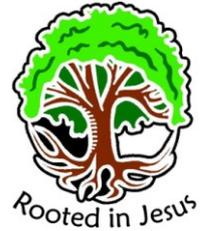


Rooted in Jesus Mission Report



South Africa January 2011
Revd John McGinley

Aim of Mission

1. Introductory Conference for Growing the Church / Anglican Youth, Johannesburg.
2. Follow-up Conference for Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, Limpopo.

This felt a strategically significant mission, in addition to the fruit of equipping individuals with RinJ and ministering to them. St Mark's Diocese is already a resource Diocese for RinJ in Southern Africa and it was important to give encouragement and input and to address certain issues they were facing, as they then go on to support others. The conference in Johannesburg represented a new way of planting RinJ into Dioceses. Instead of working in one Diocese at the invitation of the Bishop this conference trained people from 6 Dioceses under the invitation of Growing the Church. It will be interesting to see the progress of these smaller seeds of RinJ groups starting in one of two parishes in a Diocese with additional regional support and local training from Trevor Pearce of Growing the Church and Tony Lawrence of the Provincial Anglican Youth.

Team

Rev John McGinley, Rev Tim Davis, Rev Richard Morgan, Merisa MacInnes.

Despite only having met once shortly before the mission there was a great feeling of unity, encouragement, freedom and fun together. Each person contributed significantly to the delivery of the content of the conferences and also to the leadership of how to respond to what we saw God doing and the feedback from delegates. It was a team of high quality in which each member was experienced in ministry. It was an intense programme requiring high capacity and flexibility, and a less experienced team might have struggled with the constant nature of the programme. Bishop Martin commented on the significance of having a strong team and how helpful it was to have people who were all able to engage theologically with people's questions and to consistently deliver high quality input throughout the conference.

1. Introductory Conference for Growing the Church / Anglican Youth

Conference for 35 delegates from 6 Dioceses around Johannesburg, from 5pm on Friday to 1pm Sunday. Convened by Trevor Pearce (Growing the Church) and Tony Lawrence (Anglican Youth).

There was a very positive response from all the conference delegates. The plan is for them to return to their parishes and communicate this to their priests and start RinJ groups, and give a report to their Bishop who will discuss this with Trevor under the banner of Growing the Church. Many of the new RinJ groups will be among the youth and Tony Lawrence will follow this up. Trevor and Tony will provide local training in each of the 6 Dioceses within the next year.

A key plan is that Trevor will be gathering 300 people for a GTC conference in September 2011 where he will promote RinJ. He is then planning a conference in September 2012 in Johannesburg with 3000 – this may be a useful conference to send a team to, to provide a RinJ track.

2. Follow-up Conference for Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist, Limpopo

Conference for 50 delegates – 15 first-time delegates and 35 follow-up delegates, from 2pm Monday to 1pm Thursday. Things to note:

- South Africa is a unique mix of traditional, rural Africa and Western culture. The white western church in urban areas has many similarities with UK church culture: theologically educated ministers who have questions about the content of the course, and a reaction against the apparently simplistic format of the course and its design for traditional Africa (although all recognised that the principles of learning scripture, applying scripture to life and sharing lives in small groups still work). At



Bishop Martin's wise suggestion we held an early (first evening) open Q & A session about RinJ, particularly inviting theological questions. This was important in giving opportunity for interaction and drawing out some issues with the material (session on Jesus divinity & relationship with Holy Spirit, and on healing).

- We experimented by doing all the teaching on the Holy Spirit using RinJ lessons. The demonstration lesson led by team members was 5.2 on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Then we used lesson 10.1 on Hearing God's voice to create some teaching and interaction as a whole conference group. This modelled learning by sharing insights and learning together, rather than the traditional teacher – pupil model. This seemed to be effective. It was clear early on that most people lacked confidence in listening to God and sharing words with other people. But it was encouraging to see this change during the conference so that by the end of it people were freely sharing words from God during the worship and ministry sessions.



- There was an idea of developing RinJ into a form of lectionary so the RinJ lessons can form basis of sermons (as it has been used elsewhere) and worship and integrate into Sunday worship.

During the conference we heard encouraging reports about RinJ:

- The starting of a RinJ group led to 19 people coming to faith and being baptised and the formation of a new chapelry.
- RinJ has proved a useful tool in prison ministry. One lay person from a RinJ group took the initiative to run a RinJ group in a local prison. A number of prisoners came to faith and on their release sought out the local church and joined a RinJ group there.
- Bishop Martin spoke of going to a church to conduct a Confirmation Service. He found there candidates who could recite all the memory verses and a congregation who had arrived early at church and were praising the Lord (something that is not the norm). And he concluded RinJ had led to God renewing the whole church.
- 10 year old girl who had engaged so well with the material that she was now going to be asked to lead a group of her peers in another church with adult support.
- A woman in a RinJ group felt God convict her of not being legally married to her partner – so in response to this she arranged to get married.
- Really encouraging sense of excitement and vision from within the Diocese that RinJ is multiplying from St Mark's Diocese into new Diocese (Grahamstown, Zululand & Tanzania). And that the Bishops of the whole Province had approved RinJ to be used across the Province.

Conference Testimonies

- Woman filled with the Holy Spirit (in her 70s) who said she had fasted and prayed for this for a long time and never believed she could be blessed in this way.
- Man healed of fever at nights
- Man healed of pains in legs
- Bishop reported many being spiritually refreshed
- Woman delivered of demonic spirit which was causing pain across her body and was healed instantly
- After receiving prayer a woman spoke of knowing the presence of the Holy Spirit for the first time as she prayed on her own the next day.



Richard Morgan has put together an [excellent DVD report](#) on Rooted in Jesus in South Africa. For more information about Rooted in Jesus see www.rootedinjesus.net