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Ablaze Hearts on Fire: YPM visit the Diocese of York in the United Kingdom



Abigail Hopley, Jade Africa, Siyanda Sinukela and Chaern Golding represented and attended an international conference abroad.

The conference took place from 22nd - 30th July 2015 at Scargill House, Yorkshire, UK. The theme of the conference was ABLAZE - HEARTS ON FIRE. One topic was discussed per day within the theme. The daily topics were: Hearts on fire for Hope, Hearts on

fire for Faith, Hearts on fire for Love, Hearts on fire for Peace and Hearts on fire for Jesus.

With a purpose of creating a platform of worship for a diverse group of young people to explore their Christian faith together and to challenge themselves by encountering the love of God by breaking barriers within themselves as believers. We found that the objectives of the conference was

fulfilled within each session where questions were not only asked but answered as well and friendships were made not only physically with young people from other countries but mentally and spiritually with Christ and one another.

Upon arrival, we were humbly greeted by friendly staff as well as volunteer leaders. Their smiles and welcoming made us feel straight at home. *continues on page 2*



from page 1: The venue was beautiful as we were situated within the Yorkshire Dales which was covered with green pastures, old brick walls and animals such as sheep, cows and the odd dog or two.

Day one and two were based on getting to know one another better on a personal level as there were about 60 young people from various countries, namely: SW Virginia, USA, Erfurt, Germany, Yorkshire, UK and of course Cape Town, South Africa. We played ice breaker games and were then split up into a mixture of 5 groups.

Whilst within our various groups, we would have several tasks to complete regarding the daily topic at hand. As young people we found that the structure implemented was formal yet fun, presentations were thoroughly brought across and the interaction between leaders and representatives was extended in a manner that was humbling.

"Being able to assist during the Eucharist service has touched my heart as it gave meaning to my lifelong dream of becoming a priest" said Siyanda.

As leaders in various ministries, a lot of knowledge and skills have been brought back home with us that could be implemented here such as games, to encourage everyone to participate no matter the age group, ways and means of getting resources to explore your faith journey, structure and balance to be more Christ-like.

Chaern said: "The biggest impact made in my life was when Jason Mains spoke about Love. It struck me as he made me realize that there is no love greater than the love of not only Christ as He died on the cross for us but the love of God who as a father had watched His son suffer whilst enduring pain on the cross."

Personally, I felt that the small group I belonged to was my highlight due to the fact that not a single person held back. We went deeper than imagined with each topic; we were no longer a group but a family. It was easy to open up, view, discuss and find common grounds, whether just about the topic at hand, a personal story or our own opinions which was fully accepted and embraced. One thing that was said by a bright

young lady, now my friend named Jordi was "If animals generally have a great instinct about what is evil or good, the fact that they all draw near to Christ is enough for us to know that we could trust Him."

This trip has not only inspired us to fulfil our leadership roles and take it to the next level but motivated us to encounter the love of God throughout our daily lives, proclaim His Almighty word and encourage other young people to live their lives with Christ as their core. This was a life changing experience and if the opportunity arises again, we would like to see more young people representing our diocese as the fellowship brought us closer and helped us develop spiritually.

We would like to thank those who have provided us with the opportunity to represent our parishes, the Diocese of Cape Town and South Africa in a whole. We feel that we're blessed beyond measure having experienced worship the way we have.

Jade Africa
Chairperson of the YPM

Youth Alpha at St Mark's Athlone

On Friday May the 8th the youth of St. Mark, The Evangelist, Athlone as well as the youth of Holy Nativity, Hazendal started Youth Alpha. This journey with the help of the young adults of the St. Mark was a great success. We journeyed together for 10 consecutive weeks following the Youth Alpha material as well as the Holy Spirit weekend away. We also had a wonderful team assisting us each Friday night to help prepare the meals for the youth for Friday evenings and also to assist with the weekly attendance register. We also had an intercessor who helped a lot during Alpha as when we were busy with the program set out on for the Friday evening; she came for each session and interceded for us in prayer as we were ministering to the youth of St. Mark and Holy Nativity.



From the 19th – 21st June we had our Alpha Camp themed The Holy Spirit Weekend where we spoke about How does God guide us, What about the Holy Spirit and How can I be filled with the Holy Spirit? This was truly more than just a camp as Chains was broken, lives was healed and eyes were opened as our Christ have been revealed to all on Camp. Everything leading up to camp was extremely tough on all the leaders as Satan always want to destroy what God wants for his children and we could feel the battle in our lives leading up to camp. This all changed once we all reached our campsite. We started the evening with supper then we moved into our first session and concluded with fellowship. Saturday Morning we work up bright and early to start our day. After breakfast we all took a hike up the mountain which was absolutely beautiful! We had our morning devotion on top of the mountain.



We then had our sessions run by our Guest Speaker who God used mightily on camp. The highlight for everyone who was on camp was what happened Saturday evening where the Holy Spirit really moved and took over as we had our time of ministry. Everyone was touched and filled with the Holy Spirit and really took their walk with God seriously as they felt him move amongst us. On camp everyone really grew closer with one another and when Sunday came, no-one wanted to leave the campsite as everyone bonded well and loved being around each other.



On Friday the 17th July we had our Alpha Celebration. After the talk, we had an awards ceremony where we gave all those who completed Alpha a Certificate alongside their Affirmations from camp and a gift bag from the leaders. This really was a blessed evening of fellowship. We had so much fun dancing, eating and taking loads of photos that most of us left the hall at 23h40. I can truly say that this was just not a course we done with the youth, but this really changed everyone's lives as we learnt a lot about ourselves and about our relationship with God.



Lyle Meiring St. Mark Athlone Youth Leader

... entering the doors of Pollsmoor Prison



We started this endeavour in September 2014 as a very diverse group of 17 young and “not so young people”, ranging between the ages of 15 – 43.

All emotion flooding in as we anticipate our new task. What to expect as we enter the doors of Pollsmoor Prison... We are greeted in the parking by the warden who escorted us through the booms to the parking area. The ladies are told not to speak, make eye contact or physical contact with any inmate as some of them have been imprisoned for years. Now with all this anxiety gushing through our bodies, we are even more fearful of what to see on the inside. We are searched, signed in and walk through warn off corridors, the wardens carrying big bunches of keys and unlocking many doors until we arrive at our destination.

Here inside these tall fences are many faces peering out of the windows as we make our way to the quad, we are warmly welcomed by whistles, laughter, shouting and applauds by the inmates. Emotions all overwhelming as we know not if we should be scared or excited, simultaneously we are both. We set up, are cornered off and start to play melodies to God. When this occurs the inmates are escorted to the quad and the look on their faces are priceless! They are curious as to who we are, already asking for names and phone numbers from our members.

Now reality has kicked in, we are now one with the inmates. We start off with some praise, slowly but surely they start participating and dancing for Jesus. To our surprise they know much more choruses than we imagined, this is a soul satisfying feeling but also saddens our hearts. To think these young men we are ministering know Jesus, where did they go wrong? This question keeps running through our minds as we continue playing.

We block out judgement as it is so easy to find ourselves in the same shoes as them. This is followed by a short testimony as we come from a gang infested township, Manenberg. Shamlin shares his walk with God and how he was also astray mixing with the wrong friends, being a crowd pleaser and could easily have been an inmate today.

We then go into worship and invite anyone in need of prayer. What breaks our hearts even more is that many of them seek prayer for their families left behind and not for themselves, such a selfless act. We cannot hold the emotion that overwhelms us that so many talents are wasted behind these walls. As we finish and pack up, they hardly want us to leave and starts shouting for more, very grateful that we came and hungry for God. We only have limited time with them, but since this day we know this is where we want to be, proclaiming the word of God and making a difference in the lives of our peers.

Some of the inmates have a chance to assist us with transporting our instruments back out. This is where we actually have a chance to speak to them, rude reality stares us in the face as we hear the stories as to what brought them to prison. The tears cannot be held back any longer, this is to heart-breaking to endure. Many of them don't even receive a visit, it seems as they are no longer part of a family but this small gesture now gives them new hope in Christ Jesus.

Our mission has begun, the best is yet to unfold and now we stand in awe at how God uses simple situations to change the lives of many. Faith is found all thanks and glory goes to our number one, God. We sit back and think what more can we do, especially to those coming back home. Personally I would like to create a place of refuge and guidance to those who are set free. So that they feel a sense of belonging, all knowing that we are with them in the struggle to survive. By this maybe they won't find themselves back in the prison cells, they will find their purpose? This is enriching, this is Love, and this is making a difference for God.

We remain faithful as we continue our journey, a different ball game each time we go back. Some scarier looking, some more friendly, some more lost. We continue praying for the word of God to touch the lives of our brothers and sisters, as they minister to us and us unto them. **Jacqueline Cupido**

Athlone Archdeaconry Annual Sunday Schools Thanksgiving Service

The Annual Archdeaconry Sunday Schools service was held at the parish of St. John The Evangelist Crawford on Sunday 23rd August at 15h00.

The service was co-ordinated by Co-ordinators of the Sunday Schools in the Archdeaconry along with our awesome Chaplain Father Gilmore Fry who is a spiritual mentor to the executive.

The children looked adorable with their parish colour sweaters. The St. Dominic's Band led the Praise and Worship and each Sunday School presented an item. This was an absolute joy to observe the many gifts God has given to both teachers and children.

The Guest preacher Reverend Ronald Dias from St. Aidan's gave a moving sermon on Giving Thanks

and taught the congregation action choruses. The teachers in the Archdeaconry delivered an item of song. The children were treated to eats in the hall after the service.

The service was a pure reflection of Ministry To and Ministry From A Child!

Our God reigns!
Rosalind Maree

