



*I HAVE COME THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE, AND HAVE IT IN ABUNDANCE*

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a Support Fund for the Advancement of Theological  
Education and Ministerial Training

in association with  
the Office of the Dean  
Faculty of Theology  
University of Pretoria

*ANNUAL REPORT*

*2019 - 2020*

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

With this report, we mark the end of our fourth year together as the Life Abundant community, people committed to ensuring the Kingdom of God continues to advance because those who chose to lead it have access to the best theological education and ministry training available in Africa. During this time, from the day we launched the fund until today, Life Abundant has not faltered or waived from this singular purpose, which may be why the growth it has experienced is nothing short of miraculous.

You need not take my word for it though, in so far as the signs and wonders of growth are concerned, when we can let the facts speak for themselves:

- Four students in the Faculty of Theology and Religion have served as administrative assistants, developing both personally and professionally over the course of their respective year-long internships.
- Our donor base has grown from one income generating project to a team of supporters that include mission agencies, charitable foundations, local churches and more than thirty individual contributors.
- A total of nine professors, lecturers and administrators have willingly participated in the Life Abundant advisory council, freely offering their time and expertise in guiding the allocation of our limited resources toward the most worthy of applicants.
- Speaking of those applicants, one-hundred-and-six men and women, both young and old, local and foreign have been provided with financial assistance in the form of tuition grants, rent payments, travel stipends and even food vouchers.
- Along the way, well over eight-hundred-thousand rands have passed through the account held by the fund, with the one-million mark expected to be reached by the year 2021.

Of course, the catalogue of blessings could continue, but our understanding of the path Life Abundant is on would remain the same. The increase of our presence within the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria, and the growth of our ability to engage

with the students that know it as their academic home is not simply a matter of good fortune or fitting circumstance. It is not merely surprising in nature or uncommon in potential, but rather, as mentioned above, nothing short of miraculous.

So please join me in reviewing the annual report that here follows, allowing the miracles to unfold before our collective eyes, and giving praise to our wonder-working God for His enduring goodness.

Abundantly,

*Dana Mahan*

Project Leader - Life Abundant Fund

Faculty of Theology - University of Pretoria

## Income

Income Source	Income Type	Estimated Amount
Scribe Services	Cash	R170 000
Hartmann Trust	Cash	R75 000
Private Donors	Cash	R31 000

*Total**R276 000*

## Expenses

Expense Source	Expense Type	Estimated Amount
Tuition Grants	Cash	R247 500
Stipend Payments	Cash	R20 000
Living Expenses	Cash	R5 500

*Total**R273 000**Balance**R3 000*

35 JuniorTukkie May 2020

## Theology and Religion

## Celebrating life in all its abundance

By Tshwanelo Serumola

Life Abundant is a support fund that was founded by Dana Mahan in the Faculty of Theology and Religion during the infamous Fees Must Fall movement of 2016. It is led by an advisory council which allocates an annual budget that goes toward helping students at UP with various necessities such as school fees, food parcels, rent payments and underwriting the costs of vocationally enriching experiences.

Life Abundant also offers periodic research grants to students that are working on advanced qualifications such as master's or PhD degrees in the form of personal stipends that enable them to continue pursuing their academic goals. While being interviewed for this article, Dana was asked the following questions:

**Q: What has been your greatest reward since establishing the fund?**

**A:** What I have found most rewarding about leading Life Abundant are the opportunities to prevent students from dropping out or discontinuing their academic programmes for financial reasons.

**Q: What future plans do you have for the fund?**

**A:** In the next two years, we would like to see the total giving from the Fund to Theology and Religion students exceed the R1 million mark.

**Q: What was one of your greatest challenges and how did you overcome it?**

**A:** After establishing the fund with a single donor on board, the biggest challenge has been expanding our support base. However, in recent months, a host of individuals and other charitable organisations have joined the team financially, making it possible to expand our impact.

Another area in which the fund takes pride is its commitment to community engagement. In years gone by, this engagement with the world at large included helping UP students travel abroad so they could deepen their theological knowledge.

Students have gone on mission trips to Africa, study excursions to European cities and participated in learnerships on university campuses across America.

As Lethabo Molopyane confirms: 'When I was going through a hard and stressful time due to financial difficulties, it seemed like my goals had to be put on hold. Life Abundant came to my rescue. It was a great honour and privilege to receive a grant from the fund which covered a portion of my tuition fees. Their financial assistance enabled me to continue my studies. God answered my prayers through Life Abundant and for that I am forever grateful.'

It is truly impressive that in the space of the last four years, from 2016 to 2019, Life Abundant was able to raise R613 000 in financial aid to Theology and Religion students. Although the scholarship is fairly new, it hopes to continue its campaign of support for years to come.

### Contact information

Email [dana.mahan@up.ac.za](mailto:dana.mahan@up.ac.za)



↑ Lethabo Molopyane



↑ Caption

## Advisory Council - Member Profiles

**Name** Professor Jerry Pillay

**Position** Dean, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria

**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Professor Danie Veldsman

**Position** Departmental Head, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria

**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Doctor Tanya van Wyk

**Position** Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria

**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Doctor Hanré Janse van Rensburg

**Position** Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria

**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Rev Anandie Greyling

**Position** Pastor, Dutch Reformed Church in South Africa

**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Ms Tshwanelo Serumola

**Position** Student, Faculty of Theology and Religion, University of Pretoria

**Role** Fund Intern

**Name** Mr Dana Mahan

**Position** Missionary, Ripe for Harvest World Outreach

**Role** Fund Manager

In addition to the provision of 1) ample office space by the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria, 2) dedicated personnel by Ripe for Harvest World Outreach, and 3) generous monetary contribution from private donors, the Life Abundant Fund receives the majority of the resources it uses to accomplish the mission laid out before it from an independent non-profit organisation registered with the Department of Social Development called Scribe.

Scribe is a consultancy firm dedicated to assisting emergent charitable enterprises committed to the cause of transformation through expanding their organisational capacity. By offering them opportunities to establish effective and affordable structural foundations, while also helping them build solid and reliable partnership cohorts, Scribe equips these agents of social change as they grow and share their stories of hope both near and far.

In return, each member of the Scribe network pays a monthly or annual affiliate fee for services rendered, based on the terms and conditions of their respective contractual arrangements. Because Scribe was designed around a model that allows for no overhead expenses, each rand collected in affiliate fees is passed on to its one beneficiary, namely the Life Abundant fund. Such donations are made in quarterly allotments, once a meeting of the board of directors overseeing Scribe is held, and the transaction is approved.

The current list of Scribe affiliates includes:

- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Motheong Primary School
- Operation Mobilization
- Pretoria West Methodist Church
- Saint Francis Church
- Tiqwa Disability Centre
- Northern Tigers Swimming

For more information on how Scribe can add value to other potential affiliates, please visit its website at [www.scribeservices.org](http://www.scribeservices.org), or contact one of its directors listed below. When the



Scribe network grows, the resources it generates also grow, making it possible for additional support to be passed on to Theology students at the University of Pretoria through Life Abundant.

**Name** Mrs Sibongile Mahan  
**Position** Lecturer, Department of Education, University of South Africa  
**Role** Board Member

**Name** Ms Elaine Viljoen  
**Position** Chartered Accountant, Hatmed  
**Role** Board Treasurer

**Name** Mr Michael Kotsedi  
**Position** Leader, Facilities Management Department, University of Pretoria  
**Role** Board Secretary

**Name** Mr Dana Mahan  
**Position** Missionary, Riper for Harvest World Outreach  
**Role** Board Chairman

### Financial

- Cross the R1 000 000 mark of overall giving to students of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria.

### Staffing

- Recruit and appoint an intern for the fund that will both serve its mission and grow in his capacity for ministry before finishing his degree programme.

### Networking

- Nurture and develop the new alumni network of the fund, such that future endorsements will be provided and networking opportunities created.

### Operational

- Ensure all the financial systems and administrative structures that contribute to the smooth running of the fund are kept in good repair.

### Promotional

- Raise awareness about the fund within the university community and beyond, so that further charitable investments can be secured.

### Leadership

- Extend invitations to appropriate individuals for membership on the advisory council of the fund if and when its current members step down or move on.

### Programme

- Organise four e-meetings of the council throughout the course of the year ahead, and successfully host the fifth annual celebration of the fund.

## *Articles of Governance*

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### 1. Name

1.1 The name of the fund is Life Abundant.

### 2. Object

2.1 The object of the fund is to support the advancement of theological education and ministerial training by financially investing in any academic programme, scholarly research and community outreach which is aligned with Christian values, principles and standards.

### 3. Domain

3.1 The operational domain of the fund is primarily the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria.

### 4. Finance

4.1 In accordance with its non-profit status, the fund will not carry on any activities intended solely for monetary gain.

4.2 All resources acquired by the fund shall be applied to the promotion and pursuit of its object, and none of the income, property or other capital allocated to the fund will be distributed to its leaders or their associates.

4.3 The financial year of the fund will begin on the first day of January and end on the last day of December. Ahead of this date, records pertaining to the fiscal position of the fund will be

carefully kept by a the director of the fund, as well as openly and fairly presented to its leaders upon request.

4.4 An independent review of the fund and its financial activity will be performed along with the larger University of Pretoria auditing process on a yearly basis, and the results thereof shall subsequently be made available to the various fund stakeholders at its annual general meeting in November.

4.5 The investment of surplus capital shall be permissible, provided that any growth on such investments is applied solely towards the object of the fund, and upon its dissolution, all assets are transferred to another fund of similar object and domain, once all debts have been settled.

## 5. Leadership

5.1 The number of leaders at any given time shall be no less than six and no more than twelve persons, all of whom will form an advisory council for the fund.

5.2 Requests to join the council will be considered by the existing members if the request is submitted in writing, and the submission is made by or on behalf of any person that is willing to promote the object of the fund.

5.3 The decision to accept or reject the request shall be at the sole discretion of the existing leaders, and decided upon by their majority vote.

5.4 Leaders of the fund have the right to resign from their affiliation at any time, and under any circumstances they deem appropriate. Such a resignation must be presented to the advisory council in writing, and upon its acceptance, will have immediate effect.

5.6 The council retains the right to terminate the affiliation of any member by majority vote, if he or she exhibits conduct detrimental to the object of the fund. The decision to terminate the affiliation of a leader will be final, with no associated appeal process, and is to be confirmed through official notification.

## 6. Officers

6.1 The advisory council shall, from amongst their number, appoint an individual to the office of fund manager.

6.2 The members may confer upon, or revoke from this office bearer such power and authority they think necessary, with those terms and conditions required to facilitate the proper functioning of the fund.

6.3 The office bearer, having been duly appointed and empowered, shall pursue the object of the fund with all diligence and prudence, subject to the stipulations of these articles of governance, and any special instructions approved by the council members.

## 7. Powers

7.1 In the interest of the fund and in pursuit of its object, the advisory council shall collectively have the power:

7.1.1 To participate in any collection of financial resources for use by the fund, and to receive all contributions in money or otherwise on its behalf and,

7.1.2 To acquire any property, moveable or immovable, that they deem necessary and appropriate, in accordance with the object of the fund and,

7.1.3 To apply any resources of any kind acquired by the fund in any manner they deem to be in its best interest, or in the furtherance of its object and,

7.1.5 To institute, conduct, defend or abandon any legal proceedings for or against the fund or its affairs.

## 8. Meetings

8.1 The advisory council shall meet on a quarterly basis. One such quarterly gathering will serve as the annual general meeting of the fund, to be held within each fiscal year.

8.2 Notification of all annual general meetings will be provided fourteen days in advance, and shall specify the date, time and place at which the meetings are to transpire. Such meetings may commence only when a quorum is present, a quorum consisting of a majority of leaders.

8.3 Meetings will be presided over by the fund manager. In his or her absence, the leaders may appoint an alternative individual to facilitate the meeting.

8.4 Meetings shall deal with any business the leaders consider relevant, including the appointment of advisory council members, the consideration of financial statements, and any other matter related to the object of the fund.

8.5 Records will be kept of proceedings at all annual general meetings, including a detailed account of resolutions passed. A copy of such records will be considered official evidence of the matters therein contained, and will be circulated amongst the council members not more than two-weeks after the meeting takes place.

## 9. Indemnity

9.1 No advisory council member shall be liable for any debt or loss that may be incurred by the fund as a result of any financial investment made on its behalf, nor shall any be held legally responsible for damage to property or injury to person that may be caused by the fund or its representatives.

## 10. Amendments

10.1 The fund may remove, amend or add provisions to these articles of governance by way of resolution advanced at the annual general meeting and approved through majority vote.

### *Introductory Letter*

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Dear Student,

Thank you for choosing to study Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria. We trust the training you receive here will equip you to one day join the legions of hardy souls working in Christian ministry both near and far, so that you can also play a part in transforming the world with the love and truth of God.

Because academic preparation of this calibre can be costly, the faculty leadership established Life Abundant, a support fund designed to help students overcome the economic obstacles which may stand between them and the education they deserve.

So if your current financial resources are not sufficient to meet your annual university expenses, and you have not previously received a grant from Life Abundant, then we as fund advisors invite and encourage you to apply for assistance.

To do so, you must first collect the following documentation:

- An application form – This file should have been provided to you along with the letter you now have in hand. Please print it out, then complete and sign it.
- Your academic record – A copy of your academic record at the University of Pretoria can be found through the portal, or requested from the faculty student administrator, Ms Cathy Sandis, in Room 1-21 of the Theology Building.
- A personal appeal – In a one page narrative, provide details about your family background, your degree or diploma programme, your career aspirations and the precise amount with which you want the fund to assist you.
- Your financial statement – Visit the Student Service Centre to secure this paperwork, with details regarding the balance of your account, or download it from the UP portal.

- A recommendation letter – Speak to one of the lecturers in the faculty with whom you have established a relationship through your course work, and ask him or her for a written endorsement of your performance as a student.

When completed and compiled, all of the above documentation can be brought in hardcopy format to Office 40 on Level 2 of the Theology Building between the hours of 08h00 and 14h00. Your appeal will then be processed, and you will be informed of its outcome after the advisory council for the fund has taken the time to review your case.

Best wishes and kind regards,

*Dana*

Dana Mahan, MDiv

Fund Manager- Life Abundant

Faculty of Theology and Religion - University of Pretoria

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## *Pledge Form*

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### PART ONE – PERSONAL DETAILS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_

Gender: \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity: \_\_\_\_\_

### PART TWO – SITUATIONAL PARTICULARS

For what degree or diploma programme are you currently registered at UP?

\_\_\_\_\_

How many years of this programme have you already completed?

\_\_\_\_\_

Have you earned any other varsity qualifications in the past, and if so, what did you study?

\_\_\_\_\_

Where did you grow up, and with whom do you stay when you are at home?

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Are you currently accommodated in some form of student housing?

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What is your primary means of transportation?

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Are you involved in a church, and if so, which one?

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Are you employed, and if so, where do you work?

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Have you ever applied for NSFAS or bank loans to cover the cost of your studies?

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If you have borrowed money in the past, how much student debt to you currently have?

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What other sources of financial support are available to you?

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Have you previously received a tuition scholarship or research grant from Life Abundant?

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### PART THREE – SIGNED PLEDGE

As a candidate for financial assistance from Life Abundant, I solemnly declare that the information here presented accurately reflects my individual circumstances as a student at the University of Pretoria, and should the contrary become apparent, I herewith commit to paying back all the money I have received, thus binding myself to any debt such an eventuality would entail.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Abundant Fund

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