

GtC UPDATE



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

DECEMBER 2018

EDITED CHRISTMAS EDITION

God met with us

- Annual gathering of GtC's Diocesan Coordinators, 26 to 29 November 2018

It was an extraordinary gathering. From the time that Bishop Martin and his wife Colleen began leading us in worship in our first session, and at various other points in our time together, we all had a very real sense of God being tangibly present. It was a time of inviting God to minister to us and in turn ministering to each other. Tears, laughter, foot-washing, silence, sharing deeply in word and ministry all produced an inexpressible joy! Ask anyone who was there! Thank you Lord!

You will no doubt be aware of the most recent Anglicans Ablaze International Conference which saw an attendance of over 2000 people. Many people described this event as a tipping point in ACSA. The GtC Board and Diocesan Coordinators thus had the crucial task of discerning how best to 'ride' this God-given wave of opportunity.

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Above are some of the coordinators and GtC Faculty Members who attended the GtC Coordinators conference. Mr Thabang Bengani, Revd Ralph Stapleton, Revd Gary Thompson, Revd Allan Smith, Revd Ulrught Fleurs, Revd Delmaine Petersen, and Canon Mark Barth.

A photo of all the attendees can be seen on Page 3.



CHRISTMAS MESSAGE - †Bishop Martin

Tipping Point: the point at which a series of small changes or incidents become significant enough to cause a larger, more important change.

WE at Growing the Church have been thinking about "tipping points" lately.

Anglicans Ablaze

The Anglicans Ablaze Conference in Natal Diocese in October felt like a tipping point. God seems to have been bringing many people and movements together to create something new in our church. The Holy Spirit is breathing new life into our vision, missional priorities, people, organisations and churches.

Having started small, with about 20 leaders meeting to listen to God in 2010, the movement is gathering its

own momentum and is still increasing. The sparks of fire from the "Ablaze" volcano are spreading and starting new fires in many places, as we sang in our theme song "Come Holy Spirit, move among us". Planning has already begun for regional conferences, and another International Conference in 2020.

Southern Africa

South Africa (and therefore the whole of Southern Africa) seems to be at a tipping point too. Isaiah says "I will restore your judges as in the days of old and your counsellors as at the beginning. Afterward you shall be called the city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness." (Isaiah 1:23-27)

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Thank you! Dankie! Enkosi! Siyabulela!

THANK YOU to all our donors who support us by prayer and donations.

This year Anglicans Ablaze hosted more than 2000 people in the Diocese of Natal, more than any of the other AA conferences. We wish to share with you the remarkable low increase in costs from 2012 to 2018—in fact, AA2018 charged the least for the youth, in the table below:

You will agree that this is nothing short of a miracle, especially when we look at the current inflation rates! All praise and glory to God!

All of this could not have been achieved without your regular support to the ministry of GtC through your faithful prayers, encouragement and your generous donations. Our heartfelt thanks to all of you.

AA 2012—JOHANNESBURG		AA2014—JOHANNESBURG		AA 2016—CAPE TOWN		AA 2018—NATAL	
Full Registration	R695	Full Registration	R850	Full Registration	R850	Full Registration	R850
Early Bird	R595	Early Bird	R750	Early Bird	R650	Early Bird	R650
Discount Rate	R475	Discount Rate	R650	Discounted Rate	R495	Discounted Rate	R450
* Discounted rate for students and people who needed financial assistance		* Discounted rate for students and people who needed financial assistance		* Discounted rate for students and people who needed financial assistance		* Discounted rate for students and people who needed financial assistance	

In addition, you have read about the annual GtC Coordinators meeting on page 1, how beneficial and encouraging this gathering is to the Coordinators and their Diocesan Implementation teams. However some Dioceses cannot afford to attend these meetings and so, where we can, we subsidise their expenses—made possible again by your financial contributions.

Our challenge: Our grant by ACSA has been drastically reduced by 80%! And so, in order to continue the ministry of GtC, we appeal to those who are not regular donors and wish to become one, to do so via **Debit Order**. And if you are a regular donor and wish to increase your contribution, please advise us of any changes. To do so we need a signed GtC Response Form from you, authorising us to load your details as a debit order contributor. [Click here](#) to download the form, or contact Estelle Adams at office@growingthechurch.org.za or 021-763 1375 to request one. May we also request that you pass on our letter of appeal for support to your parish by clicking here [Parish](#) for the letter addressed to the parishes. If you want to make a cash donation, please do so at the ATM rather than at the bank counter as this will reduce bank charges, or pay via EFT. **Our bank details are: Growing the Church, Standard Bank, Constantia, Account No 271625 864, Branch code 051001.**

Anglicans Ablaze's New Liaison Bishop



We welcome the Rt Revd Tsietsi Seleoane the new liaison bishop for GtC and Anglicans Ablaze. He has already been on duty for AA2018! He will fully succeed Bishop Martin Breytenbach, when he retires in February 2019.

We wish to thank +Martin most sincerely for the commitment in serving as Liaison Bishop for GtC for more than ten years as well as serving as Liaison Bishop for Anglicans Ablaze. He will be sorely missed!

From all of us, GtC Board, GtC Staff and Diocesan Coordinators.

WEBSITE Links to AA Photo

For the enlarged AA2018 official group photo click on this link <http://anglicansablaze.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/AA-GroupPhoto2018-002.jpg>

You may download and have it printed yourself. For an indication of its size see Trevor holding the photograph on page 4.

A hard copy of this AA2018 group photo (Size: 90cm x 37cm) can be ordered from GtC Office at the cost of **R200** which includes printing, packaging and postage. Email: office@growingthechurch.org.za to order a copy. Payments can be made via ATM or EFT.

Bank Account details: GtC Teaching and Training, Standard Bank, Constantia, Account no 243 374 151, Branch code 051001.

Some of the AA2018 photos have been loaded on GtC Website gallery. If you wish to take a look, please visit the following site <http://www.growingthechurch.org.za/gallery/thumbnails.php?album=36>

Flash Drives with Anglicans Ablaze 2018 talks can be ordered by calling 021-797 9997 or emailing office@growingthechurch.org.za Cost R150 including postage and packaging. **Please purchase this as an individual or group—to share with many other people.**



Delegates celebrate their own Anglicans Ablaze 2018 in the Diocese of Free State.

FREE STATE DIOCESE HOSTS OWN AA2018

THE Diocese of the Free State held an Anglican Ablaze event from 1-4 November 2018 at St Patrick Church in Bloemfontein. The theme of the conference was **“Master to whom shall we go...”** John 6:68. The aim of the event was to:

- ◆ To create an enabling environment within the Diocese to make Disciples of Christ, where in we can engage effectively in mission and evangelism and to achieve healthy church growth.
- ◆ To achieve a vibrant, Christ-centred church, clearly growing spiritually, numerically and holistically.

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LESOTHO to host RINJ in 2019

LESOTHO Diocese will host a Rooted in Jesus Training Conference 8-10 March 2019.

The venue for the seminar will be Lesotho’s Durham Link venue in Maseru. The Seminar will commence at 5pm and be opened officially by the Diocesan Bishop after dinner on Friday 8th March. Registration will be opened from 17 December 2018 and be closed at the end of February 2019.

“This is one of the important initiatives by the leadership of our Diocese. The cost will be M100.00 per person for the whole weekend covering meals, accommodation and material” said **Revd Dr Joseph Morenammele**.

The Seminar is designed for people who are interested in EVANGELISM & DISCIPLESHIP including clergy, religious workers, youth, adults and representatives of different church guilds. There are only 40 places for this seminar.

The Contact person for the Seminar is Tselisheang Lebea who can be reached by whatsapp her at +266 58021887 or email tselisheanglebea@gmail.com

God met with us...

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We sharpened our direction and will focus on two primary things:

- **Transitioning GtC into each of our 28 dioceses**, so that the local church takes ownership more and more for church growth in their own diocese. This would involve team formation, training and capacity building in each context! If you would like to be part of this exciting movement, please click [HERE](#) to see who the coordinator for your diocese is and be in touch with him / her.
- **Growing the Anglicans Ablaze vision** by encouraging diocesan and regional expressions of worship, teaching, training, and modelling of Christian mission and ministry for the 21st century. The Diocesan Coordinators expressed clearly that the Provincial gathering should continue every two years however.

At the heart of the teaching and training that we will engage in, with respect to the above, will be our **“LEAD Project”** – with a very sharp focus on **Leadership, Evangelism and Discipleship**. These are discerned as the areas of greatest need in this Church that we love. These areas are very evident in the Bible, our Prayer Book, our Canons, as well as in our services such as the institution of a Rector. Please pray for the above.

COMMENTS BY SOME PARTICIPANTS:

“The training was well organised and fruitful. In general the training was helpful and useful in local parishes and at diocesan level.”

- Revd Hectorina Tsotetsi, Diocese of Free State



These are the participants at the GtC Coordinator and Faculty Conference held at St Peter’s, Rosettenville, Johannesburg. Dioceses presented were Cape Town, Christ the King, False Bay, Free State, Grahamstown, Highveld, St Helena, Johannesburg, Kimberley and Kuruman, Khahlamba, Lesotho, Matlosane, Mbashe, Mpumalanga, Natal, Niassa, Port Elizabeth, Pretoria, St Mark the Evangelist, Swaziland and Umzimvubu.

“It was a spiritually reviving and rewarding time.”

- Mrs Zama Dlamini, Diocese of Natal

“I thought the time spent at our recent GtC Coordinators Conference in JHB was very informative, encouraging and uplifting spiritually. Well done to the organizers and conference leaders, especially for their willingness to be open to be “LEAD” by the direction of the Holy Spirit in guiding those from their various Diocese in seeking be faithful disciples in growing the Church.”

- Canon Mark Barth, Diocese of PE

CHRISTMAS MESSAGE Continued

Zion shall be redeemed by justice, and those in her who repent, by righteousness. (Isaiah 1:23-27)

God is against leaders who enrich themselves at the expense of the people they are supposed to serve. But there is hope and promise for those who repent by seeking the Lord, turning from evil and doing God's will. As with Anglicans Ablaze, the move of God can start small – a few appointments of the right people in key places, God's people re-committing themselves to pray for the nations, each of us choosing to live with integrity and justice. This commitment and energy can build momentum until our nations are transformed.

The Prince of Peace

The one who empowers Anglicans Ablaze to become a source of life and transformation in the church, and who empowers each of us to be the change we seek in our nations, is the one whose lowly birth we celebrate at Christmas. Jesus was an unimportant, insignificant baby born to ordinary parents by the world's standards – although Herod instinctively knew he had something to fear! Yet he fulfilled another promise of Isaiah:

For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this. (Isaiah 9:6-7)

This Christmas let us re-commit ourselves to follow, imitate and serve Jesus, the Prince of Peace in the power of the Holy Spirit. Let each of us be part of the "series of small changes or incidents" that become "significant enough to cause a larger, more important change" in our families, places of work, churches and nations.

Have a blessed Christmas!



T Martin

Bishop Dino Gabriel reflects on AA2018

Excerpts from his video:

WE have recently celebrated AA2018 here in the diocese of Natal. We were overwhelmed by the presence of the Holy Spirit in our midst; we were blessed by sharing with our brothers and sisters particularly as the Anglican Church of Southern Africa, and we continue to feel the warmth, joy and happiness we experienced together.

What does it mean for me? I wondered what the conference would it be like. Then, as we started and prayed and worshipped together for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, we had a sense of joy and satisfaction... although it sometimes seemed like I was abandoned by the Holy Spirit. During this conference we could actually touch His presence... now is the time when the rubber hits the road... we now need to show that this is a real experience and translate it into our community.



The Rt Revd Dino Gabriel

We need to ask what kind of church Jesus wants us to be. Then allow ourselves to be transformed by the Holy Spirit, after which we need to demonstrate that in our parishes. I as bishop need to follow up on what the outcome should be for us as a diocese, to really touch base with who we are together as a people of God, treasuring what we experienced so that the transforming power of the Holy Spirit will keep us on fire.

To watch the video click on this link

<https://www.facebook.com/222337801574573/posts/535539166921100/>

FREE STATE DIOCESE HOSTS OWN AA2018

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The format of this year's Free State Anglican's Ablaze, took its inspiration from the Provincial event which was held in Durban from 3-6 October 2018. The topics were chosen specifically to align to the Growing the Church key deliverables.

The main focus of the second day's teaching workshops was the subject of Discipleship whilst the 3rd day focused on teachings about the person of the Holy Spirit. As additional topics the teachings on stewardship and environment (green Anglicans) were also included.



Rev. Trevor Pearce holds up the AA2018 Group Photo.