

# the link



TEE COLLEGE

equipping anyone  
anywhere for ministry

the link newsletter June 2008

## Department of Education Registration of TEE College as an institution of higher education

TEE College has received the news of the completion of the statutory processes which are required for it to continue operating as a private education institution.

New legislation, enacted ten years ago by the Government of South Africa, placed stringent requirements on private institutions wishing to offer formal education programmes. On the positive side the legislation was intended to protect students from exploitation of their educational aspirations by dubious education providers. It also allowed private institutions to offer degrees for the first time in the history of South Africa, a right which had previously been restricted to State supported universities. On the other hand the legislation placed heavy demands on institutions like TEE College which had to comply with onerous and complex bureaucratic requirements.

The Higher Education act of 1997 requires all private providers of higher education to submit to a threefold process of obtaining statutory recognition:

- registration of qualifications with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA)
- accreditation by the Council on Higher Education (CHE) to offer educational programmes leading to higher education qualifications
- registration with the National Department of Education (DoE).

Although it required a considerable amount of work, TEE College managed to meet the requirements of the first two elements in the process without undue difficulty. But its initial application in 2000 for registration with the DoE was apparently lost in the bureaucratic process, and so the College submitted a new application which was finalised in July 2005 after a long process of interaction with the DoE. But nothing was forthcoming after that and, despite repeated enquiries, no formal response was received. Eventually it emerged that the College was caught in a legislative limbo: the Higher Education Act precludes the DoE from processing any application from any institution which is already in operation and which did not have an application in process by January 2001.

Approaches to the DoE about the finalisation of the College's registration



were met with reassurances that the College could continue operating even though it had not received a registration certificate. While this was comforting in one way it left the College in a very unacceptable position. The resolution of this situation became one of the most pressing responsibilities of the new principal, Dr Tony Moodie, who was appointed at the beginning of 2007. Initial approaches proved to be fruitless but progress began to be made when Advocate Allan Schwarer, who acts in legal matters for the South African Catholic Bishops' Conference, took up the matter on TEE College's behalf. Advocate Schwarer and Dr Moodie met with the DoE's Deputy Director-General in late 2007 and this led to a further meeting with the Director General in early January. These meetings opened a way for the College to submit a fresh application which would avoid legal obstacles and permit the DoE to finalise the College's registration in as short a time as possible.

The new application demanded a great deal of effort over a relatively short period of time. Grateful thanks are due to Megan Baxter, TEE College's Director of Finance and Administration, who did the bulk of the work that was required. The completed forms and accompanying documents were personally delivered to the DoE's offices in Pretoria in the last week of February 2008 and, as they had promised, the DoE completed the registration process three weeks later. TEE College, its staff and students, can now celebrate this long-delayed but final step in establishing the College's status as a recognised institution of higher learning.

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvellous things."  
(Psalm98:1)

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**PROVISIONAL REGISTRATION – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?**

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## provisional registration what does it mean?

The national Department of Education has granted recognition to TEE College as a registered provider of higher education. The College has sent a letter to Diploma and Degree students informing them of the registration of the College. The letter also indicates that the College's registration is provisional. This means that TEE College still has to comply with certain requirements before the national Department will extend full registration to the College. Perhaps the most demanding of these conditions are:

**Registration** of TEE College's higher education programmes with the South African Qualifications Authority. The degree and diploma programmes

offered by TEE College already follow the curricula for nationally registered qualifications, so the College does not anticipate any difficulty in meeting this condition of the Department of Education.

**Submission** of an updated Occupational Health and Safety audit report. TEE College previously submitted a positive report to the national Department but, because of the delay in finalising the College's application for registration, a new audit has to be conducted and a new report submitted to the Department. This will be concluded as soon as possible.

Once these requirements have been fulfilled, the College must apply to convert its provisional registration to full registration. This must be done before 30th April 2010 but TEE College wishes to assure its students that the College will do so as soon as possible, and certainly before the end of 2008.

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## benefits of registration for TEEC students

Amongst other things, the benefits to TEEC students are as follows:

**For diploma and degree students:** TEEC courses and qualifications will be recognised by universities and other higher education institutions, and will allow them to proceed to postgraduate studies, if they achieved a sufficient standard and if they wish to improve their qualifications further.

**For certificate and award students:** Although these programmes are underwritten by the member Churches of TEE College, rather than being registered on the National Qualifications Framework, it is important for the

College to be a nationally registered educational institution in order to offer its various programmes to students. It has taken much time and energy for TEE College to ensure the finalisation of its registration, and we celebrate this achievement with gratitude. In order to maintain the College's officially recognised status, ongoing effort will be required to ensure that requirements continue to be met. The College wishes to assure its students of its commitment to doing this.

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### Xenophobia - Are you a Pharisee or a Good Samaritan?

What is our response to the xenophobia presently gripping South Africa? Will we walk past on the other side and say nothing or will we stand up and say "no". Xenophobia goes against all that we as Christians believe. Christians are called to love their neighbour as themselves. Are we neighbours or are we like the Pharisee in the story of the Good Samaritan who crossed over the road and did nothing. Jesus teaches that it is the one who shows mercy who is a neighbour. It is the one who does something and stands up and says, "This is wrong."

As individuals we may not be involved in the xenophobia, but we need to do more than turn aside. We need to shout from our pulpits that this is wrong. As Christians do we not know or do we not listen to what Jesus tells us to do? Jesus tells us to invite the stranger in, to clothe and feed those in need. He tells us to love our neighbours as we love ourselves.

Think of the foreigners living among us. Think of an individual who you know. I think of markers for TEE. People who are deeply committed Christians. People who have come here out of desperation, and who are trying to make a contribution to the country while feeding their families. The person who is being attacked is a sister or brother in Christ. We are all part of the body of Christ and if 'one part suffers, every part suffers with it (1 Cor 12:26).

As a College TEE condemns xenophobia. We ask each and every student to do the same and to spread the gospel of love and care for strangers. If each of us speaks out we can make a difference. If each of us does what Jesus commanded we can bring a little peace and comfort.

### Chris Cowley's Mission

The last issue of LINK included the 'Armour Prayer' composed by Chris Cowley, based on the famous passage on the 'whole armour of God' in the Letter to the Ephesians. Chris is registered for the TEEC Certificate of Competence in Theology. His studies are motivated by a special calling. Chris was born on the 26th May 1953 but became very ill when he was eleven months old. He was rushed in a very serious condition from Newcastle Hospital to the old Johannesburg Children's Hospital.

At the hospital doctors told his parents that he would be a cabbage for the rest of his life. But their church in Newcastle prayed for his healing, and at the age of three he started to walk. Chris was left with residual cerebral palsy but as a young child he felt moved by the Spirit to pray for a calling to minister for his Lord. Chris started his schooling at Durban's Open Air School for the disabled in 1960, before moving to Johannesburg to attend Forest Town School for cerebral palsied children. He boarded in the school hostel, where there was a weekly evening service, conducted by members of different churches. At the age of fifteen, in one of those services Chris was moved to make a commitment of his life to Jesus.

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# TEE Graduation



the desk' tasks and how they had found joy in their studies. The students shared how they now felt better equipped for their ministry.

Mr Vuyisile Sonti was the guest speaker at the certificate and award graduation and Rev Simanga Kumalo for the diploma and degree graduation. Their addresses were different and yet had a similar message. The way they spoke directly to the graduates was wonderful. They asked the important question "where to from here?"

Rev Kumalo emphasised the importance of making the connections between faith and life, religion and politics. Graduates who are working in the church must not just go with the flow. They need to be different.

Mr. Sonti described this being different as servant ministry. We need to be servants.

**T**EEC had two graduation ceremonies this year as there were nearly 200 students graduating and we did not want to restrict the number of guests that graduates could invite.

Both ceremonies were joyous occasions. There was vibrant singing led by the Salvation Army worship group and much spontaneous clapping and rejoicing as graduates came up on stage. One of the highlights was the testimonies of the students. Mrs Irene Hughes and Mrs. Beatrice Masilela spoke about the perseverance needed to study but also of the enriching difference it had made in their lives. From the degree/diploma students Mr. Fingo Mjikeliso and Mrs. Barbara Morrison told of their experiences. They described how they had started off hesitant and wary especially when it came to some of the practical 'away from

Both speakers emphasised that being servants and working in the church means that we have to challenge consumer ethics. We are not to work in the church to get rich, but to serve others. We are not to ask how much we will be paid, but what we can do to serve. We are not to expect to be invited to the front of the line for food, but to wait and serve those most in need. We are to show revolutionary love and service rather than reflecting the dominant culture of affluence and consumerism.

The graduations were joyful, yet challenging. They reminded us of our Christian calling to deepen our spirituality and to work for social justice.

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## Graduates By Denomination

Denomination	Total	Percentage of Graduates	By Programme
<b>Anglican</b>	44	27%	Award 3 Certificate 25 Diploma 4 DipThMin 6 BTh 6
<b>Methodist</b>	65	40%	Award 1 Certificate 4 Diploma 18 DipThMin 31 BTh 11
<b>Methodist Local Preachers</b>	8	5%	Award 7 DipThMin 1
<b>Presbyterian</b>	3	2%	Certificate 2 DipThMin 1
<b>Roman Catholic</b>	18	11%	Award 1 Certificate 13 Diploma 2 DipThMin 2
<b>United Congregational Church of Southern Africa</b>	2	1.2%	DipThMin 1 BTh 1
<b>Other</b>	25	13.8%	

## Graduates Statistics

Programme	No. Of Students
Award	25
Certificate	48
Diploma in Theology	27
Diploma in Theology & Ministry	45
Bachelor of Theology Degree	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>

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## principal's address

### orientation day, 26 january 2008

This verse from Psalm 38 is very significant for all of us who are part of TEE College. Our work is concerned with knowledge, and this verse presents us with a different understanding of knowledge from that with which we are familiar in the modern world. It challenges us to ask, "What is knowledge, really?" Many of us can remember learning information in school, by memorising it word-for-word. But what kind of knowledge is it when we can repeat the words, yet perhaps having no idea about what they actually mean? This has been one of the major problems with modern education in the past: far too much teaching and learning has involved little more than memorising words. But there are other types of approaches to education, so-called progressive education methods – discovery learning, experiential learning, and others which aim at better ways of teaching and learning. OBE (Outcomes Based Education) includes some of those kinds of methods. But those methods have been around for many years, and they will continue to be used even if OBE goes out of fashion some time in the future.

TEE College is committed to that kind of teaching and learning. We do not want students merely to reproduce words in assignments or examinations. What is important is understanding, and the ability to apply what has been learned in real life situations. But we must be careful not to go too far here: language is still very important. In fact language is vital to our learning, and our thinking, and not only our communication. As human beings we can think in ways that chimpanzees and other apes cannot, because we are able to use language. But, still, real learning is more than just words or language.

If we take the example of discovery-learning in primary school, when a topic like 'Insects' is taught to children, it is not good enough to lecture them on insects: "Insects have three main body sections: head, thorax and abdomen, with three pairs of legs. They differ from spiders which have four pairs of legs but only two main body sections." Neil Postman tells the story of an Afro-American boy in a ghetto school in New York, whose teacher demanded to know from him, "How many legs does a spider have?" He looked at the teacher and said, "Ma'am, I wish I had your problems". But, if it really is necessary to know how many legs centipedes, insects and spiders have, then the discovery-learning approach provides children with examples of these different creatures, so they

can observe them, compare them, and draw their own conclusions – formulate their own knowledge – about them. Then, when they read the words they will grasp what those words mean, because they will know it from experience.

But some things cannot be directly experienced like that. We cannot take children to the surface of the sun so they can learn about it through their own observation. For much of our knowledge we have to rely on indirect learning, in which knowledge is passed on to us by writers and teachers. And this is very important to all of us who teach and study and learn through TEE College. It is also vital to us as Christians.

Your TEEC studies are concerned with words and language. The College provides you with course material that mainly consists of words. If you attend tutorials, the tutors will use words to explain the Theology or Biblical Studies or other subjects you are studying. Theology is words – it is words about God. The Bible is also words – words about God. But we do not want our knowledge of God to be nothing more than words, which have been learned 'like a parrot'.

The Bible itself, in all its different books, is never interested in that kind of knowledge. In the languages of the Bible, the words "know" and "knowledge" are very strong, powerful words. True knowledge is deep – it involves our whole being, not just our memory for words. We see this in the way that the word 'knowledge' is used as a metaphor in Genesis chapter 4, which tells of Adam and Eve, and the conception and birth of their son, Cain. There are different translations of the Hebrew language in this verse but the most accurate translations put it this way: "And Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain."

In Psalm 38 there are more metaphors that are used: "taste" and "see". Knowledge of God is like tasting and seeing. It is not just 'God talk'. Talking about God – theology – is important. But the words are meant to take us further, into actual experience. We may know about faith, and love, and forgiveness, and salvation, but the constant concern of the authors of the Bible is that we should experience them, and experience their Source, God. Otherwise, we may get very clever at arranging theological words in essays and assignments. But what we write will not be grounded in the reality of experience.

And so we want to encourage you to make progress in your studies of the Bible and theology, but we also want to encourage you to progress in that deeper knowledge of God to which the Bible and theology point you. TEE College offers courses like 'Spirituality – Walking Closer with Jesus' and 'Journeying in Faith' which are aimed at taking you beyond theology into experience. We especially commend those courses to you.

May God bless you in your studies, and as you journey in faith and seek to walk closer with Jesus.

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## stop defacing TEEC'S library books!

It is most alarming to report that far too many of TEEC's students take the liberty of underlining, writing comments in, marking with ticks and asterisks and even highlighting sections of the books which they borrow from TEEC.

- 1) It is an offence to write in books that do not belong to you.
- 2) It is unfair to students who wish to draw their own conclusions from what they read.
- 3) It states clearly under "Regulations" on page R11 at the back of the TEEC Handbook. All library books are valuable, and extremely expensive to replace! It must be pointed out that these books do not belong to any ONE student at TEEC, but are there for the benefit of ALL students.

You are encouraged to use the library's resources, but you are expected to treat TEEC's library books with the same respect that would be expected of you as a user of a Public Library.

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