

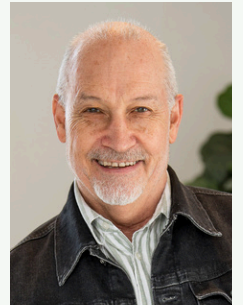
GWC Newsletter | April 2025

Yesterday, Today, and Forever

by The Rev. Dr Mark Dickson (GWC Principal)

At GWC, students are immersed in this breath-taking vision of history: that Christ remains unchanging—yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8 NIV). Though the world may rage and life's path may twist with unforeseen trials, God's providence is unwavering, ensuring that all things work for the good of those He has called (Romans 8:28 NIV).

When our minds are overburdened, some resort to inscribing vital tasks upon their wrists or hands with a ballpoint pen. In a similar yet infinitely profound manner, God has done the same—not for His own remembrance, but for ours. He declares that our names are inscribed upon His hands (Isaiah 49:16 NIV), a divine assurance to Israel that He will never forget His people.



The Hebrew term Isaiah employs in this verse conveys the notion of being “chiselled” or “engraved,” evoking a resonance with the word for “statute”. The very sound of the term suggests the act of carving—an indelible, deliberate inscription. Consider this: our names are not merely written but engraved upon the very palms of God's hands, as if decreed into His being. His hands bear His “law”, and in them, He holds you and me.

It should astonish no one that the Old Testament speaks in such a manner, for in the boundless reaches of eternity, God had already ordained the sending of His Son to redeem His people. Before the cosmos was woven into being, before the river of time first flowed, the Lamb was appointed to be slain (Revelation 13:8 NIV). The sovereign decrees of God are neither hindered by time nor swayed by the shifting tides of creation.

As we carry out our God-given task at College of shaping minds via a classical theological education, nurturing hearts devoted to Christian service and training voices to effectively communicate the word of God, we can be assured of this: That whatever ministry God, in His wisdom, entrusts to a graduate for the advancing of Christ's Kingdom, that sacred calling was long ago etched, in cruciform love, upon the palms of His hands.

Good Friday Giving: The REACH Training Fund



Presiding Bishop of REACH SA, the Rt Revd. Dr Siegfried Ngubane, is pleased to launch the REACH Training Fund this Easter. This fund was established to support those in our denomination who are called to ministry, so that they can obtain solid theological training at George Whitefield College.

This is in light of the growth that REACH is experiencing, both within and beyond South Africa into Southern Africa. “A growing church needs well-equipped teachers who can lead people to better understand God's Word to share it with others and disciple their congregations to Christian maturity,” said Presiding Bishop Ngubane. “Please carefully consider how you can be a part of equipping preachers and teachers for REACH by contributing to this fund through your giving, and sharing it with those in your networks.



Above all, pray with us, as together we send workers out into the Lord's harvest field to reach South Africa and the African continent with the good news of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your partnership, and God bless you dear brothers and sisters in Christ.”

www.gwc.ac.za/donate/reach-training-fund/



Online Short Course in **MARK'S GOSPEL**

4 August 2025 – 28 November 2025

www.gwc.ac.za/how-to-apply/

MORE INFO: registry@gwc.ac.za

Marko Mou: “God is at Work in South Sudan”

Marko Mou completed his BTh at GWC in 2024, and is now back in Aweil, South Sudan. He serves as the assistant pastor at St John Protestant Church Mathiang Diocese of Aweil ECSS, and lectures at Bishop John Malou College. Marko shares some news of his ministry...

“As a recent theological graduate, I have become one of the busiest people in the church, often preaching multiples times! GWC has greatly enhanced my competence and ability to faithfully preach the Word of God to an English-speaking, multicultural and interdenominational congregation that draws members from both local South Sudanese and foreign nationals. My work also focuses on leading services and handling administrative tasks, and the tools and skills I required at College – from organising Bible studies through to time management – have been invaluable in my ministry.

During the holidays, I plan to organise training for pastors and lay leaders. I have noticed a significant gap in ministries such as youth, children, and women’s ministry. If I can secure the necessary resources, I would be delighted to equip youth and children’s workers to serve more effectively and competently in their roles. I am also currently gathering the necessary materials to launch the Explore course, and plan to start with a small group of



Marko Mou together with some children from St John's, Aweil

committed and faithful believers who are devoted to Scripture.

There are many challenges to Christianity (and life in general) here in South Sudan. In spite of these, my greatest highlight since being home has been seeing the willingness and zeal of the students who I am lecturing at Bishop John Malou College. Their dedication and commitment to learn the Word of God, both in and outside the classroom, is truly encouraging and inspiring! God is at work, and we praise Him! Thank you for your continued prayers for my ministry in South Sudan.”

Bible-Based Teaching in the Barotseland Floodplains

Michael Watson graduated from GWC in 2019 with a BTh and he and his wife Renée have been SIM missionaries in Zambia for the past three years, serving at Christ Church Lusaka. The Watsons updated us on a recent teaching opportunity they had at Barotse Bible College near Mongu, which is opening doors for their future ministry in this area of immense need...

“What a huge blessing it was to share time with fellow brothers in Christ, many of whom are leading churches out in the floodplains and preaching on Sundays without any training on how to handle the Bible correctly or teach God’s truth to His people. These are the people I am most keen to serve, and encourage and equip with wonderful accessible tools such as the Explore course, Simeon Trust, and Langham Preaching.

I was asked to teach on the Pentateuch, and as I’d been taught this very course at GWC, I was able to draw from that knowledge as I led the class. One clear highlight from the trip was encountering and being able to correct false teaching that seems to be prevalent in this area, about the Serpent Seed Theory of the Branhamite cult. Another highlight was a young lady, Lisa, surrendering her life to Christ, after Renée had two opportunities to speak on passages from Romans to the ladies at the College.



Michael Watson teaching at Barotse Bible College

The people in this isolated area are very poor and subsistence farmers have to work hard to survive. Most don’t have a Bible in their own language, or even a Bible at all, and Renée and I are excited about the impact that well-equipped pastors or Bible teachers will have here. Please pray for Christ Church Lusaka to be able to pay their pastor, Dr Paul Kayumba, a full-time salary, and for those who are being trained up to take on some of our current roles there. This will certainly contribute significantly to our being able to pursue our calling in Mongu in God’s timing.”



Scan to donate to student bursaries or visit our website:

<https://www.gwc.ac.za/donate/student-bursaries/>

One bursary can reach many for the Gospel as our students preach, teach and lead in churches, Bible Colleges and missions. The harvest is plentiful, but there are few workers! Gifts from SA and the UK are tax deductible. Can your church sponsor a student so we can raise up more labourers for the Kingdom?

Expanding Explore in Southern Africa



Nevil Carrington conducting facilitators' training at Dumisani Theological Institute, Eastern Cape

Following the establishment of the regional hubs for Eastern and South-Central countries in Africa, the Explore team is currently finalising the Southern Africa hub, with an emphasis on training facilitators to lead small groups of the Explore correspondence course to pastors in 2025. The goal for the year is to double the number of students from 2024 (462 students who studied 632 modules), and to reach out to pastors in rural areas, where 31% of the South African population resides. Reports show that the triple challenges facing the country – poverty, inequality, and unemployment – are especially severe for people living in these areas, as the majority of the nation's resources and attention are directed towards urban hubs. The need for theologically trained preachers in the rural context is acute, as many pastors struggle due to a lack of resources and training.

Explore, with its strong theological foundation, is a critical tool for teaching and discipling in this context, enabling pastors to develop a deeper understanding of God's Word. This equips them to share the truth about God's salvation plan, and to be able to counter the many false teachings that can prey on the vulnerabilities of the poor. A training session has already been conducted in the Eastern Cape, at Dumisani Theological Institute, with sessions in KwaZulu-Natal and Mpumalanga in the pipeline.

Please be in prayer for these efforts in reaching and equipping the most marginalised in our society.

You can partner with Explore's expansion in Southern Africa by sponsoring a student or group of students to complete the Explore modules. These scholarships help ensure that this world-class discipleship tool impacts more people and churches in our country and across the African continent.



Scan to learn more about
Explore Scholarships
ZAR 2560/3 modules



<https://explore.org.za/gospel-impact-scholarship/>

Meet Bachelor of Theology Student Tasha Nsofwa

After doing her gap year at Christ Church Midrand, Tasha had plans to study teaching. When a number of people suggested she consider Bible College, she decided that, if it was something she was being called to, she needed to at least apply. Now in her second year of studies, she can see that this is what God was preparing her for all along...

What have been some of the highlights for you so far in terms of what you've learnt?

One of the subjects that has really stuck with me is Biblical Theology – the whole Bible just clicked for me in a way it never had before, as I could connect the Old and New Testament properly. From then on, how I think about God's Word has been radically changed.

Do you have an idea of how God will have you serve when you complete your studies?

I would love to go back to my church and do children's ministry, and so that's the plan Lord-willing, but we'll see what happens.

How do you feel you are currently being equipped for this service?

I remember one of our lecturers at the beginning of last year saying that we will not be the same people we currently were, when we walked out of GWC's doors. And that is so true already – I'm just so different in terms of how I think and apply myself to tasks. I remember preparing a Sunday School lesson for my church in June last year, and how I went about it was so different because I knew so much more and felt so much better equipped. I'm excited to teach what I've learned to some of the leaders that I'll train, if I go back to Christ Church. Because I think that should be the point of theological colleges – that what is learned is passed on. I hope I can use my skills to better equip my leaders, who can then better teach the kids in our congregation.



Open Sessions at GWC for prospective students

When:

Thursday 22 May 2025: 9:45AM-1:30PM

Thursday 17 July 2025: 9:45AM-1:30PM

Register Here: www.gwc.ac.za/events/

More Info: registry@gwc.ac.za

JOIN US



REACH-Namibia: “A Time of Spiritual Revival”

Pastor Nelson Ndadevondjo, who was elected as assistant bishop of REACH-Namibia in 2024, visited GWC recently. While REACH has a long history in Namibia, there are currently approximately 40 new churches, with new churches being planted at a rapid rate.

“The work of God that is happening in the country right now is quite amazing; the congregations are growing and people are hungry for the gospel and for solid doctrine – it is a time of spiritual revival,” said Pastor Ndadevondjo.



“The challenging part is that now that you have people who desire the gospel and who desire to preach, you need to equip them with knowledge and material. Our greatest need at the moment therefore is teachers – those who are equipped with both adequate training and resources. We currently have two students at GWC; please pray with us for God to open doors for further students to be able to receive theological training, as now is the time when there is a hunger – and it is good to be able to satisfy that and supply well-equipped teachers to our churches,” he said.

Have you Considered Online Postgraduate Studies?

GWC offers a number of online modules at postgraduate level, to provide flexibility to those not able to study on campus.

Postgraduate student Dale Clark is currently busy with a part-time, structured Masters, having completed his BTh at GWC in 2005 and an Honours degree through South African Theological Seminary (SATS).



“Having participated in a number of online lectures and sessions, I have found the experience to be very positive,” he said. “The lecturers have been conscious of and sensitive to the needs of the online students, and the in-person students have been respectful. We are able to fully participate in discussions using breakout rooms and this has helped to broaden my perspectives and deepen my understanding of Scripture. While online is not the ideal learning environment in general, it is a huge improvement on the older style of ‘distance learning’ and I think GWC has implemented this option well.”

Enquiries & Applications

More Info: registry@gwc.ac.za
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www.gwc.ac.za



Strengthening Partnerships at the Africa Mile Deep Conference

GWC faculty members Drs Richard and Caroline Seed, and Dr Nathan Lovell, and Mrs Alison Lee, Advancement Executive, met with colleagues from different theological education institutions across Africa at the annual Mile Deep conference held in Rwanda in March. Facilitated by Local Leaders International, the conference provided a platform for engagement on issues relevant to equipping teachers and preachers to help grow the church in Africa, and to seek collaborations to support one another in this important work.



Graduation and Matriculation – An Evening of Celebration

On 24 March, GWC held its first combined graduation and matriculation service at St James Church, Kenilworth, Cape Town. The special occasion saw 6 Higher Certificate in Theology, 16 Bachelor of Theology, 8 Honours, 3 Masters and 198 Explore students graduate (some in absentia), while new students were welcomed into the College by signing the matriculation book. Graduands were congratulated on the perseverance and dedication that brought them to such a proud moment, and Dr Mawonga Celesi, Explore Executive, reminded them to go out and share the story of God’s love as Jesus did, in his speaker address on John 3:16-17.



2024 Graduates



2025 Matriculants