

# GtC UPDATE



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

**SPECIAL EDITION – OCTOBER 2018**



Left: These young people, from the Parish of Formosa, Plettenberg Bay, Diocese of George, worked tirelessly, and with success, to raise funds to make it possible for them to attend AA2018. Right: The Revd Delysia Bowler Timm from Natal Diocese, with Archbishop Thabo Makgoba.

## ‘Anglicans Ablaze is about church growth’

IT is now two weeks since returning from Anglicans Ablaze 2018. Who can forget the excitement as Bishop Dino Gabriel of Natal, who was the Host Bishop, welcomed us all from around ACSA, Africa and other parts of the world. And who can forget Archbishop Thabo Makgoba presiding over that glorious final Eucharist, and then commissioning and sending all those present to be “disciples who make disciples.” **This edition of GtC Update is dedicated to all those who regularly pray for GtC, and those who regularly give to GtC. THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!!!**

Bellah Zulu, correspondent for the Anglican Communion News Service writes: More than 2000 Anglicans

from Southern Africa and around the world were in Durban, South Africa, last week for Anglicans Ablaze, an international conference within the Anglican Church of Southern Africa. The biennial event, which ran from 3 – 6 October, is a renewal platform meant to set Anglicans “ablaze with God’s love and power in order to build up the church and to serve God in the world.”

The Bishop of the North Western Episcopal Area of the Anglican Diocese of Natal, Tsietsi Seleokane, is the new Liaison Bishop for Anglicans Ablaze. The event, he said, is a continuation of Anglican renewal which began seventy years ago in Zululand with what is now known as IVIYO,

and the renewal of the 1970’s and 80’s. “It’s a very diverse ministry which showcases Anglican life at its best – from Anglo-Catholic to Charismatic expressions of worship. We want to present a legitimate model for people to see how they too can transform their own parishes after being enriched by this renewal ministry in our church”, he said.

“Anglicans Ablaze is about church growth”, said Nonkonzo Xintolo, a priest from the Diocese of Mthatha. “This gives me a chance to mix with other people and learn, because you cannot go back home and grow the church unless you grow yourself. first.”

**Continued on page 2**

# Experience church in a different way

*Continued from Page 1*

Anglicans Ablaze has a special place in the lives of young people because for the most part, it presents an opportunity for them to experience church in a way that's different from what they experience in their parishes. Jesse Rajee, an 18-year-old Anglican from Cape Town who was attending Anglican Ablaze for the first time, was part of a group of about 750 youth and young adults. "After listening to the experiences of my friends who attended the last conference, I got inspired and knew that I also wanted to be attending someday," he said. "I have been deeply challenged and my goal now is to inspire other young people as I have been inspired here."

Another young Anglican, 17-year-old Lavern Luiters, talked of how this experience has impacted her life. "I have heard a lot of good things here, things that the Lord has done for other people, and now I know that he is going to do it for me as well", she said. "It's indeed an honour to be here to worship God with people from so many different churches." **With about 750 young people present we have more than doubled the youth attendance of AA2016. Yes!**

When more than 2000 people meet in one place for a conference such as this one, the amount of garbage produced can be overwhelming. But the organisers foresaw this and came up with various innovations to minimise the amount of waste produced.

One of the leaders said, "Instead of single use containers, we have made available over 2000 re-usable mugs which has helped to replace about 12,000 plastic containers from being used here. Conference bags were made from re-cycled paper. We have to change people's theology by emphasising that caring



These vibrant young people from the Diocese of Natal, worked as volunteers from with Mrs Ntandose Masalla, on the right.

for the environment is a key calling of a Jesus-shaped life. You cannot say you care for your neighbour if you don't care for creation".

The highlight of the event came from the prolific church planter and keynote speaker for the conference, Archbishop Moon Hing of West Malaysia, the Primate of South East Asia. He gave a moving account of growing up in a Buddhist family in an area where Christianity accounted for less than one per cent of religious affiliation.

"My family didn't like it when I converted to Christianity to an extent that they stopped me from speaking to other family members," he said. "But after so many years I would like to thank God that I have managed to convert 80 per cent of my family including brothers, sisters and cousins among others to Christianity, and had the privilege of baptising my own mother."

In an interview with the Anglican Communion News Service, he spoke of the importance of Anglican Ablaze: "There is hunger for Christ everywhere – people need motivation, encouragement and direction, and Anglicans Ablaze offers that opportunity, and I pray that it spreads to other regions and the whole of the Anglican world too. This movement will transform the lives of people and communities

and help the world to have hope because it's a reminder that God is our priority in a world which is going in the opposite direction."

The atmosphere was filled with the Holy Spirit's presence as Anglicans worshipped God with an obvious hunger for reality, transformation and a different kind of experience.

**"Father Almighty, we offer ourselves to you as a living sacrifice, in Jesus Christ our Lord. Send us out into the world, in the power of the Holy Spirit, to live and work to your praise and glory". (APB)**

Thank you again to all those who pray and give to the furtherance of the work of Growing the Church and Anglicans Ablaze. We are receiving so many invitations to do teaching and training in various Dioceses, and for this we need additional funding please.

We ask that new people would consider praying for us and giving to us please. We live in challenging times. Please help us to take hold of the opportunities. (Growing the Church, Standard Bank Account No 271 625 864, Branch Code 051001) . **Thank you!!!**

**For testimonies click here to watch:**  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lw6b\\_2U4kU&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6lw6b_2U4kU&feature=youtu.be)

# Free State Diocese to host their own AA!

THE FREE State Diocese is all geared up to host their own Anglicans Ablaze soon.



**Theme: "Master to whom shall we go"**  
[John 6:68 ]  
**On: 1-4 Nov 2018**  
**At: St Patrick's Anglican Church,  
Bochabela Location,  
Bloemfontein.**

Commenting on Anglicans Ablaze, the Rt Revd Dintoe Letloenyane, Bishop of Free state Diocese said:

"Anglicans Ablaze is our effort to Do Church differently. A more free flowing worship style is desired"

"The Anglicans Ablaze will set your heart on fire with:

1. Moving sermons
2. Candle Procession
3. Healing Service
4. Special Prayers
5. Motivational Spiritual talks
6. Holy Communion"

*#freestateanglicansablaze*



Lisebo Maema models the Free State's AA2018 T-shirt with pride.



Above are some of the delegates, who stayed at Kearsney College during the AA 2018 .

Below, are other younger delegates who paused for a holy huddle.



## COMMENTS:

Some of the committee members commented on AA2018 as follows:

**The Revd Delysia Bowler Timm:** "Definitely a Holy Spirit filled experience that has moved me in my personal life to greater heights and depths with Jesus Christ, my Redeemer.

**Ms Normonde Ngcobo:** Being behind the scenes of an event of that magnitude was both super busy at times and frustrating but man—it was great! To serve over 2000 people and insure that everyone gets the best out of it was worth all the running around and preparation that took place. There was a moment when I stood at the back and I could see God moving and the Holy Spirit filling everyone. At the end of the day God was glorified and people had lots of fun and refreshment.

**The Revd Gary Thompson:** Anglicans Ablaze was something like the Church in Acts 2 - the anointing of the Church with the Holy Spirit, the dedication to teaching and prayer and a sense of tangible fellowship between the believers.

**The Revd Bruce Woolley:** An amazing coming together of different nationalities, contexts, cultures, organisations and styles of worship, all coming together in one place to worship our God and learn new things from each other.

**Ms Sne Makhatini:** It was incredible and life changing!

# LUNCH SERVED IN THE SUN



# THE COMMISSIONING SERVICE



**Thank you! Dankie! Enkosi! Siyabulela!**

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