

# the link



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

the link newsletter | November 2007

## Message from the TEE College principal



Students will receive this issue of the LINK with their results for the 2007 academic year and so it is appropriate to congratulate those who have done well with their courses this year, and to commiserate with those who have not.

Please do not give up! If your results were not exactly what you expected them to be, do not be discouraged, but rather view it as an important learning experience, and continue striving to equip yourself for service in your church and community.

There are times when students complain about the College's regulations or financial procedures and so I do wish to assure you that we wish to remain constantly responsive to the situations of students. Those regulations or procedures are put there to protect the academic integrity and the financial wellbeing of the College, for the sake of all its students. Please read and familiarise yourself with the Colleges' rules and policies – these are to be found in the Handbook sent to you in September.

An example of the College's responsiveness to student concerns is to be seen in new policies regarding dates for the close of registrations and for submission of assignments in the diploma and degree programme. From 2008 there will be a "late registration" period after the closing date of 15th January. This is intended to make allowance for students who miss the mid-January deadline for some good reason. There will, however, be a penalty fee for late registrations for diploma or degree studies, in order to encourage students to meet the deadline if possible – the schedule of assignments in these courses is very tight and it is important for students not to delay the start of their studies unnecessarily. Similarly, there are reasons why students sometimes do not finish assignments on time.

There has already been an arrangement in place for certificate students to deal with this problem. This has not applied to diploma and degree students, but from 2008 students may make use of a self-regulated system for assignment extensions. They will be expected to work towards the due date that is published for each assignment, but there will also be an 'emergency date' if an extension is needed. Students in degree and diploma courses may make use of this second date without having to apply to the College although this should only be done for valid reasons, of course.

In a separate article in this LINK information is provided on the official status of the College's Award and Certificate programmes. This has become a vital issue under the new laws governing education in South Africa. In the case of

the diploma and degree programmes, TEE College has been fully accredited since 2005 by the Council on Higher Education to offer these programmes, after receiving preliminary accreditation first in 2000. This accreditation of the College depends on the fact that its higher education programmes are based on qualifications that are registered on the National Qualifications Framework, and are monitored by the CHE.

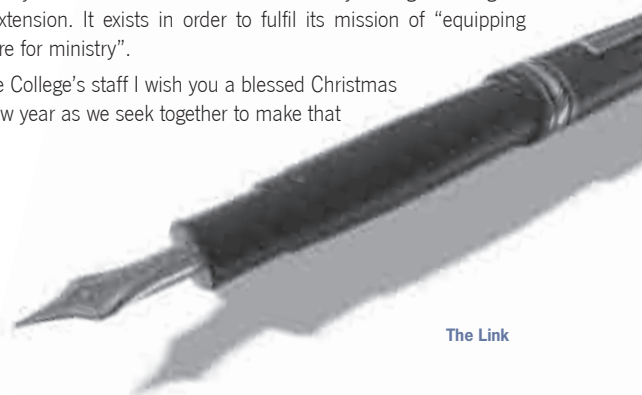
The College's application for registration as a provider of higher education by the National Department of Education is still in process, after lengthy delays. But as I write this article we are preparing for a meeting which has been arranged with the Department's top management of higher education, by our advocate, Allan Schwarer. It is very important for the sake of the College and its students that this matter is finalised, and we hope to bring back good news from that meeting.

It is worth repeating what has been said before, that this College has a very special place within the educational and church scene in Southern Africa. It was established at a crucial stage of South Africa's history, in 1976, as a co-operative ecumenical church project. It has the backing of seven major Christian denominations who 'own' it. Because of this it is vital that TEE College is sensitive and responsive to the needs of the churches, and their members who study through the College.

The College exists for the sake of those churches and their students, and for students of any other churches who choose to study through theological education by extension. It exists in order to fulfil its mission of "equipping anyone anywhere for ministry".

On behalf of the College's staff I wish you a blessed Christmas and a happy new year as we seek together to make that ideal a reality.

Dr Tony Moodie



The Link

## doing ministry for a change

**C**ourse 6/7001 **Doing Ministry for a Change** continues to be both a challenge and a blessing. It is not an easy course in that students are combining theological and biblical understandings with practical ministry in their communities. More over this ministry is about transformation - actually doing something that is going to transform their community and bring positive change. This year students have risen to the challenge and become involved and have initiated projects that have helped to make a difference.

**Dr Adrian van Breda** of Centurion, a practising social worker, did an outstanding project report on his work with a group of ten teenaged boys living in a foster home. His focus was on helping them to overcome the disadvantages of their personal histories and environments in order to gain confidence and direction.

**Brian Hutton**, minister in an Edenvale congregation, worked with a group of school children whose educational and home environments severely disadvantaged them. He implemented an integrated programme to offer them life skills, educational support, and better nutrition.

**Pule Lekoko** worked closely and intensively with a group of homeless people living at the rubbish dump in his home town, Christiana. Although results were slow to come, Pule addressed a range of needs, and remains committed to working with this group well beyond the end of his study course.

**Mzi Buyeye** came alongside a group of women and children in Jeffreys Bay who suffered physical, sexual and psychological abuse. He worked closely with local social workers, police, government departments and churches, and devised programmes to address domestic violence, self-esteem, employment opportunities, forgiveness and healing, and access to government grants.

**Collin Moore** of Christiana helped a group of Grade 12 learners at a local high school to overcome their sense of hopelessness, and a disruptive learning environment, in order to prepare better for their matric exams – and in the process to rediscover a sense of purpose and hope, and to avoid destructive behaviour.

**The following are some of the other projects students have initiated and been involved with:**

- Working with Prisoners
- An AIDS Support Group
- Teaching Business Skills to a Group in a Township
- Meeting with a Group of Abused Women
- Meeting with School Leavers who cannot find Jobs
- A Programme of Visiting an Old Age Home and running errands for the Residents
- A Youth Group, which has addressed Racism and other forms of Prejudice
- A Group for those being Rehabilitated from Substance Abuse.
- Helping women gain self-respect through self-employment
- Setting up a daily programme of activities for teenagers in a township
- Providing skills training and start-ups for women to sell skin-care products, giving dignity and generating income
- Enhancing the work of an HIV/AIDS project: providing spiritual and pastoral care to complement medical help
- Extending a local church's ministry to include homeless people living in a park adjacent to the church.

Others have worked with existing programmes on HIV/AIDS, Poverty Alleviation and Unemployment.

**Well done to you and God bless for your dedication that goes far beyond just academic study.**

The Link

## nonzwaki beatrice masilela



### A Certificate Student with Great Courage

Nonzwaki Beatrice Masilele first registered with TEEC in 2001. This quiet humble lady has worked hard to attain her Certificate in Theology. Her journey has not been an easy one and yet she has worked without complaint, determined to succeed.

Beatrice tells us that she first heard the Lord speak to her after hearing a sermon given in

1996 by Rev Moses and Rev Matsana, based on the text Matthew 14:22-34. She enrolled with EMMU to do a preaching course, which she successfully completed in 1998.

After this she felt the Lord call her to be a Bible Woman. At that point Beatrice decided to enrol with TEE to do her Certificate in Theology, so that she could improve her knowledge of the Bible and so she could grow closer to God. In that same year Beatrice lost her husband and she found it very difficult to cope with her studies. Her home life became very challenging and she battled to find the peace she needed. Beatrice strongly believes the Holy Spirit was upon her. Just when she felt like giving up she had a dream one night. She dreamt she was walking up a long and difficult hill together with other students, following

her Bishop. She began to grow tired and wanted to turn back. However, the other students would not let her turn back. They took her hand and helped her to cope. Her Bishop also encouraged her not to give up. Eventually they came down the other side of the hill and took off their sandals to cross a river. Together with the other students Beatrice went into a church where she put on a gown, received Communion and joined the congregation to sing "Oh For A Thousand Tongues To Sing".

Beatrice says it was that dream that motivated her never to give up. All in all Beatrice says she enjoyed her studies and faithfully attended almost every tutorial she could, to receive support and encouragement from the TEE staff and other students. Even when she struggled with certain subjects she was determined not to give up.

When asked what she would like to tell all future students, she said this:

"Education is very important. It picks you up from where you are and shows you where you should go. She said that personally her eyes were closed, but now they are open. She also strongly believes that once you start something, you work hard at it until you have finished the task. You never give up."

Beatrice is more dedicated than ever to her Church activities and says she will go on and work wherever her Bishop sends her. At the young age of 63, Beatrice's determination and quiet strength is an example to many of us.

**Hamba kakuhle, uhambe nofele lukaThixo Beatrice.**

The Link

## update on...

### ...developments regarding the status of TEEC's Certificate and Award in Theology.

Since 1976 TEE College has offered courses on behalf of its member churches. Through the College Council, on which they are represented, these churches have underwritten and guaranteed the programmes offered by the College: the Award, Certificate and Diploma in Theology. With the coming of a new education dispensation, the College was obliged to radically review and transform its post-school programme.

This has meant that the old Diploma in Theology has been replaced by new qualifications which are registered on the National Qualifications Framework: the Diploma in Theology and Ministry and the Bachelor of Theology. Although this placed heavy demands on the College to comply with the national requirements for registration and accreditation TEE College took it as an opportunity to develop higher education courses which are even more contextually relevant and ministry-related. But what about its other courses?

The TEEC Certificate and Award in Theology have always aimed at preparing students to contribute practically in their own lives as Christians and in the life and ministry of their churches. But from the end of 2007 the new education regulations require the College to make a choice regarding the form in which these programmes are offered. Either they have to conform to the requirements of the level 2 and level 4 National Certificates in Theology and Ministry, which are registered on the National Qualifications Framework, or they have to be offered under the provision for what are called 'Short Programmes' in the education regulations.

As was noted in the previous issue of LINK, TEE College does not believe that it is in the best interests of its students, or their churches, to offer these national qualifications, because this would require about 40% of the curriculum to be given over to non-theological subjects.

TEE College has therefore opted not to offer the Award and Certificate as qualifications registered on the National Qualifications Framework. Instead these programmes will continue to be offered on the authority of the member churches represented on the College Council, and to be underwritten and guaranteed by them. In the case of the Award, this has not required any changes to the existing programme – although there is a process of upgrading of the Award programme which the College is undertaking in any case.

There is also a revision process that is being implemented by the College in the Certificate Programme but, in that case, there are some changes that have been made necessary in order to comply with the requirements of the national regulations:



- The number of courses in the programme has been reduced from twelve to eleven in order to keep within the limits of the 'Short Programme' regulations.
- When students complete the full programme they will be issued with a Certificate of Competence in Theology – the previous title of 'Certificate in Theology' will not be used, so as to avoid confusion with the NQF-based qualification.

Requirements for compulsory courses have been modified slightly in order to match the 11 course-format – students should refer to the handbook for details. But otherwise the programme will continue as it has been offered for the past three decades, although with some revisions in order to ensure that it is kept up-to-date.

It must be emphasised that if students are aiming for ordination they need to check the specific requirements of their own churches. Some of TEEC's member churches demand a degree as a minimum for ordination, while others accept a diploma or certificate for ordination. Churches also apply other criteria apart from these programmes of study. Completion of TEEC programmes does not in itself guarantee admission to ordination.

[The Link](#)

## TEEC symposium and open day

A number of students braved the cold and wet on Saturday 27th October to attend the symposium.

Dr. Tony Moodie, the principal set the tone by giving an informative talk on compassion and caring which related to teaching and learning as well as transformation in society. We could identify with his stories of teachers who built up and encouraged learners rather than those who undermined learners.

Gloria Mokwatla, a student at TEE then gave a talk on "compassion in action". She spoke of her work with people who had cancer. She called them people, not patients or clients, as their human dignity was respected. She spoke of how these suffering people were given hope through prayer and genuine care and empathy. It was particularly good to have a student talking and reminded me of the wonderful work that so many of our students are doing.

Caroline Tuckey gave the last talk of the morning looking at how theological education can help to teach people to be compassionate and caring. While head knowledge is important and can inform and transform our ideas, it is even more important that this is lived out in our attitudes and actions.

As it was also the college open day, prospective students could get brochures and registration forms and experience the caring and friendly atmosphere at the college first hand. We hope to have another symposium next year.

[The Link](#)

## from the award programme desk

The mission of the College is "equipping anyone anywhere for ministry". We believe that God calls anyone, anywhere, anytime to serve Him.



The Award programme is designed in a most simple and straightforward form to enable anyone called by God to do Theology irrespective of age, language and the level of education. It equips and empowers people to grow spiritually and to be in a position to help with different ministries within their churches.

The Award programme that TEEC offers is one of its kind in the country because it is not offered in English only but also in African languages such as Xhosa, Zulu and Southern Sotho.

We create an opportunity for anyone to study the Word of God without any barriers and

this helps our students to be more confident and comfortable. Some people believe that if they choose to do courses with their own languages they will

be considered to be stupid and not educated. There is no such a thing. Our courses are the same in all languages and no language is better than the other.

South Africa is a rainbow nation blessed with different cultures and languages. We need to be proud and use this gift to the best of our ability. We need to embrace our cultural diversity.

The purpose of embarking on Theological study is to apply knowledge gained within the church and the community, so it is best to choose the language that people feel more comfortable with and that will benefit members of the community in which they live.

It is only the Award Programme that gives everybody this opportunity. So, why battle and wrestle when given such a great opportunity? Go for it!

**Julia Molatji**

Award Program Coordinator

The Link

## be pro-active!

Assignments that get lost in the post...

Most unfortunately assignments sometimes get lost in the post. It is therefore vital to always keep a copy of your assignments and proof of postage. Please if you do not receive your assignment back by 6 weeks after the due date, phone your marker or the college to see what has happened.

If you leave it till the next assignment is due - it is too late to get feedback and help with the next assignment and if necessary to do a re-submission.

The staff at TEE want you to succeed in your studies, but cannot help if you have left it too late to submit assignments.



The Link



## armour prayer

Chris Cowley developed Cerebral Palsy after an illness when he was 11 months old. He registered this year for the Certificate in Theology, and intends to minister to physically challenged people.

Chris composed this 'Armour Prayer' based on his meditations on Ephesians Chapter 6 and other Bible verses:

**Father, let us put on your armour this day,  
So that when the enemy strikes we can  
Fend him off through Your Son,  
Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The Link

