

Intentional Discipleship: Jesus Shaped Life

ID:JSL Bulletin
Issue 1
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Introducing *Intentional Discipleship*

Welcome to this first issue of the Intentional Discipleship: Jesus Shaped Life (ID:JSL) Bulletin from the Anglican Communion's Intentional Discipleship Co-ordinating Group.

In 2016 the Anglican Consultative Council called "every Province, Diocese and Parish in the Anglican Communion to adopt a clear focus on intentional discipleship and disciple-making". Why *Intentional*? Because, as Archbishop Justin Welby has observed: 'If you do not do something intentionally, you probably do not do it at all!'

The Bulletin will share good news, ideas, resources and good practice to promote this intentional discipleship. This learning will come from across the whole Anglican Communion. Your ideas, experience and resources are welcome: simply send them to us.

Our goal is a change in culture to one that promotes the centrality to Anglican identity of a whole life discipleship. Biblical insights to encourage individual Christians will be shared and challenging questions asked of leaders, Churches, Colleges and other Institutions.

Living & Sharing Jesus Shaped Life

Christians in the Anglican Communion are followers of Jesus Christ who invite others, everywhere, to join them as disciples. Discipleship is about **Living and Sharing Jesus Shaped Life**.

Inspired by the love, joy, peace and acceptance we have experienced in Jesus Christ, and aware of our shortcomings in discipleship, we are excited by the vision of every Anglican **intentionally living and sharing Jesus Shaped life** as our baptism covenant (Colossians 2.6).

Following Jesus has always been about a focus upon Him. We are shaped **by** Him and seek to be shaped **like** him. This is the work of the Holy Spirit in us, individually and as whole communities.

Living a *Jesus Shaped Life* permeates every aspect of life: home and family, work and community, environment and justice issues, national and international life. This is also a new life, in Him, which we share with those around us.

In this issue we focus upon stories from the region of South America, where for example the Bishops of Brazil have recently endorsed Intentional Discipleship as a priority. Each Diocese is identifying a link person to form an oversight team who will take this forward.



The Five Marks of Mission:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ

- To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
- To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
- To respond to human need by loving service
- To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
- To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth



“...that is not only what the Church needs... it is what God wants for us: an Intentional Discipleship”
Archbishop Julio Murray Thompson, IARCA



Enjoying Life together in South America

Adventures in Online Discipleship—Uruguay

Bishop Nick Drayson, Northern Argentina, reflects upon recent experience delivering discipleship training when Covid-19 prevented travel to Uruguay.

A couple of years ago I enrolled in a “coaching huddle”, which involved a year’s worth of weekly meetings covering practical aspects of discipleship. It was my first introduction to something called Zoom, and seemed very avant-garde.

With the events of this year, suddenly virtual meetings have become normal and resistance to them is breaking down. So it was a natural step when the Diocese of Uruguay arranged to host an online version of the Consultation on Whole Life Discipleship, which previously had been held in a number of dioceses round the world.

Responding to the Anglican Communion’s “Season of Intentional Discipleship” the consultations are normally held over several days, and involve the most representative leadership of a diocese or province in a participatory exercise. Everyone contributes, which usually produces a conscious commitment to develop resources and a way of life coherent with Jesus’ command to “Make disciples of all nations”.

How did it differ online?

Clearly the level of participation is different when participants can only see one another on a screen. When there is a small group, as we had, much depends on the leader to draw out the discussion. Potentially though, Zoom is a strong platform for this sort of meeting, and if handled well, could support large numbers, in breakout groups, chat, and accompanied by an active Whatsapp group.

Whilst it seemed a tall order to condense 4 days of meetings into 4 two hour sessions, it was possible to encourage wider reading and thought by distributing some materials beforehand and during the intervening weeks. JSL has already produced a report, and a life guide, which participants study, and also the manual which accompanies the consultation.

Uruguay was able to invite members of the neighbouring diocese of Argentina to take part in a lively and formative experience, which ideally can be reproduced worldwide.

Find us on Facebook and join our Anglican Discipleship - *Jesus Shaped Life* Group:

- Regular items for prayer, especially for Provinces
- Videos and other discipleship resources
- An opportunity to share your stories, ideas and resources for discipleship
- Regular posts and input from Co-ordinating Group members and others

www.facebook.com/groups/anglicanwitness

Discipleship in Amazonia, Brazil

Brazil faces many cultural and social problems which challenge the Church. It is severely impacted by Covid-19, yet the political leadership seem indifferent. Indigenous peoples have long been marginalised and ignored. Massive fires and deforestation, make international headlines. Luri and Daniel dos Santos Lima, from the Anglican Diocese of the Amazon, reflect upon their everyday discipleship.

On September 2, 2020, we celebrated 108 years of Anglican presence in the Amazon. Our discipleship today is about being a light, a flame burning, amid social and cultural challenges. We offer light and warmth, welcome and liberation to the oppressed peoples that inhabit Amazonia.

The *Anglican Community of Manaus* is this sign of light and hope for the indigenous peoples living in Manaus, capital of the State of Amazonas and those in the forest. We are dedicated to caring for the indigenous peoples and striving for social justice that guarantees the dignity of those who are marginalized and suffer so much.

At the end of July, on a sunny Amazonian day, the indigenous people of the Karapãna ethnic group heard of the death of their Chief, Manoel Paulino Karapãna. He died from the effects of Covid-19. Following his discharge from hospital, he had not received necessary medical attention, nor support from the Brazilian government. He died as a guardian of ancestral knowledge and the forest, trying to defend his people, to the end.

For the *Anglican Community of Manaus* living out our faith and discipleship means:

- **Accompanying** the bereaved family at the funeral on the banks of the Rio Negro and the Rio Cuieiras: a small procession of boats and canoes, many prayers and tears and decoration of the Chief's grave with crowns and flowers made of najar fibre (a palm of the Amazon).
- **Offering** both our prayers and practical help to all the Karapãna people, as well as other indigenous ethnic groups: distributing hundreds of basic food baskets, masks and hygiene and personal protection materials against Covid-19. [Enabled by the generosity and emergency aid of Episcopal Relief and Development, Trinity Church Wall Street, the Anglican Communion Fund, and the Anglican Service of Diaconia and Development (SADD)]
- **Challenging** the total neglect of the indigenous people by the Brazilian Government that does not implement effective public policies to protect them, and
- **Campaigning** for better information about COVID 19 and improvements in the medical provision for the indigenous villages in the Amazon.

Prayer for South America

Pray for us as we give this bold testimony of hope while COVID 19 wreaks painful and profound consequences in the great Garden of God, which is the Amazon.



Accompanying the Chief's family at a brief funeral



Flowers made of Najar fibre



Distributing hygiene & Personal Protection Equipment

ID:JSL Consultations for you!

These gatherings are for lay men and women, youth and clergy. They transform minds and engage hearts with vision for a whole life discipleship. Communities from Jamaica to South Sudan, Ghana to Kuching, West Malaysia have been powerfully refocused.

We are now planning for Online 'Training of Trainers' in 2021. If you wish your Diocese or Province to take part, or to plan one yourselves for your Diocese or Province, please be in touch:
mission@anglicancommunion.org

Resources for ID:JSL

The expectation is that resources for *Intentional* Discipleship will be produced locally to fit the needs and context, although a range of ID:JSL Resources commissioned at ACC17, are available. These include:

A JSL Brochure—an simple A5 introduction to JSL

A JSL Booklet— 12 pages explaining the history of ID, exploring what Discipleship is, offering examples of Discipleship in action from across the communion illustrating the Five Marks of Mission and suggesting next steps

JSL Life Guides—a series of 12 Small group studies designed to stimulate thinking and expand understanding of a whole life discipleship

A Catechetical Framework - indicating how catechesis might be adapted to emphasise a missional lifestyle rooted in the five marks of mission

These can be downloaded from: www.anglicanwestmalaysia.org.my/resources-and-publications or are available through the Anglican Communion Office (mission@anglicancommunion.org).

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Prayer for Living and Sharing Jesus-Shaped Life

**Almighty God,
You have called us to live and share
Jesus-shaped life
in a Jesus-shaped church
for a Jesus-shaped world.
Empower us with your Holy Spirit
to live as disciples who make disciples
of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.
Amen.**

To join our JSL Prayer Network and WhatsApp Group email: jsl.prayer.network@gmail.com