

**Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane**  
*Training Lutheran Pastors and Deaconesses for Africa*

# LTS NEWS

**Volume 15, Issue 4**

**September 2015**

## WE'RE OVER HALFWAY ...

The wheels keeps on turning and we're coming to the close of the 3rd Quarter at the LTS. It's been a good quarter in that there were no interruptions so that 30+ Seminarians from Liberia, Ethiopia, Uganda, Nigeria, Zambia, DRC Congo, Botswana & South Africa could go about their studies in an undisturbed and peaceful way.

At Seminary we're not bothered with the national load shedding as this area might be privileged due to the foreign embassies and perhaps also due to surrounding governmental institutions and reigning powers. Still we do have our fair share of blocked drains, water cut offs and power failures, but that is part of life, isn't it?

We've had 2 more guest lecturers during this 3rd Quarter: Professor Dr. W. Klän (LTH Oberursel i.T.) doing "Christology" and "Orthodoxy & Pietism". & Professor J.T. Pless (CTS Ft. Wayne, IN) doing "The Lord's Supper". Read Professor Klän's report on his visit here in this LTS NEWS.

Rev. M.J. Nkambule returned from his first intensive courses in the doctoral program in Lutheran Missiology at CTS Ft. Wayne, where he is enrolled under Professor Dr. K.D. Schulz. It sounds as if he had no problems whatsoever to get stuck into the working mode at the higher level as he passed all the requirements with flying colours. Read his report later in this LTS NEWS.

Rev. M.N. Mntambo is returning on the 5th September 2015 from his first visit to the doctoral program in Concordia Seminary St. Louis, MO. I'm sure, he will have a lot to tell too and will surely progress most excellently in this first-class academic program of confessional Lutheranism too.

Student A.D. Gonemo is preparing for the 1st part of his MA Theology at CTS Ft. Wayne and has successfully completed the Intensive Summer Greek Program with Professor Dr. John Nordling besides being very actively fundraising with the Grosses.

Rev. O.G. Shuping is busy with the MTh in Systematics at the University of Pretoria under the tutelage of Professor Dr. Klän. He's working on the Church in the theological writing of Hermann Sasse. He does this besides manning the office with our old stalwart S.I. Iyang and doing the foot work of administration. Just coping with Tshwane Municipality is a life's vocation, but they've got lots more on their plate and they are coping good-humouredly and proficiently.

Vicar E.M. Ekyarikunda from Uganda has handed in his doctoral thesis for evaluation. This is quite significant and not only due to the high speed of his work, but also to the wonderful effectivity of his endeavours. He reminds me a bit of the *Praeceptor Germaniae* the reverend Philip Melancthon: Germany's teacher. He not only completed the Fall Intensive Greek Course with Prof. Dr. John Nordling last year, but also taught the 10+ students the Introduction into Greek Grammar plus doing *Lectio Continua* in this biblical language with the senior students leaving him with at least 6 hours of lecturing every week. Besides this he takes care of his wife & 2 children most responsibly. He preaches regularly during Vespers and still finds time to play Volley Ball now and again. We pray, that LTS will benefit many years from his hard work, academic judiciousness & confessional faithfulness.

Arcadia is growing. Down the road at St.Paul's LC there's a 600+ apartment for student housing rising into the sky. A mall to cater for Loftus with Pick&Pay, Woolworths, Virgin Active and others is taking shape, while a hotel complex is planned right opposite the LTS. We can hopeful to continue our facility expansion too. Even if things slow down elsewhere, Arcadia seems to continue to grow and flourish. Join our prayers, that by God's grace the LTS will continue to be part of positive development and optimistic outlook for this national capital and continental hub.

How clear is our vocation, Lord, when once we heed your call: to live according to your word, and daily learn, refreshed, restored, that you are Lord of all, and will not let us fall.

But if, forgetful, we should find your yoke is hard to bear; if worldly pressures fray the mind and love itself cannot unwind its tangled skein of care: our inward life repair.

We mark your saints, how they became in hindrances more sure, whose joyful virtues put to shame the casual way we wear your name, and by our faults obscure your power to cleanse and cure.

In what you give us, Lord, to do, together or alone, in old routines or ventures new, may we not cease to look for you, the cross you hung upon, all you endeavored done.

Fred Pratt Green, 1903-2000

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# NKAMBULE STARTS PhD



Mr. Lucky Thabethe took me to the Airport. When we got there, he helped me with boarding process. We started to take the long trip to Atlanta. When I got there the local time was different from mine. There was six hours difference. I took another plane to Fort Wayne where I found Mrs Cynthia Johnson waiting for me.

She took me to the seminary and she arranged for me that I get a key for my dormitory. After putting my stuff in my room, she took me to the Cafeteria where I met Professor Pless & Ashenavi Desta Gonemo. I also met other students who were much friendlier. We ate the lunch there as a big family. After lunch, Ashenavi and Mrs Johnson took me around the campus so that I could get familiar with it. Later on that day Professor Pless took Ashenavi, me and some other students to the city of Fort Wayne where we attended German Festival.

On Monday we were in a class with Professor Dien Taylor. He was a young and energetic guy. He had a sense of humour and is also a devotional guy, who is always quoting Scripture. He taught us about ministry in urban areas. He was a good lecturer and he knew his work properly. He was giving us a lot of work every day: assignments and book reviews and tests every day and finally a big test

plus a research paper of 10 pages. Taylor emphasized the importance of starting urban congregations. He talked a lot from his own experience. I got my results for Professor Taylor's course last week and through God's Grace I got symbol A. The next student got a C. I really praise the Lord for that nice surprise.

The other course was "Missio Dei" with Professor Dr. K.D. Schulz. We had assignments (book reviews), daily presentations and a 15 pages research paper. Schulz is a nice guy and was friendly with everybody. He refers a lot to his Botswana experience. He loved to let me say Zulu words in the class to show culture differences. He liked words like uMoya oy-iNgcwele (Holy Spirit), ixoxo (frog) and ukusindiswa (Salvation) etc.

Professor Raj was lecturing about religions and how missionaries can evangelize amongst them. Again we had assignments and a final 20 page research paper.

We learnt about how can one do apologetic testimonies to people of other faiths with Professor Menuge in Apologetics. This course was very difficult as it had a lot of philosophy in it. It also had Mathematics and Biology in it. Here too we had lots of assignments and a 20 page research paper to do.

During this time I attended Zion Lutheran Church with Professor Pless. I attended Redeemer Lutheran Church with Mrs Cindy Johnson and I attended Prince of Peace Lutheran Church with some African students. What I noticed is that in the three congregations I visited, they didn't have the same worship style. The liturgy was not done the same way.

Life was good in America, it was summer and we got a lot of rain. It took me some time before my body got used to the States. I couldn't sleep properly for some time. The people were friendly and accommodative. The professors were friendly and the food was good.

I am very grateful for this wonderful experience of a life time.

Rev. M.J. Nkambule

**The Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane** prepares dedicated servants for service in Africa. LTS trains students from across African.

These have come from South Africa, Botswana, Swaziland, Zambia, Madagascar, Tanzania, Congo, Kenya, Uganda, Ruanda, S. Sudan, Ethiopia, Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia.

Pastoral students of the LTS, who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and even proceed with post-graduate studies with our accredited partner University of Pretoria (UP).

Prospective students need the recommendation and support of their home church for successful enrolment.

For more information contact LTS directly using the details on the last page of this LTS NEWS.

# VISITING PROFS: KETTNER & KLÄN

## Prof. Dr. Kettner: My Time in South Africa

How wonderful it is to experience the hospitality of Lutherans from throughout the world! The Gospel unites God's people under the joy of knowing that we have the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

I had the joy of experiencing this for the last two weeks in May, as I taught an advanced course in Christology (the Person and Work of Christ) to the senior and graduate students at the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane in Pretoria. I arrived on the afternoon of Saturday, May 16. That evening I enjoyed a dinner with the Weber Family and a few of the students. On Sunday I enjoyed the opportunity to worship with the English speaking congregation that meets on the seminary campus. On Monday I began teaching. Working with seven students, we went through the article concerning Jesus Christ from the perspectives of Scripture, church history, and the Lutheran Confessions. We worked through the struggles and controversies of the Early Church as it came to terms with Christ's true deity and humanity, and through the confessional material that sought to preserve the glory of Christ's work for us against all attempts to add human involvement in the work of salvation. While we looked at all of this with dogmatic precision, we did so with the understanding that this was not simply for the sake of establishing the correct "theory," but was done in order that the Good News would come forth to the people of God in all of its beauty.

Besides teaching, I had the joy of participating in the worship life of the seminary community. The rhythm of the day is defined by responsive prayer at the beginning of the day, Matins in mid-morning, and Vespers at the close of the day. These prayer services kept us all grounded in the Word. In addition, I had the privilege of preaching at the Wednesday morning confessional services. How wonderful to be able to bring God's Word to this community!

The week ended with a brai on Friday afternoon after the final exam was completed. I flew out on Saturday, May 30 and arrived home on Sunday, May 31. God granted me safe travels, and I have fond memories, a feeling of satisfaction that the course challenged and inspired the students, and a few new Facebook friends as well!

I pray that God would continue to bless faculty and students at the seminary, and to bless the church with a continuing supply of faithful pastors, who will bring the Good News to God's people in southern Africa and elsewhere.

Edward Kettner, Professor Emeritus

Concordia Lutheran Seminary, Edmonton, Canada



## Prof. Dr. Klän: Second Sojourn at LTS

For a second time this year, I had the opportunity to teach a Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane (LTS). Two classes have been scheduled for the third and fourth quarter, the first part of which took place from the end of July to the beginning of August. Six students attended each of the courses. One, in the area of systematics, dealt with "Christology", the other one in the field of church history with "Orthodoxy and Pietism". The second part of both classes is due to follow in September.

Aa major number of post-graduate-students are being present at LTS, the concept to establish a "Post-Graduate-Colloquy" was formed in consultation with the Rector. Students enrolled in the masters' program at the University of Pretoria, particularly post-graduates from LTS, but also Ph.D. students and those who have been awarded a doctorate only recently, shall be given the opportunity to discuss their research projects. A first meeting has been scheduled for mid-September this year.

Students of FELSISa enrolled at UP who are in their basic period of studying theology, I was able to meet one night, having motivating conversations with them.



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

**Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane  
(Pretoria, South Africa)**

Arcadia Street 790  
P.O. Box 12547; Hatfield 0028  
Tel/Fax: 012 344 2302  
Email: LTSinTshwane@gmail.com

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Below: Student of theology Tariku, Professor Klän and Pastor Mntambo in the LTS chapel of St. Timothy.

## Coming up:

- 4 September: End of 3rd Quarter
- 5 September: LTS Open Day
- 7 September: Beginning of 2nd Quarter
- 9—23 September: Prof. Dr. Klän
- 24 September: Heritage Day
- 29 September: St. Michaels and all angels
- 3-11 October Spring Break
- 19-30 October Prof. Dr. G. Schulz (CU Wisconsin)
- 27 October Board meeting
- 30 October End of 4th Quarter
- 2-11 November Examinations
- 12 November Graduation
- 13 November Beginning of Summer break

Prof. Klän continues:

"The "Trilateral Commission on Church and Apartheid" consisting of representative from LCSA, FELSISA, and MLC/LKM/SELK met for one day on the LTS premises. Further progress was made in dealing with this still painful past, especially when we look at the aftermath of this period of church history. A next meeting has been scheduled for mid-September.

Alongside with the employment at LTS, I was able to revive contacts with the Dean of Faculty of Theology, Prof. Dr. Buitendag, and the former and now Heads of Department of Church History and Church Polity, Proff. Dres. Jerry Pillay and Graham Duncan. We discussed the issue of my re-appointment as Extraordinary Professor at UP for another three years period. This would seem eligible in order to continue in supervising LTS post graduate in the advancement of their academic career.

Prof. Dr. Werner Klän  
Oberursel, August 10, 2015,

