

LTS NEWS



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Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane [Pretoria, South Africa]

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Prof. Andrew Bartelt, who is the Faculty Dean at the Concordia Seminary [St. Louis] is expected at the LTS in October and the

Leriba Lutheran Conference

Over 40 Lutheran pastors, teachers and leaders came from the USA, Finland, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Mozambique, Germany, Madagascar, Botswana and South Africa to convene and discuss Lutheran theology and vital Church matters together. [See picture on the last page] It was a very blessed time and we are very hopeful and anxious to have this sort of meeting taking place again next year. Hopefully our invited friends from Ethiopia, Eritrea, Sudan, Kenya , Nigeria, Zambia and Zimbabwe will be able to make it next time, because God willing this joint-venture with the Concordia Theological Seminary [Ft.Wayne] and the LTS could become a annual highlight in the calendar of Lutherans in the Southern parts of Africa!

The Seminary is expanding!

Although the LTS and its friends worldwide really worked hard to purchase the Seminary facility at St. Peters it was not to be.

The Roman Catholic Bishops Conference of Southern Africa retracted its offer to the LTS. They decided to build a retirement village in St. Peters instead. Thank you to all those, who helped put a workable financing strategy together!

Thanks to Gods mercy other chances to grow the LTS facility do however still come up! In the past quarter another house Farenden Street 349 [Picture top left] has been successfully acquired with the generous support from the Mervin Schwan Foundation. There are more than ten [10!] rooms in that house. One is big enough for a classroom and has been used since August. Others are being occupied by students, who are grateful that they have a bit more breathing space. Due to this favourable acquisition the LTS rentals of 3 other locations could be terminated, saving on expenditures!

Presently we are in the process of acquiring Farenden House 345 from the Anglican Church. Hopefully this will be a done deal by the end of this last Quarter in 2008.



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Books for the LTS

Pastor Eric Skovgaard, pastor from Elmgrove [LCMS Wisconsin] presented the Seminary with a number of first-class books. He brought both theological literature and general fiction for the Seminary Library e.g devotional readings from Bo Giertz and Meyers excellent "There is a skeleton in God's closet." Fantastic!



Dinner invitation to St. Paul's

On the 22nd August the diaconical workgroup of St. Paul's under the leadership of Pastor Reinhold Thom invited the LTS students and staff to supper. They had prepared a sumptuous meal and had packed some gift packages for all visitors. They even made room for a number of extra-visitors, who were with the Seminary stu-

dents at the beginning of the weekend, to enjoy the evening together at St. Pauls.

The students expressed their gratitude, singing songs of praise and worship and the visiting ladies were very helpful all along. Thank you very much for a lovely evening at St. Pauls.

Guest teachers in July

From left to right: Pastor Erik Skovgaard [Elmgrove] teaching an Introduction to Lutheran Confessions; Prof. Dr.habil. Werner Klän [LTH Oberursel] teaching both Formula of Concord and Contemporary Church History; Pastor Günther Hohls [LTS in Tshwane] teaching Greek and Introduction to Biblical Theology ; Dr. David Zersen [CU Austin, Texas] teaching motivational speaking and denominational History.



Student Bheki Ngobese wrote this letter:

Thanks God we are still alive. He has protected me this day. I hope you are ok, Pastor. Pastor, I am writing this letter as you requested me to write it concerning my family life. As I have explained the situation back home to you last time that it is not good. Pastor we are six children: three boys and three girls living with our mother and Grandmother and there are some more children living with us. They belong to our uncles who died two years ago. At the moment our grandmother helps us with her pension fund, but that is unfortunately not enough.

We used to have a father, who did not live with us, because he left us and my mother many years ago. We grew up without knowing him. Our mother told us that by that time he left, we were still young. Our mother tried to raise us, but it was not easy for her as a woman when she was supposed to go and look for jobs and sometimes had to go to places that were very far from home. She sometimes worked on farms and sometimes in plantations. She did this although she was earning little. Sometimes we were struggling to pay the school fees. It was very hard for her to raise her children and buy food for

us and clothes. And by that time our grandmother was not earning any thing so we grew up like that. By the grace of God I was able to finish my “matric” [Final High School Qualification] in the year 2003. By the way this is why I decided to come and be trained as a Lutheran pastor, because it was my way to just thank Him to being with me all these years passed.

But now I can see that life of hardships still moves with us I thought the situation would be better. However we are still crying because now my uncles died too and we miss their support. We have been struggling and are still struggling. We are part of the family of God and our family raised us in the church, I thank them very much because if it was not for their love I may not even have been here. But because we are living in this world we come across obstacles that make us down. I know very well that then especially my siblings say to me: Come try to work for us! We are hungry! We do not have any thing! However I want to serve the people of God with all my heart, so I am pulled apart inside. I try to ignore one part, but my heart bleeds because if somebody says I am hungry I feel very sad because I know what he is talking about.

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Evangelist Balihikya Johnson writes:

I am from Western Uganda: Masnide District. Presently I am studying theology at the LTS. I have a family of 7 people back home, which bothers me so much while I am studying here at the Seminary. My 2 older children—a boy and a girl—are in secondary school, two are in primary and one in pre-primary schools, while the baby is still at home. The mother is in pink.



Above members of the Symposium hosted together with the Africa Institute for Missions [AIM], where Prof. Dr. Timothy Quill presented his paper on “Liturgy” and Dr. W. Coetzer presented his on “Diakonia” in Waverly. Below are some of the participants of the Lutheran Conference at Leriba in August.

