



MY Name: Akhona Dondashe

Where do you come from?

I come from the Queenstown District, King William's Town Circuit 312, Zwelitsha Society. A circuit whose superintendent is Rev. FS Makhananda

What do you love most about your circuit?

The diversity in terms of demographics, our circuit consists of societies that are based in both rural and urban setups.

When did you become a full member of the MCSA?

2010

When did you personally encounter Jesus? *Describe scene.*

I encountered Jesus personally on 23 May 2010 at MethSSoc, University of Fort Hare Alice Branch. It was an exam prayer and the preacher's message was derived from Acts 17:28, "For in Him we live, move and have our being." It was an assuring sermon after a difficult first semester wherein I felt in my spirit that my life was incomplete for I was not in touch with the one who gives life. From that day I made a decision that I will strive to live a life that glorifies God and find fulfillment in serving Him.

When and why did you join the Wesley Guild?

I joined the Wesley Guild in 2010 and became a full member in 2011. The reason I joined Wesley Guild was because I knew that I would not be in University forever and so when I'm back at home I would not have an opportunity to fellowship with other young people if I would not join the Guild. Secondly, I was inspired by the powerful worship and the dynamic and meaningful preaching of Guilders.

Have your expectations been met? *(Elaborate)*

Yes, the movement has met my expectations. I still feel warmth in my heart whenever I worship with Guilders and still get amazed at how fellow brethren of the Wesley Guild articulate the scripture.

What do you love and dislike most about Wesley Guild?

What I love most about the Wesley Guild is the fact that it creates a space where young people get to be young and socialize without restricting ourselves to only the formalized setting of fellowship *yeevesi*. I dislike the fact that we tend to hesitate when it comes to engaging on social, political and economic issues.

Is the Wesley Guild still relevant today? *(Please elaborate)*

Yes, the Wesley Guild is still relevant especially because of its 4 Cs. However, I think we need to relook our approach of implementing the 4 Cs to make them more meaningful. For an example, I think we need to grow from perceiving the C of consecration to be just about preaching, praise and worship and bible quizzes and focus on it being more about growing deeper in faith and dying to self so that Christ lives within us.

What best advice you ever received from a Guilder?

"The Wesley Guild can make or break you, it is up to you to choose what you make of it."

InTouch

InTouch articles are testimonies to the power of God and are role-model stories that teach by example, rather than by preaching or teaching. We don't always remember everything, so please do email us if you have any feedback or ideas for items to include.

Comradeship

To create fellowship among young people in the Methodist church and other churches. This is a programme that enables us to share ideas whilst having fun and understanding one another.

WESLEY GUILD

Entity of the Methodist Youth Unit

Who has been your mentor at Wesley Guild?

I have been taught by many people in the Wesley Guild but I would like to outline two people, Bro. Jomo Mbethe and Bro. Mduduzi Mzanywa.

Which 'C' in 4Cs you love the most and why? *(If you 'love all Cs' please elaborate on each of them)*

I am most inclined with the C of community development because it gives us a chance as the Wesley Guild to make an impact in the community and change people's lives. This C is most consistent with the spirit of Ubuntu, that I am because you are and that compassion is not limited to those who ascribe to your religion or denomination but merely a fellow human being.

What roles have you played or continue to play in helping the Wesley Guild grow?

I believe God has blessed me with the gift of worship and I do that without withholding anything.

What is your favourite Methodist hymn and why?

IsiXhosa Hymn 11, the hymn helps me to reflect on the goodness and faithfulness of God in my life.

Your philosophy in life?

"Do to others what you would have them do to you"

What would you say to a young person who is about to give up on battle they are facing?

The same boiling water that hardens the egg, softens the potato. Therefore, our battles give us a chance to learn what we are made of and explore strengths within us that we didn't even know existed.

How do you handle challenges?

I take time to look within myself and maintain calmness so that I look at how I confront the challenge.

What keeps you going and dedicating your life to God?

The knowledge that God knows me, loves me and always has my back.

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