

Dear Rectors & Parishioners of The Archdeaconry of Maitland

Diocesan Synod 3 – 6 October 2018 is steadily approaching. We were tasked with the 2015 Diocesan Synod resolutions to implementation the three (3) Apex priorities of Church Growth, Youth and Social Development

The Maitland Archdeaconry Social Development team was hard at work developing an Archdeaconry approach to Social Development . This is an invitation to all clergy and laity within the Archdeaconry to assist in finalizing the finer details and to gain a fuller understanding of this Social Development project for its implementation.

During the month of June – July, representatives of our Social development, Kim Gustafson and Jason Poole embarked on a roadshow across the 10 churches in our Maitland Archdeaconry with the objective of presenting the Social development proposal for 2018 called the GodCAN project. Their mission to inform, to recruit and to build new relationships.

SUMMARY: The GodCAN Project

After meeting with the representatives over the last 2 years, an informal survey was done and we discovered that most of the parishes have very similar needs and social challenges in their respective communities; some of which include but is not limited to Unemployment, Homelessness and Depression; with Abuse, Substance Abuse, Peer pressure and bullying predominantly occurring in youth. In an effort to address these issues, we discovered the “U-turn homeless ministries” model which we adapted. God in His infinite wisdom helped us along by highlighting the unique aspects that link each social issue, one to another, and so, the GodCAN project was born. Further confirmation of the route chosen, was a call from the Archdeaconry relayed by Father Tobias to work on a project which would bring about synergy in the Archdeaconry.

Our main objectives was to focus on what is synonymous within the Archdeaconry, NOT to unsettle normal church life or culture and also not to become another financial drain on the congregation. We want to be able to manage this project based on hard statistics and facts as well as a solid project plan. The chosen currency are two commodities we believe, we as a congregation can never be short of giving namely; Clothing & Food. In saying this, please note that churches with soup kitchens and clothing drives will be impacted as they become part of the reporting and sustainability objectives of this project. This “currency” will play an integral role in drawing the beneficiary back to the church or

to the designated service centre. This currency will also become one of the main income streams for the funding we require to keep this project going. As part of good stewardship, the voucher system and monitoring & evaluation system of the model also made sense as it enables us to continuously assess whether or not the project is successful at any given stage. Essential elements to ensure success of the GOD CAN project is Collaboration with the church and the community as well as with experts in their field. We also aim to provide assistance, empower beneficiaries with the relevant knowledge and connect them to the right kind of “help”. We believe this approach will bring about change in a more sustainable way as we walk with beneficiaries over a stipulated time period.

The final and fundamental element for success of this project is the mobilisation of valuable specialist skills WITHIN the church.

Part of our 5 year plan would be rolling the GodCAN model out to the Diocese of Saldanha Bay , planting our own “Healing centre “to be used on an IN patients basis and also launching the “GOD CAN: SO YOU CAN” IN HOUSE SMMME business incubation programme. We don’t only want to help people who suffer from the disease of addiction but also to support, empower and upskill women, youth, the unemployed and the homeless.

Many God given talents are often prevalent during the skills development phase and it is our hope to develop those who exhibit specific talent, skills, and commitment. With the correct mentorship combined with the skills & support of professionals within the church, we are confident that this phase could result in the birth of small businesses across the Archdeaconry. Businesses like Landscaping, Facilities & Maintenance, Cleaning, Catering, Events management, building improvements etc. Some of which functions the greater church currently pays outsourced suppliers to do anyway. Which brings me to the very important next point.

We have a theory that parishioners don’t get involved in church responsibilities because they don’t fit the “generic proverbial church roles” like being a Sunday school teacher, a lay minister, sacristan, Youth worker or part of clergy. Now we have the opportunity to offer you a place in the GodCAN team doing what you enjoy most, are passionate about and would love to give back to the Lord, YOUR family and YOUR community.

In doing this, we are able to mobilise valuable, specialist, skills WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION. Skills that people feel more comfortable “GIVING” because it is their vocation and within their natural ability to GIVE. Most importantly, these are skills that we otherwise would not have been able to afford.

We have been informed that although many parishioners are alluding to the GodCAN project in various discussions happening currently, it is evident that there is still some confusion and also a few who have missed the presentation in their respective churches.

In an effort to remedy this and also to begin planting the physical seeds required for this project, we would like to invite all who are interested in knowing more or who have already made up their minds to participate to a meeting on the 23rd August 2018, at 7:30pm at St Michael & All Angels church, Corner of Louis Thibault and Letchworth Drive in Edgemean.

AGENDA:

- Welcome
- GodCAN presentation
- Q&A time
- Report on the current Status of the GodCAN project
- What NEEDS to happen next?

Parishioners will be able to contribute to the discussions involving the development of the crucial systems, checks, balances and budgets that support the GodCAN project.

We believe that with the necessary “help “in place WITHIN the church, the GodCAN project will be able to address many of these issues in a more effective , efficient and sustainable way. We are certain that there is a place for EVERYONE, in the GodCAN project if we are able to successfully mobilise the required skills. We do however NEED YOUR HELP to do that.

HOW CAN YOU HELP US NOW?

Parishioners ***know other parishioners*** in their respective congregations much better than what we could ever hope to do. Help us by:

- Initiating conversation about the GodCAN project with those you know inside your congregation and your community during this next 2 weeks.
- Find somebody YOU KNOW, who KNOWS about the GodCAN project, who YOU believe would be a perfect fit but just needs some encouragement and get them to attend the meeting on the 23rd August.

- Find somebody YOU KNOW , who DOES NOT KNOW about the GodCAN project, who YOU believe would be a perfect fit and please encourage them to come to the meeting on the 23rd August to find out more.

Social development representatives and members of the PCC are kindly requested to avail themselves for this session as well please or to send a representative on their behalf with apologies. If you are an avid volunteer or volunteering family and this resonates deep within you, then join the GOD CAN project and lets do some work for the Lord!

We look forward to the gathering of the SAINTS for this worthy and URGENT cause. Our country is bleeding and it's time for us to step up and do something about it.

Thank you for your time and your patience.

The GodCAN team