



Lutherans IN Africa

FORMING AFRICAN LUTHERANS TO BE TEACHERS OF THE FAITH

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Flurry of Activity Construction Ramps Up and Students Eagerly Return

Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples! (1 Chronicles 16:8)



At long last, after several shorter seminars, the Lutheran School of Theology was able to open for a regular semester. Pastoral students from various African countries have just completed their first month of vigorous study! Our first visiting professor, Pastor Tony Masinelli, and his wife, Cheryl, arrived in Kenya on the same plane with Tiina and the children. As most of the students were still on their way, Pastor May took the Masinellis to teach a VBS to children from the village of Ikimasek, where our student Gabriel is from.

Cheryl taught the story of salvation to the kids while they made their own colored bead necklaces. She explained how God created everything good, but then mankind fell into sin. We all are born carrying the original sin in us and we daily sin much [black bead]. We cannot pay for our sins by any good work. God sent Jesus, His only son, to die on the cross for us. He shed his blood for us and redeemed the debt for all our sins [red]. Jesus's righteousness [white] is poured out on us in baptism [blue]. The Holy Spirit creates faith in us to believe in Jesus.

Through the work of the Holy Spirit, our faith grows [green] and enables us to love our neighbors and tell others of the salvation we have in Jesus. When our life here on earth ends, He takes us to be with Him in heaven for eternity [yellow].



The Masinellis were awed by everything they got to experience, from sleeping in tents to sharing meals with villagers and getting to visit their homes. In a relaxed atmosphere of a quiet African village, Pastor Masinelli noticed that people are hungry to hear the

Gospel. He did not hesitate to use an opportunity to teach adults who had gathered under an acacia tree, and so, the message of justification by grace through faith apart from works of the law from Romans chapter three was shared!



Later on, Masinellis and Pastor May organized another VBS in the village of Naudot. This event was even more special, because many of our students from LST were able to travel with them

and get a learning experience of how to teach the children. On May's last visit to the USA, Dr. Wallace and Kathy Schulz from Good News Magazine gifted Lutherans in Africa with beautiful prints of different Bible scenes. One of them, "Let the Little Children Come to Me", brought marvel and joy to the children of Naudot. Pastor May taught about the forgiveness of sins from Matthew 9 and Christ's loving desire to have all people come to Him.



Beginning Hiccups and Successes

The ever changing Covid travel rules and restrictions did cause trouble to many of the students. Some of them had not anticipated these extra demands, and ended up arriving late. Thankfully, Pastor Masinelli is an experienced teacher also under circumstances that call for flexibility and adaptation. He thought of a way to have all late comers equally benefit from the Reformation History course he had prepared: by teaching Galatians as an interim material. He had to take on some addition evening teaching hours, but in the end he happily announced that he had covered everything he had planned to teach about the Reformation History.

We are grateful for all the fine men who were sent by their bishops to study at LST. Two were hindered from coming due to not being able to get all their Covid travel requirements met. Also, very unfortunately, our Dean of students, Alfred, had to leave in the middle of the first course, because his presence back home was required due to health related issues in his family. Another student

returned to his home due to his family issues. It is not easy to prepare the family when the head of the family leaves for three to nine months. This is why we are building dormitories which will be able to accommodate families to live together on campus in the future. We are grateful to all the supporters who are making this possible and helping to keep families together.



For now, we have a group of eleven eager students from Kenya, South Sudan, Uganda, Rwanda, Congo, and Burundi. Please pray with us for healing and quick return for those who had to leave. Also, pray for the remaining students that they stay in good health and would keep studying with stamina. That they could reap full benefits of their studies and become talented, caring pastors to their people.

Meet a Student

Ananias is a Lutheran pastor and a second year student at the LST. He comes from an area near Kigali, Rwanda where he serves in a congregation but faces many challenges. Ananias lost his beloved wife in September 2020 and is waiting to reunite with her in Heaven. He has five children. Ananias

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was ordained into ministry back in 2014 after two years of study in an Anglican seminary followed by one year of Lutheran studies led by a local pastor. The reason why he was sent to an Anglican seminary is because their church does not have a Lutheran seminary in Rwanda. Ananias is grateful to his confessional Lutheran bishop, who sent him to the Lutheran School of Theology to further his studies and correct some things taught at the Anglican seminary.



"I am happy to have this privilege to study here at the LST and grow in the knowledge of Lutheran theology. The classes are not always easy, but I am willing to put as much effort to learning as possible. To me, a great thing was that I had to memorize the Small Catechism last year. Now I asked if I could be officially confirmed and I rejoiced last Sunday when my Confirmation took place."

"Our last completed course was Reformation History. This study helped me understand different churches better and what conflicts have taken place in the history of church. I appreciated Pastor Masinelli's explanation of the Reformation and

teaching of the Church Fathers. He showed us how Lutheranism carries on the teachings of the early church; that Lutheranism is not a new teaching. All this was very encouraging to me, because in Rwanda I see the conflict caused by Pentecostal and some other churches who have new teachings. It is clear that they haven't studied Church Fathers and history and are now repeating mistakes that were also made in the past. I am eager to teach Reformation history in my congregation like a good Lutheran. Professor Masinelli helped me in this."



How Far Has the Construction Work Proceeded?

The Douglas Projects crew has worked quickly and efficiently on the construction of the LST cafeteria and student dormitories. All buildings are now constructed to the roof level. They have been plastering the interior walls and once the roof is installed, they will continue with interior finishings.

The floor and walls of the rain water reservoir between the dormitory wings are completed and they will soon pour the top lid to seal it. As of now, the construction has proceeded in the promised time frame. We are praying that no unexpected hindrances find their way to delay the work, and in the beginning of Spring semester students can move into their new dwellings from the administration block rooms.

Having the students and visiting professors here and seeing the buildings come up has been invigorating to say the least. To God be the glory for all His work!



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