

LTS News www.lts.org.za

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LTS Students Graduate from UP

One of the best days in a student's life is to graduate with a hard-earned degree. Three LTS students graduated from the University of Pretoria on 3 April 2013: Rev. John Nkambule (from South Africa); Mr. Enoch Macben and Mr. Frank Kainerugaba (both from Uganda). We rejoice with you, dear brothers!

LTS works with the University of Pretoria (UP) so that our students have an opportunity to further their education after LTS and earn degrees at UP. There are several ways that can happen. If a LTS student qualifies, he may study for the UP Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) through LTS. Or, if the student does not immediately qualify to enter the B.Th. program, he can complete the LTS certificate program, and then try to enter the UP Bachelor of Arts Honours program. Upon completion of the Bachelor of Arts Honours, the students may continue to earn a Master and even a Doctorate degree.

LTS is thankful for its partnership with UP because it opens up a path to earn degrees at one of the top African universities. Mr. Frank Kainerugaba earned



a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Theology—Science of Religion and Missiology; Mr. Enoch Macben earned a Bachelor of Arts Honours in Theology—New Testament Studies; and Rev. John Nkambule earned a Master of Arts in Theology—Science of Religion and Missiology. We know that your hard work will serve you well as you work in the Kingdom of God!

LTS students graduating from the University of Pretoria on 3 April 2013: (left to right) Rev. John Nkambule; Mr. Enoch Macben; and Mr. Frank Kainerugaba.

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Deaconess Courses Continue



The combined deaconess classes of Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr and Deaconess Grace Rao (not all shown) received a lecture on human trafficking from a lady once caught in the trade. She is now a Christian and is free, pursuing a career.

Submitted by Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr

One of the classes our residential deaconess students are taking this term is "Contemporary Issues in Ministry to Women and Children." The goal of this course is to take a closer look at a number of current topics where the mercy work of the church through the deaconess can intersect with pain and suffering, bringing physical comfort and eternal hope to people loved by Christ.

We have spent much of the first quarter working through Richard Eyer's *Holy People, Holy Lives* (CPH, 2000), which provides an excellent basic introduction to Christian Ethics. From this launch point we are now beginning to examine such issues as teen pregnancy, women in prison, and adult day care. In the second quarter students will be conducting guided studies and reporting to their classmates on the topics of caring for orphans, HIV/

AIDS, abortion, women in distress, and child abuse.

One topic that is often underreported is that of human trafficking. A good introduction to this topic is provided in the opening essay of the Roman Catholic journal *Concilium*, which devotes its entire August 2011 issue to the topic of human trafficking. Students learned that trafficking is a type of modern-day slavery that affects 12-27 million people worldwide. It can take such forms as forced labor (in factories or farms), bonded labor, child labor, sex trafficking, and even unwilling organ donation.

After considering this distressing topic in an academic sense, students were able to put a face to the issue through a guest lecture on March 13 by a woman who has escaped from trafficking. Because the part-time deaconess students were also on campus for their 2-week course, we were able to include them in the class for

this presentation.

Our guest lecturer explained that trafficking can happen to anyone, regardless of education or social status, and often involves deceit in the 'recruitment' process. One agrees to try something or go somewhere based on a false trust of the person who suggests it, only to belatedly discover the true reality of the situation.

Our guest lecturer also reminded the students that an important part of helping someone who is escaping trafficking is to avoid stigmatizing them further. Move on from the past. Rather than focusing on the past experience, focus on the person and let them feel loved for who they are and are becoming, and not an object of pity or remorse.

In fact, this is exactly how Christ treats each of us, isn't it? He loves each of us personally and individually; He puts our past behind us, makes us into new and redeemed creatures, and carries us forward in His grace and love.

New LTS Volunteer from Germany

Submitted by Tobias Schmidt-Dahl.

Dear Reader!

Since the beginning of March, I'm the new volunteer at the LTS.

My name is Tobias Schmidt-Dahl and I'm from Stelle, a village of approximately 10,000 people, located about 20km south-eastern of Hamburg, Germany.

After finishing school last year, I worked in my father's company until end of February and now I'm volunteering for the LTS, to learn something about South Africa and to gain some international experience, but also to help the LTS and the students.

I'm a member of the SELK (Independent Evangelical Lutheran Church) in Germany, so it's a wonderful opportunity offered by our Bleckmarer Mission (LKM) to meet brothers and sisters sharing the same denomination, both in German (St.



Pauls) and English (LTS) language.

After nearly three weeks of being here, I'm already feeling at home, thanks to the nice and welcoming attitude of all people I've met so far: Family Weber as well as the students and professors at the seminary, but also Family Meyer, all other members and the youth group of the St. Pauls Congregation.

I'm going to stay here until end of May and I'm looking forward to the time lying ahead of me.

LTS volunteer Tobias Schmidt-Dahl assisting with cataloguing work in the LTS library.

How to Support LTS

Support to LTS directly benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students to faithfully carry out ministry according to the teachings of our Lord Jesus.

In the U.S., the St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society

supports the work of LTS. U.S. friends wanting to support the seminary might use that route.

Alternatively, financial support can be directly deposited into the LTS bank account. The banking details are on the back of this newsletter.

South African supporters are reminded that Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane is a registered Public Benefits Organization.

Donations to LTS can be deducted according to the rules of Section 18(a) in the South African tax laws.

The Importance of Biblical Languages at LTS



Rev. Nathan Mntambo teaching Hebrew at LTS.

A significant feature of the Reformation of the Church was Martin Luther's desire that the people be able to read and hear the Holy Scriptures in their mother tongue. Luther's translation of the New Testament into German, and his translation team's work to translate the Old Testament enabled the German people to discern the Gospel message that had been covered over with human teaching in previous centuries. If the Word of the Lord is known well by people and their pastors, they can discern true and false teaching.

LTS students learn Greek and Hebrew so that they themselves can refer to the original Greek and Hebrew texts of Scripture. Thus whether they are using English or their mother tongue in ministry they can study the original texts to gain insights from God's Word.

Translation work is not an easy, not an always straight forward task.

Sometimes a very literal word-for-word translation is best, and sometimes the context from Scripture leads to a translation that is not exactly literal to bring forth the meaning in the target lan-

guage.

Luther wrote:

"Rather with my helpers I have been very careful to see that where everything turns on a single passage, I have kept to the original quite literally and have not lightly departed from it...But I preferred to do violence to the German language rather than to depart from the word. Ah, translating is not every man's skill as the mad saints imagine. It requires a right, devout, honest, sincere, God-fearing, Christian, trained, informed, and experienced heart. Therefore I hold that no false Christian or factious spirit can be a decent translator...." (from *On Translating, An Open Letter—1530*)

May the Lord bless our LTS students as they continue to study the Scriptures using Greek and Hebrew.



Mr. Enoch McBen, a LTS student who is a graduate student at the University of Pretoria, assists at LTS as a tutor for Greek.

Prof. Pless Teaches at LTS



Prof. John Pless from Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana taught at LTS 23 February - 9 March. LTS student Peter Abia, a graduate student at the University is Pretoria, is also shown in the photo.

LTS is blessed to receive support for its work of training Lutheran pastors and deaconesses through many avenues. One such means of support is short term courses offered by Lutheran seminary professors from sister churches from around the world. Through such interactions LTS students can hear perspectives from around the world.

Prof. John Pless of Concordia Theological Seminary, Ft. Wayne, Indiana taught from 23 February—9 March. *Following are excerpts from Prof Pless's report:*

"...I taught an 'ordination course' made up of advanced students and LCSA pastors who were able to be with us for all or portions of the course. A total of 16 men participated in the class which

met for four hours each day. This course was designed as a "topics" course giving us flexibility to cover a variety of topics:

- Luther's understanding of the Catechism as a prayer book
- The life and work of Bo Giertz
- Women's ordination in global perspective
- The life and work of Hermann Sasse
- Werner Elert on "Truth and Unity"
- The life and work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer
- Biomedical Ethics

The course provided an opportunity to give the students

a theological sampler. Some of the most interesting discussion grew out of reading Sasse's 1951, "Mary and the Pope" in *Letters to Lutheran Pastors*. Sasse's careful parsing out of the development of the Marian cult leading up to the papal declaration of the dogma of Mary's Assumption in 1950, led to a lively and clarifying discussion of syncretism. Students were fascinated with Sasse's insights into the way that Mary became a replacement for the female deities of antiquity in such a way that the Marian cult became "A pagan religion in Christian guise" (372). Rome's assertion of the continuum between nature and grace in contrast to the Lutheran law/gospel approach leaves Rome open to a syncretistic approach to missions. This led to a very fruitful discussion of missions and so-called contextualization."

Prof. Pless' report noted a number of people who supported his trip:

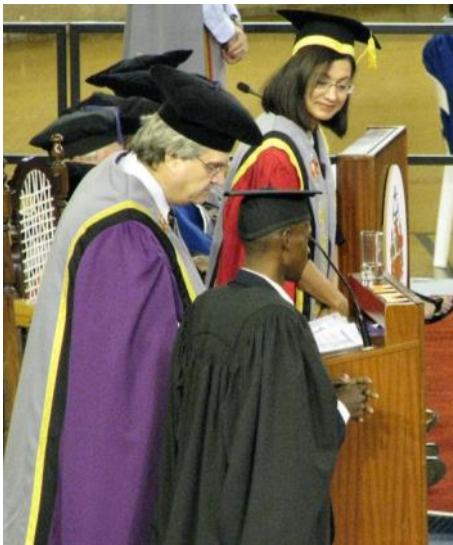
"...I am grateful to Pastor Gerald Paul and the people of Trinity Lutheran Church in Great Falls, Montana for covering the cost of the airline ticket to South Africa. Without their generosity it would have not been possible for me to travel to LTS for this course. President Timothy Scharr and the Southern Illinois District covered the cost of thirty copies of *Letters to Lutheran Pastors* by Her-

(Continued on page 7)

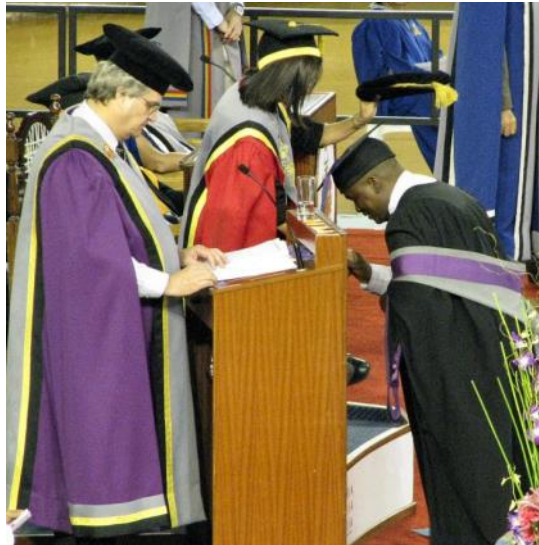
Photos of LTS Students at UP Graduation



The graduation of theology students at the University of Pretoria (UP) took place at a sport arena on 3 April. The UP humanities students graduated during the same ceremony. The humanities students are closer in the gold hoods, the theology students are in the far section in the purple hoods. UP faculty are on the dais.



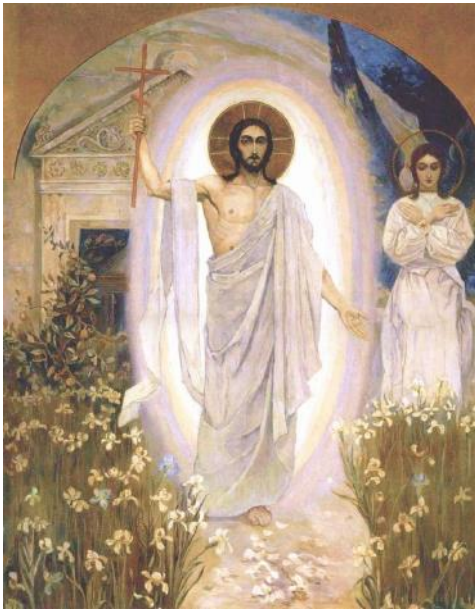
First, each graduating theology student was introduced by the Dean of the School of Theology (Prof. Buitendag in the purple robe) to the Vice-Chancellor (Prof. De La Rey in the red robe). LTS student Mr. Frank Kainerugaba is the student in photo.



Next, each student walked to the Vice-Chancellor. She shook the student's hand as she held a hat over the student's head. She said congratulations to each student and announced the student formally graduated. LTS student Rev. John Nkambule is shown in photo.



Last, each student walked over to be "hooded" by the Registrar (Prof. Grové). The hood of each student corresponds to the school and type of degree. The student being hooded in the photo is LTS student Mr. Enoch Machen.



He is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia!!



LTS students (and families) who stayed on campus during the Easter holiday enjoyed a braai hosted by LCMS missionaries Coral Rose and Carl and Deborah Rockrohr on Easter Sunday. On Easter afternoon the students watched the "Ten Commandments" (1956 version) with the braai during the intermission. Standing left to right, Frank Kainerugaba, Laura Gbote, Ashenafi Desta and Peter Abia.

Pless cont.

(Continued from page 5)

mann Sasse which were used as a textbook for the class and distributed to other South African pastors and LTS students and faculty. Pastor Wade Johnston of Magdeburg Press donated ten copies of *Then Fell the Lord's Fire* by Bo Giertz which was also used in the class. With funds from several additional individuals and congregations we were also able to purchase copies of *Luther's A Simple Way to Pray* and *Bioethics: A Primer for Christians* by Gilbert Meilaender to use in the class."



Rev. Mpolasi Masibi and Deacon Abraham Segoe attended the ordination course with Prof. John Pless.

Thank you to Prof. Pless and all who supported him to enrich the education at LTS!

*Training Lutheran Pastors and
Deaconesses for Africa*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

***Look for more information
about LTS online!***

Prayer Requests for LTS:

- Y Thanksgiving for safety for all returning students after the Easter holiday.
- Y That the seminary may continue to obtain financial support for its work.
- Y For a secure environment for all students and staff at the LTS campus.
- Y That the Lord leads the teaching staff to give clear and helpful lectures, assignments and exams.



**LTS is located in Tshwane (Pretoria),
Gauteng Province, South Africa**

LTS Calendar:

- 9 April LTS 2nd Quarter begins.
- 16 April LTS Board of Directors meet at 16h00
- 25 April LCSA Church Council Meeting
- 26 April Presentation of the Book of Concord in seTswana
- 28 April Mission Festival of LCSA, FELSiSA and MLC
- 24 May 2nd Quarter ends
- 27 May—7 June 1st Semester Exams
- 8 June—15 July LTS Winter Break
- 16 July LTS 3rd Quarter begins

Student Enquiries Welcome

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education to prepare those who seek to serve as Lutheran pastors and deaconesses in Africa.

LTS has had students from a variety of African countries including Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia as well as South Africa.

Pastoral students who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Pretoria (UP)

through taking courses at LTS as well as at UP.

Prospective students need to have the recommendation and support of their home Lutheran church.

For more information contact LTS at the details given at the top of this page.



LTS students on their graduation day from the University of Pretoria with fellow students, family and friends.