

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

LTS News

www.lts.org.za

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A Very Productive Semester!

From Rector Dr. Wilhelm Weber.

Dear friends of the LTS in Tshwane, by God's grace and goodness we have arrived at the end of the 2nd Quarter and 1st Semester of 2012. On 23rd May Prof. Dr. John Nordling (CTS Ft.Wayne) finished his guest-lecture on Galatians. The 25th of May marked the final classes of the semester with the half year examinations running from 28th May to the 15th of June.

It's a long way that the more than 20 new students have come, since their arrival in February. Now in the early mornings temperatures are already dropping close to zero degrees centigrade even if at noon they still climb to comfortable levels of around 25°. The sun is shining ever so brightly leaving the skies in deepest blue contrasting lovely with the remaining leaves on many trees in Pretoria. Learning the ways of the Seminary always takes some time, but I get the impression most of the new students have slotted into the workings at LTS pretty nicely after these first four months: listening, learning, debating, writing,



Deaconess students taking their final exam for the semester for the course on Worship

working, worshipping, praying, singing, resting and playing in the harmonious lifestyle possible at a Seminary. Sometimes this process of accommodation is hindered by illness and bad news from home. So please keep the Seminararians in your prayers as they try to make the best of their time here studying theology in Pretoria.

The Seminary has finally received the authorization to have its donors receive tax relief for donations received. We are hopeful that this will encourage local support of the Seminary even more and especially invite corporate donations to this beloved institution of the Lutheran Church so that even more vital projects can be addressed in the near future.

The strategy workshop under the facilitation of Mr.

Lee Crockett, who was sponsored by LCMS World Relief & Human Care and encouraged to do this by Rev. John Fale in St. Louis, brought together most of the interested parties and persons involved with the management and supervision of the Seminary. Bishop Dr. Reinstorf (FELSISA), Rev. Christoph Weber (MLC) and Bishop Dr. Weber (LCSA) represented the members of the Seminary, but numerous deans and delegates of various church departments, staff and students of the Seminary were also involved in the deliberations scheduled with the regular Board of directors meeting. Presently the strategy plan as tabled by Mr. Crockett has been distributed for review to the various participants and we are hopeful that this will enable the Seminary to move forward with even better focus on its mission supported by sustain-

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LTS Semester Activities (cont.)

Dr. Johan Buitendag, the Dean of the School of Theology of the University of Pretoria (UP), gave a presentation at the LTS strategy meetings explaining the university's academic structure and goals. LTS and UP have an academic agreement which allows LTS to teach UP theology courses for credit toward a Bachelor degrees at UP.



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able funding.

One of the building blocks of this strategy plan is the proposed purchase of the houses in the Hokaai complex adjoining the Seminary. We have been successful in attaining a loan locally to buy the first house "Hokaai 1." We are aiming at not only paying off this loan as soon

Hokaai House 1 (foreground) has been purchased with a loan obtained through a South African benefactor. Houses 2-3 can be seen in the background. The grass area next to the wall of the houses is part of the seminary's property.



as possible, but also at raising another loan to buy Hokaai 2-4 as well.

The houses will enable the seminary to meet a number of needs. Students of the deaconess course and the post-graduate studies at the University of Pretoria can stay there, but they also provide much needed room for volunteers, short-term or exchange students, visiting professors and prospective mission teams. This will raise much needed income for the Seminary on a more regular basis and somewhat independent of foreign donors. You can imagine that we are

quite excited about this prospect as the facility at LTS is already stretched pretty thin.

A number of visitors came by in this last quarter besides Prof. Dr. John Nordling. Mr. Lee Crockett and nearly 20 church and seminary leaders participated in the strategic planning sessions. The LCSA Special Fund was represented by its chairman Lucky Thabete and its long-standing member Ruben Dlamini when they presented the Seminary with a cheque of R10,000.00. We are very grateful for this support and look forward to this partnership growing stronger and stronger.

Mr. Richard Robertson together with Mr. Tom Buuck from the Lutheran Church Extension Fund (LCEF) in St. Louis shared their ideas on how best to go about acquiring the Hokaai complex. Discussions also included plans to move forward as a Lutheran Church with its institutions like the Seminary, and how to manage them in a more sustainable way on a long-term basis. Obviously this has a very high priority for the LTS in Tshwane.

Dr. Phil Giessler from the Lutheran Heritage Foundation (LHF) visited the Seminary for nearly a week – preaching and teaching with a great heart for missions and especially the students at the Seminary. He made a big impression with his presentation on "Jesus Christ – the Lord of both the Old and the

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Deaconess Students' "Mercy in the City" Tour

After a full semester of learning in the classroom about mercy and the work of the deaconess, the LTS deaconess class visited the work of Tshwane Leadership Foundation (TLF) in the heart of the city of Pretoria. TLF is a pan-Christian organization that focuses its work in the areas of women and girls at risk; homelessness; community development; health & child care; inner city housing; and economic development, all from a decidedly Christian and gospel-focused perspective. Our tour guide, Win, has been involved with TLF since its beginning in 1993. Traveling with us in a mini-bus that we had chartered for the excursion, Win took us all over central Pretoria for a first-hand look at the various mercy projects of TLF and also gave us an in-depth perspective on the needs and challenges of such a mercy



ministry.

Upon return to campus, we spent a few minutes debriefing in the classroom. It was apparent that the experience was very moving for the students. It also helped them to begin to think concretely about their future work as deaconesses. Here are some written comments from each

of their field trip reports:

•“We need to teach the teachers and children the Word of God, to pray, worship and praise Him, because God is the one who cares and protects our lives.”

•“My impression is that the

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LTS Semester Activities (cont.)

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New Testament.”

Pastor Jamison Hardy and Mr. James Wolf – both from the Concordia Lutheran Ministries (CLM) in Pittsburgh – dropped in at the Seminary overnight on their whirlwind tour of Southern Africa and gave the good news that CLM is willing to promote the deaconess course at the LTS with a grant of \$100,000 over the next three years. That is a significant boost for this new work under the leadership of Deaconess Deborah Rockrohr.

Finally a group of 10 students from Concordia University Austin, Texas under the guidance of Michael and Danielle Grosse stayed over at the LTS, while they were attending an intensive course at Steve Biko Hospital with Dr. Ilse Gravett. Renate Straeuli did more than her fair share to help us accommodate these visitors who could not live on campus, but had to stay in the neighbouring guesthouse “The Rose” due to lack of space at LTS.

Now we look forward to welcoming Prof. Dr. Reed Lesing from Concordia Semi-

nary St. Louis, who is scheduled to teach Old Testament theology at the LTS for winter school, 18-29 June.

Please continue to pray for the Seminary and all the Seminarians that we continue to “*aim to please him*” (2.Cor.5,9b) – our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ – as we face up to the challenges of teaching, learning and doing theology on this wonderful continent among its lovely people.

Peace be with you + WW

LTS Volunteers from Germany



German volunteers Stefan and Jonathan work on cataloguing part of the 2 500 books donated to the LTS library. Many of the books were in German. Thank you, fellows!

An article about the experiences at the Lutheran Theological Seminary submitted by volunteers Stefan and Jonathan Dierks.

Since we have been here, there has been no article written about our experiences in this African country. This will be changed now.

We are both from Germany and both of us were as unknown to the African culture as possible. That is why the experience of volunteering in South Africa is both exciting

and interesting for us. Although we're just 20 years of age, we have never been to Africa before and not used to mixed societies like in Pretoria. It was quite easy for us to integrate and be accepted as part of the seminary. When we ask ourselves for what reason it was that easy, we find a clear answer for that - it's the people.

Even though we have many different nations in the seminary and by far not everybody is the same, there still is a good atmosphere for us,

because people around here seem really friendly and open towards us. It's simple to get into contact and conversations and being the taxi of the seminary often makes us pretty popular for the students, which, by the way, is not always popularity we desire to achieve.

Our work consists mostly to drive round Pretoria collecting, buying, delivering every kind of thing for our secretary Salomé Smith. We always try to help her with all the small things that need to be done to make it easier for her to concentrate on the more important tasks.

In case Salomé is not keeping us busy, the donation of more than 2500 books is! [ed: mostly in German] We register them, mark them and put them into the library, trying to put everything in an order. The mass of books will definitely be a task for the upcoming volunteers as well. We doubt that we can register and order all of them during our time at the seminary.

Regarding time, it seems to run faster in Gauteng and we can not believe that our time here will be over sooner than we may imagine. Jonathan will leave on the 11th of July, Stefan on the 15th of August. So there are still a couple weeks for us, but knowing that time will pass away quickly, we nevertheless try to enjoy every day of it. This is an experience in our lives which is more than unusual, it is remarkable as well as beautiful.

We thank our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and all of the people who are part of the seminary for the possibility to be allowed to help the seminary, as good as we can.

Yours,
Jonathan & Stefan



Dr. John Nordling Brings Galatians to LTS

Article submitted by Dr. John Nordling, professor from Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana, U.S.

After a year away, I was gratified to return to South Africa to teach Galatians mainly to first-years and deaconess students at LTS 9-23 May 2012. Galatians is a wonderful Pauline letter to summarize the Christian faith and touch upon those key doctrines that shall guide and sustain pastors and deaconesses for many years of devoted service: the Law given by Moses serves as a temporary guardian to deliver the sinner to Christ “so that we may be justified

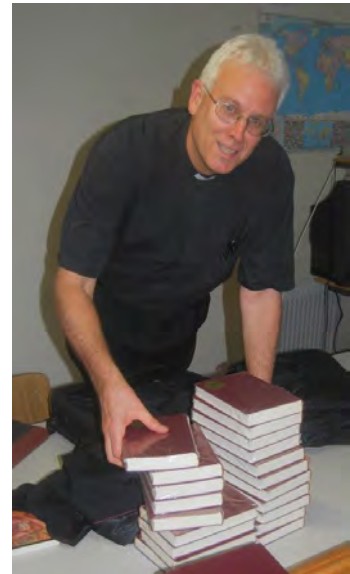
by faith” (Galatians 3:24).

We had many fine discussions about the meaning of Galatians for a Christian and in the life of the church: the authorship and historical destination of the epistle; the “different gospel” (1:6) that attracted the Galatians and alienated them from Paul; Paul’s clash with Peter and other so-called “pillars” of the Jerusalem church (2:11-14); justification by faith alone (2:15-21), probably the first time Paul articulated that distinctive doctrine; faithful Abraham (3:6-9); the Law as our tutor (paidagogos) to Christ (3:23-29); our adoption as sons through baptism (4:1-7), etc.

Students wrote daily quizzes based on two hours of lecture upon the Greek text per day, plus readings in Leon Morris, *Galatians: Paul’s Charter of Christian Freedom* (InterVarsity Press, 1996), which had been purchased for the students by generous donations from two congregations and individual donors in America (I also brought 21 UBS Greek New Testaments).

I spent an additional hour per day on the basics of the

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Dr. Nordling with Greek New Testaments brought as gifts for LTS students

Deaconess Mercy Tour (cont.)

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people [of TLF] did well to have so many people that they are taking care of. Also, there is more need to take care of these people.”

•“My understanding of theology for mercy is that these people need not only physical care but also spiritual care, to seek God and all His righteousness first before everything they need.”

•“I was impressed by the love people extend to those people in need.... I was very much motivated by the orphans and knowing that they should be loved by somebody somehow.”

•“It helps me to think that as a deaconess I should be

merciful to others as our Father is merciful to us.”

•“God wants all to come to the knowledge of the truth and be saved; and if the neighbor or anyone is still in need there is still work to be done.”

•On seeing the ministry to street people, one student saw their primary need as “food because they are staying in the roads, no place for them to cook. I reacted very ashamed, my heart was touched.”

•“What I have learned is that as Christ is merciful we should be merciful to others and what I have seen today is that not just providing the needs to the people also the teachings on that nature,

meaning and purpose of Gospel to the women. They are also teaching the Word of God, connecting/building a relationship with God so that the women can be counseled through the Word of God while God was their Potter from the beginning, now and forever.”

•“It hurts as I was watching on the way even the older people, some are using the streets to prepare where they can sleep, take shower etc.”

•One student was impressed with “how the organization is able to extend its hand to reach out to the lives of many people with many different life challenges and still have the [resources] to do more in terms of reaching out.”

End of Semester Thank You for those helping LTS during this 1st semester:

South African volunteer Niel Smith for helping to keep our computers organized and virus free.

South African volunteer Georg Kehrhahn.

U.S. Volunteers Pat and Lee Hoffmeier for keeping the LTS campus running and beautiful.

German volunteers Stefan and Jonathan for helping Salomé and all the students with many tasks!

U.S. volunteer Rebecca Rockrohr for helping Salomé.

Mr. Michael Grosse (Board of Director member from U.S.) for staying a whole week at LTS for strategic planning.

Deaconess Grace Rao from LCMS Human Care and World Relief for teaching intensive deaconess courses.

Dr. Phil Giessler for teaching us Christ in the Old and New Testaments.

Dr. John Nordling for teaching us Galatians.

Dr. Johan Buitendag of the University of Pretoria for his presentation at the LTS strategy meeting.

Mr. Lee Crockett for helping LTS develop our business plan.

Pastor Jamison Hardy and Mr. James Wolf from Concordia Lutheran Ministries for visiting LTS.

St. John—Grace Women's Guild of South Holland, IL for donating Small Catechisms to LTS deaconess students.

St Pauls (Pretoria), Kirchgord and Panbult FELSISA congregations for their continuing support of LTS. (All gave financial support; coats and blankets for students from St Pauls.)

Rocky Mountain and Southern Illinois Districts of the LCMS for their continuing support of LTS activities.

Anonymous donor enabling a ZAR 1.5 million loan for a Hokaai house.

Lutheran Church in Southern Africa Special Fund for their donation to LTS.

Lutheran Evangelical Association of Finland for student support.

Rotary Club (Pretoria West) for donations of tables and chairs.

The Harms for donating 20 Hebrew Bibles and supporting travel for the Rector.

Dr. Nordling's Visit (cont.)

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Greek language with those students who have begun what I hope will be a life-long



Business consultant Lee Crockett (left) and LTS board member Michael Grosse at LTS strategy planning meeting

"love affair" with the Koine Greek of the New Testament.

Another highlight of the trip was to present a scholarly paper ("**Philemon in the Context of Paul's Travels**") for the Pauline seminar at the University of Pretoria, located perhaps 1.5 miles away from the seminary (a long early morning walk). I enjoyed a **"standing-room" crowd at my** talk, and there made the acquaintance of NT scholar Dr. Jacobus Kok for whose students I presented the paper.

I spent my final day in South Africa at a small lion and

rhino preserve about one hour southwest of Pretoria and there saw a cheetah among many other wild animals. Again, it was a real privilege to teach 27 eager students drawn to LTS from the entire continent of Africa and something I hope to do every May, provided I get the funding.

I would like to thank President Randall Golter and the Rocky Mountain District of the LCMS for providing the funds so that I could teach at LTS this year.

Photos



Renate Straeuli serving lunch to LTS Students



LTS students taking a break "heading" a soccer ball after using their heads for a final exam



Greek instructor Steve Oxtan giving an exam



Deaconess students show Small Catechisms donated by St. John—Grace Women's Guild of South Holland, IL



Deaconess students hold babies while touring a crèche in inner city Pretoria



Visitor Rebecca Rockrohr helps Salomé in the LTS office

*Training Lutheran Pastors and
Deaconess for Africa*

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Tshwane

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OUR WEBSITE IS

WWW.LTS.ORG.ZA

***Look for more information
about LTS online!***

Prayer Requests for LTS:

- * Thanksgiving for student successes in completing the 1st semester of studies
- * Safety and health for student's families back home
- * Thanksgiving for a blessed LTS Strategic Planning Workshop in May
- * Strength and Wisdom for Rector Dr. Weber as he travels and coordinates many activities

LTS Calendar:

- 28 May– 15 June LTS June Exams
- 18-29 June Dr. Lessing Winter Lectures
- 30 June - 23 July LTS Winter Break
- 24 July Start of LTS Third Quarter
- 30 July LTS Staff Meeting
- 31 July LTS Board of Directors Meeting
- 1 September LTS OPEN DAY



**LTS is located in Tshwane (Pretoria),
Gauteng Province, South Africa**

**You are cordially
invited to attend
LTS OPEN DAY
1 September
→Visit the Campus
→Meet our Staff and
Students
→Save the Date!
More Details to
Come...**

Student Enquiries Welcome

Lutheran Theological Seminary offers confessional Lutheran education to prepare those who seek to serve as Lutheran pastors and deaconesses.

LTS has students from a variety of African countries including Botswana, Zambia, Nigeria, Liberia, Uganda, South Sudan, Ethiopia as well as South Africa.

Pastoral students who qualify may pursue a Bachelor of Theology from the University of Pretoria (UP) through taking courses at

LTS as well as at UP.

Prospective students need to have the recommendation and support of their home

Lutheran church.

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

**God's richest blessings to
you from our Lord Jesus!**

***The staff and students of
LTS***

