

Anglican Chaplain University of Stellenbosch

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Dear Bishop Merwyn

Camp for Anglican First Years 16-18 January 2009 - University of Stellenbosch

Greetings and thank you for the support you give to the ministry here in the university.

We are busy with preparations for a University camp for Anglican first years scheduled for 16-18 January at the Bainskloof campsite of the *Verenigende Christelike Studente Vereniging van Suid-Afrika*. The university has accepted 540 Anglican first years for next year and we are planning to have 120 of them at the camp. Although other christian societies in the university have been doing camps like this for years, it will be the first for us Anglicans. It is to big a venture and burden for students to organize it on their own, therefore I have drawn together a team of more mature adults from around the Diocese of False Bay to come alongside me and the students and to assist with logistics, music, and administration.

The camp is an important instrument to recruit ANSOC members, to bond them, and to build a vigorous and vibrant community of Anglican students on the two campuses of Stellenbosch and Tygerberg. In the bible study and discussion groups on the camp there will be facilitators drawn from among second, third year and more senior students.

The university has a hidden social curriculum that is a vital part of the integration into student life; something that students do not learn from campus year books but through relationships with other more senior students who know the ropes. Here the bible study groups will take on a life beyond the camp and the facilitator becomes the *guardian angel* of his or her group meeting regularly in one another's rooms for coffee and fellowship.

Anglican students like all other students at Stellenbosch come from all over the country. The university sends correspondence to all prospective first year students and will also send out our brochure, advertising the camp. However, the big envelope that each student gets will be overstuffed with such an assortment of different brochures competing for their attention that our one may easily be overlooked or brushed aside. To make sure that we get their attention we need to deploy a complementary in-house way of corresponding with them and with their parents. Here may I ask for your assistance to get parishes in our Diocese to copy the camp brochure from the enclosed attachment, to talk to it in their pewleaflets, and to put it on their bulletin boards. It would be a great help also if you could elicit other bishops in the Province to support us in this project by sending it to their own parishes.

With kindest regards

Faithfully

Austen