

# LTS NEWS

**Lutheran Theological  
Seminary in Tshwane**  
[Pretoria, South Africa]



Frank Kainerugaba [left] and Enoch McBen [right]—both from Uganda—are the two students, who have successfully completed the four years of basic Lutheran theology at the LTS in Tshwane in 2011. Both have been accepted at the University of Pretoria to start with post-graduate studies in 2012. We wish them and all Seminarians: God bless and keep you +

## GRADUATION 2011



# Moses in Westfield

After an eleven hour flight from Johannesburg, South Africa, I arrived at Heathrow Airport in early morning on the 19th of September. I have been studying here at Westfield for almost two months now. My classes consist of Greek Readings, Pericope Exegetics, and Christology here at Westfield House, and I take Introduction to Islam and Islamic Philosophy at the Divinity Faculty of Cambridge University. We also have in-house classes for Islam.

I was given the opportunity to interview Preceptor Reg Quirk about the Seminary here and its relationship with the LTS in Pretoria. The Preceptor is willing to accept LTS students as long as the Church in South Africa continues to send candidates. They do not allow individuals to apply, but are happy to accept those sent by the Church.



The Preceptor thinks that this is a good opportunity for me to experience a very different educational system and standard. Although the classes are difficult at times, I am very happy to have this opportunity. If the Church allows me to continue my studies in England, then I would be able to continue at London University.

Cambridge is a beautiful, quiet, and safe place. I have had the chance to see much of the city and to enjoy the local history. From the King's College Chapel to punting on the River Cam, visiting the various colleges that make up the University, I have very much enjoyed the sites.

I am staying in Luther Hall, which houses all the Westfield students. We have students from America, Mexico, Germany, Madagascar, Ghana, Croatia, Slovakia, Thailand, India, Finland, and, of course, England. I am happy to represent South Africa, and I have had the joy of teaching younger seminarians and college students the culture of our country. [See the picture on the top of the opposite page]

I would like to thank the Church for giving me this wonderful opportunity to study at one of the finest institutions in the world. I would also like to thank my promoters back home. It has been a great blessing to me, and I hope you have enjoyed reading about my time here. Thank you and God's blessings +

Moses Mokopanele

# Westfield Students & Staff



## Women's guild help students

Some of the students of the Seminary do not belong to any medical aid. The Women's Guild of our congregation has provided funds for their medical care when they get sick or need to see a medical doctor. In most cases the Women's Guild provides transport to the academic hospital or a clinic, where they are treated free of charge, and also pays basic costs for medication.

At the dental hospital the foreign students have to pay a small amount for each visit and treatment, this is covered by the Women's Guild.

Some students need eye care and in that case they are taken to an optometrist, i.e. one who

works in conjunction with the Lions Club of South Africa, who support this cause. Their eyes are then tested and if they need a pair of glasses, they get them from the optometrist at a nominal fee covered by the Women's Guild.

The Women's Guild also employs a cleaner, who comes every 2<sup>nd</sup> week and helps keep the Seminary and chapel buildings tidy by helping to clean the student residences, the library, lecture rooms and chapel. This is a welcome support of the Seminary efforts to keep the well used premises tidy and taken good care of.

Hanna Hohls, 17.11.2011, Pretoria.

# Volunteers at LTS



Eyes focused on the cross of Jesus Christ and passion begging to be utilized, LCMS GEO [Globally Engaged in Outreach] we arrived on the 1st September: Ginger from Minnesota and Zeal from Florida to serve 18 months in South Africa.

After a brief orientation this dynamic duo arrived at Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane [Pretoria] to live and volunteer until 28th November. Then they will depart for Ntshongweni. The 3 months at LTS were spent in 3 different genres': 1. Our favorite, was getting to know each of the seminarians and deaconess student. We brought the card game UNO and enjoyed hosting several game night with treats like popcorn, biltong or cake. The wonderful students are serious about their work and committed to being the very best servants for our Lord. On a related note to meeting these awesome students, we have enjoyed meeting all the wonderful visiting professors

and guests to the seminary. What a lively little campus, full of lovely people who are so willing to give of their time to come and share their knowledge and love for Jesus with the precious students.

2. We dived into the worship life at LTS. We helped with the children's Bible time, the women's group and the junior youth group and music.

3. We worked + worked + worked doing anything and everything asked of us. We entered 1,000's of books into the computer, cleaned, set out teas, organized countless files, completed shopping, planted 'cuttings' ... the list goes on and on.

We came to serve our loving Heavenly Father in South Africa. What an unexpected heart-warming surprise to begin our servanthood at the seminary.

[Ginger Taff-Lagergren & Zeal Beale]



## Go well, you did well!

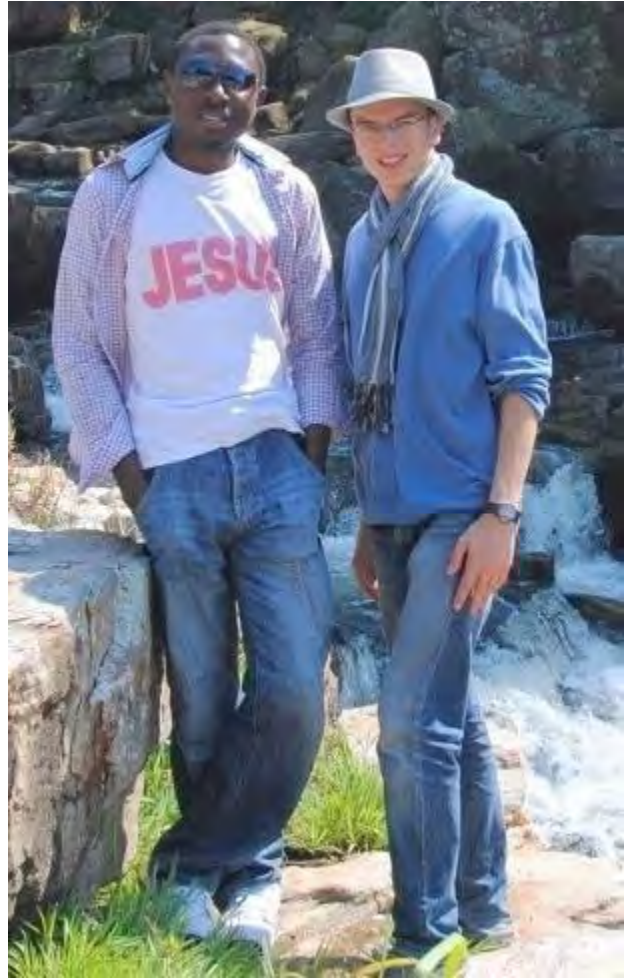
My stay in Pretoria is coming to an end soon, so it's time for a little conclusion. I really enjoyed the time I spent here, and I consider it a great experience. As a volunteer at the LTS, I mostly dealt with the books that we received from Rev. Voges and catalogued them into the LTS library. I am about to finish the cataloguing and I hope that you can make use of the books. Also, I enjoyed driving different people around in the Seminary car in Pretoria, so I probably know the streets of Pretoria better than my hometown's now! In between working on the books and driving around I did other little things, like tidying up or painting rooms, replacing light bulbs, etc.

What I liked most was of course the free time activities, like visiting the zoo or museum, or going to the park with the students. I had a great time with them in Shelly Beach! I got to know many different cultures, and I could achieve a good overview of African cultures in general, and see what life is like in another part of the world.

The South African wildlife is known very well worldwide, and I was even lucky enough to see elephants and rhinos very close in Pilanesberg National Park.

As you might know, I really enjoyed taking pictures, and I will always look at these with a special feeling.

For my last two weeks in South Africa, I am going to join the German youth from St. Paul's at their concert trip through South Africa. I am



excited to see Shelly Beach again, and visit other congregations, too!

All in all I really enjoyed my stay in South Africa and I am glad that I could spend this time with you people! Also, I'm really looking forward to getting home again and seeing my family and friends again.

At last, I just want to say thank you to all of you, for making this stay such a nice experience!

Christoph Schmidt-Dahl

# 1st deaconess course done

After two years with two intensive courses of two-three weeks the six women's league delegates from three of the five dioceses were blessed for ongoing service doing works of mercy in a special service at St.Pauls.

Although Grace Rao from the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (World Relief & Human Care) had already taught them most of the essential courses to qualify for deaconesses, there are still some theological subjects to be dealt with. God willing she will teach these in the coming next two years together with the LTS staff in a similar way as before, but now

an even greater emphasis is going to be on the local situation and cooperation and partnership with the pastors and congregations in the various dioceses, so that this deaconess program will fit and match closely with the ministries being carried out on the ground already.

Together with Rev. Nathan Mntambo from the LTS, Kantor Steven Rosebrock from St.Louis did most of the paperwork, preparation of the music and programs for the occasion at which he not only played the organ, but also lead the liturgy, while Vice-President Herb Mueller preached the sermon for the day.



The LCSA deaconesses in their new uniform after the blessing together with their teachers and mentors: in front of St.Pauls, Arcadia: Ms. Thulisiwe Bhengu (MP), Esther Mathulwe (NW). Deborah Rockrohr (LCMS WM); Grace Rao (LCMS WR&HC), Bishop Weber (LCSA); Thembekile Buthelezi (MP); Madara Eboro (Nigeria); Nancy Sephai (Absent on the photo),

Rev. E.A.W. Weber DD (on the right) taught about the history of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa at the LTS over the past weeks. He emphasized some vital documents from the 1960's and 70's, which give an insight into the foundational stages of our Church. Even though most of our students are not from the LCSA, these doctrinal statements are relevant to any confessional Lutheran Church in Africa. His personal experience and insight make these lectures valuable for our heritage and we are looking forward to publish the written lectures as soon as possible. We are grateful that with these lectures my father was able to conclude the three sessions of African Church History taught at the LTS in the past Semester.

The first section was taught by another father of the African Lutheran Church: Rev. Dr. Anssi Simojoki from Finland, who gave a general introduction to the History of the Church on this African continent. As a confessional



teacher of Lutheran theology in many parts of Africa for some decades, he was able to go into some very specific details concerning the developments of especially the confessional Lutheran Church in those countries, where our students originate from.

The second session was taught by our friend and colleague Rev. Radikobo Ntsimane from the Lutheran Theological Institute in Pietermaritzburg. He gave an orientation to the history of the Church in South Africa. As an expert in oral traditions, but also familiar with the South African academia this proved to be a very enlightening, if challenging intensive study for our students. Rev. Ntsimane was the previous rector of our Seminary and we are very hopeful that this stint at the LTS will be the start of a renewed and intensified exchange between him and our Seminary. The best scenario would off course be, if he could return full-time to the LTS. With God all things are possible and he has often showed the way, where we only saw obstacles.

# Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

## [Pretoria, South Africa]

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### Banking Details:

Bank: ABSA Hatfield  
Branch Code: 335 545  
Account name: Lutheran Theological Seminary  
Account number: 860 5100 30  
BIC: 33 55 45  
SWIFT: ABSAZAJCPT

### 1st Quarter 2012

- 30.1: Orientation starts at UP
- 31.1: Board of Directors
- 6.2: Classes begin at LTS
- 7.2 Prof. Weinrich (CTS Ft.Wayne teaches Early Church I)
- 27.2: Prof. Pless (CTS Ft.Wayne teaches Practical Theology)
- 6-8.3: Pastor's convention
- 12.3: Prof. Klaen (LTH Oberursel teaches Early Church II)
- 24.3: Easter Break starts
- 10.4: 2nd Quarter starts
- 14.4: Joint Supervisory Board UP/LTS



### Prayer Requests for the LTS

- > More able students to study Lutheran theology and be prepared as pastors and deaconesses in Africa
- > Means to support local teachers so that they can concentrate on teaching, preaching and research.
- > More bursaries for under-graduates & post-graduates to study Lutheran theology full-time at LTS
- > Suitable opportunities for graduates to be called and installed, ordained and taken into service.
- > Volunteers to help with a growing work-load: administratively, with house-keeping & tutoring
- > Necessary means to sustain, renovate and expand the facility to meet demand and increase capacity
- > Good theological books for the library, for teachers and students to grow in Luther's teaching.
- > Opportunities for Seminarians to tell their story and that of the Seminary in the Churches and beyond.
- > A good start for the Rockrohrs as they begin their ministry in SA in January
- > Possibilities for international exchange to broaden the perspective of Seminarians globally.