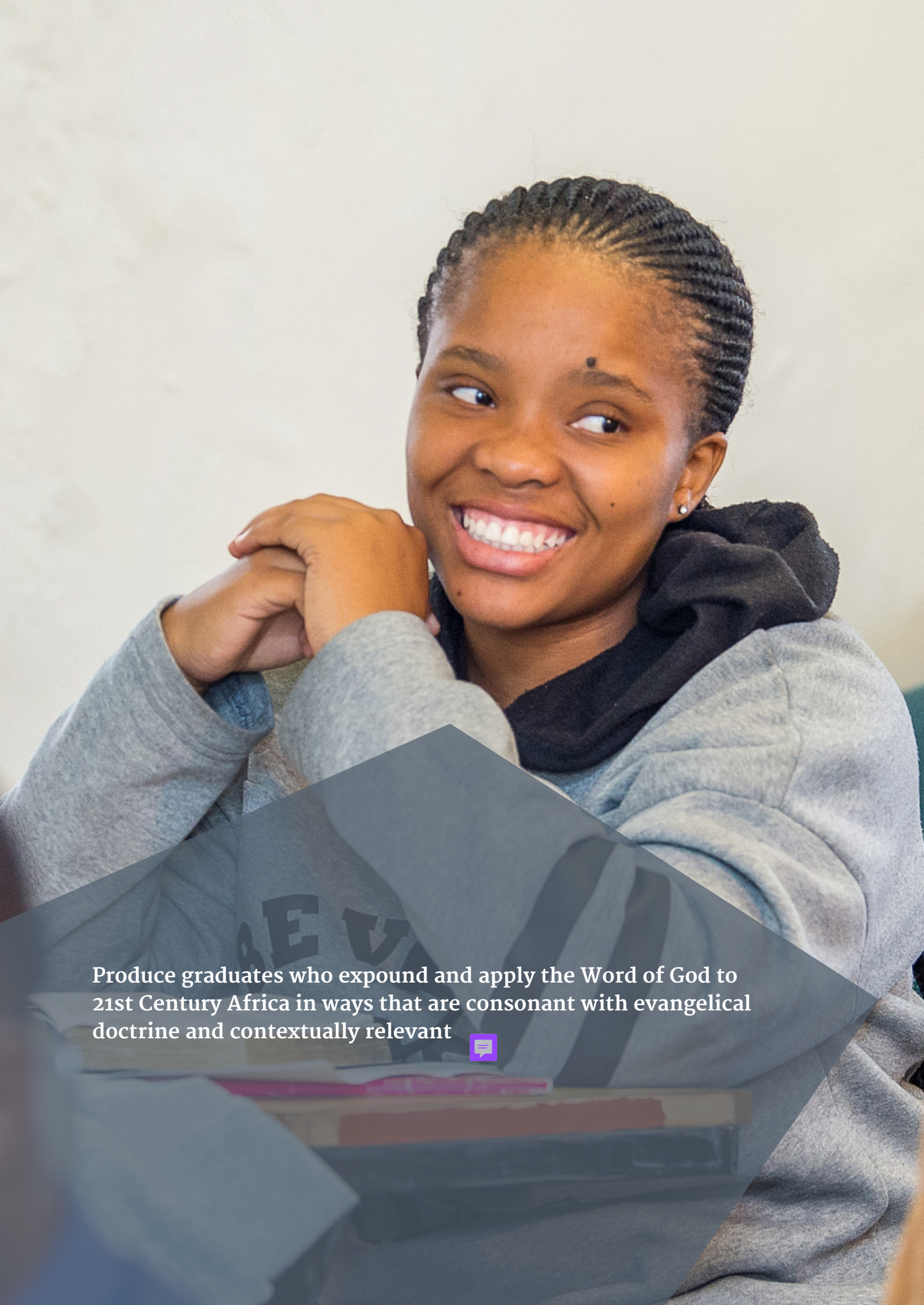


2024

Annual Report





Produce graduates who expound and apply the Word of God to 21st Century Africa in ways that are consonant with evangelical doctrine and contextually relevant



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Principal's Reflection

In the first quarter of this year, I preached a sermon in one of our weekly College chapel services titled “Hezekiah and the Problem of Human Achievement”, based on 2 Kings 20. Hezekiah was one of the great kings of Judah, and nothing can take away from that. He initiated reforms, he used kingly diplomacy in the most amazing way to try and ward off Assyria; he even built a tunnel to convey water from a spring into the city to protect it and enable escape from a siege. But what made Hezekiah great was his dependency on God and his willingness to stake everything on God's power to deliver.

He was, however, as we all are this side of heaven, still shot through with sinful desires. Hezekiah became proud of human achievement, and at the end of his life became weak in faith, giving in to self-sufficiency in the case of his illness and in the case of showing off all his wealth to the envoy from Babylon. While God was extremely compassionate, granting King Hezekiah fifteen more years of life, there isn't any indication of regret or repentance for his boasting when questioned by the prophet Isaiah. He merely replied: “There is nothing among my treasures that I did not show them” (2 Kings 15, CSB).

As I said to our students in that sermon, I am in no way against being proud of achievement. I am so proud of all their achievements, and look forward to hearing of all the positions of high office in ministry that they might assume in the future. But I did warn them that the devil finds it remarkably easy to get Christians to boast, and therefore we need to be constantly putting to death that old nature that lurks within us; that desire to turn the spotlight onto ourselves, and away from God.

The year 2024 was a landmark season in the life of George Whitefield College, marked by bold steps forward as we gear up to take hold of the strategic opportunity that we believe we have been given, under God, to provide theological education that can shape the church in Africa.

The most significant initiative was the launch of the Phand'ulwazi Knowledge Centre—a visionary project that will enhance academic excellence, expand postgraduate offerings, and serve as a hub for scholarly engagement across the continent. Internally, GWC began reorganising its fundraising team to support this and other developments, and launched the Kingdom Inspired Investors network to help cultivate long-term partnerships with donors. This included successful donor trips to Australia and the UK. The Focus Group, a California-based Christian advisory body conducted an extensive feasibility study with donors across South Africa, Australia, and the United States, laying the groundwork for a major funding campaign. The outcome of this study will be made available early in 2025.

While there is much excitement for the growth that lies ahead, let us always remember that, while “some take pride in chariots, and others in horses, ...we take pride in the name of the LORD our God” (Psalm 20:7 CSB). We remain humbly dependent on the one thing that remains constant in our midst: the eternal, unchanging Word of God.

We thank God for each and every person who made up our vibrant 2024 student, faculty and staff body, and for his kind provision and many, many blessings.

Rev Dr. Mark Dickson
GWC Principal



Vision, Mission & Strategic Pillars

Vision

That Africa be filled with preachers and teachers who deeply love the Lord Jesus and who have a profound understanding of Scripture, in order that Africa may increase its share in the Kingdom of God.

Mission

To shape minds via a classical theological education, nurture hearts devoted to Christian service and train voices to effectively communicate the word of Christ.

Strategic Pillars

1

To produce graduates who expound and apply the Word of God to 21st Century Africa in ways that are consonant with evangelical doctrine and contextually relevant

2

To collaborate with individuals and organizations who desire to see the advancement and sustainability of theological education in Africa

3

To increase the reach of GWC through distance education

4

To develop thought leadership within the church in Africa

5

Unified, aligned faculty

6

Leveraging digital technology

7

Unified College community



Chairman of the Board Report

2024 was a year of decisive progress for George Whitefield College, as it positions itself to serve the church in Africa with greater depth and reach. We had 120 students from 18 countries forming our wonderfully diverse student body, and we thank God for each and every opportunity we had to work out our mission of shaping minds through a classical theological education, nurturing hearts devoted to Christian service and training voices to effectively communicate the word of Christ.

Academically, GWC strengthened its foundation through successful programme accreditations and curriculum enhancements. Accreditation was granted for the TALHITE (Teaching and Learning for Higher Theological Education) Diploma and the online Certificate in Bible and Ministry. A thorough CHE audit affirmed the quality of the BTh and HCTh programmes, supported by a robust self-evaluation report (called the SER) produced by GWC registry. Faculty members also began producing a series of short theological teaching videos commissioned by an international partner, ICETE (International Council for Evangelical Theological Education). These innovations affirm GWC's growing role as a content creator and thought leader in the global evangelical academy.

The year also brought notable transitions in faculty and leadership. GWC lecturers Mike Roe and Ikho Poswayo stepped down, making way for new appointments that reflect both continuity and transformation. Dr Mawonga Celisi took over leadership of the Explore programme, bringing extensive experience in community development and theological education. ~~Looking ahead, discussions got underway with Rev. Gerard Jampies in the hope that he will join the faculty in 2025, with several other promising scholars expressing interest in contributing to GWC's mission.~~ These changes underscore the college's commitment to raising up leaders from within the African context to serve both church and society.

Personally, I would like to thank the Board and Board Committees for their wisdom and godly service to the college in 2024. I took over the reins from outgoing Chairman David Shaw in the last quarter of the year and would like to acknowledge his faithful leadership and dedication to GWC.

The Rt Rev. Glenn Lyons resigned in February 2024 as he stepped down as Presiding Bishop of REACH SA, with the denomination's new Presiding Bishop, the Most Rev. Dr Siegfried Ngubane subsequently being appointed to the Board as Chancellor of GWC. Rev. Sibusiso Mdluli was appointed to the Board at the end of August, and the Rt Rev. Raj Moodley has a two-year extension as a Board member.

In 2024, there were discussions around the Principal's succession process to be put in place as Mark Dickson's term as Principal comes to an end – his last year in this role is in 2028.

All that we do is dependent on God, so please do continue to keep us in prayer. May we remain faithful in our service to Him.

Mr Peter Willig
Chairperson



Board of Directors



Mr David Shaw
(Chairperson)



Rev. Dr Mark Dickson
(Principal)



Rev. Raj Moodley



Mr Matt Dundas



Mr Peter Willig



Mrs Nicky Giles



Mr Trevor Petersen



Rt Rev. Dr Siegfried
Ngubane (Chancellor)



Mr Manny de Freitas
(Secretary)

Executive Committee



Rev. Dr Mark Dickson
(Principal)



Mr Manny de Freitas



Rev. Dr Vuyani Sindo



Dr Jonathan More



Dr Mawonga Celesi



Mrs Lulu Jampies



Mrs Alison Lee



Rev. Phumezo Masango



Ms Simone Odendaal
(Secretary)



Board Committees



	Audit & Risk	Investment	Campus & Estates	IT & Knowledge Centre	ARK Endowment
Chairperson	Peter Willig	Peter Willig	Matt Dundas	Manny de Freitas	Peter Willig
Secretary	Manny de Freitas	Manny de Freitas	Clive Alfino	Jody Leukes	Manny de Freitas
Members	Niki Giles Belinda Scriba Trevor Petersen Allan Anderton	Hugo Nelson Niki Giles Allan Anderton	Manny de Freitas Paul Theodosiou	Collin Majackie Johan Walters Gary Adams Nicole Barnes Steve le R	Hugo Nelson Mark Dickson Dale Smith Alison Lee Bob Collins

	Theology & Ethics	Academic, HR & Nominations	Remuneration	Explore	GWC Trust
Chairperson	Siegried Ngubane	Dave Shaw	Ashley Croeser	Peter Willig	Ashley Croeser
Secretary	Mark Dickson	Lulu Jampies	Manny de Freitas	Saralee Molodi	Nina van Veen
Members	Raj Moodley Haley Tubman Sibusiso Mdluli Vuyani Sindo	Mark Dickson Rob Sieborger Nathan Lovell Manny de Freitas Jonathan More	Rob Sieborger Mark Dickson	Mark Dickson Nevil Carrington Manny de Freitas	Manny de Freitas Gavin Millard James Schonegevel Sigrid Ngubane Dave Shaw Jenny Pickard Peter Willig

	Fundraising Relationships Development	Marketing	Student Welfare	Bursary
Chairperson	Matt Dundas	Mark Dickson	Dave Shaw	Trevor Petersen
Secretary	Alison Lee	Charmaine Erasmus	Jonathan More	Nina van Veen
Members	Dale Smith Mark Dickson Manny de Freitas Vuyani Sindo Peter Willig	Alison Lee Lorcan McHarry Johan Walters	Phumezo Masango [Dean of Men] Diane Lovell [Dean of Women] Tashil Singh SRC Chair Rachael Mwaura SRC Vice-Chair Vuyani Sindo	Jonathan More Lulu Jampies Phumezo Masango Alison Lee Gavin Millard Manny de Freitas Diane Lovell Allan Anderton





My time at GWC has changed how I read and interpret the Bible. Before coming to GWC, I had a narrow view of Scripture, but upon stepping here and learning from various lecturers and modules that they lecture on, I have become fully grounded and have a deeper understanding of the Word of God. The way in which we engage with the original languages, both Greek and Hebrew, is the biggest gain of all.

Marko Mou, South Sudan



Research & Scholarship

Evangelical Research Fellowship (ERF)

GWC's faculty activity in research and scholarship enriches our students' learning experience and becomes a valuable contribution to thought leadership in Africa. The ERF includes GWC faculty as well all postgraduate students, and short-term visitors and international scholars. This community of evangelical scholars engaged in research in theology and related disciplines encourage one another, cultivate their skills, and share their work in a stimulating, gospel-shaped, academic environment.

Faculty Publications in 2024



Dr Jake Griesel
6 publications



Dr Nathan Lovell
3 publications



Rev. Dr Vuyani Sindo
2 publications



Dr Caroline Seed
1 publication

Conferences Attended

- Africa Mile Deep Strategy
- New Testament Society of Southern Africa 
- Theological Education Association of Southern Africa (TEASA)
- Tyndale Fellowship Conference, London
- REACH SA Synod
- Protestant Reformation Society conference, Oxford
- Fourth Lausanne Congress on World Evangelisation
- Society for Biblical Literature (SBL) conference, San Diego
- Evangelical Theological Society (ETS) conference, San Diego

Visiting Lecturers, Scholars & Guests

- Rev. Dr George Athas (Moore Theological College, Sydney)
- Dr Craig Blomberg (Denver Seminary, Colorado)
- Dr Vhumani Magezi (North-West University, North-West Province)
- Dr Joel White (Freie Theologische Hochschule, Giessen)
- Dr Robert Kinney (Charles Simeon Trust)
- Dr Ross Hastings (Regent College, Vancouver)
- Dr Matthew Sleeman (Oak Hill College, London)
- Rev. Tounkara Marey (ERF Sabbatical Scholar)
- Rev. Robinson Mwangi (ERF Sabbatical Scholar)
- Bp. Augusto Domingos, Bp. Joaquim Miguel Bondo, Bp. Pedro Jamba (visiting Bishops from Mozambique)

“It is exciting for GWC to be recognised by international Christian fellowship Langham Partnership as an institution for students to come and study at, and the College has received a number of Langham scholars this year for short sabbatical stays. I myself have been honoured to be supported by Langham for my PhD and subsequent book publication, and it is wonderful to be able to partner with institutions that have been developing publishing in the Global South.”

- The Rev Dr Vuyani Sindo, Vice-Principal Development and Head of Biblical Studies



Students, Teaching & Learning

GWC offers several accredited programmes both at undergraduate and postgraduate level, designed to equip Christian men and women for ministry in Africa and the rest of the world through a classical theological education.

In March 2024, we held our matriculation service where 42 new students were officially welcomed into the College. For the first time, we did not hold a graduation ceremony in 2024, having moved this end-of-year occasion to March to align with other academic institutions. Instead, we held a commissioning service to honour those whom we look forward to seeing officially graduate in 2025.



The rich curriculum includes:



Students, Teaching & Learning

UNDERGRADUATE

Higher Certificate in Theology (HCert Theol)

This one-year programme provides students with basic theological and pastoral training to assist them in serving more effectively in various church ministries. In 2024, we received conditional accreditation for the online Higher Certificate in Bible and Ministry (NQF 5) and offered online short courses (unaccredited) in Bible and Ministry.

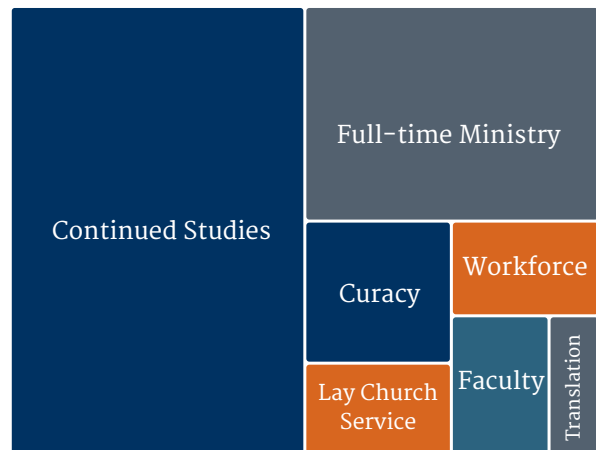
Bachelor of Theology (BTh)

Our BTh remains our core undergraduate offering, with these students, together with our HCert students, enjoying the many benefits of our residential campus model.

UNDERGRADUATE BREAKDOWN

	Higher Certificate of Theology = 11	Bachelor of Theology = 80
South Africa	9	40
Africa	3	37
International		3

UNDERGRADUATE DESTINATIONS 2025



“Despite challenges, this has been a great year for me, and I thank the Lord Jesus for that. I have enjoyed Greek more than any other module. The Greek language has truly deepened my understanding of the Scriptures, and I’m already applying it by often reading my Bible with reference to the Greek. So, I thank God for GWC and pray that my relationship with God will deepen throughout my stay at the college.” – Smangaliso Mazai, BTh1



“While studying my Higher Certificate in Theology, I realised that many of the women in my home church in Kwa-Zulu Natal listen to the Bible, but do not understand it for themselves. My studies are equipping me to share correct doctrine, so that I can go back and start Bible studies in order to help these women learn more about Scripture. This will help them know God better and grow in their faith.” – Sengazi Ngcobo, HCert Theol



POSTGRADUATE

GWC’s postgraduate study options include the Bachelor of Theology Honours (BThHons) and Master of Theology (MTh) programmes, both of which serve to enrich and build on exegesis, theology, and ministry skills developed in undergraduate study. The Master’s degree gives cutting-edge knowledge of a particular field, equipping candidates for leadership in the church and in broader society.

In 2024, the BThHons and MTh were both offered on campus and online, a significant advancement enabled by the digital classroom which was established last year.

Given how well GWC is positioned to shape the church in Africa, we have the strategic objective to grow theological thought leadership on the continent. Aligned to this, the development of a PhD programme took place this year, which is to be submitted for accreditation in 2025.

POSTGRADUATE BREAKDOWN

	Bachelor of Theology Honours (BTh Hons) = 17	Master of Theology (MTh) = 13
South Africa	8	7
Africa	6	5
International	3	1

POSTGRADUATE DESTINATIONS 2025



“Our final intensive as Honours students was on the Doctrine of Revelation, and the passion and desire of our phenomenal lecturers, Drs Dick and Caroline Seed, for us to understand Revelation biblically is something that really stood out for me. We learned about different theologians and their grasp of Revelation, General/Special Revelation, and then were each called to do a presentation on one of these theologians. I showed my appreciation for Ghanaian theologian Kwame Bediako, while disagreeing with his contextualisation approach using the tools we learned in the intensive. (Bediako believed that African Traditional Religions are ripe for Christianity, and that using language such as ‘Jesus our Greater Ancestor’ is helpful for the African context). This has increased my joy in the sufficiency of Scripture and why preaching Christ and him crucified is fundamental to a healthy approach to proclaiming the gospel. I am forever thankful to the Lord for an opportunity to study such profound truths. To God be the glory!”

Jabulani Ngalo, BTh Hons



Theological Education Development Services (TEDS)

TEDS, under the leadership of Dr Richard Seed and Dr Caroline Seed, provide training in learning, teaching, and curriculum development for theological institutions. Teaching and Learning for Higher Theological Education (TALHITE) is an online, professional development course certified by GWC for theological educators who are already engaged in teaching and learning in their institutions.

TEDS EXPANSION MILESTONES FOR 2024

- TALHITE administrator and facilitator Karen Roe brought much-needed capacity (with her return to Australia and departure in September keenly felt)
- May webinar: The Cascaded Curriculum
- Further work in Latin America (Training the Trainers in Chile together with GWC registrar Lulu Jampies, supervised TALHITE Phase 1 run by lecturers from Centre for Pastoral Studies in Spanish)
- New work in South-East Asia/Pacific region (TALHITE Phase 1 in Papua New Guinea for Local Leaders, Caroline Seed ran workshop on keeping theological research theological in Indonesia)
- Richard Seed represented TEDS/GWC at the Lausanne Convention in Seoul



South Africa



Brazil



Nigeria



Chile



Indonesia



South Korea



Papua New Guinea

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

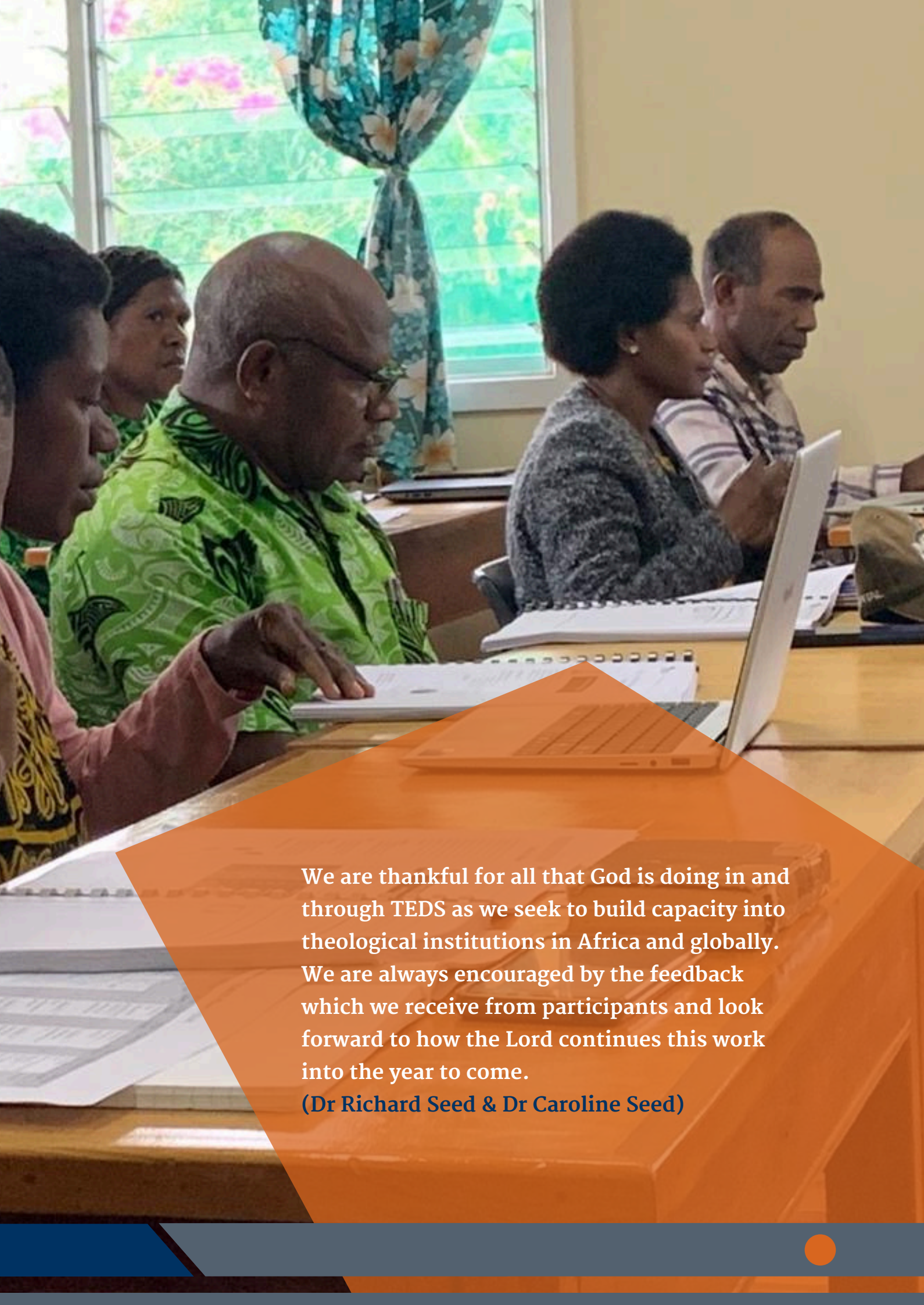
- AMDS conference, Tanzania
- CMS Africa conference, Kenya
- Curriculum Workshop, Sierra Leone
- ICETE-I/ACTEA Women in Senior Leadership Institute, Kenya
- Local Leaders International Conference, Australia
- PASTI Indonesia Theological Research workshop



“In just five days, my understanding has deepened significantly. I now understand why experienced lecturers, especially those trained in both educational and theological pedagogy, use diverse teaching approaches. This course has opened my eyes to the importance of thoughtful preparation and intentional teaching methods. I am excited because this training is equipping me for the future ministry I have been called to, not only at Bishop Gwynne College in South Sudan, but also in teaching God’s Word in other settings.”

– Feedback from GWC postgraduate student, November 2024





We are thankful for all that God is doing in and through TEDS as we seek to build capacity into theological institutions in Africa and globally. We are always encouraged by the feedback which we receive from participants and look forward to how the Lord continues this work into the year to come.

(Dr Richard Seed & Dr Caroline Seed)

Student Care & Support

One of the great benefits of the full-time, residential model of theological education is the opportunity to model biblical truth embedded in life together. Our students fall under the care and support of our Dean of Men and Dean of Women, who, together with a team of committed individuals, sought to build into the lives and characters of our future church leaders in 2024. Some of the ways in which this took place include:

Chaplaincy

The male chaplains in 2024 serving under Rev. Phumezo Masango (Dean of Men) included Jake Griesel, Mark Norman, Vuyani Sindo, Thapelo Khumalo, Dave Rousseau, Sandile Mthwetha, Sivuyile Lurai, Jonathan More and John-Paul Harper. Diane Lovell (Dean of Women) served with female chaplains Sjah Ndaba, Michelle de Freitas, and Ikho Poswayo, and farewelled Naomi Jones and Niki Hodson. Maggie Odendaal, as staff chaplain, continued her invaluable devotion to the pastoral care of the female employees.


Fellowship Groups

Every chaplain is given a group of around 8-10 students to meet with weekly and offer pastoral care. These fellowship groups provide an opportunity for students to share their personal challenges and anxieties, many of whom have endured hardships this year. Some have lost family members, others face financial struggles, and the pressure of studies, assignments and exams weighs heavily on many. It is a source of relief and strength to meet in community and encourage one another to “Cast all your anxieties on him because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7 NIV). Together we were sustained by God’s gracious hand.

“All-in” Joint Fellowship Meetings

Once a term, the men and women fellowship groups met together respectively, to fellowship together in community. Special devotions were given by a chaplain, with time to reflect on spiritual development.

Retreats

The annual men’s camp to  was a great blessing with much encouragement from XX, as well as time for relaxation and fellowship. The GWC women enjoyed a get away to Villiersdorp, with staff member Ana Adonis giving an encouraging talk.

“Our students showed genuine love and concern for one another, and seeing that was a source of much joy. There are men of great godly character here at GWC and for that we give God praise and thanks.”
– Rev. Phumezo Masango, Dean of Men

“The women students at GWC exhibit strength and fortitude as they persevere in their studies, preparing themselves for a lifetime of ministry leadership. It’s a joy to be part of formation and education.” – Diane Lovell, Dean of Women



Student Representative Council (SRC)

The Students' Representative Council (SRC) at GWC consists of a group of students elected by their peers to represent all students within the College. They work to represent the student body in College decision-making and organise ways for students to participate in and enjoy campus life. The 2024 team were involved in a number of activities to achieve this, including:

The GWC Launch

The beginning of the academic year is marked by two days of fun and fellowship, where the SRC aided the Registry department in organising beach volleyball, team games and a picnic lunch for students, faculty and staff to get to know one another outside the classroom. These bonding activities were a great success.

New Student Settling-In

New students were helped with their settling-in process, which included the addressing of various residence-related issues.

International Students

Meetings for international students provided a space for these students to come together, pray for one another, hear short encouraging talks, and discuss issues relevant to their experience. The Heritage Day celebration in September was a great opportunity to showcase the many cultures represented at GWC.

Friday Forum Events

During the year, Friday Forum events offered students a time to enjoy talks as well as socialising, with snacks and music held in the Ekklesia lounge.

Social Activities

Other get-togethers like games nights, movie nights, quizzes and hikes all gave opportunities to connect and build friendships.

SRC Constitution

On the administrative side of things, the SRC finalised the SRC constitution, which was last updated in 2007.

Garage Sales

These sales raised funds which were contributed towards the Student Emergency Fund. This fund was also updated to ensure a coherent, smooth process for handling requests.

Bringing together a mix of people from more than fifteen countries and cultures to live together in community is no easy task, and the SRC worked hard to ensure that, despite differences, the GWC student body gets to taste “how good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity” (Psalm 133:1, NIV).



Explore Correspondence Course

Explore continues to grow as a powerful discipleship tool, transforming Africa through the study of God's Word.

DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL STRUCTURE

One of the highlights for the year was the establishment of a regional structure, with two offices resourced with management and administration staff from local partners in those countries. The vision is to set up seven regions by 2030, each managed by a GWC alumnus in conjunction with a local partner.

NEW LEADERSHIP FOR EXPLORE

On 1 October, Dr Mawonga Celesi took up the leadership position of Explore Executive as Nevil Carrington's successor. Dr Celesi is former leader of the Nehemiah Bible Institute, which offers Bible Training across South Africa, Africa, and the Indian subcontinent. He earned his doctorate in practical theology from Stellenbosch University in 2023.



“The Explore Course has completely changed the way I read the Bible and apply it to myself. Through personal and group study, I have learnt how to read the Bible in its context while keeping in mind that everything written in it points to Jesus. I am no longer reading the Bible just for the sake of it or picking verses at random and arriving to the meaning of the text in isolation to the rest of the Bible. I am now able to see Jesus as I read through the different pages and stories of the Bible and this has helped to deepen my relationship with and trust in him.”

Cassandra Jepkoech, Kenya

EXPLORE 2024 IN NUMBERS

	Students	3380
	Module enrolment	6228
	Graduates	200
	Countries Reached	14
	Regions Developed	2
	Facilitators Trained	27
	Translations in Progress	9



South Africa, Botswana, Kenya, Uganda, Sierra Leone, Liberia, The Gambia, Eswatini, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Zambia, Mozambique, South Sudan



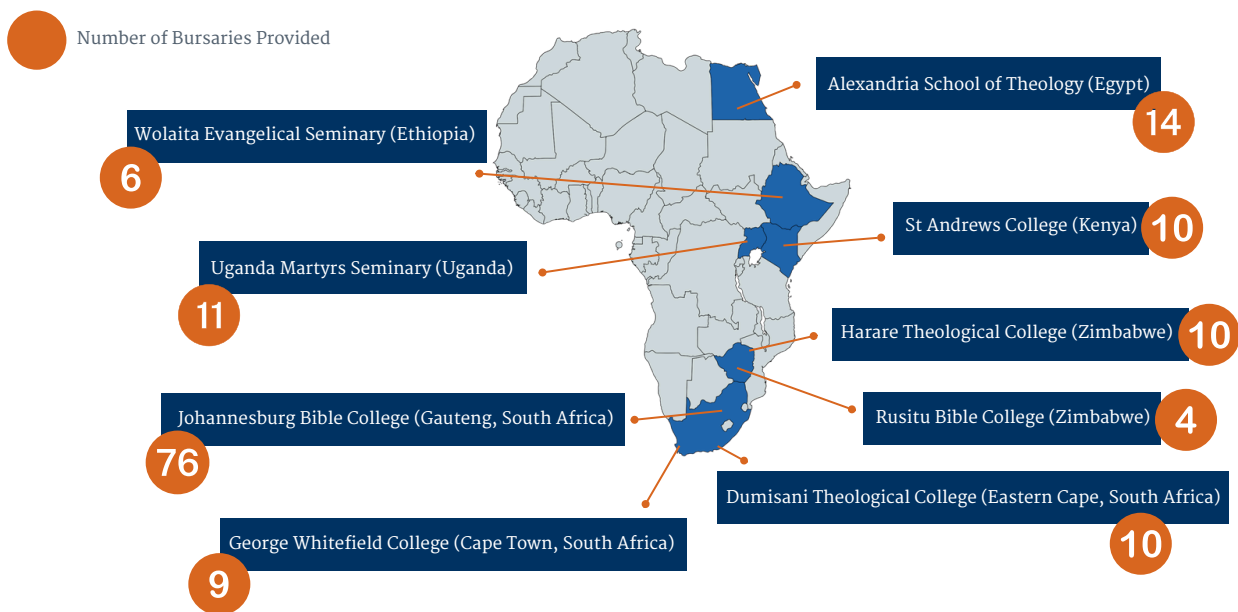
“When we look back on Explore's progress in 2024, we can say it was a time of celebration, challenge and growth. It was an exciting year for the team, being on the frontline as we witnessed God's Word move deeper and wider into Africa has been a privilege none of us have taken for granted.” Nevil Carrington

The Explore Team in 2024 from left: Danielle Nel, Khayakazi Mgoduka, Nevil Carrington, Mawonga Celesi, Leatitia Meyer, Saralee Molodi

Theological Development Africa (TDA)

GWC extended its reach and influence beyond its campus this year by supporting students studying theology in smaller African Bible colleges, aligned with the College's Reformed and evangelical theology.

The provision offered by TDA has historically been underwritten by a single donor who gives significantly towards bursaries, with GWC included as a beneficiary. In 2024, a total of 150 grants were made available.



PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS

All TDA bursaries are awarded for the duration of a student's studies but granted annually following the respective College's annual report on each recipient's progress. The TDA committee sends a GWC representative to visit each college biennially to explore other ways they can be supported in building their capacity. We are always encouraged to hear the feedback provided by these students on how they are being equipped for ministry.

"The Church in Kenya faces several challenges that threaten its unity, credibility, and effectiveness. Internal conflicts and leadership wrangles are among the most pressing issues, together with the rise of prophetic movements that emphasise miracles and supernatural experiences. Theological training has equipped me with the biblical knowledge and leadership skills necessary to address these challenges. I have gained a deeper understanding of Christian doctrine, conflict resolution, and ethical leadership, and training in pastoral care has prepared me to mediate dispute and promote reconciliation. A foundation in solid doctrine enables me to counter misleading teachings and strengthen the faith of believers." – Student from St Andrews College

"Our neighbourhood, Al Sharabia, faces a lot of challenges, one of which is encouraging the youth to come to church. This is because it is a very poor area, so it is common for children to go to work when they are young, with no time for church. My studies are helping me to think through creative ways to spread the gospel to young people, as well helping me prepare material that attracts them to enjoy the Word of God."

– Student from Alexandria School of Theology



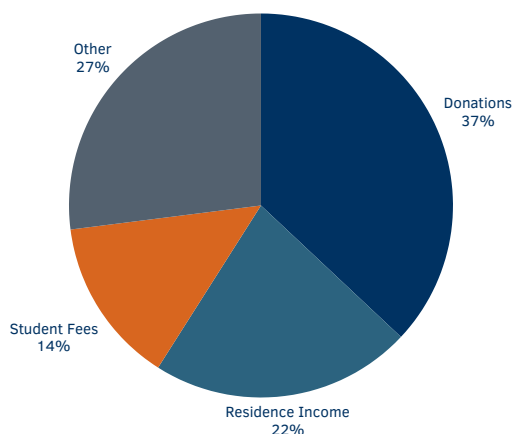
From the Business Manager

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER

We are grateful for the continued financial support of our donors in furthering our mission and providing financial stability in 2024. This has only been possible because of the generosity of the support from churches, individuals, trusts and foundations and legacy gifts. This giving has enabled the provision of high-quality facilities, faculty and staff in order to provide a high standard of evangelical theological education in a residential community.

In 2024, the College continued to navigate a complex financial landscape with resilience and prudent fiscal management. Despite a tough economic climate, and given that close to 40% of income is from donations (refer chart below), the College managed to contain the bottom line realising a deficit of R1.7m. Excluding the R1.7m depreciation, the net operational deficit is reduced to break-even, which is more respectable and better reflects the impact on cash flow and the strategic operations reserve.

Income (Excluding Distance Learning)



Financial Highlights 2024

As usual, this year presented both challenges and successes in our ongoing financial journey. Some key numbers supporting the financial summary include:

Income:

- Donations earmarked for operations landed on R23.6m (R22.3m in 2023), which provided a solid contribution to the operating budget.
- Designated donations, primarily for bursaries, landed on R15.2m (R26.6m in 2023), which is crucial for student recruitment.
- Income from ARK Endowments provided a welcome contribution of R3.3m to our operations funding, alleviating the pressure on donations. This supports the strategy of the endowment for operational long-term sustainability.

Operating Expenses were tightly managed, landing on R43.5m (R2m below budget).

Operating Result was an operating deficit of R1.7m (R3.1m for 2023) but an improvement on 2023.

Financial Stability and Sustainability

The ongoing reality and challenge is the continued financial sustainability of the College. The pressure on donations and operating deficits raises concerns about financial sustainability. We are not unique as a faith-based, non-profit organisation in having to be constant in managing this risk. Key levers are as follows:

- Strategic Operating Reserve : Any deficit is largely funded from the Strategic Operations Reserve. This reserve landed on R3m, which covers more than double our operations deficit.
- Ideally, this reserve should be 50% of the annual operating budget or the equivalent of the annual remuneration budget to support ongoing concern risk mitigation.
- The College undertook a feasibility study with Focus Group USA to embark on a strategic fundraising campaign in 2025, with an overall campaign target of R120m (excluding legacies). This will be a critical strategy to indirectly top-up the strategic operations reserve and cover the current donations needed for operations.



LOOKING FORWARD

While the current financial situation presents challenges, we are confident in our ability to continue our mission. We have a strong commitment from our Board, leadership, dedicated faculty and staff, and a loyal donor base. As responsible stewards, we continue to actively seek and ensure a sound financial future so that we may continue the Gospel and Kingdom work of GWC. Looking ahead, the College is committed to reinforcing long-term financial sustainability through:

Remaining committed to stewarding our resources in line with Biblical standards and to providing financial transparency through our audited financial statements, which are available upon request.

Responsible financial management and fiscal discipline, strong stewardship of resources, identifying cost savings, using technologies to exploit process efficiencies, actively exploring steps to address deficits and impact on the College as a going concern.

Building a solid strategic operations reserve to create a safety net and hedge for future operations and the ability to weather unexpected financial difficulties.

Diversifying our income streams, which remains a key strategic priority, and identifying income-generating opportunities so as to use our resources to generate income.

Strengthening our budgeting process to identify costs that can be allocated to various projects and fundraising for them specifically.

Developing further resource mobilisation strategies to generate new income sources and to increase donations through targeted campaign fundraising, with the aid of a bolstered fundraising team. These include the US based Focus Campaign and Australian Scholarship Campaign for Explore.

We are confident that through seeking new strategies along with God's undertaking, your support and prayers, we can ensure a sustainable future for GWC.



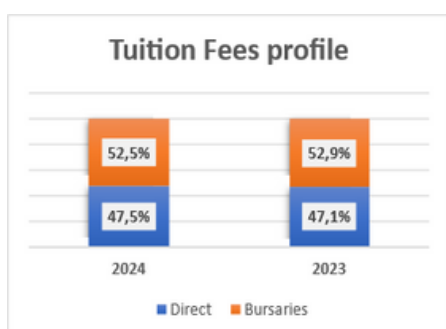
Summarised financial statements

	2024	R000's	2023
REVENUE	41 820		36 647
Tuition Fees ¹	4 502		3 419
Residential Income ²	6 787		4 950
Donations (non-designated)	21 002		20 729
Ark Endowment	3 801		2 574
REACH SA Grant	1 134		1 134
Investment Income	2 761		1 876
Other Income	1 833		1 965
EXPENSES	43 505		39 724
Employee Costs	17 822		18 204
Operating	2 195		1 893
Depreciation	1 747		1 790
Maintenance	2 722		2 102
Catering	2 894		2 257
Distance Learning	9 222		7 799
Other	6 903		5 679
Actual Operating Deficit	(1 685)		(3 077)

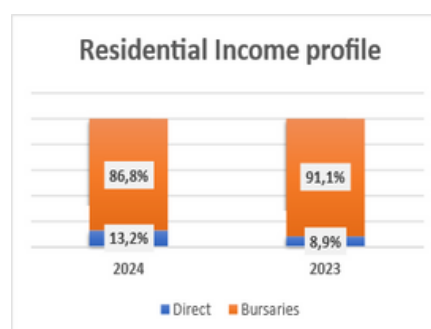
Note 1 & 2 above:

Direct students paying fees represents 4% of income, whilst fees funded from bursaries represents 13% of income. The profiles of tuition and residence fees are reflected in the graphs below.

1 Tuition fees split



2 Residence Income split – Bursary dependency



From the GWC Chancellor

As a proud alumnus of GWC's class of 1997, it has been wonderful to spend more time within the walls of my alma mater, having been appointed as Chancellor when I was consecrated as Presiding Bishop of the College's founding denomination, REACH-SA, in February this year. I am grateful to my predecessor, the Rt Rev. Glenn Lyons, for all that he did to ease the way into this role for me, as well as the many others who have supported and prayed (and continue to do so) for this leadership transition.

I am pleased to say that I can continue to offer my heartfelt endorsement of this fine institution's unwavering commitment to theological education and leadership development. Our denomination is grateful for GWC's rigorous academic standards and emphasis on practical ministry training as essential pillars in shaping servant-hearted leaders for the church and society, and our churches benefit richly from the transformative experience students undergo through attending College.

In my role as Chair of Ethics and Theology at GWC, I have a simple and yet complex task: to ensure that the gospel remains at the very heart of everything we do. The gospel transforms us, and so the fruit we see in the lives of our students and their future ministries plays testament to how we have guarded the gospel here at College.

Over the past year, I have spent much of my time travelling in and around the country visiting different REACH-SA churches. Many are doing extremely well, but many are also struggling. We live in a country (and indeed continent and world) with many socio-economic complexities and challenges. We need to equip men and women to not only go to the "fittest" churches but to seek out the weak and the struggling.

In 2024, GWC has been working out what a "Centre for Township Ministry" looks like to provide resources for churches in townships, which is where 60% of the population resides. This is something that truly excites me, and shows the power of the gospel in transforming people's lives and the communities they live in.

TO BE COMPLETED

The Most Rev. Dr Siegfried Ngubane
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