

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa

LTS NEWS

Volume 14, Issue 1 February, 2014

Seminary enjoys delightful summer in Pretoria



After a long and well-deserved rest our Seminarians were happy to return to the Seminary in the beginning of February to start the new academic year in Pretoria. Traditionally our Seminary restarts with the academic calendar on the first Tuesday of the second month.

We had been looking forward to getting new students from Congo, Malawi, Madagascar, Botswana and South Africa. This proved quite a challenge and we only succeeded partially. In January we heard from our friends in Malawi, that the government had stopped to issue passports due to their upcoming elections in May. That prevented six prospective students from there to join us. Three Botswana applicants never completed their applications. Four students from South Africa were admitted after successful applications. Yet one of them did not come, another beginner started to suffer serious bouts of epilepsy here and was returned home, while another one changed his mind after not even two weeks of Greek Grammar classes. Sounds something like the parable of the four-fold field, don't you think? At least the student from Congo and the two candidates from Mada-

gascar have arrived and are acclimatizing well so far. You can see them in the picture on the left holding new books for their studies.

So in the beginners class we have six students: 1 from Ethiopia, 1 from Congo, 2 from Madagascar, 1 from Botswana plus another one from South Africa. With this group we face 3 main challenges. One is to learn English reading, writing and talking in before getting familiarized with required academic skills. Mrs. Bhengu und Mrs. Breedt concentrate on training these language and communication abilities. Another task is to learn the basic Greek and Hebrew Grammar and Language, so that after two years the student can read and translate a given biblical text from both the Old and New Testaments in the original languages, but also pass the equivalent examination at the University of Pretoria. Pastor Mntambo and Vicar McBen are tasked with this one. Finally the aim is to get a solid grounding in Lutheran basics. For this a two year overview and introduction is offered into both the Old and New Testaments (*Bibelkunde*) by vicar McBen plus another two year overview and introduction into Dr. Martin Luther's Catechisms (Small & Large) and the Augsburg Confession by the rector.

In the main theological course we have 14 students enrolled at the LTS, while 2 are busy with the BTh at the university of Pretoria.

At our Seminary we concentrate on biblical and confessional theology - biblical exegesis (OT/NT), dogmatics, plus historical and practical theology. Rev. Siza Lugojobo is complementing these main core subjects with some additional business administration tuition, which was his first career speciality. Our visiting lecturers from CTS Ft. Wayne help to supplement vital tuition for these students.

Prayer for Seminary

For the administration: Board of Directors, our Rector and all members & friends of the Seminary. For those who teach and those who learn. That they may be encouraged and enabled in all they do according to His will. That support will not be lacking here and abroad.

For the joy of theology and God pleasing fruits of faith, good works & helpful endeavors. For pardon of neglect, poor performance and other weaknesses, sins and evils. For dependence on God in all things and the dedication to good in all responsibilities we face in 2014.

All these things and whatever else You know that are needful, meet and salutary, heavenly Father, grant us for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who with You and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns one God, now and forever. Amen.

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Doxology



With more than forty participants the LCSA pastor's convention was held at the LTS during the Christmas break for four days under the tutelage of Professors Dr. Yahnke and Dr. Senkbeil (doxology.us)

Pastor's gathered for 4 days consider the overall theme: "How do we become better pastors". We are hopeful that we can continue this workshop with an "Encore" follow-up in the not too distant future. This was the overwhelming response given at the concluding evaluation.

The topics touched complicated issues. Yet the teachers communicated all in a delightful and meaningful way that addressed concrete challenges in our ministry in church and missions. They were helpful in easing tensions, lifting burdens and giving hope to many participants even as they sometimes stretched by our boundaries somewhat.

The variation in topics, speakers and modes (video, speech, workgroups, devotions, breaks and discussions) was helpful too.

Professor Senkbeil concluded: "*Bev and I were very impressed by the pastors' dedication and ability to digest our content, as compressed as it was by necessity. The relish with which they embraced teaching on the care of souls was contagious and provides me with renewed dedication to continue to develop and enhance the program we have begun. Bev and I are open to discussing potential follow-up. I believe your suggestion to send two of your pastors as observers to see our program here, then discuss how you can develop your own parallel program has much to commend it.*"

Here is how to support LTS financially

Support to LTS directly benefits the spread of the Gospel in Africa. LTS trains pastoral and deaconess students to faithfully serve according to all the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ and his faithful servant Dr. Martin Luther.

In the U.S., the LCMS districts of South Illinois (SID: President Timothy Scharr) and the Rocky Mountains (RMD: President Allan Anderson) continue to support the

LTS significantly and most helpfully. The newly founded St. Philip Lutheran Mission Society has joined this support for which we as Seminarians at LTS are so grateful.

In Germany it is the Lutherische Kirchenmission (LKM) of the SELK, which faithfully supports LTS in various meaningful ways.

Financial support can be deposited directly 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.

Please contact the Seminary office for further information: +12 344 2302 or via email: LTS in Tshwane



Tariku, Ashenafi, Melese and Hadebe



Evelyn, Sakeng and Prossy



Mrs Breedt teaching English



Deaconess Rao (LCMS World Relief & Human Care) in St. Augustine



Vicar McBen in St. Athanasius



Deaconess Rao with some students



Rev. Chris Weber (MLC) and the new student from Congo John Magara



Rev. Siza Lugojobo at Matins



Prossy & Tsheriletso dishing up lunch



Books brought by Deaconess Rao courtesy of LCMS WR&HC (St.Louis)



Mrs Thuliswe Bhengu with lots of dictionaries and plenty smiles



Thulani Hadebe concentrating in class

*Training Christ's disciples
as pastors, teachers,
evangelists, missionaries,
bishops and deaconesses
for faithful service in the
Lutheran Church of Africa*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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UNDER

LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY IN
TSHWANE

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education in preparation for service as Lutheran pastors and also deaconesses in Africa.

LTS has trained students from across Africa: South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, S. Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana, Liberia, — and we are hoping for prospective students from Malawi and Zimbabwe.

Pastoral students of the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and proceed with post-graduate studies with our partner institution—University of Pretoria.

Prospective students need to have the positive recommendation and support of their home church to be considered for enrolment.

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

Prayer Requests

- **Faithful teachers**, who teach and preach God's living word and the Lutheran doctrine soundly, motivatingly and in exemplary fashion.
- **Diligent students**, who are willing and able to cope with the course material in learning, research and faithful practice of a god-pleasing life.
- **Financial support** that LTS may continue to prepare faithful workers for the Lutheran Church in Africa with good teaching and excellent programs, but also enable it to maintain the facility and premises suitably.
- **More faithful students** coming to LTS learn, study and practice Lutheran Theology—and the means to support them for a good time too.
- Enough **space and capacity** at LTS for Seminarians, guests & visitors and the ability to expand the facility as opportunity avails itself.



Coming up:

- 24 February—7 March: Advanced Course with Professors Dr. John Nordling and John Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne, IN)
- 21 March End of first Quarter
- 24 March Beginning of 2nd Qtr
- 14-21 April Easter Holiday
- 6 May: Board of Directors
- 18 May: Mission Festival at UP
- 24 May: End of 2nd Quarter
- 26 May: Start of Examinations
- 7 June: Winter Holiday

STUDENT ENQUIRY MOST WELCOME !

