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TEE COLLEGE SOUTHERN AFRICA
**equipping anyone
anywhere for ministry**

the link newsletter | volume 15 issue 2 2007

Induction service for the new principal, Dr Tony Moodie: 27 Jan 2007 – the principal's address...

Members of the College Council, colleagues of the College staff, students – brothers and sisters in Christ:

Thank you for your presence here today, and a special thanks to those members of the TEE College Council who are with us – others have given apologies because they have prior commitments, but those who are here have given up precious time in their very busy lives.

The presence of these, our Council members, here today is very significant. As members of Council they make up the governing body of TEE College. They serve as representatives of our member Churches, to whom the College is responsible and of whom it can be said that they, the Churches, own the College. That leads me on to the first of the two points that I will speak about, very briefly, today.

As the incoming principal I am deeply conscious of the position of this College in relation to the Churches of Southern Africa. TEE College was established more than thirty years ago as an ecumenical initiative – a co-operative project of different Churches of South Africa.

The term ecumenical comes from the Greek word for house. The basic principle of ecumenism is that, although Christians may be subject to denominational divisions, we are still members of one house. We all belong to the household of Christ.

It is the College's duty to serve the household of Christ by serving the educational needs of its member Churches. But the College's task is more than just to serve individual Churches. As an ecumenical initiative it is a witness to Christian unity and one of the means of making that unity a reality.

This College is a vital, living embodiment of ecumenism. It is a response to the prayer of Jesus that all His disciples should be one.

And so, in addition to the other commitments that I have made in this induction service this morning, I commit myself to the service of each, and all, of the Churches which are represented in the College and, through that, the service of Jesus Christ who is Lord of the whole household of faith.

Then, secondly, I wish to address our students, *as students*.

This College has pioneered the implementation of outcomes-based education in theological education. TEE Courses have always aimed to do more than fill students' heads with facts. But, as we have grappled with the new educational approach, the College has given even more emphasis to assisting its students

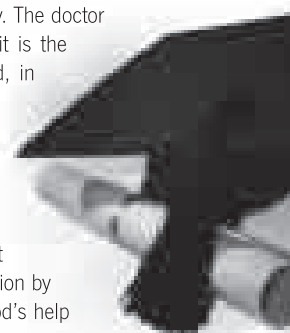
to achieve real competence in the fields of theology and ministry, so that they are enabled to take a lead in dealing effectively with theological issues and in ministering in practice.

This kind of educational transformation is not always popular. People often find it easier to study courses that are based only on learning and repeating information. Also, we have had some of the usual problems that occur whenever anything new is tried for the first time. But I must say this as incoming principal: I have come to a College which has made outstanding progress, compared with other educational institutions which I know, in transforming education so that students emerge from their studies with effective, useable knowledge and skills. In that regard, I wish to add my own affirmation to the tribute that our Council chairperson has paid this morning to our retiring principal, the Rev. James Massey, who has played a key part in the process of change.

Seven hundred years ago, St Thomas Aquinas, the great medieval teacher of philosophy and theology, said that it is not the activity of the teacher, but the activity of the learner, which is essential in education. He based that statement on a belief in the active nature of the soul. Just as the body is active in its own growth and healing, so the soul is active in its own learning – that is the way that God has created us.

Aquinas said that it is not the doctor who heals the body. The doctor only provides the appropriate conditions for healing – it is the body that heals itself. That is its God-given power. And, in the same way, it is not the teacher, or the lecturer, or the College that makes learning happen. We only provide the appropriate conditions for learning. Learning can only take place when the student learns for herself or himself.

So I want to welcome all the new students who are present here today, into the exciting activity of theological education by extension, in which you will learn for yourselves, with God's help and ours.



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a student's story



My parish work takes me on a daily basis to people living in very poor conditions in an informal settlement. I feel God has placed me there to spread His love and to show compassion to the people.

I am studying through TEEC and one of the courses I am doing is on the Church's response to HIV and AIDS. This topic means more to me than what I read in books, because it not only affects the people in my parish, but has affected me and my family personally.

Just a few years ago, I lost a nephew to AIDS and my own daughter has been diagnosed as HIV positive.

My daughter, Lindiwe, was ill with pneumonia and attended a general practitioner where she was tested for AIDS four years ago. When her results came back as positive, my wife and I were called to the surgery to receive the news. The doctor who gave us the news, asked us to be caring and loving to our daughter and said we should not turn our backs on her. We took her home and have loved and cared for her as we always did before she found out her status.

In my preaching, I regularly appeal to the congregation to be aware of this pandemic. I have encouraged people to be open about it if they have been diagnosed as HIV positive, but I have found there is a resistance to acknowledging or admitting their status. This leaves them in a vulnerable and lonely place. I believe that with family support and love and care, these people would be able to face it bravely and even continue living a full life.

My daughter has been HIV positive for nine years now. She is working at First National bank, where she has declared her status, and has received love and

acceptance from her colleagues. She looks well and she takes care of herself. We, as her parents, care for her too. I believe that being open about it has helped her to deal with the illness.

I believe God has moved my heart to a place of deep love and concern for those suffering with HIV and AIDS and I would like to use this TEEC Link Newsletter to appeal to those who receive it: if you are working in parishes, hospitals and other areas where you encounter people suffering from this condition, to love them and to encourage them to be open about it.

I would also like to appeal to young (and older) people to be careful in their relationships, especially in new relationships where the status of their partner is not known. The dangerous period of HIV is during the 'window period', whereby even the testing does not show whether you are positive or negative.

In my preaching, I have always encouraged young girls by telling them that being a virgin is something to be proud of. The danger of having multiple partners is that some of these partners we meet are still in the window period, and when you look at them they still look healthy.

It would be wise when two partners meet, to encourage each other to go and test in order for them to know their status. If one or both of them are positive, then they should plan to have their love affairs in a safe way by always using a condom when having a sexual relationship and always be faithful to one another. Stick to each other and not move to a third person. If the partners are both negative, they must also stick to each other and in this way we will be able to eradicate HIV/AIDS.

Lastly, we must not forget to use our sex gift that comes from God: So God created human beings, making them to be like himself. He created them male and female, blessed them, and said, "Have many children, so that your descendants will live all over the earth and bring it under their control." Genesis 1:27-28.

Rev. Mtutuzi Alfred Khumalo

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tee tutorial in prison

Long term prisoners in the Maximum Security section of St Alban's Prison, Port Elizabeth, this year started studying the TEE Certificate in Theology Course: Introduction to the New Testament.

They are part of a group of inmates who have come to faith in the prison and are seeking to be equipped for ministry there. Much is happening in the prison. The Anglican Chaplain, the Revd Jogra Gallant, is preparing 182 prisoners for Confirmation, 65 of whom will have been presented to the bishop by the time you read this.

Jogra, a retired teacher, is now tutoring this group on a regular basis. She is herself a graduate of TEE, having obtained the Diploma in Theology with distinction in 2004.

In December, after their registration, the group met with Jogra and Howard Lancaster, the Regional Co-ordinator for TEE to plan their programme. There is a love for God and an enthusiasm to serve Christ in the prison which is evident both on their faces and in the openness with which they discussed their past and their new life in Jesus.

Jogra says the following about them: "The peace and joy evident in the inmates' eyes is a testimony to what God has done in their lives. Their journey to inner

spiritual freedom has also taken them down the road to restorative justice."

If you would like to sponsor a prisoner to study through TEE College please contact the College.



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graduation april 2007

It was very significant indeed to have Dr Jennifer Slater as the speaker at the TEEC graduation. As a person she combines many notable features. Amongst other things:



Dr Jennifer Slater is a woman theologian and heads academic studies at St John Vianney Catholic Seminary.

She has also progressed far from where she began, as what she describes as a 'country girl' from an Eastern Cape town. Dr Slater studied courses through TEEC in addition to her extensive university studies.

Dr Slater addressed the graduation ceremony on issues in theological education. Here are two key extracts from her address:

On teaching and learning theology

I have come to the understanding and believe it firmly that learning and teaching theology have to become a genuine act of love. The skills needed for theological studies, such as critical thinking, reflection, patience, humility, silence and solitude, are to be rooted in the environment of love. As these principles are precisely the values that are devalued in current consumerist society and culture, it is all the more imperative that the ministry of teaching and learning theology requires being captivated with God.

A teacher of theology has to strive for the subject matter of theology to bring about the necessary transformation within the students. When this moment of revelatory understanding breaks through for the student, it provides the teacher with a sense of amazing gratitude. The experience of spiritual breakthrough for the students is what I call, the "God-moment" in the ministry of teaching theology. It is a moment of sheer grace and the humble realization that God

is at work in the art of teaching things divine. This, however, cannot happen unless students cultivate attentiveness, patience, humility and solitude, the elements that accompany theologically contemplative learning.

On women theologians

Theologians, and in particular women theologians, (by virtue of often being excluded from sacramental ministry such as in the Catholic Church), have to have a fairly good sense of self-definition as a theologian to teach theology, be it in a seminary or in any other theological institution such as TEE College. The scenario makes the woman theologian more insightful of the type of priest or minister or pastor that is needed to minister to the people of God, and thus she finds herself in a favourable position to voice such requirements. This is particularly so, as the woman theologian still remains at the receiving end of her students who will one day be celebrating the sacraments and proclaiming the Word of God. The contribution of the woman theologian to theological education arises from her God-given intuition and sensitivity to bring students to integrate spiritual living with the requirements of professional growth. In so doing, they somehow encourage those learners to develop an awareness of respect and value for all people to whom they will minister in the future.

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April 2007 Graduation statistics

Award :	16 (7 with distinction)
Certificate :	30 (9 with distinction)
Dip in Theol :	45 (3 with distinction)
DipThMin :	14 (0 distinctions)
BTh :	17 (3 with distinction)
Total :	122 Graduates

developments in the certificate and award programmes

TEE College's higher education courses have been redeveloped in recent years in order to comply with new national requirements. Without this the College would have been barred from offering diplomas and degrees. But at the same time the College took the opportunity to give further emphasis to the competency-based and contextually related nature of its courses.

From the end of 2007 the College faces the challenge of bringing its Award and Certificate courses into line with national requirements. The national qualifications at these levels are problematic for the College and the churches because the regulations require that over 40% of the courses must be devoted to mathematical and language courses.

The National education regulations allow the College to offer courses of its own design as long as they are less than 120 credits in value. (In the new education system one credit is equivalent to about 10 hours of work by a student.) In order to comply with this requirement at Certificate level, the College will offer a new 'Certificate of Competence in Theology', at Grade 12 level, which will include eleven instead of the present twelve courses. In addition there will be a few other changes which will have a minimal effect on students' theological studies, and which are designed to suit the needs of students. For example in future only one and not two doctrine courses will be compulsory, and the present 'Call to Ministry' course will be replaced with a new course with the title 'Call to Discipleship'. Students who have accumulated credits for Certificate courses by the end of 2007 but who are not ready to graduate will be transferred across to the new Certificate of Competence in Theology without being disadvantaged in any way. Similar arrangements have been made in the case of the Award programme which will require that students complete six

courses. But in addition to these adaptations, which will allow Certificate and Award students to continue their studies without disruption, TEE College has taken the opportunity to develop new opportunities for students.

Apart from the option of completing eleven courses in order to obtain the Certificate of Competence in Theology, students will also be able to obtain certificates of achievement in various fields of theology and ministry if they complete four appropriate courses. For example, a certificate in preaching will be issued to students who complete the courses in Old Testament, New Testament, Doctrine and Preaching, and a certificate in pastoral care will be issued to students who complete the courses in Spirituality, Call to Discipleship, Pastoral Care and Counselling and Christian Ethics.

TEE College also has plans for a full 120 credit Certificate in Theology and Ministry which will be offered at post-school level. This higher education qualification will involve assignments and examinations in the core courses which will be set at a higher level than those of the present Certificate. But in other respects the courses will remain the same as they are at present. This higher education Certificate in Theology and Ministry will not be offered in 2008 but it is hoped that it will be ready as soon as possible thereafter.

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new staff members at tee!

Julia Molatji



I am married to a Methodist minister.

And we are blessed with three children, one son and two daughters. I love my God with all my heart and I am prepared to serve Him in any situation.

I am a teacher by profession. My highest qualification is B.ED (Honours Degree) Educational Management Law and Practice. I studied with University of Potchefstroom. I have worked for the Department of Education for the past twelve years. I have taught Secondary school (Grades 8-12) as well as Primary school (Grades 5-7). It was a wonderful experience.

One of my major courses while doing my teacher's diploma was Biblical Studies. Unfortunately, when I started to teach, Biblical studies had been phased out of the school syllabus. I did not have any opportunity to teach it, and that made me feel very disappointed.

I was the Central District Secretary of Evangelists and Bible Women. Whilst I was still a secretary I discovered that there was a need for adult students to be assisted in their studies, especially those with a lower level of education and those coming from disadvantaged communities. I enjoyed guiding and assisting Bible Women in their work and studies.

Getting a position at TEEC was a fulfilment to me because it created an opportunity for me to impart knowledge of Biblical Studies acquired during my studies to adult students.

I am happy to be actively involved in helping people who love God, people who want to know more about Him and people who have accepted God's call to serve and preach the Good News to the world.

I am inspired by men and women who are prepared to further their studies in searching and knowing more about the Word of God, despite the different

situations they find themselves in. It is not easy to work and study at the same time. It is a real sacrifice.

I joined the TEEC staff at the beginning of this year (2007). I am working in the Student Support Department where I co-ordinate and manage the Award Programme. The Award Programme is offered in languages (Southern Sotho, Xhosa and Zulu). One of my responsibilities is to communicate and help students in any language of their choice.

My wish is to make a difference and have an impact, not only in the College itself but also to people's lives.

Terri-Lee Chittenden



I matriculated from Parktown Girls High in 2002.

I worked at PC Electrical Controls for 4 years. Since it was a small company I was able to experience most aspects of the business environment and administration, particularly in the field of bookkeeping. I also learned the value of building solid relations with clients as well as suppliers. I completed a small computer course through INTEC. I have since started my B.Com degree through UNISA and have started my 2nd level modules at the beginning of this year (2007).

Working at TEEC as assistant to the bursar has given me such a good opportunity to meet wonderful students who actually motivate me through my own studies. I enjoy the energy of the college and the very friendly "family-like" environment.

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Symposium at TEEC - 27th October 2007 "Compassion: Transforming our World"

Exciting News! TEE is running a symposium this year. The theme for this symposium is "Compassion: Transforming our World". Here we will be looking at what it means to live out the Christian life in a broken and needy world.

A highlight of the 2006 symposium was the input from TEE students. So this year we are calling on TEE students to present papers around the theme of "Compassion And Care That Transforms Our World". The papers will be fairly short - a maximum of 15 minutes per paper, so don't feel intimidated. Many of you have done wonderful projects as part of your assignments where you have lived out your faith by caring for others. This could be the basis of a talk at the symposium.

WHEN: Saturday, 27th October 2007 : 09:00 – 12:00

VENUE: TEE College, 20 Gantner Street, Haddon, JHB

If you would like to present a paper, please contact Caroline on 011 683 3284 before 01 August 2007.

NOTE: THIS IS ALSO THE COLLEGE'S 'OPEN DAY', when people can get advice on which courses to take, so bring friends and prospective students and others from your church. If you would like to attend, please phone the College Receptionist (011) 683 - 3284 to give your name (and the names of those you will bring with you).

Theological Education
by Extension College
[Southern Africa]



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