

# Rooted in Jesus Junior Report

## Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist

**Parallel Rooted in Jesus—Adult and Junior Training**  
**30 April-3 May 2015**

Submitted by Nicole C. Curtis



### Summary

It was with much joy and delight that I had the privilege to serve once again the Diocese of St. Mark the Evangelist. Over the long May Day weekend, we had a parallel training for Rooted in Jesus and Rooted in Jesus Junior leaders. In all, we trained 20 people in the adult programme and 19 people in the Junior programme.

Bishop Martin opened the conference on Thursday

evening (30 April) with a warm welcome, and then we went into a wonderful time of worship. Afterwards, the adult and Junior participants split into two groups: Bishop Martin gave the introductory talk to the adults, and I gave the introductory talk to the Junior group. Immediately afterwards, the two teams went into their demonstration sessions, introducing the participants to the first lesson and methodology of Rooted in

### Team Members

#### *Adult Team*

Bishop Martin (*was only there Thursday and Friday, as he left for Cape Town Friday afternoon*)

Frauke Ackermann

Kwena

Rebecca

Archdeacon Jack (*team leader*)

#### *Junior Team*

Estelle August

Shaena

Pat Lennox

Nicole C. Curtis (*team leader*)

Jesus. Then it was lights out and a somber sleep so that we could be fresh for an early start the next day.

Friday, 1 May, was a full day of teaching sessions, workshops, and an afternoon practice session. Since the adult training has more teaching sessions than the Junior one, we made the adult “Teaching Session 3: Rewards and Challenges of Ministries” mandatory for both adult and Junior participants to take, feeling as though the teaching session was applicable to the Junior group as well as to the adult group.

Saturday, 2 May, was much like the Friday except that we had an extensive planning time in the afternoon. Estelle Adams, the GtC Coordinator over the adult programme, and I started implementing these planning times last year, feeling as though people need to gather in parishes and/or archdeaconries to start planning a way forward to implement the programmes. During the first planning time on Saturday, Archdeacon Jack Kudumela walked the parishes (with Junior and adult participants together) through the time of planning. Then after the afternoon tea break, the Junior and adult groups split up once again, but the groups remained in their parishes. Archdeacon Jack continued with the adults, whereas Pat Lennox and I led the Junior in this second part of their planning. Pat put the Junior participants in parish clusters and designated an “executive” of each cluster, in which he would liaise about the Junior programme. I then led the groups in a simple exercise of planning, asking each group to write down a projected start date and the names of people to serve on their prayer team.

Sunday, 3 May, we wrapped up the conference with our last set of workshops and practice sessions. We ended the conference with a closing Eucharist and a commissioning service.



## PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AND MOVING FORWARD

I think the conference was a success. People were very engaged and eager to get started once they returned home. I know that one Junior group has already started since the conference. There are three occurrences on the Junior side of things that I would like to highlight:

- One lady, Ouma, was there to be trained so that she could use Junior in her church's feeding scheme. Her feeding scheme serves 150 children, ranging between the ages of 5 to 18. She wants to use Junior with the children who fall between the 8-12 year-old range.
- The youth leader from the cathedral of Polokwane was trained because he wanted to provide something for the little ones who accompany their big brothers and sisters or who come on their own to Friday night Youth. This youth leader started using Junior with the children this past Friday night (8 May) and wrote to let me know that the children loved the first lesson and couldn't wait until the next one.
- A teenager named Frank Ledawba led the best practice session I have ever seen. He told me that he had stayed up the whole night preparing, and I believe him! His session was amazing, like he had been leading Junior for months. My only word of constructive criticism to him was to give his partner a chance to lead some bigger chunks of the lesson, but I know she was quite shy and probably depended too much on Frank. He will make a brilliant Junior leader.

As we move forward, my only area of concern is not having a coordinator who is totally "switched on" to oversee and be an advocate for Junior in the Diocese. (There is no concern for the adult Rooted in Jesus, as they have a strong team of coordinators and as the adult programme is firmly established in the diocese.) Pat Lennox, as the head of children's ministry in the diocese, will continue to give oversight to the Junior programme; but in his own words, he

didn't do much last year. He has set up this "executive board" of Junior group leaders from the cluster of parishes and plans to meet with them twice a year, but I'm not sure how much



good this will do. As far as trainers go, Shaena needs much mentoring and coaching. Busi, our best hope as an advocate and trainer, is stuck in Zimbabwe, trying to get a work visa so that she can return to South Africa. Estelle August is a new Junior trainer from Johannesburg, and she is amazing. She is well trained in Rooted in Jesus and has a background in psychology and education. I plan to use her as much as her time allows to do further trainings in Johannesburg and beyond.

The diocese tried to find some new coordinators to take the programme further; and we were hoping to have a "train the trainers" session on Thursday morning/afternoon before the conference began, but no people were found beforehand. I know this continues to be an area of concern for Bishop Martin and Frauke.

In spite of not having a strong coordinator and advocate in the diocese, we continue to move forward with the programme, and we pray that God will use it to bear much fruit.