

# SEPTEMBER 2015 REPORT ON ROOTED IN JESUS

Estelle Adams and Nicole Curtis report on *Rooted in Jesus* and *The God Who is There* in South Africa

## Church of the Holy Spirit (CHS), Kirstenhof, Diocese of Cape Town

At Holy Spirit Kirstenhof the younger children use *Rooted in Jesus Junior*, and the older ones the adult programme.

The Grade 6 and 7 children at CHS have been using the *Rooted in Jesus Adult* curriculum since the beginning of the year. They have enjoyed the topics and have really engaged with the material and there has been much in the way of discussion and questions.

*Church of the Holy Spirit Kirstenhof's Rooted in Jesus Junior group Grades 4 and 5 posing with leader Michelle.*



*Some of the Grade 6 and 7 children using the Rooted in Jesus Adult Course material*

The children have particularly enjoyed the active learning style – they aren't sitting back and being "taught" a traditional lesson, but are discussing, thinking, talking, looking up Bible verses, forming opinions, debating, laughing, praying and sometimes agreeing to disagree, but all the while growing in their understanding of the nature of God and the scriptures as they develop into mature Christians. The leaders have also appreciated the user-friendliness of the curriculum and are enjoying their role as facilitators, rather than teachers.

**Cathi Henderson, CHS**

## Church of the Redeemer, Westridge, Mitchells Plain, Diocese of Cape Town

RinJ Adults consisted of two separate groups of about 15 participants who completed Book 1 by the end of 2014. We presented certificates during one of our church services.



*Some of the Westridge participants in deep discussion*

We are excited to start Book 2 on 18th September this year. We will then run a combination of Book 1 and 2 as some new people will start with Book 1 and the others will continue with Book 2. We have gone back to the drawing board and went on a course called J-Life which has informed us how to create a strategy. It is with this strategy that we now move forward. We also use Alpha and RinJ as partners - one for Evangelism and the other for Discipleship. RinJ is labelled as our primary discipleship tool within our organisation viz. Salty, which targets 20 and 30 something year olds. With RinJ coming up in September, we are aiming for about 20 people going through book 1 and 2 collectively.

**Brad Sitzer, CTR**

## All Saints Belhar, Cape Town

Lucy Burgess, Sunday School Superintendent, reports on the RinJ Junior programme:

CURRENTLY, our Grades 2-6 use *Rooted in Jesus Junior*. Personally, I am enjoying teaching *Rooted in Jesus Junior*. I find that some of the topics/questions really encourage the children to ask questions, which I like. Ever since my Grade 5 started using Junior, they've always been 10-12 eager-beavers who are so committed to being in Sunday School every week and come at least half an hour before Sunday School starts. We go over what we learnt the previous week and then move on to our current lesson. I give the children rewards for learning their memory verses, and this seems to work quite well. It's all about Jesus, and I can honestly say that the Holy Spirit is indeed with us."



Lucy Burgess of All Saints Belhar and her Grade 5 RinJ Junior group



All Saints Belhar Sunday School group

## Rooted in Jesus Training Conferences

### CAPE TOWN DIOCESAN ANGLICANS ABLAZE CONFERENCE 2015 Conference –1-2 MAY

At the workshop on Discipleship presented by Michelle Burrows and Estelle Adams, TGWIT, RinJ Junior and RinJ was presented and well received and once again, testimonies shared impacted people positively. It appeared that attendees, the bulk being from urban areas, lean more towards RinJ Junior and TGWIT. TGWIT training seem to appeal more to the Cape Town people. We will organise training for those two courses within in the three Cape Town Dioceses in the near future.

### DIOCESE OF ST MARK THE EVANGELIST

In May 2015, we had a combined *Rooted in Jesus Junior* and *Rooted in Jesus* (for adults) training for the Diocese of St Mark the Evangelist. It was great to be back in that diocese to do another training. This time we had 20 people trained in the adult programme and 19 in the Junior programme. The diocese has several Junior groups up and running, some being in existence since our first training in May 2014. We have been focusing on follow-up, contacting known *Rooted in Jesus Junior* groups around the country and making arrangements to visit local ones in Cape Town. It has been delightful to see the programme in action at All Saints Belhar and Church of the Holy Spirit Kirstenhof and to see how this programme is making children disciples of Jesus Christ.

Nicole C. Curtis, Rooted in Jesus Junior Coordinator (Nicole's full report can be found [here](#).)

### BISHOP MARTIN BREYTENBACH OBSERVES:

"I have noticed two interesting things in Confirmations I have done this year where RinJ is being used:

- 1) An increase in the proportion of boys being confirmed! In some parishes, for the first time that I can remember, there have even been more boys than girls.
- 2) An increase in the number of adults and older people being confirmed.

Of course it is impossible to say whether this is directly as a result of RinJ... but I am sure it is playing a part. We also had an amazing day in "Youth Synod" on Saturday. The level of joy and the energy present were really exciting – as well as some of the proposals coming from the youth. They don't only want youth programmes, they want to take their full place in the life of the church."