATE

Fourth Quarter – December 2012

A blessed Christmas from all of us to all of you!



ANGLICAN ABLAZE!

Christmas: Presents and Presence

+Martin Breytenbach GtC Liaison Bishop

Why do Anglican Christians love Christmas so much? As a child my answer was simple, and in one word, "Presents!" And today I can condense it all into a very similar word: "Presence". Christmas celebrates God's presence with us: Emmanuel, incarnation. In Jesus God came to be *with us* in our predicament and, as one of us, to rescue us from all that robs us of life.

Extensions of his presence

Once we have received Jesus by faith, God calls us to become extensions of his presence in the world by the power of the Holy Spirit – the body of Christ. We are to be the incarnation of God's reign in creation.

That's the meaning of Growing the Church (GtC). At a superficial level church growth can be reduced to ideas, techniques and gimmicks to bring about numerical (and financial) growth – which is no better than commercialised Christmas which has been emptied of its meaning. But genuine church growth is about incarnation, revealing God to the world through the quality of our life, ministry and mission.

Holistic Growth

At GtC we are committed to holistic growth which produces genuine disciples of Christ in incarnational churches. This came through strongly at the wonderful Anglicans Ablaze conference in October. In every aspect, whether it was Rooted in Jesus, Fresh Expressions, Integral Mission, Back to Church Sunday, ministry and intercession, or authentically Anglican Spirit-filled worship, we experienced God with us.

We look forward to helping the church grow in incarnational mission and ministry in 2013. We look forward to seeing what God will do among us next, and to partnering with you in this exciting calling.

So, from all at GtC, we wish you a blessed Christmas as you celebrate the presence of God with us in Jesus. And we look forward to the adventure of our journey into the New Year together.

A blessed Christmas to you!

*+Martin. St Mark
the Evangelist*



Please pass this newsletter on to your parishes / parishioners / 10 or more friends. Thanks.

Anglicans Ablaze Leaders decide the way forward

EXCITING NEWS

First, thank you for all your prayers and support, especially for the Anglicans Ablaze Conference and for Growing the Church as the host. The GtC Board met in Johannesburg on 26 & 27 November followed by the AA Leaders meeting on the 28th to consider the way forward. The leaders confirmed that 2013 should be a year of implementation to be followed by another Anglicans Ablaze conference in the middle of 2014. Since the venue can only hold 3,000 people, bookings will begin in the middle of 2013 on a first come first served basis. Don't miss out!

RESOURCES FOR 2013 – the year of implementation

1. Taking the AA Conference to the Anglican masses

- GtC is busy developing a **booklet of study guides** to be used in conjunction with the conference DVD's in **small group settings**. It will be available early next year. In this way thousands more people will be able to "attend" the AA Conference! **We will keep you updated via the AA Website as from 20 January 2013**
www.anglicansablaze.org
- GtC teams are ready to assist dioceses with **Diocesan AA Conferences in 2013** by doing live talks as well as by the means of video-casts using the AA DVD's. Enquire from our office for more details.
- **Rooted in Jesus:** Growing the Church has already received numerous requests to assist parishes, archdeaconries, dioceses and organisations with a variety of teaching and training conferences. Take one example: The Dioceses of St Mark, Lesotho, Swaziland, Mpumalanga, Matlosane, Pretoria, Kimberley & Kuruman, George and Namibia to name a few, as well as MU, AWF and Bernard Mizeki groups have all asked us to roll out the **Rooted in Jesus Discipleship Course** in their various contexts. This is exciting and will involve lots of teams and travel. Please pray for us!

2. Three new Departments will assist implementation

- **School of Fresh Expressions (FX):** In the very short space of time since the conference, an ecumenical group (based at Stellenbosch University) has agreed to drive the vision, mission, values and implementation of "Fresh Expressions of Church" in Southern Africa. A core team, to be led by Gordon Crowther, will travel to Britain in February to sign a memorandum of understanding, receive the training materials and themselves be equipped to teach, train and help churches to implement FX with contextual relevance.

A pilot training course begins early next year. College of the Transfiguration (COTT) have asked to be included and they will help lead the way for Anglicans. Isn't this exciting!!! [FX encourages and resources new ways of being church and works with a broad range of denominations and traditions. This movement has resulted in thousands of new congregations being formed alongside more traditional churches in Britain.] Pray for Gordon Crowther – Cape Town, Paul Siaki – Johannesburg, Ben Aldous – Natal and Mark Spyker – Grahamstown as they build multi-cultural implementation teams around the Province.

- **School of Youth Development and Resourcing:**

Nicole Corlew will head up this unit which kicks off on 1 February 2013. It will work with other youth ministries. Please pray for Nicole and for this area of greatest need in our church.

- **School of Preaching:**

First pioneered in the Diocese of St Mark, this unit has matured and will now be launched throughout the Province. Since every congregation hears about 52 sermons per year on average, assisting clergy and lay-preachers to grow their preaching ability by at least 5-10% per annum will no doubt benefit their thousands of listeners! Please pray for Duncan McLea, an accomplished preacher, as he puts together a suitable Provincial team.



GtC Board listened and were inspired!

GtC Board invited Ms Kosi Khoza, from the Diocese of Christ the King, to share the heartbeat of the youth. The Revds Ben Aldous from the Diocese of Natal and Mark Spyker, Diocese of Grahamstown, who are committed to the implementation of "Fresh Expressions of Church", also joined their meeting in Johannesburg. Their energetic presence and valuable comments certainly inspired the members of the Board.



Ben Aldous
Natal



Khosi Khoza
Christ the King



Mark Spyker
East London

Rooted in Jesus (RinJ)

The Revd Claire Nye Hunter from the Diocese of Grahamstown has been leading a "Rooted in Jesus" course for the Cathedral of St Michael and St George, Grahamstown, weekly since August 2011. This diverse group of 10 participants are currently doing Module 7. Claire plans to start a RinJ group for Rhodes students next year, and incorporate it into their confirmation classes.

Two of her group members said:

"I'm not really a "groupie" person and I kept being "nagged" about the "Rooted in Jesus" notice as it appeared regularly in the leaflet. It was quite a last minute decision because I felt I needed to explore and learn how I as an individual could allow my roots of faith to find depth and meaning through this course. And it did not disappoint!"

"I now look forward to our Tuesday gathering at the Deanery and the lively and animated participation that takes place. This course has given me the opportunity of creating bonds with people in an unexpected way. I have become more conscious of how I should conduct myself, how I should treat and respect others. We have delved into the Bible and scriptures at such depth and given me a new insight into the meaning of THE WORD. Revd Claire is an excellent teacher and stretches our thinking. She is a hard task master when it comes to memorising verses and that is a personal weakness with me but I'm encouraged to slog at it. I can see now what an amazing reference and guideline to life the Bible is – all that we need to know about life and how to live it is right there at our fingertips!" - **June**

"I have certainly learnt how to pray for others in groups, and also the meaning of the bible verses given to us to memorise. I have grown spiritually in my own special way. What stood out for me is the way Claire took us through the Lord's Prayer and explained what each verse meant. Looking forward to next year!" – **Avis**

Puck Addison from Holy Cross Anglican Church in Empangeni writes: "Our parish and also our Diocese are doing the course "Rooted in Jesus" and from all reports it is proving to be successful, enjoyable and we can recommend it". ■

RinJ 2013

The discipleship programme for Africa is now in use in some 45 dioceses or denominations across the continent.

See the RinJ prayer diary for the latest news and testimonies on their website www.rootedinjesus.net.

The Cathedral of Grahamstown will start with Book 3 (Module 7-9) and plans to run a group for Rhodes students in 2013.

Revd Jackie Trollip St Francis Church, Jeffreys Bay have moved onto Book 2.

Puck Addison from Empangeni and his group have moved on to Book 3.

Requests for RinJ to be implemented came from Lesotho, Swaziland, Mpumalanga, Matlosane, Pretoria, Kimberley & Kuruman, George, Namibia and then from some smaller parish / Archdeaconry groups.

GtC will have to do follow-up visits for 10 Archdeaconries in Zululand, Port Elizabeth and Christ the King in 2013.

IT and Media Ministry Review

It has been a very busy first year for the new Information Technology and Media Ministry at Growing the Church. Some of the activities we were involved in are listed below:

- Developed websites for several churches, organisations and a diocese within ACSA.
- For the Anglicans Ablaze Conference we developed a custom registration database and website. We also co-ordinated the DVD's and photographs.
- Photographed and videoed several events for ACSA.
- Created training videos for parishes and dioceses.
- Developed a bulk e-mail database for GtC.

Looking to the future we are excited about the development of **myanglican.org**, a centralised database system which can be used by Dioceses, Parishes and Organisations to meet membership needs. The system will also connect members of our Anglican Church in beneficial ways. Please contact Michael to find out more and give your suggestions. ■



Communication in the 21st Century

Michael Künz, GtC's IT & Media Consultant recently addressed the Diocesan Council of the Highveld Diocese about Communication in the 21st Century.

On the left is Bishop David Bannerman, Bishop of the Diocese of the Highveld, Michael Künz, (on the far right) with some of the clergy during a short break.

What does GtC do?

... we take your responses seriously!

We want to thank all AA attendees for completing the response forms and returning it to us. It took a few days, with the help of volunteers, to capture this valuable information.

Your comments were encouraging and challenging and we have received valuable tips for future conferences. Thank you also, to those persons, parishes, dioceses who have pledged to support GtC in prayer and finances. ■



Pictured above are two of the volunteers, Liesl Hendricks and Melissa Ohlsson who captured the information for our database.

GTC HAS MOVED!

We moved from Bergvliet to Kenilworth in August 2012.

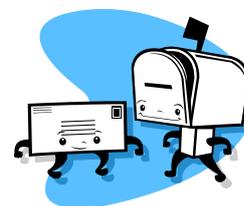
Our new contact details are:

1 Braehead House, Braehead Rd, Kenilworth 7700.

Telephone numbers: 27-21-763 1322/ 086 100 1171/ 27-21-797 9997

Fax Number: 086 623 6187 Email: office@growingthechurch.org.za

Website: www.growingthechurch.org.za



HOW TO INVEST IN GROWING THE CHURCH

Consider this...

1. The overwhelming number of requests for assistance as a result of the conference is going to stretch us and our resources enormously.
2. We are still carrying a small deficit from the conference which we want to liquidate soonest.
3. Our request is for individuals, parishes and dioceses to please prayerfully consider joining those who already donate a small amount every month by debit order to Growing the Church.
4. If you are not able to give regularly, please will you consider giving a small once-off gift this Christmas?

To our regular contributors we say THANK YOU VERY MUCH!

And if you are not using our debit order system, please consider using it. To start donating all you need to do is request a debit order form from our office, fill it out and fax it back to us on 086 632 6187. You can also scan and e-mail it to office@growingthechurch.org.za, or mail it to 1 Braehead House, Braehead Rd, Kenilworth 7700. (Please do not neglect your giving to your own parish).

As a small token of thanks, we will post to everyone who signs a monthly debit order of R100 or more, a **FREE COPY of the Anglicans Ablaze picture** presented to the Archbishop at the conference - see above page 1 of this newsletter. (We have a limited number of copies signed by the Archbishop.) Regular contributors who would like to receive a photo, please let us know by email.

Thank you again for your support in helping us to grow our Anglican Church.

If you would like to:

- Receive newsletters from GtC
- Support GtC in prayer and / or donations,
- Be informed about conferences, seminars and growth opportunities,

Contact us at office@growingthechurch.org.za telephone 021-7763 1322 OR visit our website www.growingthechurch.org.za. Our Bank Account details are: Growing the Church, Standard Bank, Constantia Branch, A/c No 271 625 864, Branch code 025309 (add 00 to branch code for EFT).