



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

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

2016 - 2017

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

Since the establishment of our scholarship fund last year, the leaders of Life Abundant have made great progress toward their goal of removing the financial barriers that prevent future church and ministry leaders from engaging with the excellent educational opportunities available within the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria. Indeed, I believe there are few better confirmations of the faculty theme for its centenary celebrations in 2017, namely the Opening of the Gates, than the grant assistance we provided.

That assistance has manifest itself in an array of meaningful monetary contributions, ranging from tuition payments to travel subsidies, research awards to housing assistance, each one allocated after a rigorous vetting process through which the most appropriate beneficiaries were identified. By carefully measuring the 1) academic performance, 2) potential for ministry, and 3) personal need of all applicants, the Life Abundant advisory council dutifully reached many thoughtful decisions on who and how to help.

Yet while our total giving for the current year, around R170 000, is impressive in and of itself, the more compelling evidence that our fund is tracking well with its objectives can be found in the profiles of the young people we have nudged further down the road toward academic success. Please find some of those stories in the pages that follow, as well as more information about who oversees the work, and from where our resources are secured.

If the year ahead bears any resemblance to the year behind, we have much reason to rejoice in our calling as ambassadors of the gospel message found in John 10, when Jesus declared, *I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.*

With gratitude,

Dana Mahan

Project Leader - Life Abundant Fund

Faculty of Theology - University of Pretoria

Income

Income Source	Income Type	Estimated Amount
Faculty of Theology	Provision	R90 000
Ripe for Harvest	Provision	R500 000
Scribe Services	Cash	R150 000
Private Donors	Cash	R40 000

*Total**R780 000*

Expenses

Expense Source	Expense Type	Estimated Amount
Faculty of Theology	Provision	R90 000
Ripe for Harvest	Provision	R500 000
Student Support	Cash	R190 000

*Total**R780 000**Balance**R0*

2017

In July . . . The leadership of Life Abundant expanded the means by which it supports Theology students at the University of Pretoria by providing several of them with housing subsidies, travel assistance and meal vouchers. Over and above the cost of tuition and books, young adults working toward advanced qualifications still face the challenge of meeting these ordinary living expenses, so it was an honour and a privilege for Life Abundant to help in such critical areas. In so doing, the fund was given fresh opportunity to demonstrate its concern for the students on campus.

In March . . . Three scholars from the Faculty of Theology – one working toward a Bachelors degree, one working toward an Honours degree, and one working toward a Masters degree – applied for tuition assistance through Life Abundant. Given the broad spectrum of their personal backgrounds, and the individual potential for ministry demonstrated by each, the applications put forward by these gentleman were successful in the end. Back on campus and sitting in class, they add just the kind of diversity and creativity Life Abundant seeks to promote within the University of Pretoria community.

In January . . . A young theologian from Congo wanted to begin the final year of his Masters programme in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria, but lacked the fiscal resources to register. Because his area of inquiry, namely the agency of the Pauline gospel within the Book of Revelation, is relevant for the public, eschatological discourse of our day, members of the Life Abundant advisory council awarded him a sizable research grant which opened the way for enrolment, and enabled this scholar to begin the final leg of his academic journey.

2016

In October . . . A student within the Faculty of Theology applied for a travel grant through Life Abundant so that she could spend a portion of the 2017 academic year in Tübingen, Germany.

While abroad, this young theologian will have the opportunity to improve her linguistic skills, and advance her understanding of cultural diversity in a social context of rich Christian heritage. For this reason, the leaders of Life Abundant approved her application, and agreed to cover half the cost of her commute up north.

In July . . . Members of the student group within the Faculty, namely House Theology, spent their volunteer time on Mandela Day alongside of residents from an informal settlement in the far east of Pretoria, bringing with them essential items perpetually in short supply amongst the urban poor, including tinned food, hygienic products and a cheque, drawn from Life Abundant resources, for the operational expenses incurred by the preschool, Pure Hope Kids, with which the students worked to make this intervention a success.

In June . . . Several students from the University of Pretoria participated in a mission trip to Botswana, organised by a Dutch-Reformed congregation in South Africa. One such student was sponsored by Life Abundant, so that he could join the others as they reached out to rural families through Windows of Hope, an organisation which offers practical assistance to those in need. Both while teaching lessons from the Bible to children, and when helping adults with tasks involving manual labour, these young people represented the Faculty with distinction.

Advisory Council - Member Profiles

Name Professor Johan Buitendag
Position Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria
Role Advisory Council Member

Name Professor Danie Veldsman
Position Departmental Head, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria
Role Advisory Council Member

Name Doctor Tanya van Wyk
Position Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria
Role Advisory Council Member

Name Ms Tania Arrison
Position Administrator, Office of the Dean, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria
Role Advisory Council Member

Name Ms Maleshoane Mashabane
Position Student Advisor, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria
Role Advisory Council Member

Name Ms Patience Manaba
Position Student, Faculty of Theology, 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:

- Association of Christian Religious Practitioners
- Boston College
- Campus Crusade for Christ
- Centre for Contextual Ministry
- FF Ribeiro Primary School
- Gauteng Department of Education
- Hospivision
- Mamelodi Initiative
- Motheong Primary School

- Pretoria West Methodist Church
- Restorative Justice Centre
- Saint Francis Church
- Tiqwa Disability Centre
- University of South Africa

For more information on how Scribe can add value to other potential affiliates, please visit its website at www.scribervices.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 PhD candidate, 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

- Generate at least R150 000 cash so that the fund can distribute it to successful scholarship applicants within the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria.

Staffing

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

Networking

- Launch and develop an alumni association for 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 second annual celebration of the fund.

Articles of Governance

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 with shared values or common goals.

3. DOMAIN

3.1 The operational domain of the fund is primarily the Faculty of Theology at the University of Pretoria, in Pretoria, South Africa.

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 October and end on the last day of September. Ahead of this date, records pertaining to the fiscal position of

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

4.4 An independent audit of the fund and its financial activity will be performed annually, and the results of the audit shall subsequently be made available to the leaders of the fund for consideration upon request.

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:

5.2.1 the request is submitted in writing and,

5.2.2 the written request is submitted by any person that is willing to promote the object of the fund and,

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.

5.5 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 individuals to the offices of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer.

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

6.3 The officers, 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 convene on a quarterly basis, either in person or by means of corporate electronic communication. In addition, an annual general meeting

of the fund will be held during each fiscal year, to which various other stakeholders, partners and beneficiaries shall be invited.

8.2 Notification of any meeting will be provided fourteen days in advance, and shall specify the date, time and place at which the meeting is 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 chairperson of the advisory council. 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 election of members or the appointment of officers, 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 meetings, including a detailed account of all 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 its articles of governance by way of resolution advanced at any duly constituted meeting of the board and approved through majority vote.

Introductory Letter

Dear Student,

Thank you for choosing to study Theology at the University of Pretoria. We trust the training you receive here will equip you to one day join the legions of hardy souls already working in Christian ministry, 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 student support fund which can help you overcome any economic obstacle standing between you and the education you deserve.

If you have found, therefore, that your current financial resources are not sufficient to meet your annual varsity expenses, then we as fund leaders invite and encourage you to apply for assistance today.

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 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, including any debits or credits related to your current year of study.

- A recommendation letter – Speak to one of the professors 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 47 on Level 1 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 within one month of the submission date, 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 - University of Pretoria

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Dana.Mahan@up.ac.za

Pledge Form

PART ONE – PERSONAL DETAILS

Name and Surname: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Date of Birth: _____

Nationality: _____

Gender: _____

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?

Are you currently accommodated in some form of student housing?

What is your primary means of transportation?

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

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

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

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

What other sources of financial support are available to you?

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 returning all the money I have received, binding myself to any debt this would entail.

Sign: _____

Date: _____

Life Abundant Fund

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