

The Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist

(The Anglican Church in Limpopo Province)

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To All Clergy.

Dear Friends in Christ,

1. Advent

2. Rooted in Jesus (RinJ)

RinJ is all about what it means to be children of God – now and in the life to come. Too many Anglicans are not confident about their faith, but here we have a way to get to know God well, by studying his Word together.



2.1 Getting Started

The RinJ Conference in September was very special, and I particularly enjoyed having lay leaders present, together with a good number of young people. They added an excitement and vibrancy to what we were doing. Exciting and encouraging reports have begun to come in groups that have already started. God is meeting people and setting them ablaze with his love.

Remember: those who attended made a commitment to start at least one RinJ group within six months. You have until the end of March 2010 to get going! RinJ books, in various Diocesan languages, are available at the Diocesan Centre.

Let me also remind you of something very important. Jesus told this parable:

“With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.” (Mark 4:30-32)

Although it is tempting to try, it is not possible to start RinJ throughout the whole parish at the same time. **Follow the advice of the RinJ team (and of Jesus) by starting small –then you can multiply it in the parish.** You will be surprised at

Diocesan Vision: To make disciples in vibrant, self-sufficient congregations established and linked to each other by sharing in resources; ministry & service; outreach & evangelism.

For more on RinJ visit www.rootedinjesusnet.

how fast it spreads if you lead your first group well. Jesus started by investing in the lives of just 12 disciples, and now there are billions in every country of the world!

Some people have even started a “trial run”: all the people from a parish who attended the Conference are working through Book 1 together. That way they get to know the material and grow in confidence before using it more widely.

2.2 Follow-up Day

On the advice of Chapter I have also set a day for follow-up, more teaching and encouragement. Some of the items we plan to cover are:

- 1) Help with plans to introduce RinJ in the parish or organisation
- 2) Skills Practice – help with leading a RinJ group
- 3) Stories from those who have started
- 4) Recording progress with RinJ in Parishes and Organisations
- 5) Distribution of resources and books
- 6) Introducing Books 2 & 3

All those who attended the Conference are invited to a Rooted in Jesus follow-up day Saturday 23rd January from 10am until the Diocesan Centre.

Please do your best to come. More details, including registration forms, will follow soon.

Yours in the love of our Lord Jesus Christ,

*+Martin: St Mark
the Evangelist*

