



Professional Profile – André van der Merwe

André builds his life on the teachings of Jesus Christ and he lives to centre his life on Biblical truth as his foundation and compass in life. He is a student of life and constantly strive to better himself in understanding creativity and growing my capacity as a creative thinker and finding new and creative ways to communicate more effectively. André always had a love for developing people and seeing them grow and that is why he has been in full-time ministry for the past 20 years. During this time, he had the privilege to attend and train in many courses to equip himself more for working with people and understanding them better. As a full-time preacher he engages with different audiences from different walks of life all the time. André lives with his wife, Suzaan van der Merwe and their three children in George, South Africa.



Academic Background

André studied mostly in the areas of arts and creativity. He has studied at **TUT (Tshwane University of Technology)** and has done a **Diploma equivalent in contemporary music and jazz music**. He is currently also finishing his **Theological degree** with the **South African Theological Seminary**.

Consulting & Training

- André facilitated the Grace for Life course, which is a restorative process that lasts 5 weeks and it has a lot of coaching aspects built into it. Over the past four years he facilitated this course to more than 400 people.
- He has also trained with **Xpand International** in understanding **Resilience**, being an **Authentic Leader** and how to help teams grow in **Mastering** their individual strengths and how to be a stronger and more efficient team.
- In 2018 he also received his qualification as a **Neuro-Coach** after completing **Kim Ikel's Neuro-Coaching Masters Course**. He thoroughly enjoys being a Neuro-Coach and to help others realize their full potential.

Professional Speaking & Lecturing

- Being in full-time ministry has opened a lot of doors for André to be a public speaker and to grow as a professional speaker.
- His main field of interest over the past 20 years has been in the arena of creativity. He has taught at many conferences such as Dieper Konferensie with Retief Burger, ReAlign Conferences with Doxa Deo, UCSA and Service Year for Christ conferences on the impact of creativity in our way of telling stories and engaging with people.
- He is also a full-time preacher and engages with different audiences from different walks of life all the time.
- He loves to communicate in a creative way so that others may benefit from engaging with him and so that they may grow in their own creative capacity.
- He has also lectured at the City Changers Ministry Program (CCMP) on many occasions on various topics ranging from creativity in worship and communication to how to be a public speaker.

Research & Development

He is a student of life and constantly strive to better himself in understanding creativity and growing his capacity as a creative thinker and finding new and creative ways to communicate more effectively. In 2013 he was part of a small group of musicians who worked with Trevor Sampson and the London School of music to find creative ways to teach music in rural South Africa for the use of empowering and uplifting those who are in impoverished communities. He is currently researching how creativity works in the corporate environment and how to help people grow in their capacity of understanding creativity and to harness more creative thinking especially when it comes to problem solving and finding new solutions in an ever changing world.

Hobbies & Interests

- His first hobby in life must be his family. He loves his wife and three kids to bits. He loves doing life with them and structuring his life in such a way that they may benefit the most from it. As a family they love to walk together and taking long drives to do sight-seeing and discovering new places together. He has also influenced his whole family with a love for music, so he gets to exercise his music hobby with them.
- He also loves spending time in nature, whether it is by going on long hikes in the mountains or just by sitting next to the ocean. He recharges the most when he is connected to the beauty of nature.
- He also loves sports so he tries to keep fit by walking, running and going to the gym regularly. He enjoys a good round of golf now and then and prefers to walk the golf course to get more exercise.
- My wife and I also love cooking together and discovering new inventive ways to make mundane dishes a bit more fun and tasteful. It's not always a huge success, but at least they have a lot of fun.
- Another interest of his is the power of humour. He loves to listen to good, clean stand-up comedy, but to learn from it and to incorporate those techniques in public speaking. He is currently exploring the field of stand-up comedy as a way to grow himself.

Personal contact details:

Number: +27 (0)81 378 0685

E-mail: andre.vandermerwe@cci.ac.za

Facebook: www.facebook.com/andre.vandermerwe.503

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/