

## Principal Matters



The first quarter of the year has seen much progress for the College, both here in Muizenberg as well outside of South Africa. Locally speaking, our larger than usual group of first years have shown great desire to knuckle down and do all that is required of them. Outside the country, our Explore team (of which I was a part)

visited Accra in Ghana and spent a week there engaging almost 50 people in facilitator training. As you page through this newsletter you will read more exciting news about what is happening here on our campus as well as what is happening in the lives of our alumni; and also more about GWC's involvement in theological education elsewhere on the continent. It will soon be Easter, and Christians everywhere will be remembering the cosmic event of the Son of God, who died for us and achieved on that fateful Friday a great rescue which saves and delivers us from God's just demand that sin be punished eternally, and who came back from the grave as the first of many who will rise with new bodies to live forever like Him and with Him.

GWC wishes everyone who knows these things a blessed Easter.

## Living in Hope

Our students are enjoying living in the new Hope Motilhope Student Centre. "I live in single female accommodation on the second floor of the Hope Centre", says second year BTh student, Amanda Pungula. "I've found that living in the Hope Centre, in a community of other single Christian women, has been an encouragement to me. More than just being able to have a friend over to visit, we have a communal lounge area on our floor that allows us to all spend time hanging out together. We do also get to spend time with the rest of the students in the Hope Centre. After dinner we regularly congregate to play games. As a result our Christian fellowship is growing."



## GWC Matriculation 2019



GWC held its annual matriculation service on 14th March. This event marks the formal entry of new students and faculty into the academic fellowship of the College. Every matriculant's name is entered into the College's official register

as an indication of their desire to enter the college community of learning. This year we matriculated 20 certificate students, 21 bachelor's degree students, and 5 honour's students into the College. We were honoured to have Dr D. A. Carson, Emeritus Professor of New Testament at Trinity International University and President of the Gospel Coalition, address us. Speaking from John 21, Dr Carson pointed us to the words Peter received from the risen Lord Jesus Christ as a call to faithful service.

## GWC Alumni - spreading the Gospel

George Whitefield College was pleased to be able to graduate twenty-three students from our accredited programmes and thirty-one Explore students at our graduation ceremony at the end of 2018. While a handful of students are pursuing studies



in other fields, and some of our graduates have decided to continue their theological studies at GWC and elsewhere, the majority of them have entered into full-time Christian ministry of one type or another. We are thrilled that our 2018 graduates are serving the Lord not only in local Cape Town churches, but in churches as far away as Uganda, Sudan, and Ireland. As we continue to play our role in sending teachers and preachers into Africa (and beyond!), we trust that Africa's share in the Kingdom of God will continue to increase.

## What is Women's Ministry?



Ministry to women is fundamentally Word ministry. Here at GWC we teach the Bible to women so that they would 'be transformed by the renewing of their minds' (Rom 12:3). We endeavour to raise up strong theologians for the church who are thoroughly engaged in teaching and discipling people.

At GWC, we celebrate the God-given differences between men and women and believe that both were made in equal in dignity and status; and both reflect the image of God (Gen 1). In some contexts, God has given different roles and responsibilities for men and women, especially mixed gatherings in local churches (1 Tim 2, 1 Cor 11, 14), but we want more than only to equip local churches. We want to equip the global church through women academic scholars, Bible translators, hospital chaplains, pastoral care workers, Sunday School and youth group teachers. We want women working in any job to be thoroughly equipped to speak God's Word to the people they work with, and minister to, whether that be at church, in secular work or the ministry of the home.

Trained women mean stronger churches. This year we are celebrating that God has brought 34 women to study at GWC. We're celebrating because God made men and women to work together, and to glorify him together, and to build up the body of Christ together.

## Lessons learned in creating your own cross-cultural children's ministry curriculum



When writing your own curriculum for cross-cultural missions to children, it is wise to keep in mind that the most important goal of the exercise is to help children get to know God better, and to develop a genuine relationship with Jesus as their Lord and Saviour. To do so, know that you will have to hold it lightly, because you can prepare the content with absolute diligence and commitment, and then end up throwing most of it away! What's more, even when you know a context fairly well or have been briefed on it to the utmost degree, the unexpected can and will happen on the day. When one is extremely limited in the spoken word as a means of communication in a cross-cultural context, the curriculum will benefit from containing clear, simple statements with lots of repetition and visuals. The point is to get enough of the understanding across of Jesus as a real and personal saviour.

Know that if a child bonds with you, you have won their heart, and then the truth of what you are teaching them has a place to land in their minds. One of the most important elements, and one which cannot be written into a curriculum, is the simple act of sharing time with the children – playing games, sharing smiles, giving them genuine attention and responses of affection – all things which can cross any language barrier.

## ICETE conference tackles theological education across Africa



In October 2018, GWC faculty member Dr Vuyani Sindo attended the International Council for Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE) Triennial conference in Panama City, Panama, which hosted around 434 participants, representing 69 countries, from over 266 institutions. The aim of this conference was to consider the Sacred/Secular Divide in Theological Education.

Vuyani reports, "Most speakers observed that many Bible colleges tend to produce graduates who are not properly equipped to teach God's people that all of life matters in God's sight - not just church life on a Sunday. It was suggested, particularly for seminaries in the West, that they prepare their students for a post-Christian society. Christianity is no longer the dominant culture in the West, yet seminaries seem not to have changed the way they teach students. The

continue to 'do business as usual' even though Christianity is constantly under attack. It was suggested that Bible colleges need to teach more about the theology of work; that this will help God's people understand that all work matters to God. It was also suggested that Bible colleges should teach more prophetic books, such as Isaiah and Jeremiah, as these books were written for people who were living in exile, which is similar to the post-Christian culture that is starting to be evident in the West."

## Reflections on the Johannesburg Bible College conference



Towards the end of January, faculty member Rev Phumezo Masango was privileged to be invited to speak at the annual Johannesburg Bible College Conference. The Conference, held at JBC's Soweto and Auckland Park campuses, was targeted towards the leaders who are training others in different parts of the African continent. Many of the attendees were JBC alumni whom God is using in church planting and the starting of Bible Colleges in places like Tanzania, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Uganda and KZN, among others.

Phumezo says, "For me it was a wonderful time to catch up with my dear friends at JBC, and others around Johannesburg. It was also at time to get a glimpse of what God is doing throughout our country and the rest of the continent. I was refreshed and equipped as I listened to other speakers talking on such topics as Balance and Burnout; Teaching in non-literature settings; Women's ministry; Encouraging and caring for students, and other relevant ministry topics. Morning devotions spurred us on to follow our Jesus. Thanks be to God for the warmth, generosity and the hard work of the JBC team who organised the Conference."

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## Faculty represent GWC at the Society of Biblical Literature conference

The Society of Biblical Literature (SBL) is one of the premier scholarly communities in the world, engaging in research on the Bible and theology. Each year the international conference draws nearly ten thousand scholars from around the world together, of various faith backgrounds (various types of Christian and Jewish, and even some secular scholars), to discuss what the Bible means. SBL runs alongside a second conference, the Evangelical Theology Society conference (ETS), which is smaller (approximately two thousand people), but represents evangelical Christian thought in particular. In November 2018, faculty members Nathan Lovell, Steve Rockwell and Vuyani Sindo attended the conferences in Denver, Colorado. Nathan and Steve presented papers at ETS, Nathan also presented a paper at SBL, and Vuyani won a scholarship to attend SBL as an emerging international scholar. Not only is the academic exposure enriching for our faculty, and good for our reputation as a premier evangelical theological college in Africa, but the professional networking allows us to build up relationships that are critically important for our postgraduate department. In the end, GWC believes that scholarship serves the church. The flip side of that is that the church is stronger when Christians engage in high-level scholarship.

## The Broughton Knox Study Centre – at the heart of GWC

GWC's library, housed in the Broughton Knox Study Centre, currently holds approximately 66000 volumes, which are constantly weeded and added to in accordance with the specialist study needs of GWC faculty and postgraduate students. Due to the library's growth, the current purpose-built and long-serving Library Management System (LMS) has been found to have insufficient capacity, and it is not compatible with modern technology. By way of an upgrade, a Koha open source Library Management System has been approved to replace the current LMS, offering larger capacity and superior functionality. The Koha system will allow remote online access to the library catalogue by faculty, students and staff, and users will be able to renew and reserve books online. The new LMS is due to be installed and 'go live' before students return at the start of the second term.



## GWC OPENDAY

GEORGE WHITEFIELD COLLEGE  
Theology • Bible • Africa

SATURDAY 20 JULY 2019 9:00 – 13:00

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY HONOURS

MASTER OF THEOLOGY

EXPLORE (CORRESPONDENCE COURSE)

Do you want to...  
Grow your understanding of the Bible?  
Consider full-time ministry?

Come and see  
what GWC can offer you!

Shaping Minds • Nurturing Hearts • Training Voices

## Masiphumelele Gospel Initiative

In a gospel partnership between St Peters Church Fish Hoek and Christ Church Khayelitsha 'Umfundisi' (Teacher, missionary) Bheki Dikeni and his family have relocated to a property close to Masiphumelele, an informal township in Kommetjie, Cape Town. While Masiphumelele is not short of churches there is a real need to reach this community with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Late last year Umfundisi Bheki and several representatives of Christ Church Khayelitsha met with Masiphumelele community leaders to ask for their support in the proposed gospel work.

## Ravi Zacharias' Global Evangelists' Forum Southern Africa

Ravi Zacharias International Ministries South Africa, held their Global Evangelists' Forum Southern Africa at Hatfield Christian Church, Pretoria in February, with approximately 300 delegates – pastors and a variety of ministry leaders from several sub-Saharan African countries - in attendance.



The forum's vision is to bring key men and women together from across Southern Africa for training, discussion, envisioning, and sharing what God is doing across the region. Faculty member Ross Anderson was invited to present a paper on the theology and praxis of evangelism for the Southern African context. His talk at the forum, titled The Great Reversal – power through weakness, examined lessons from 1 Corinthians 1:17-2:5 for Christian evangelism in Southern Africa.

Ross says: "It was an important gathering for at least two reasons: an opportunity to model careful biblical exegesis and the value of apologetics. I personally benefited from the fellowship and networking opportunities for GWC and was greatly moved by the testimonies of two delegates from Zimbabwe. Their faith in Christ and in the sovereign providence of God in the face of extreme difficulty is breath-taking".

## Explore facilitators conference

The first GWC Explore facilitator training to be held in West Africa took place in Akropong, Akupem Ridge in Ghana in March. African Enterprise (AE) hosted the event with 28 delegates from AE partner churches present. The Billy Graham referral system allows AE to track the progress of new converts and Explore is seen as a key component of the AE preservation strategy, which will follow a 5-year plan. The remaining delegates were from surrounding African countries, including some key delegates from East African countries.

Bishop Martin Morrison emphasised the need for theological education not to be the sole domain of Bible colleges, seminaries and universities. The home, churches and study groups are all important opportunities as a theological education. The Explore material provides a wonderful opportunity as a theological tool for those seeking further knowledge of God.

Ghanaian alumnus, Samuel Boateng, will provide continued Explore training in Akuapem and a number of delegates have enrolled to study further. One student from Sierra Leone will be applying for BTh studies at GWC. We give thanks and glory to God for the opportunity provided through this seminar and we pray that gospel partnerships will develop.



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