

MISSION: Southern Africa **2006-2009**

**A Project of the Rocky Mountain District
Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
*Igniting Church and Culture for Christ***

Preface

In the Beginning...

June 2006

"I've been saying for a long time that the dear people of the RMD may need the people of Africa more than they need us! Their lack becomes our opportunity to express the very love of Christ for them, and toward those countless souls that will hear the Word of God through the preaching of the students training to be pastors. As we look beyond ourselves, we will be more aggressive with God's love with those around us."

**Rev. Randall L. Golter, President
Rocky Mountain District**

And in the End...

September 26, 2009

"Rejoice! I visited with Doug (Ullmann) yesterday and he told me that we have reached our \$500,000 goal and should exceed it with gifts still coming in. God is good! To God be the Glory!"

**Rev. Gary Rahe, Chairman
*MISSION: Southern Africa***

Introduction

This is a report to the Rocky Mountain District congregations and all ***MISSION: Southern Africa*** donors regarding the developments in Southern Africa resulting from the very generous financial contributions from District congregations and individuals. The projects benefiting from the District support included the Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS), Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa, and the human care projects in South Africa and Botswana. (See Appendix A for the location of these projects in Southern Africa.)

As of January 31, 2012, total contributions amounted to **\$553,609**.

A little over \$5,000 of District donations was allocated to the mission project in Botswana and the cattle treatment project in South Africa. These amounts were matched by World Relief and Human Care (WR&HC). The balance (with the exception of a small balance still on hand, the LCEF loan repayment and promotion costs) was sent to WR&HC for matching and then transferred to the Lutheran Theological Seminary.

It All Began When...

The circumstances that led to the choice of Southern Africa as a mission project began when, in 2005, Rev. Matt Harrison, then director of LCMS World Relief and Human Care, contacted District President Golter and suggested a visit to the Lutheran Theological Seminary in South Africa.



The Rev. Matthew C. Harrison
Former Executive Director,
LCMS World Relief/Human Care

Even before early 2005, Dr. Wilhelm Weber, Rector of LTS and Dr. David Tswaedi, Bishop of the Lutheran Church of South Africa, had preached in, and visited, the District.



Bishop David Tswaedi



Rector Wilhelm Weber

Rev. Harrison had the idea of partnering the Rocky Mountain District with the seminary and a human care project in each of South Africa and Botswana.

As a result, in 2006, President Golter invited a number of pastors and laypersons to visit the seminary “so that we might gain a better understanding of the Lord’s mission there. It is my hope that the Rocky Mountain District might then be able to help support the Lord’s work there.”

The 2006 Trip

Originally scheduled for October 2005, the first trip to the seminary and the mission projects occurred in March of 2006. A party of nine persons from the District spent a week in Southern Africa.

Everyone spent four days at the seminary and three days in either Botswana with missionary Christoph Weber or in southern South Africa with missionary Peter Weber and his cattle treatment project.

In the words of President Golter... *“The impressions that were gained by the delegation were profound. One of the most outstanding impressions was the tremendous faith of the students who wanted to learn God’s Word in order to be able to preach this Word to their congregations back home. These were very smart students who left home and family for months on end to study God’s Word in an environment of crowded facilities and makeshift accommodations. Many of the students traveled for many miles and spent many days in traveling from their home to Tshwane, Pretoria, SA.*

“Likewise there was a spiritual richness of the people of Southern Africa that could not be ignored.”



2006 District Delegation

Left to Right: Dr. Harry F. Krueckeberg, Rev. Gary Rahe, Rev. Allan Anderson, District President Rev. Randall L. Golter, Mrs. Elizabeth Golter, Mr. Duane Nyen, Mrs. Mary Marten, Rev. Michael Meissner, Mr. Hugh Taylor

The purpose of the trip was to determine whether or not, and if so, how, the Rocky Mountain District, LCMS, its congregations and individuals, should and could support the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa. More specifically, the trip was made to:

1. Assess the needs of the seminary and evaluate the needs of other projects.
2. Establish relationships with the seminary students, faculty and Board of Directors.

3. Boost the morale of the seminary students, encouraging them to trust in the Lord for support and protection.
4. Determine precisely if and how the RMD could partner with the seminary.

The photographs show what this first delegation saw at the seminary...great and dedicated students and the facilities of the seminary as of 2006...except the Jacarandas tree was not blooming at the time...it was our Spring season but their Fall season.



Church and office



Seminary students as of 2006



The primary residence that housed 19 seminary students



The “garage” classrooms below the flowering Jacarandas tree



The primary library in the room on the left

The 2006 District Resolution

After returning from the visit to the seminary and the two mission projects by the 2006 District delegation, it was recommended that the District Board of Directors submit an overture to the 2006 RMD Convention.

The findings on which the recommendation and the subsequent Board decision were made were:

1. The obvious dire need for pastors in South Africa. There are 100 parishes being served by only 50 pastors.
2. The lack of seminary facilities such as classrooms, study areas, computer space, library, lodging, etc. The seminary is hard pressed to accept more than 20 students because of the lack of facilities.
3. The challenge of bringing Christ to South Africa where less than one percent profess the Lutheran faith.

Given these circumstances in Southern Africa, an overture was presented to the 2006 District Convention which included the following:

Resolved...*that the Rocky Mountain District in convention partner with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, in a three year \$1,000,000 special mission project to enlarge and improve the seminary and to help with a human care AIDS project in Southern Africa and a cattle dipping project started by missionary Peter Weber. The Rocky Mountain District will seek to raise \$500,000 which will be matched by LCMS World Relief and Human Care.*

Resolved...*that in addition to our financial gifts, we uphold our brothers and sisters in South Africa in prayer and, through our partnering with the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa, we share the Gospel in word and deed with these brothers and sisters in Christ.*

(The entire Overture is found in Appendix B)

Actions and Objectives

Upon passage of the resolution in convention, the RMD Board of Directors at its November 6-7, 2006 meeting, appointed a non-standing committee to plan and implement a funds raising effort to be completed by the 2009 District Convention. The Board appointed the Rev. Gary Rahe the Chairman of the committee. Other committee members included:

Rev. David Ahlman, Peace, Arvada

Mr. Tom Keithley, DCE, Holy Cross,
Colorado Springs

Dr. Harry F. Krueckeberg, Lay, Peace
With Christ, Fort Collins

Mrs. Mary Marten, Lay, Immanuel,
Colorado Springs

Mr. Hugh Taylor, Lay, Immanuel,
Roswell, NM

Mr. E. L. Van Laningham, Lay, Family of
Christ, Monument

Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, Hope, Aurora

With advisory members being:

Rev. Randall L. Golter, President, RMD

Rev Allen Anderson, RMD Board Chair,
Mt. Zion, Boulder

Mr. Duane Nyen, RMD Board member,
Trinity, St. George, UT

One of the first actions of the committee was to decide on a name of the project, and the name selected was "**MISSION: Southern Africa**".

It was then decided by the **MISSION: Southern Africa** committee along with RMD staff and Board of Directors that the objectives of this District mission effort would be to provide funds that would:

1. First, repay a loan balance of \$155,000 incurred by the seminary from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund and then...
2. Enable the seminary to enlarge and improve.
3. Assist with a human care AIDS project in Botswana.
4. Assist in the improvement of a cattle treatment project in southern Africa.

As of the End of 2006

Since the official **MISSION: Southern Africa** Committee was not appointed until November of 2006, the concerted and organized funds raising efforts began in 2007. But in spite of that situation, by the end of 2006, nearly \$11,000 had been collected.

A Message from the District President

In the January 2007 issue of *Peaks and Valleys*, President Golter included the following message to the members of the District...a

challenge and the reminder of the opportunities facing the District.

An unbelievable opportunity for the Rocky Mountain District

"I have made you a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth"
(Acts 13:47).

"An unbelievable opportunity! That's all I can say after meeting with Dr. Wilhelm Weber, rector of the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa Seminary. Dr. Weber met with the Rocky Mountain District South African Committee, chaired by Pastor Gary Rahe of Holyoke, Colo., in early November here in Colorado. What Dr. Weber said was enlivening and challenging!

"When the Rocky Mountain District group met with Dr. Weber and the Board of Directors of the seminary in South Africa last March, we asked them where they saw the seminary in five and 10 years. There was hesitation. So concerned were they about survival, they had not thought about the future in concrete ways. According to Dr. Weber, this has all changed!

"Dr. Weber spoke of the tremendous impact the Rocky Mountain District's \$500,000 pledge (passed at the June 2006 district convention) has had on the seminary. The pledge of \$500,000, to be raised in the next three years, will be matched by LCMS World Relief/Human Care. The seminary has formulated plans for buildings, more students, a deaconess program, and *more*.

"This is the *more*: Bishops from other nations--Sudan, Kenya, Uganda, Liberia-have been greatly encouraged by the Rocky Mountain District's commitment. They see the South African seminary as having great potential and a solid Lutheran theology, and they are sending students now! Weber said that what the Lord is doing has surpassed all they could have imagined. Without hesitation, Weber said the Lord is doing this through the commitment of the Rocky Mountain District.

"What a wonderful example of ***Igniting Church and Culture for Christ!***

"True, we haven't officially started the call for contributions from congregations and individuals, but many have been asking when this is going to happen. The South African Committee

meets again in December 2006-a month before this article comes out. They are energized- fully energized-to get going. You will be hearing more! But you can send in funds now to the district office so that those funds can be sent on to the South African seminary through LCMS World Relief/Human Care. Remember, they will match our funds!

"Here's the point: The Lord is expanding the vision. With students coming to the seminary from so many different countries in Africa, the Rocky Mountain District has the opportunity of igniting many African nations besides South Africa. Students will be trained at the seminary and will be sent back-by the Holy Spirit's guidance- to be a "light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the ends of the earth" (Acts 13:47).

"Pray that the Lord Jesus will work this all out-the training and sending of men and the raising of the needed funds-as He sees fit! All glory be to His name."

Rev. Randall Golter
District President



District President Golter at the Lutheran Theological Seminary, Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa, 2007

The 2007 Trip to South Africa and Botswana

The fund raising efforts began in earnest in 2007. This effort included the recruiting of a second group of District representatives to visit the seminary and the mission/AIDS project in Botswana and the cattle treatment project in southern South Africa. District President Golter recruited seven persons, who paid their own expenses.



2007 District Delegation

Left to Right: Mr. Harold Latzke, Rev. Dennis Lucero, Rev. Bryan Wolfmueller, District President, Rev. Randall L. Golter, Rev. David Ahlman, Mr. E. L. Van Laningham, Rev. Daniel Praeuner, Dr. Harry Krueckeberg

Why the second trip? There were four basic reasons for the visit by District representatives, namely to:

1. Observe the needs/problems that the District funds could, in part at least, assist in alleviating.
2. Reinforce the 2006 relationships with seminary faculty and students and establish additional new relationships.
3. Demonstrate the District's continued and sincere concern for the seminary students and faculty, and...
4. Develop additional advocates within the District for the promotion of the project in support of the three southern Africa projects.

At the conclusion of the tour the group met with the seminary Board of Directors and discussed three primary challenges facing the seminary:

1. Providing adequate student housing
2. Qualifying for Accreditation
3. Sustaining faculty support

Project Accomplishments: Lutheran Theological Seminary

As of the End of 2007

The committee promoted the project through publications and presentations. As a result, nearly \$100,000 had been donated.

This enabled the allocation of nearly \$75,000 to LCEF (along with matching funds from WR&HC) for the repayment of the LTS loan and an

allocation of \$24,000 to the LTS. This allocation was used to pay off the housing loan for the "Schulz House", 347 Farenden Street, providing much needed additional student housing.



The "Schulz House" at 347 Farenden Street



Faculty and students, February 2007

Rear L to R: Eric Gbotoe; Samual Ogwang, Boipelo Magosinyana; Bahilikiya Johnson, Masi Monthato; Odirileng Sengwaketse; **Middle from L to R:** Gemah Balah; Mothlatloli Sebeelo; Waako Moses; Obura Johnson; Alex Ambani; Robert Wakiso; Wamaala Jerome; Aaron Bamuwamye; Bongani Dlamini; Nicholas Bwire; Dirang Bojane; Daniel Nkojojoo; Bhaki Ngobese; Dr. Wilhelm Weber; **Front L to R:** Rev. Clifford Herd; Prof. Dr. William Schumacher; Rev. Daniel Preus; Dr. Anssi Simojoki; Rev. Nathan Mntambo; Rev. Heinrich Voges.

As of the End of 2008

By the end of 2008, another house, the "Dube House" at 345 Farenden Street, was purchased and the LTS's LCEF loan is entirely paid off (an original loan of \$235,958.00 in total).

The “Dube house” was first used to house larger groups and overnight guests, but as of 2012 it is utilized as housing for the full-time deaconesses.

In total, by the end of 2008, nearly \$248,000 had been donated.



The “Dube House” at 345 Farenden Street

As of the End of 2009

The year 2009 saw the enrollment of 8 new students and the graduation of 10 seminarians

The Rocky Mountain District convention in June signaled the conclusion of **MISSION: Southern Africa** with over \$500,000 collected and matched by LCMS WR&HC.

The 2009 funds allocated to the seminary were used in part to purchase the “Mdluli House” at 800 Arcadia Street, the remaining property on the corner of Farenden and Arcadia Streets. This facility was purchased in May 2010 for use as additional student housing and by the end of 2011 was providing housing for 9 married students and their growing families.



The “Mdluli House” for Married Students

Although the District project officially came to an end in June, donations continued and finances were still transferred to the LTS through 2011 and into 2012.

During 2010 and 2011

At the beginning of 2010, 11 new students were accepted for studies, although five Ugandan students were ultimately unable to come due to internal problems in that Church. The end of 2010 saw the graduation of seven students.

During 2011, seven new students enrolled in 2011, but five of them from Tanzania were not able to return after Easter due to their difficulty with English. Two seminarians graduated at the end of the year.

During 2011, 30 students, faculty members and visitors benefited from the improved security measures, as well as repairs to facilities.



2011 students including five new enrollees from Tanzania

Student support remains a huge challenge for the local Lutheran Church in Southern Africa. The Lutheran Churches in southern Africa are not able to support their students financially.

Support for the LTS and the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa is important because it helps the Lutheran Church throughout Africa including Liberia, Ghana, Nigeria, Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, DR Congo, Zambia, Botswana, Swaziland, Uganda and South Africa.

In February 2011, the District sent an additional \$40,317 to the seminary directly through WR & HC. These funds were not matched since the project by this time was officially closed and WR&HC was not obligated to match more than the original \$500,000.

The funds were used in support of student stipends, travel costs (air tickets, visa and student permits, repatriation fees) for international students from more than 10 African countries as well as some of the high tuition fees for postgraduates at the University of Pretoria. Utilities were also partially covered.

Rector Weber described the use of these funds for their seminary students as follows:

"This year's funds are to be used for the travelling, study and living costs of the following students from Liberia and Uganda: Eric Gbotoe; Matthews Tokpah; Frank Kainerugaba and Enoch Macben. The rest of the money is to be used to facilitate new students recommended by their respective Churches in Liberia, Uganda and Sudan to come and study here in 2012. We are now in the process of facilitating their coming so that they will have the necessary requirements fulfilled and will be ready in time for the start of the new academic year 2012. At LTS we are presently five weeks into the new academic year and that's just too far down the road to start with preparing to come this year, because it's too late to catch up on the work already done."



Senior students in 2011

The Seminary, Then and Now...2012

The LTS has over the decades trained more than a hundred pastors in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa [LCSA]. During its history it moved from Madola to Salem [Mpumalanga] and then to Enhlanhleni [KwaZulu Natal] before finding its place in Arcadia, Tshwane, Pretoria, in early 2001.

At the time of the 2006 visit to the seminary by the District delegation, the enrollment was 24

students. These students were from a number of Central and Southern Africa countries including, Botswana, Liberia, Kenya and Uganda.

The facilities consisted of the chapel, a garage converted into class rooms, a small library and a single residence housing 19 of the students with some staying in some out-houses. (Note the "Goggle Eye" view of the campus, Appendix C)

The full time and part time faculty consisted of Rector Wilhelm Weber and teachers Rev. Mntambo and the Rev. Eliot Sithole. In addition, Bishop David Tswaedi and the Rev. Wilhelm Weber, Senior, together with visiting teachers from Concordia Theological Seminary Ft. Wayne, IN, like Professors Rast, Pless, Quill, Schulz, McKenzie, Gieschen, Nordling, and Rothermeyer served at the Seminary.



Rector Philip R. Ntsimane (lower right) and other staff; Wilhelm Weber (lower left) in the early times in Pretoria

At the beginning of 2012, six years after the beginning of the RMD/WR&HC project and a million dollars later, the seminary has 33 theology students: 17 in the beginners course, 6 in the main course, 4 vicars in the advanced and ordination course and another 6 post-graduate students at the University of Pretoria. Plus there are 15 deaconess students: 9 full time and 6 part-time. That brings the total number of students to 48.

At the beginning of 2012, new enrollment included 14 new students in theology studies and 8 new full-time deaconesses, bringing the total new enrollments to 22 students. This level of enrollment is a situation that, with necessary funds, could easily be sustained. The need for solid confessional education in theology and works of mercy is

growing in leaps and bounds on the African continent.



Faculty and Students, 2012

The following individuals represent the full time faculty as of the beginning of 2012:

- Bishop Dr. Wilhelm Weber - Systematics and Symbolics
- Rev. Nathan Mntambo - Hebrew, Practical Theology
- Dr. Carl Rockrohr - Theological Orientation, Church History
- Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr - Deaconess subjects
- Secretary Salomé Smith - Communications, Administration, Housekeeping and Finance

The part time staff includes:

- Rev. David Tswaedi D.D. - Old and New Testament and Greek
- Mr. Steve Oxtan - Greek Grammar
- Mrs. Annelize Dorfling - Academic Skills.

The seminary is blessed by the courses taught by visiting faculty members from the LCMS Concordia seminaries of Fort Wayne and St. Louis, and from Germany.

Since 2009, 6 Advanced Courses were offered to senior students, vicars and pastors, both for vicarage requirements and for their own enrichment. These courses have focused on Pastoral Theology, Missiology and Church History.

The facilities now consist of the original buildings plus the four houses adjacent to the campus, purchased, in part, with District funds, providing student residences, class rooms and

facilities for visiting faculty, namely, the Dube, Schulz, Segoe and Mdluli houses. (Appendix C)

A larger physical facility and an increased number of students have also meant an increase in the work load, administratively as well as repairs and maintenance to the campus buildings. A variety of wonderful volunteers have blessed the LTS over the past 5 years with their skills and time. They have done everything from gardening to cataloging books to cleaning to house repairs, and the LTS truly cannot calculate what they represent in terms of man hours and labour costs. The lives of the students are also enriched by their friendships with these hard-working, giving people.



A volunteer librarian



The Lutheran Church in Southern Africa has its regular Church Council and other meetings at the LTS.

The English Congregation with its own pastor now has about 150 members and gathers regularly in the sanctuary on Sundays.

In summary, the District support as matched by World Relief and Human Care, has facilitated, in part at least, the accomplishment of the original goals for the seminary. Funding has enabled the seminary to accommodate many new students through the purchase of homes in the area which have been converted to lodging and classroom facilities, thus graduating more qualified students who are becoming pastors and serving the Lutheran Church in southern Africa and in numerous other countries in Africa.

Over 70 students, more than 20 full-time and visiting faculty members and frequent volunteers and visitors have benefited from the improvements and repairs over the past few years – even if there remains a lot to be done.



A volunteer Housekeeper

Goals for the Future

Rector Weber suggests the following goals be pursued during the next several years. The approximate cost of each is presented at the end of each goal, in parentheses.

1. Extend the present Library (or if possible build a new library) to house the books given to the Seminary (Voges and Lombard libraries were added) and provide study space for students and faculty. Presently the students study in their bedrooms, where space is quite limited. (\$60,000)

2. Expand the existing kitchen(s) (or if possible build a new kitchen/cafeteria) to cater for 60 students. Presently the kitchens in the respective houses are just for “normal families” i.e. for approximately 5 people. (\$60,000)

3. Provide funding for at least 10 new students of theology per year plus 10 new deaconesses per year i.e. (\$30,000 per annum x 5

years because that is the duration of the course. This means a total of \$150,000 for 50 students per year for the Seminary/LCSA)

4. Buy the Hokaai complex (4 units of \$250,000 each) with a LCEF loan and address that loan successfully over the next five to ten years. This would serve as housing for the deaconess school, staff housing and necessary offices for teachers. On the long term and after the loan has been repaid, the rent gained from those staff members and also from the deaconess school could be an income generating project to facilitate even more sustainable funding for the Seminary and the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa in the future.

The Cattle Treatment Project

Then and Now

For many South African farmers, their cattle represent almost all of their total assets. Keeping these cattle healthy is a major financial concern. Farmers must rely on the health and reproduction ability of their cattle. The threats to the cattle include parasites, animal diseases and theft.



The spraying equipment and corral

In 2006

Missionary Peter Weber

Missionary Peter Weber, through his ministry, is working to reduce the threats of disease to the farmers' cattle by overseeing a cattle spraying operation. At one time the government of South Africa required and provided a cattle dipping service. It no longer does so, and as a result,

missionary Weber has stepped in to provide the disease prevention service once provided by the government.

He works with veterinarians in providing needed care. He has developed a cooperative payment plan for covering the costs of the spraying. He states that by U.S. rancher standards, it as a fairly basic operation. At the time of the 2006 and 2007 visits by District representatives, missionary Peter Weber was using a simple hand sprayer in a crude corral made of logs. Every Saturday morning the farmers could bring their cattle to the corral for the spraying treatment.

His goal was to reduce the losses to the farmers, and eventually improve the quality of the herds in the area by acquiring breeding stock that could then be used to service local cattle. In addition, the need for a more efficient and permanent corral was very evident.



Corral and enclosure for the cattle, today



Corral and enclosure for the cattle, 2006



Corral and enclosure for the cattle, 2006



Rector Wilhelm Weber and local farmers



New enclosure for the cattle

Why fund this project? Missionary Weber is a unique servant of our Lord as a missionary to the Lord's people and their livestock. He demonstrates the love of Christ through his efforts to improve the local cattle. He demonstrates this love every Saturday morning.

District and Synod assistance through **MISSION: Southern Africa** amounted to \$10,000.

Project Status

Now, where does this project stand? As reported by Peter Weber in 2010....

"With grateful hearts we look back on the last six months. Your donation helped us build something really big and professional for our dipping club and our area. Our dipping facilities have been greatly improved, our stock is looking better and your donations have helped us in a big manner, mostly to improve our cattle."

"The whole setup has been rebuilt so that treating the cattle is much easier, faster in other words much more sufficient. Since the new dip has been erected, we no longer need to battle with ropes. Cattle no longer need to be tied up, but are caught in a neck clamp (see below), which makes for very easy



handling. The cattle can now be handled very easily and safely while it is being inspected.

"For the first time we were able to buy dip in bulk, which worked out much cheaper. Medicines, vaccines and dewormer could all be bought."

"We purchased two bulls. These have been active in the breeding herd and we hope to see good

offspring from them. We have been able to buy very nice young and strong nguni heifers of which two have already been sold to locals. I am very happy



Cattle in the herd established by Missionary Weber

with the development of the project; however it takes time to make a difference in a cattle herd. I thought people would be more willing to change their bad cows and bulls for new ones, but that is not the case.

"We have been able to fence in a large area for our breeding animals to run in. This has made herd management much easier and again far more efficient. This is the area in which the cattle graze and the breeding animals are kept before they are sold. We are still hoping to subdivide the area so that the grass can recover before the cattle once again are put into that specific division."



Additional cattle

"We have not been able to purchase a 4-wheel drive vehicle, but have set up the cattle dip, to

such an extent, that it should be able to keep running, without any further money from outside. Which means that should money still be donated it could be used for the vehicle.

“All the people that see our dip are amazed in what we have accomplished, and that was only possible with your help. I am confident, that over the next few years our cattle will grow into a nice, healthy herd, and that the locals will once again be proud owners of nice and productive cattle.

“To all the donors we say a very big THANK YOU. You have made a big difference in our lives. From a personal point of view: It amazes me to see your readiness to help us guys that live so far away from you and it fills me with great joy that you are prepared to help us down here in South Africa. Globally speaking our little area of Msikaba with their funny looking cows must seem rather insignificant, but to us they mean the world and your help is greatly appreciated, it means very much to us. Thank you very much and God bless you with all his wonderful blessings.

“Yours sincerely Peter Weber, manager of the Cattle Project South Africa.”

The Good Samaritan HIV/AIDS Project, Serowe, Botswana

Then and Now

A project started in 2003 in Botswana, “The Good Samaritan Project-Lutheran Church Serowe” was under the leadership of missionary Christoph Weber at the time of the visits in 2006 and 2007.



**The Serowe, Botswana, Church (R)
and the Project House (L) as of 2006**



Worship service conducted in the bush



Worship service in the bush



Worship service, note the “pews”



Lutheran family in Otse, Botswana



Even the poorest of the poor have cell phones.

The Bushmen in the desert of Botswana are not isolated from HIV/AIDs. While the government of Botswana provides free medicine, the Bushmen had no way of getting to the clinic. Missionary Christoph Weber provides transportation for the Bushmen to a treatment center in Serowe. He transports sick individuals to the clinic and provides housing and food for their time away from home. The transporting of individuals involves a vehicle, and provides lodging for one or two nights plus meals. The people transported live in the desert and cannot be transported round trip in only a single day.

District and Synod assistance through **MISSION: Southern Africa** consisted of \$10,000.



**Vehicle used in transporting persons
from the Cattle Posts to Serowe**

Major Accomplishments

1. Purchased a new Landcruiser Pickup, (November 2006) that was converted to a double cab for the transport project (April 2007).
2. Built a project house for the accommodation of the sick people (2004 - 2007) next to the church.
3. Purchased a plot with a house adjacent to the pastor's residence (Sept 2001), so that the pastor's residence could be converted into the Good Samaritan Home (between Sept 2007- still ongoing), a boarding facility for orphans and vulnerable children attending school in Serowe.
4. Opened a day care center "Bible Kids" at the church - this offers children who cannot afford to attend official preschools in



Rev. Boss Sebeelo visiting shut-ins in the Bush area of Botswana with God's precious gifts of word and sacrament.

Serowe, the opportunity to be prepared for school

5. Built a one roomed house for a destitute mother in Otse, (see photo below) and 3 pit latrines in Otse. (see photo below)



District delegation inspecting the latrine project in Otse, Botswana



The house referred to above in #5.

6. We are in the process of acquiring land for the "self sustaining" agricultural project in Serowe (End of 2008- beginning of 2009)
7. A total of 9 job opportunities have been created for the members of the congregations of Serowe, the Cattle posts and Otse through these projects.

As of 2008, Objectives Met

The transport project has been able to sustain the transport and therefore has been able to offer the services without interruption. This project had three objectives, namely:

1. Provide transport to the Serowe hospital and clinic for people living on the cattle posts (locations where wells have been drilled for water, for cattle and people) in western Sandveld for ARV treatment. In 2008, 40 people has access to medical assistance in Serowe on a monthly basis.

2. Provide accommodation and food for them while they stay in Serowe.

3. Help set up home-based care units at the cattle post.

The Bible Kids project is running, even if only at a small scale, due to the limitations of the building. (Only 15 children possible)

The Boarding Home has not been opened, and so that objective has not been met in 2008, and will probably only be met during 2009. The initial objective was to start an orphanage, but the Government of Botswana will not allow orphanages. They correctly assumed that if they allowed this, these institutions would soon be flooded. Their strategy is to keep the extended family involved in the care taking of orphans. They want us to start a boarding facility, which will allow orphans and vulnerable children to live in a safe environment while they attend school in Serowe. Otherwise they would need to rent privately in Serowe.



The Rev. Christoph Weber, upper left, conducting a worship service in Otse, Botswana

Major Obstacles

1. Increased fuel price - more than doubled our expenses for the transport project, which means, we will have to cut back on the time schedule of our transport

2. A lack of land and buildings for the Bible Kids project in order to be registered as a pre-school.
3. Regulations do not allow us to run the preschool on the same plot, where the transport project accommodates the people. (We are in the process of getting an extension and new plot).
4. The required paper work from the local Department of Social Welfare.
5. The lack of water for the agricultural plots in order for them to be self sustaining. We have to drill wells.

Success Stories

Missionary Christoph Weber was asked to describe how the life of one or more persons he worked with had changed as a result to his projects. The following is the information that he provided.

Christoph Weber...

"The only difficult part about this is choosing a person or family. We honestly believe that we are supporting and helping very many people and families."

Khunong Family

"Let me use the Khunong family as an example. Mr Khunong lives in the Kalahari Desert and would not want to live anywhere else. He speaks Setswana to me, but only because I do not understand his mother tongue Tsoadam, sometimes he forgets that I do not understand and he will tell me stories in his language to which I can only respond with the odd words that I do know. He has got at least 5 children, it is not always clear, who belongs to the family.

"But many of his daughters already have children, and it these children who come to Serowe for medical treatment and checkups with their infants. Mr Khunong does not like going into the village. I do not recall him ever leaving the Kalahari. But because of the medical assistance that his daughters and grandchildren receive in Serowe, he is in the fortunate position, that none of his children or grandchildren have died in the last three years. Definitely not everyone in the Kalahari is so fortunate."

Lesotho Kadikua

"Or let me tell you about Lesotho Kadikua - he is also a Tsoa from the Kalahari, even though he

does not look like a typical bushmen - he is tall, and relatively dark. He was going to become the first driver of our project, but it was not possible, as he could not read and write, and even after we taught him how to read and write, he does not understand English. I tried translating it, but he eventually gave up in 2004 because we did not have a vehicle at that time.

"In 2008 he took the job of caretaker and gardener in the Good Samaritan Home. Here he takes care of the yard and the small stock that is there: pigs, milking goats, chickens (both broilers and eggs) pigs and a vegetable garden.

"Not only does he have financial security now, but maybe even more importantly his son Kagiso, who suffers from epilepsy can be close to medical help, when he needs it. He is doing fine and is enjoying the Bible Kids, where my wife, Alena and an assistant also called Kagiso prepare him and other children to get ready for school.

"Kagiso is already eight years old, and should have gone to school long ago. But his family in the Kalahari was always trying to treat his epilepsy with traditional medicine in the desert and would not allow him to go to school."

Gaosenkwe

"Or what about Gaosenkwe - a young mother, whose child nearly died as the result of diarrhea. This is common in rural areas with poor hygiene. Again parents very often try and treat the symptoms of dehydration with traditional medicine and many children die, even though a simple remedy of water and salt could help them. Gaosenkwe was able to come to Serowe with her child and husband. The child was admitted and had to stay in a hospital for a number of days, if not weeks.

"This became a problem for the father, who did not want the child to remain in the hospital. Very often their understanding of medicine is one of rituals, once the ritual has been done, then one can go. He did not agree to the fact that his child needed time on a drip. But they stayed, and the child is well again.

"My wife could tell many stories of the children at the bible Kids, who have virtually no stimulation from home, how they have developed confidence and skills that will help them next year and later on, when they go to school."

Where Are They Now?

The delegations from the Rocky Mountain District met and made friends with many seminary students in 2006 and 2007. What have some of them achieved and where have some of them gone since graduating from the seminary?

This section conveys the information that has been made available on a number of the young men met at the seminary.

This section is dedicated to the



Keoagile Boss Sebeelo, Botswana
Tutume Parish Pastor;
Pastoral Advisor, Men's League

Memory and in Honor of William Maphalala

who passed away in 2007 while working on his Masters of Theology in New Testament Studies.



Moses Mokgosi Mokopanele
Vicar
North West Province of S.A.
Continuing his studies at Westfield House,
Cambridge, United Kingdom



Odirileng Sengwaketse
Jwaneng Parish Pastor
Botswana
See Appendix D for his description
of his Pastoral duties and responsibilities.



Orapeleng Godfrey Shuping
N.W. Diocese, Tsetse Parish Pastor,
Commission on Doctrine
and Church Relations
Working on Systematic studies on Ecclesiology



Motlhatlosi Sebeelo
 Serowe, Botswana
 LCSA, Botswana
 Mahalapye Parish Pastor,
 Pastoral Advisor, Women's League



Aaron Shem Bamuwamye



Dirang Billyboy "Vusi" Bojane
 Krugerdorp, S.A.
 Gauteng Diocese, Mabopane
 Parish Pastor
 Pastoral Advisor, Youth League



Samuel Ogwang



Norman Monthato
 Piet Retief, Mpumalanga province
 Doing missionary work in Salem



Jerome Wamala



Kamya Moses Waako



Daniel Nkoyooyo



Johnson Balihikya



Johnson Xavier Obura



Benson R. Bahuka Barahuka
Secretary of the LCMU



Robert Wakiso



Nicholas Bwire



Peter Magino Maganda



Waako Nkono York



Abia Peter Anabati
Southern Sudan;
Working on Master's in New Testament
University of Pretoria



Pheny Mokgaimena
Ordained and a Pastor in Botswana
Enrolled with the Mission of Lutheran Churches



Gemah P. F. Ballah
Serving in Liberia



Silas Mogale
Ordained and serving as Pastor in the
North West Province
South Africa



Eric Gbotoe
From Liberia
Working on Master's in Mission Studies
University of Pretoria



Alex Ambani
Serving in Kenya



Frank Godfrey Kainerugaba
Working on Honour's in Theology
University of Pretoria



Bheki Ngobese
Ordained and serving as Pastor
in the Mpumalanga Province



Ipeleng Martin Makoka



Vincent Cane
Master of Theology
Missions



Thokozani Alex Sigubudu
Dropped out in 2007,
but not forgotten!



Boitumelo Magosinyana



Bongani Dlamini
From Jagrift

The Attendees and Graduates of LTS over the years.

1998-2005: T. Doe Johnson [MTh] Suah, Esther, Cindy and Marco Siphele Zikhali

1999-2004: John Nkambule [MTh], Tandi

2000-2006: Godfrey Shuping [Theol. Honors in Systematics at UP], Naledi, Botlare und Rorisang

2001-2006: Vincent Cane [MTh in Missions] and William Maphalala [passed away in 2007 while he was busy with his MTh in NT studies.

2003: Vusi Dirang Billy Boy Bojane [Mabopane], Masi Norman Monthato [Ermelo] and Odireleng Sengwaketse [Molepolole]

2004: Alex Sigubudu [dropped out in 2007] and Boss Sebeelo [Tutume/Francistown]

2005: [Angus Lukeeta dropped out in 2006], Bongani Dlamini [Jagdrift], Ngobese Bheki, [dropped out in 2007 to restart in 2008]

2006: Silas Mogale; Pheny Mokgaimena; Johnson Obura; Johnson Balihiya; Robert Wakiso; Benson Barahuka; Nicholas Bwire and Daniel Nkoyooyo

2007: Jabulani Chris Khumalo], [Paul Mosimanegape Sephai], Eric Ghebotoe [Ghana], [Sipho Hlatshwayo], Alex Ambani [Kenya], Gemah P.F. Ballah [Liberia], Peter Anibati [Sudan]; James Odoo, York Waako, Peter Maganda and Frank Kainerugaba [Uganda], Boitumelo Magosinyana, Ipeleng Makoka.

2008: Vicarage in Ohlangeni] Moses Mokopanele, Motlhatloosi Sebeelo [Serowe], Jerome Wamala [Kampala], Samuel Ogwang, Kanya Moses Wako, Aaron Bamuwanye, Thomas Beneke. McBen Enoch (Uganda); Obed Gyaba (Ghana)

2009: Isaac Madonsela (Mpumalanga); Matthews Tokpah (Liberia); Madara Eboro (Nigeria); Jacob Msto (Kenya); Staneley Chepkwoney (Kenya); David Ombogo (Kenya)

2010: Thulani Gadebe [Belgrade/Itshelejuba]; Ashenafi Desta Gonemo [Ethiopia]; Benjamin Lochope [Uganda]; Benjamin Turyomwe [Uganda]; David Isanga Waiswa [Uganda]; Dennis Borbor [Liberia]; Emmanuel Benghe [Liberia]; Simon Ishaya Gyang [Nigeria]; Non-Resident 2010: Christoph Weber; Christian Straeuli; Non-Resident: Lenkwe; Rantshwantswe; Raputhu; Hermann Madimabe; Siza Lugojobo; Thomas Beneke; Deacon Mosenogi;

New 2011 Students. The country of residence and the number of new students in 2011 can be summarized as follows:

South Africa	2	Tanzania	5
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New 2012 Students. The country of residence and the number of new students in 2012 can be summarized as follows:

Ethiopia	2	Uganda	1
Liberia	8	Zambia	2
South Sudan	2	DRC	1
Botswana	3	South Africa	2

Where Does the District Go From Here?

A Continued Call to Action

Does this report signal the end of the partnership with the seminary and the peoples of Southern Africa? District President Golter sees the following possibilities for continuing the relationship with LTS and other human care projects in southern Africa

1. Receiving missionaries and laypeople from southern Africa for the purpose of hearing from them the importance of mission efforts not only in southern Africa, but throughout the world. These people can testify to us the need for continued support of the seminary, the human care projects and in addition, provide congregations with new ways to express their love of Christ through new mission projects in which they partner with missionaries and congregations in other parts of the world.

2. Volunteering to serve in the mission field, as laity and pastors; congregations could send or sponsor a missionary to serve in a particular mission field.

3. Call pastors from Africa to work with the Africans that the Lord is bringing here to the District.

4. Send laity and pastors on long term missionary trips to South Africa, Botswana and other places.

5. See anew the mission field all around us.

6. Providing financial support and scholarships for present and future LTS students.

President Golter says, “*The Lord’s Word is too good to sit around and do nothing. We can’t, we must not. ‘The love of Christ compels us...’*”

There are numerous matters which need attention and financial assistance that the District congregations can and should consider.

Opportunities for Human Care Support

Rector/Bishop Weber has suggested the following opportunities to aid in the mission effort in Southern Africa through human care projects.

1. Establish cattle projects to augment the income of LCSA Pastors by duplicating the cattle treatment project in other parishes of the LCSA.

2. Support orphan housing, similar to the work being done in Ntshongweni, in other locations in SA and Botswana.

3. Establish a Lutheran school in Mofolo North, Soweto and home to one of the LCSA's town congregations.

4. Support the schooling needs of pastors' children. Often these children have no alternative other than to attend farm schools where they receive an extremely poor education. Pastors' limited salaries make it difficult if not impossible for them to afford decent schooling experiences for their children.

MISSION: Southern Africa was concluded...

On September 26, 2009, the ***MISSION: Southern Africa*** Committee was informed that the District had reached its \$500,000 goal and should exceed it with gifts still coming in.

The revenue raised by fiscal year-end was as follows:

January 31, 2007	\$ 11,225
January 31, 2008	87,379
January 31, 2009	149,449
January 31, 2010	283,975
January 31, 2011	13,133
January 31, 2012	8,448
Total	\$553,609

Blessings

The involvement of the members of the RMD has resulted in blessings for the District as well as for the seminary, the human care projects and the peoples of Southern Africa.

The financial support provided for the projects certainly reflects the love of Christ.

The members of the congregations in the RMD have expressed their love of Christ by their substantial financial support of the seminary and its students, who in turn are now being trained to be pastors and are being equipped to spread the Word of God through their preaching.

Another visible result has been that a number of Lutheran Bishops throughout central and southern Africa are so encouraged by the RMD support of the seminary that they are sending their students to the Seminary in Pretoria. The enrollment figures reported above reflect this development.

For Continuing Information

In order to stay up to date on the latest news and images of LTS, the following websites give you access to information:

The Rector's blog

<http://wilhelmweber.wordpress.com/>

The LTS website <http://lts.org.za>

This report has been produced by:

Dr. Harry F. Krueckeberg, Lay Member

MISSION: Southern Africa Committee

With the assistance of the staff of the

Lutheran Theological Seminary

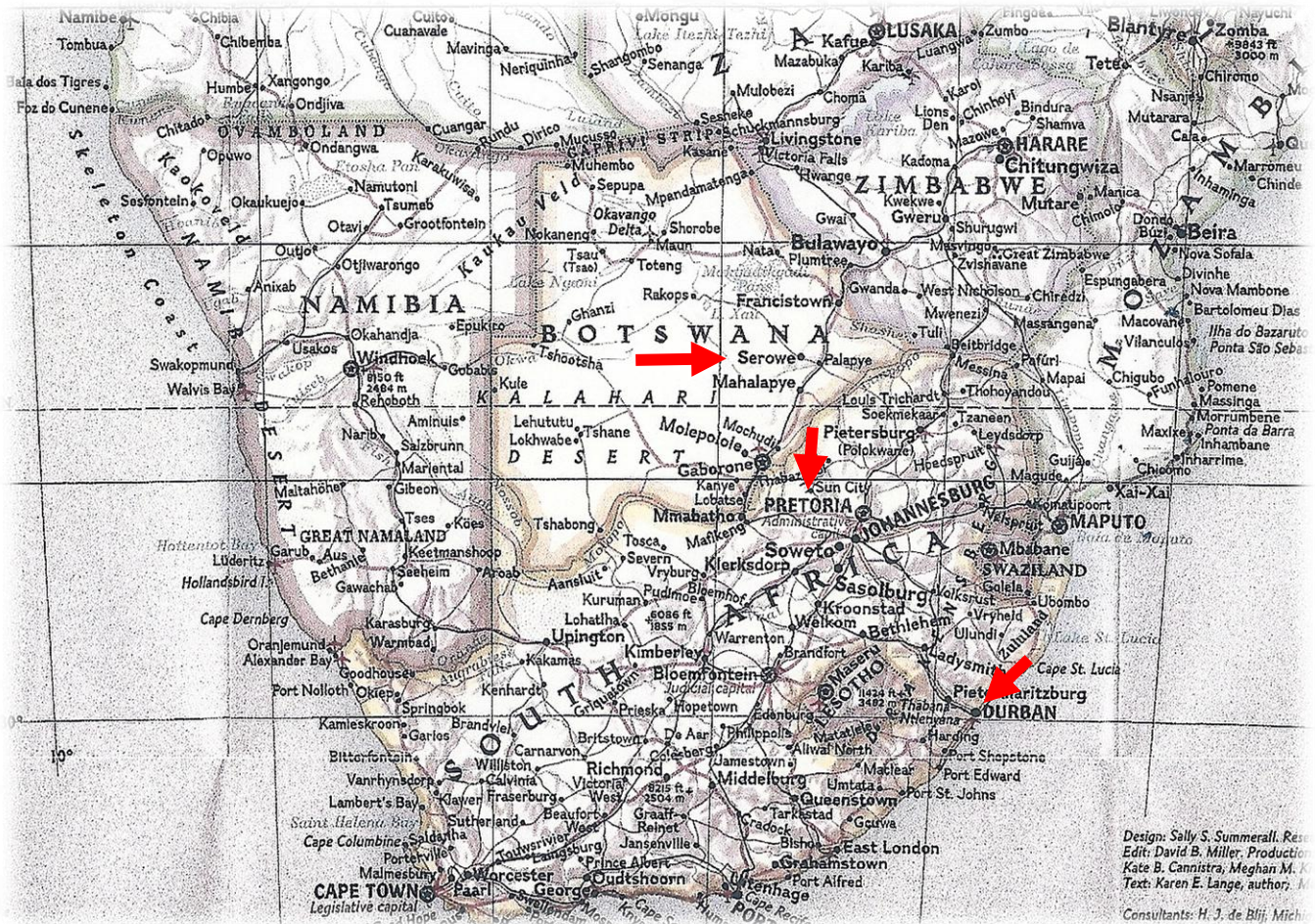
Rector Weber

Salome Smith

And Missionaries

Peter and Christoph Weber

APPENDIX A SOUTHERN AFRICA



**The Good Samaritan Project, Serowe, Botswana
The Lutheran Theological Seminary, Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa
The Cattle Treatment Project near Durban**

APPENDIX B

CONVENTION RESOLUTION 2006-1-08 ROCKY MOUNTAIN DISTRICT, LCMS JUNE 2006

- Whereas, The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Rocky Mountain District have a long rich history of sharing the Gospel through a variety of mission programs and projects; and
- Whereas, Our Lord reminds us to "Go [into all the world] and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20); and
- Whereas, Our District and Synod continue to challenge the visible Church to look for new opportunities to share our Savior's love, remembering always how the Savior blesses us richly and daily with His goodness and mercy; and
- Whereas, There are great needs and mission opportunities in the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and other neighboring nations, and the work of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and the surrounding areas is hindered by adverse conditions, great poverty, and much sickness and disease, as well as a lack of-trained workers in the church, especially pastors; and
- Whereas, Bishop Tswaedi of the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa has stated that the success of Lutheranism in Southern Africa depends directly on the training and placement of new pastors into the church; and
- Whereas, The Lutheran Church of Southern Africa and the Lutheran seminary at Pretoria both have limited resources and there are needs for added classrooms and dormitories, improvement in the library, and additional resources and materials so that the number of students training at the seminary can be dramatically increased to begin to alleviate the shortage of pastors for congregations and mission programs in South Africa;
- therefore be it
- Resolved, That the Rocky Mountain District in convention partner with LCMS World Relief and Human Care, in a three year \$1,000,000 special mission project to enlarge and improve the seminary and to help with a human care AIDS project in Southern Africa and a cattle dipping project started by Missionary Peter Weber. The Rocky Mountain District will seek to raise \$500,000 which will be matched by LCMS World Relief and Human Care; and be it further
- Resolved, That in addition to our financial gifts, we up hold our brothers and sisters. in South Africa in prayer and through our partnering with the Lutheran Church of Southern Africa we share the Gospel in word and deed with these brothers and sisters in Christ; and be it further
- Resolved, That a non-standing committee (ad hoc) be appointed by the Rocky Mountain District President and the District Board of Directors to plan, organize, and oversee this mission project and begin raising the funds needed for its completion; and be it finally
- Resolved, That the offerings from the Rocky Mountain District Convention 2006 be designated for the Lutheran Church in Southern Africa and to affirm our support of that Church we rise as a body and sing the common doxology.

APPENDIX C

A “Google Eye” View of the Lutheran Theological Seminary Tshwane, Pretoria, South Africa



Legend

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| A Church and offices | E Mdluli House, 800 Arcadia St. |
| B Student residence | F Segoe House, 349 Farenden St. |
| C Library | G Schulz House, 347 Farenden St. |
| D Classrooms | H Dube House, 345 Farenden St. |

APPENDIX D

The Rev. Odireleng Sengwaketse

Dumelang! Sani bonani! Habari kani! Goiemore! Hallow!

I greet you all in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen!

My name is Odireleng Gabonthone Jackson Sengwaketse. I am a young man age 32 years, single but not available. I was born in a small rural village called Ntlhantlhe, situated in the northern part of Kanye. I was born from a Christian family (Lutheran background). Both my parents are still alive through the grace of our Lord. (Father 86 and mother 67 years old). I have four brothers and four sisters.

I started my primary education at Ntlhantlhe Primary School on 1986-1992, I continued with my Junior Certificate from 1993-1994 at Emang Community Junior Secondary School. After my JC, I went to stay at South Africa with my sister at the place called Makgobstad in North West Province. There I persuaded my form 3 which is called Grade 10 in South Africa. I completed my matric which is Cambridge in Botswana in the year 2000. After completing my matric I came back to my country and worked as a Crane Operator in a company called TSWANA STILL P.T.Y. L.T.D. for two years.

On 2003 I went to study Theology for four years at Lutheran Theological Seminary (LTS) Tshwane (RSA), after completing my course I came back to Botswana and became a vicar for a 1 year and 9 months at a place called Molepolole under the supervision of Rev. Thomas Seifert, who was serving at Gaborone Block 6 by that time. I was ordained and inducted as a pastor for Molepolole Parish on 19th August 2007.

Molepolole Parish consists of two congregations and one preaching station, which are Molepolole congregation, Thamaga congregation and Ramaphatlhe preaching station. But at Ramaphatlhe we held a service at Mr & Mrs Mokgethi's home. By the time I joined MLC on the 1st of May 2011 I was no longer working at Molepolole congregation. I was only serving Thamaga and Ramaphatlhe.

Thamaga congregation consists of 62 full time members. In this congregation we built a church because this was the only congregation

without a church structure. The congregants raised the funds for this building. We also thank Sefapaano Ke Phenyong Congregation in Block 6 to donate the sum of one thousand pula for this building. The Diocesan Council also gave us a cheque of Ten thousand pula which helped us to roof this building. Thanks to all those who contributed to this building. This building is now left with plastering in and out, putting the ceiling, electrifying. Putting window panes and doors, painting and putting some furnishes like an altar, chairs and baptismal pond.

Since I worked in this Thamaga congregation I baptised thirteen (13) members and confirmed eighteen (18) members. I married two weds and buried four members.

I am now transferred from Thamaga Congregation to come and serve in Jwaneng parish. I've just arrived in Jwaneng on 24th February 2012.

As you asked me to send some of the pictures, I will send them very soon after organising them. I have nothing to say about the congregation here in Jwaneng because I am just arriving. I will tell more after adjusting myself to the place.

I am asking you, your congregation to pray for my new work here in Jwaneng, so that I can overcome the challenges of working in a town as I have been working in villages and small rural places like my home village. Pray for my father's health, as age is catching on him he is sick more often.

Let's call it a day, we will chat again soon.
NB: There are some few pictures of "moruti" pastor at work with some congregants at the last pages.

I pray our Lord God to send more shepherds for His work because there are more congregations in Botswana without "badisa" shepherds.

May God bless you all!

With great regards

Rev. Odireleng Jackson Gabonthone Sengwaketse



Top: The unfinished Church building project in Thamaga.

Bottom: Diocesan treasurer, Mr Lame Seitiso with brown jacket handing a cheque to a congregational treasurer, Mrs Dipako Molapong. Behind is my self, with a tie, a congregational chairperson Mr Kabelo Molefe, with a golf shirt and his vice Mrs Ntesang Motsumi, with a green cardigan.

Top: Pastor Sengwaketse praying for Mr. and Mrs. Zondo a day before their wedding

Bottom: Pastor Sengwaketse and Pastor Edward Montshosi blessing the newly-weds, Moruti Boss Sebeelo and Mmamoruti Gao Sebeelo at Modimo o ratile congregation during their wedding ceremony at Kanye.



Top: Pastor Odireleng J. G. Sengwaketse during one of his services.

Bottom: After the service, Pastor Sengwaketse making a joke to Mrs. Sebeelo, “Gao, do not leave your man behind”. Pastor Sebeelo enjoyed the joke and smiled.

Top: Pastor Sengwaketse preaching at Molapowabojang village during the official opening house of Mr. Motlale. “Mr. Motlale is the congregational elder of Sedibeng Congregation”.

Bottom: Myself and Pastor Mosenogi greeting Mr. and Mrs. Motlale after the prayer service.



Congregants attending the opening ceremony of Mr. Motlale's house.



Pastor Sengwaketse on his field during his spare time.

