

## **Archbishop Buti Tlhagale's address to the Youth Alive Launch**

**28 April 07**

The Archbishop based his comments on Matthew 13:44-88

+ The Kingdom of Heaven is a treasure in a field – sell all to buy the field

+ Like a fine Pearl – find one of great value – sell all to buy it.

+ Harvest of all kinds – selective – throw away those which are of no use.

Interpretation:

The Search for the greatest treasure. In order to do so,

- Be focused
- Marshall your energy
- Keep your eyes on 1 prize
- Zero in/ focus on what you want to become.
- Look at your models around you
- Ambition is healthy
- How do you want to serve?
- What will give you maximum personal fulfillment yet serving others at the same time?

Education is your means to your goal - realize your potential to live life to the full.

This entails discipline, self appreciation and dedication. Know when to study/ work and when to play.

Education is thus the field that contains the treasure – Education contains the pearl of great value. Education is your choice from the trawl you have made.

Secondly your Faith in Jesus Christ – the foundation, the storehouse of virtues and values will inform your choices.

“They also serve who wait” Patience is a virtue – it is an investment. Invest in your future – prepare yourself for your future. You alone can do that. The Years of youth are the years of preparation. You have the strength, the ability, the energy to overcome obstacles. Stay clear of obstacles that mar your progress and destroy your

ambition. DO not cast your pearls before swine – hold on to your treasure – No falling in love and making love at an early age!

Your faith is a pearl of great value. Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, your foundation, source of inspiration, strength, anchor, pillar – a mainstay. Gal 2 – I no longer live – Christ lives in me.

Jeans determine your identity as a young person - it is an expression of your relationship. Clothing determines your role. ‘Put on Christ’ a new role for a new person (Gal 3.27)

Christ lives in Me – by Baptism, by Confirmation which give you the quality of Christ, the Spirit of Christ.

Your Youth opens you up to unwanted risks. HIV?AIDS is a reality in our lives. For many it curtails, lessens possibilities, introduces new and difficult health and relationship issues too early in life – hence the need to be wise and to make right choices in your life.

Patience, the ability to wait, is a virtue. Keep your eyes on the Goal, on the prize. I paraphrase the poet Thomas Gray’s ‘Elegy written in a country churchyard’: - let knowledge, education unroll her ample page rich with the spoils of time. Let the celestial fire in your heart consume you and keep you focused on the prize. Allow not poverty to interfere with your noble rage and desire to achieve. Grow to become a flower whose beauty is seen and appreciated by all, whose sweetness fills the air we breathe.

Now listen to the master poet himself:

You have no reason to become a faceless number in the crowd. You owe it to yourself, to your community to become somebody, to stand up and be counted, You have it within you.

In the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Master, rise up and become somebody