

L'Abri International

L'Abri International is a residential ministry in a number of different countries of the world. L'Abri is French for shelter. It offers a safe place for questioning and exploring of the Christian faith in community. In South Africa, the L'Abri work is not residential yet, but at the "Resource Centre" stage.

It would be easy to assume that L'Abri focuses on intellectuals or intellectual pursuits only, especially in the work of a resource centre. We try to emphasize that this is not the case and that the life-affirming truth of Christianity speaks to all of human life - this means our lives are not divided between "sacred" and "secular" activities.

We believe that the Bible's description of reality is true, in a meaningful sense of the word "true". This means that a commitment to God makes sense and that faith is never divorced from reason. Moreover, because Christianity is true, not only can it be discussed intellectually, it can also be passionately imagined and practically lived out as the truth. Christian faith integrates all of human life, including our minds, our hearts, our work, our play, and our relationships. This also means that art, history, philosophy, economics, psychology, education, politics, science, contemporary society and all other realms of thought can be engaged from a Biblical perspective.

Profiles

Thorsten Marbach is a husband, father, engineer and theologian. He holds degrees in the latter two, while his learning in the first two is ongoing. Born in Germany but raised in SA, Thorsten started his working life in the corporate world in I.T. and Telecommunications. He then changed track, and besides his work at L'Abri he teaches at a local Bible College and runs a weekly thought leadership forum. A common theme in these endeavours is exploring what truth & goodness look like, how we understand and engage reality, and how our faith connects with all areas of life.

Vera Marbach is a wife, mother, teacher and facilitator-coach. She trained as an Occupational Therapist and worked in psychiatry and paediatrics; she also has a certificate in Theology. During the last few years she has become involved in inter-racial meetings to address the racial tensions evident in South African society. She is passionate about making faith practical; conscious and thought-through living; active citizenship and social justice. She is interested in history and how it influences our present. She writes poetry to process her thoughts and challenges, and published a collection of her poems, "Dwelling in Dissonance", in 2017.

Loraine Beaton is a long-standing friend of L'Abri SA. She lectures Screen Acting at Open Window in Pretoria. She has a BA in Fine Arts and has just completed her MA in Theatre Directing at Wits, where she researched postmodern directorial devices. You can watch her play "Wake Up South Africa" at the National Arts Festival this year!