

Newsletter November 2022



GWC's Reach into Africa

by The Rev. Dr Mark Dickson, Principal

GWC naturally enjoys the centripetal benefits of students wanting to come and study in a residential format. It looks like 2023 will be a better-than-average year on this count. This has centrifugal benefits that follow as the students return home to minister in their respective countries.

There are also several other corresponding centrifugal benefits of a college wanting to deepen its reach into the rest of Africa.

Each of these operates in a vast network of kingdom partnerships and collaborations, for which we are truly thankful.

The first centrifugal aspect is GWC's Explore program. Explore is an 8 module correspondence program focusing on the text of the Bible while developing a robust biblical theology. In a public forum in Somerset West in early September (the Reach SA Synod), several people spontaneously spoke about how Explore was progressing in their respective countries. Innocencio Varine from Mozambique explained how he had planted 35 churches using the Explore material. Bishop Lucas Katende explained how Explore had been of great benefit in his region of Namibia. Similarly, Paul Kayumba from Zambia told the assembly how valuable Explore had proved in his home country. Though not mentioned in that forum, Explore has been expanding its influence in Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Malawi, and throughout South Africa.

The benefit of studying Explore is that it allows people across Africa to begin what may well mature into a more vocational study of the Bible.

This year, nine of our newly enrolled students travelled to GWC, having started with Explore in their home countries.

Another centrifugal component to GWC is the TDA fund (Theological Development Africa). This fund channels resources to several theological colleges on the continent, including Alexandria School of Theology; St Andrew's Kebare; Johannesburg Bible College; Wolaita Evangelical Seminary; Rusitu Bible College; Dumisani Theological Institute; St John's Theological College; Martyrs' Seminary Namugingo; and Leonard Kamungu Theological College. These institutions are assisted by TDA to finance several students each year at those colleges.

GWC, in this way, actually provides material help for several sister colleges in Africa engaged in theological training.

Yet another centrifugal dimension to GWC is the college's participation in AfCAA. This accrediting body is based in Nairobi, examining and vouchsafing the governance of organisations across the continent. GWC is not only a founding member of AfCAA but currently supports a key member of the college executive team in her role on its communications committee.

A fourth centrifugal aspect is GWC's commitment to the efforts of OCA (now renamed Local Leaders International). Local Leaders International is a project committed to growing teamplay between several African theological colleges. At a recent meeting in Cairo, the senior leadership from these institutions met to discuss closer collaboration. Also on the agenda was a discussion about how dialogue can be furthered between Christians and Muslims in Africa.

Flowing out from the Cairo meeting came 'Generosity', a centripetal and centrifugal project that brought several African university men and women to GWC to discuss and begin authoring material that will hopefully add a corrective to the increasingly pervasive prosperity gospel.

Fifth, our involvement with TEDS (Theological Education Development Services) is a key centrifugal service of the college in Africa. TEDS has been running training programs in African colleges that provide specific training for faculty in pedagogy.

Up and down the continent, there are now lecturers in theology who are better able to teach their subjects, thanks to the work of TEDS.

The final centrifugal aspect of GWC is the college's involvement with GAFCON (Global Anglican Futures Conference). Although not a major player, GWC has exerted its influence within GAFCON's Theological Education workshops since 2013. The college also participated in drafting the final statements of GAFCON 2008 and 2018.

In 2023, GWC is preparing itself to grow its influence across Africa and deepen the realisation of its vision: that Africa be filled with preachers and teachers who deeply love the Lord Jesus and who have a profound understanding of Scripture, in order that Africa may increase its share in the Kingdom of God.

We thank God for the growing opportunities to equip Kingdom hearted servants of Christ who will proclaim the Gospel in Africa. We hope you enjoy reading about the work of GWC in this newsletter.

Mark 13:32-33

"No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Be on your guard and stay alert! For you do not know when the appointed time will come."

If you would like to help us in this urgent work please click here to make a once off or regular donation to GWC.

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<https://www.gwc.ac.za/make-a-donation/>



Understanding Leadership in the Light of Stewardship

by Wilma Chipurupuru, 2021/2022 SRC President

When I stood up and indicated my willingness to serve the GWC student community, I had no idea what it would entail or what demands would be placed on me. What I knew for certain was that I wanted to serve. So it was an honour when that desire was recognised, and I was handed the privilege of becoming president of the SRC. At the end of it, I'm incredibly grateful. Serving as both the voice and ears of the students was a great opportunity full of successes, though not without its struggles.

The biblical theme of stewardship and how seriously we ought to take it stood out throughout my year as SRC president. Everyone is entrusted with God-given responsibilities to care for and nurture what God created. This is perhaps especially apparent when one steps into a leadership position, though it isn't limited to them. Leaders must guide others towards not only a common goal but also the greater good.

Since authority is derived from and entrusted by him, we are accountable to God for how we steward responsibility and power.

In light of this realisation, I often felt inadequate and incapable of the position I held. I sometimes struggled to cope mentally and emotionally, recognising the weight of serving as a leader within a Christian environment. If that wasn't enough, there were—and I imagine there always will be—other pressures. The juggling act of local church ministry, college leadership, and academics (particularly Greek and Hebrew) made this abundantly clear to me.

However, I didn't serve alone, but as part of a committed and enthusiastic team. This is something else I'm hugely grateful to God for. Working together, we enjoyed various successes as an SRC. The GWC launch made for a special time of integrating new students and reconnecting with others. The 'Culture Clash' initiative further brought students together, helping them to share their lives with one another. As an SRC, we also benefitted massively from the hard work of previous committees, which established open communication lines between the student body and faculty. This allowed us to address issues as they arose throughout the year.

It always felt like we had the ears of the faculty and the confidence of the students we represented.

All in all, I have personally grown through serving on the SRC. My sense of leadership has been attuned and heightened. All the more, I have renewed respect for faithful, God-honouring, servant-hearted, Christlike leaders.

[Donate to student bursaries here](#)



GWC Hosts an Invaluable African Writing Project

“What should Africa’s answer be to the prevalence of the prosperity gospel?”

At the annual meeting of the Local Leaders International Africa Mile Deep Strategy in 2020, leaders from six key Evangelical Anglican theological institutions across the continent met to consider this question through the lens of God’s gospel of generosity. Following on from the initial discussions, ten scholars from five of the institutions (including GWC) initiated a project to write curricula and materials to teach generosity as a theological and practical answer to current concepts of prosperity at all levels of society, from grassroots to the academy.



After six months of initial online meetings, the team arrived at GWC in September for a three-month sabbatical of discussions and writing, with the purpose of creating material that addresses this issue in accessible ways. The team were welcomed by GWC faculty, staff, and students and benefitted tremendously from the Broughton-Knox Resource Centre under the helpful guidance of our librarians. The project is being facilitated by Drs Dick and Caroline Seed of TEDS, who’s currently also significantly involved with TALHITE.



Dr Richard Seed



Dr Caroline Seed



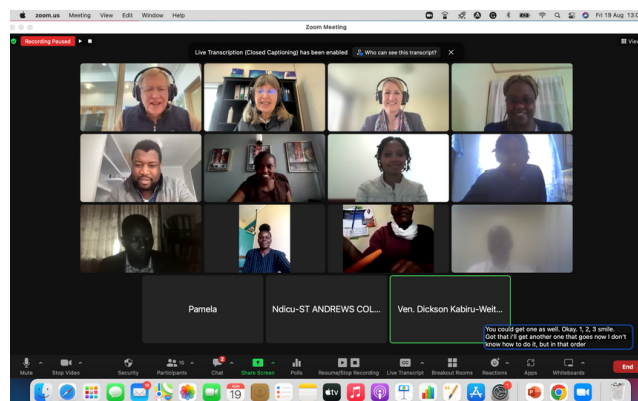
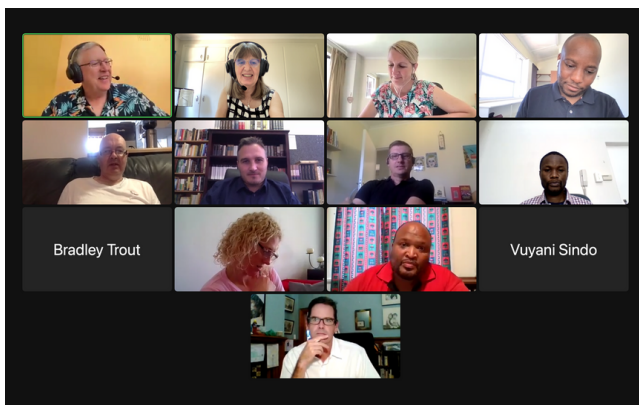
Please pray for wisdom and strength for all the participants
as they engage in this key work.

Training Lecturers Throughout the African Continent

The Teaching and Learning for Higher Theological Education (TALHITE) team had a busy August, running two training courses for lecturers with support from the Local Leaders International Africa Mile Deep Strategy. From the 15th to the 19th of August, lecturers from eight colleges affiliated with St Paul's University (Kenya), plus two new lecturers from GWC, met online to complete the TALHITE short course, which they started at the beginning of the first semester. This third and final phase offers the lecturers an opportunity to reflect on the teaching experiments they tried during the second (classroom-based) phase and deepens their understanding of wisdom in theological education, student learning, and reflective practice. The group is currently completing their portfolios and will be awarded certificates of participation through the GWC registry.

Then, after only two days turnaround, the team boarded a flight to Cairo, where they'd run the first phase of the lecturer training at Alexandria School of Theology (AST). This was the first time TALHITE had run in person since early 2020. The lecturers at AST are part-time and teach over the Egyptian weekend (Thursday evening to Saturday evening), so the 30-hour course had to be delivered in just 15 hours between the 25th and 27th of August. To ensure that the outcomes are reached, there will be further Zoom sessions over the next three months to help them think through the practical implications of what they learnt. It was wonderful to be back working face-to-face. One lecturer commented,

"I feel blessed in the course because I ... not only got the good materials, but I met those cheerful people who do everything with love and humility. I felt that they taught us with Christian spirit; they had a mission, not just a professional take."



Alumni Interview: Learning to Preach for God's Glory, Not My Own

Kwazi Buthelezi, Campus Worker at The Bible Talks KZN - Edgewood Campus

Tell us about the ministry that you've been serving in since leaving college:

I am mainly serving students on the University of KwaZulu-Natal campuses through the ministry of The Bible Talks (TBT) in KZN. This is my primary vocation. So I get up to things like walk-up evangelism, preaching in lecture rooms, running Bible studies, mentoring both TBT staff and students, and training others for ministry.



But in addition, I've since moved from Trinity Church Morningside (the church that sent me to GWC) to Christ Church Glenwood. In both churches, I sought/seek to serve in any way possible. I avail myself for preaching as often as possible, leading small groups, and building relationships through which I may channel the gospel.

What's been your greatest challenge, leaving college and re-entering full-time ministry?

I've had quite a ride getting back to ministry. For the most part, I think I have been trying to get a grasp of my role in ministry as I serve both students via TBT and in my local church. The biggest challenge has been the lack of clarity in this regard: how do I serve as Kwazi? The temptation post-college has been to copy others.

Learning from others is good and commendable, but copying others, at least in my experience, has caused many heart struggles.

For example, it's hard to know—especially if you love preaching—what makes a good sermon. Simultaneously, it isn't always obvious what producing a good sermon entails. After months of heartache, especially cold sermons, I'm grateful to God for revealing and confronting this heart issue. My discouragement resulted from forgetting one of the most important things I learnt at GWC from Steve Rockwell: "We only ever perform for the audience of one."

I laboured hard to sound and therefore write like the preachers I admire. But, in the process, I forgot that I am not them, let alone my relative lack of ministry.

I wasn't content with the growth God was working in me. I strongly desired other people's journeys without even realising it.

The heart antidote was remembering that I must serve God, not attempt to please others. The best part is, he's already pleased with us in his Son. So we needn't perform to please but to serve from within his grace. We work with what he's given us.

And the greatest encouragement?

The biggest encouragement has been the opposite: seeing ministry outside the sole scope of preaching and the desire to be a great preacher. Good as the desire may be, it blinded me to the full scope of ministry and God's strategy for ministry, that is, kingdom work through discipleship. This awakening, as I call it, has been relatively recent.

In the month of September, I met with two old friends. One I met at college. The other I knew from before. Speaking to them, I was confronted by two facts: firstly, the significance of discipleship in kingdom work; and secondly, how much I'd been distracted from that work. As a result, I'm aiming to focus my attention in this last term mainly on discipleship.

Name one thing you've learnt in ministry that you wish you'd known before leaving college:

Reflecting on the conversations I had with the two brothers already mentioned, I've come to realise the crucial importance of gospel partnerships. Ministry can feel lonely.

Without a team, without brothers and sisters encouraging you, praying for you and cheering you on, ministry would be too much to bear.

Had I thought more about this while at college, I'd have spent more time with these brothers while I had easy access to them. I wish I had spent more time getting to know people, not just acknowledging their presence at dinner and in the lecture rooms. I wish I'd asked more questions and worked harder at doing life with them because ministry is essentially about partnership.

What would you say to those leaving GWC at the end of 2022 to head out into ministry?

In his hymn, Facing the Task Unfinished, Frank Houghton wrote: "Unnumbered souls are dying and pass into the night." To those leaving college later this year, we're rejoicing with and praying for you. My prayer is that you'll continue to die to self for the kingdom's sake; that the love of Christ and the glory of God will be your sole motivation because you're "convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died, and he dies for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again" (2 Corinthians 5:14-15).

Why consider postgraduate studies at GWC?

GWC offers advanced-level training in Bible and Theology with you in mind.

Faith & Mission:

- A gospel-centred, evangelical, academic environment.
- Strong Evangelical convictions
- Classical disciplines applied to African ministry today: biblical studies, systematic theology, and mission.
- Focused on African needs with continent-wide influence
- GAFCON-aligned



Africa's Future for Christ

For more information regarding our Postgraduate study options, please click here

Or visit our website:
www.gwc.ac.za



Finding Willing Hands for the Work of God

What an amazing God we have! Opportunities for Explore are opening up across the continent.

Though we have not yet seen the corresponding growth in student numbers, Explore is excellently positioned in various countries—all praise be to God. We can confidently point to the various places he's at work, where Explore could play an integral part in that work.

We held our first facilitation training in Zambia, and we were supported by African Enterprise (AE) along with the Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia in selecting 24 church leaders. One of the delegates at the training has joined AE and will be providing administrative support for Explore in Zambia. We have drafted a memorandum of understanding (MOU) and are awaiting approval from AE. Pastor Isaac Chiumia, our Explore coordinator, has expanded his territory to include Zambia. We have registered 17 new students in Lusaka. As we follow up with the leaders trained in June, we anticipate many more.

The doors to Kenya and South Sudan have also been opened. We appointed GWC alumnus Misheck Mbevi as our Explore Kenya coordinator in July. We reported on the incredible progress in Kenya in our second Explore newsletter, published towards the end of September. In August, we held facilitator training in Juba, South Sudan, and 50 delegates from different denominations registered. Since South Sudan still hasn't settled peacefully as a new African state, the key is finding two personnel: a coordinator and an administrator. Excitingly, we envisage our training in Juba reaching South Sudanese refugee camps in Uganda as well, as many dioceses have been displaced due to the war.

Finally, we are currently working with several partners as we develop an Explore prisons ministry. Owing to the respective regulations in countries, even individual provinces, we are pursuing a common thread that will involve the necessary authorisations from prison officials. Simultaneously, we're training prison chaplains in facilitating the Explore material while seeking donor support for this most worthwhile ministry.

The number of "explorers" now working across Africa alongside various partners is growing rapidly. We will be looking at holding a few days together in January or February 2023 to unite the team around Explore's vision:

That Explore will become the discipleship tool of choice for the church in Africa, by creating hubs in key countries.

The second half of 2022 and into 2023 look exciting for Explore. But with growth comes certain risks and sustainability factors. In this, we can only turn to our Lord for guidance and provision.

Donate to
Explore here



TDA: Providing Bursaries Beyond Our Borders

by Alison Lee, Executive Ambassador

The Theological Development Africa Programme (TDA) was pleased to extend bursary support to two new campuses of its Gospel Partner Colleges: Alexandria School of Theology (AST) and Johannesburg Bible College (JBC).

AST chose Minya in Upper Egypt as the location for its campus, offering access to many current and potential students. The Minya satellite centre was established in 2015. It is the first theological centre in Upper Egypt that provides a certificate of theological studies. Classes are taught one weekend every month throughout the academic year, allowing students to study part-time while working. AST rents a conference centre to accommodate students and lecturers. AST lecturers must travel around 290km south of Cairo to teach in Minya.

JBC opened its doors to students in its new Alexandra campus in February 2022. This has been a desire and deliberate objective for many years, driven and supported by Rosebank Union Church and Rays of Hope, a local NPO. Alexandra is an iconic township in the north of Johannesburg, “eight square kilometres inhabited by eight million people.” Most residents face issues of extreme poverty. Though Alexandra is full of churches, many of them are led by untrained pastors. We were able to visit the campus earlier this year. Mark Dickson reports: “It was tremendously encouraging to hear from the students how the teaching from JBC was shaping their understanding of their identity in Christ, which in turn is shaping their ministry in the local community.”

Please pray for AST and JBC that their needs will be provided for and that their respective new campus programmes will bear great fruit for the gospel.



Menya Campus



New Alexandra Campus



by Alison Lee, Executive Ambassador

We enjoyed a vibrant GWC community celebration on Heritage day. What a joy it was to be gathered together for fellowship. Principal Mark Dickson encouraged us to remember that our unity in diversity is found in our identity in Christ.

It was a beautiful celebration of being free once again to eat, sing, dance, and worship with food, music, and prayers from all over Africa.

GWC's new diversity and inclusion committee initiated these heritage day celebrations. Whilst we are still navigating how we live in diversity in the most God honouring way, we have agreed on a vision as shared below, and trust that God will help us push forwards in mercy and grace to be a community of believers that put the Word above all things.



Diversity and Inclusion: Vision and Ethos

GWC is a wonderfully diverse community and as a Christian community we believe every person is created in the image of God, with equal value.

Our diversity and inclusion programme enriches us as we learn to listen and engage with each other with deep curiosity and respect and intentionally create opportunities for everyone's opinions, ideas and experiences to be heard and everyone's gifts to flourish and grow.



Community with a sense of belonging
Gospel unity in diversity

**Upcoming
Events...**

Graduation 2022

The Principal, Board of Directors, and Faculty
of George Whitefield College cordially invite you to attend the
Thirty-Third Annual Graduation Service

- **Thursday 8 December**
- **2:00pm (please be seated by 1:50pm)**
- **St. James Church, 114 3rd Avenue, Kenilworth**

Graduation Speaker: The Rev. Dr Vuyani Sindo
(Head of Biblical Studies, GWC)



GWC NEWSFLASH

Dr David B. Capes, Director at Lanier Theological Library (Tomball, Texas, United States) finished an intensive week with the Honours students on the Book of Matthew recently.

"Studying the Gospel of Matthew has been a delight, and a welcomed challenge the past few days. An intensive course lives up to its name as we meet every morning to learn more about this Gospel. Thanks to David, who has taught us with enthusiasm and humility, we have learned more about the details of this Christocentric and Old Testament reliant Gospel. We have also prepared presentations on various topics from Matthew in a short amount of time. All of those were so well done, they complemented the already given material. Thank you David for showing us afresh how Jesus challenges the legalists and welcomes those who accept Him as the fulfilment of all prophecy." Annika Ruth Ruiz-Caro - BThHons

