

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



Team Members

Adult Team

Bishop Martin
Frauke Ackermann
Kwena Rebecca
Archdeacon Jack (*team leader*)

Junior Team

Estelle August
Shaena
Pat Lennox
Nicole C. Curtis (*team leader*)

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

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 ministry' 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.

