



# Life Abundant

*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*

*2018 - 2019*

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Dear Partners, Supporters and Friends,

With this report, we mark the end of our third 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:

- Three 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 eight 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, seventy-five 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 five-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
Faculty of Theology	Provision	R259 000
Ripe for Harvest	Provision	R720 000
Scribe Services	Cash	R150 000
Private Donors	Cash	R75 000

*Total**R1 204 000*

## Expenses

Expense Source	Expense Type	Estimated Amount
Faculty of Theology	Operations	R259 000
Ripe for Harvest	Personnel	R720 000
Student Support	Grants	R225 000

*Total**R1 204 000**Balance**R0*

# the LIFE ABUNDANT fund

The supporters and friends of Life Abundant believe that our shared mission of social transformation is best promoted by **equipping emergent agents of change** so they can serve their faith communities, positioned to proclaim and embody the love and truth of God.

This fund was thus established within the **Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria** for the advancement of ministry training, so that future pastors, teachers and activists could be richly and meaningfully empowered.

Would you like to have a share in giving future champions of the Gospel like Mathias a chance to reach their goals and live their dreams by making a financial contribution today? Then please **contact the Life Abundant director** by email, [dana.mahan@up.ac.za](mailto:dana.mahan@up.ac.za), or by phone, 012 420 6655!



*"I came to the Faculty of Theology with a dream of studying religion. Life Abundant provided me with funding that helped me pursue that goal. Apart from finances, I am highly grateful for the amount of personal support that Life Abundant has provided me."*

Mathias Shunmugam



## Faculty of Theology and Religion

Fakulteit Teologie en Religie  
Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

## Advisory Council - Member Profiles

**Name** Professor Jerry Pillay  
**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** Doctor Hanre Janse van Rensburg  
**Position** Senior Lecturer, Faculty of Theology, University of Pretoria  
**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Rev Carusta van der Merwe  
**Position** Administrator, Netherdutch Reformed Church of Africa  
**Role** Advisory Council Member

**Name** Mr Mpho Mehloakulu  
**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:

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

For more information on how Scribe can add value to other potential affiliates, please visit its website at [www.scribervices.org](http://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** 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

- Generate at least R250 000 cash so that the fund can distribute it to successful scholarship applicants within the Faculty of Theology and Religion.

## Staffing

- Recruit and appoint an intern for the fund that will both serve its mission and grow in her capacity for ministry before finishing 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 fourth 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 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 participate in the council will be considered by the existing members if and only 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 due diligence and reasonable 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 join in any collection of financial resources for sole use by the fund, and to receive all contributions in money or other such forms on its behalf and,

7.1.2 To acquire any property, moveable or immovable, that they deem necessary and appropriate, in accordance with the stated objects or goals 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 These meetings shall deal with any business the leaders consider relevant, including the election of members or the appointment of officers, the consideration of financial records, and any other matters related to the stated objects or specific goals 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*

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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 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 07h30 and 13h30. 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

+27 12 420 6655

Dana.Mahan@up.ac.za

## Pledge Form

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### 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?

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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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### 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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