

# THE LINK



TEE COLLEGE SOUTHERN AFRICA Volume 13 Issue 1 2006

## 30th BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION SYMPOSIUM

**O**n Friday 21st April people gathered at TEEC to celebrate 30 years of theological education and to grapple with “Doing ministry for a Change.”

Dr Ross Kinsler, a modern day prophet and key player in establishing TEE worldwide gave the key note address. He reflected on the challenges that face us as theological educators, on new possibilities and models for theological education and on the critical issues for personal, church and social transformation. A panel of five speakers followed his talk. The following highlights some of the main points from Kinsler’s talk as well as from the panelists.



*Dr Ross Kinsler*

### Global apartheid

The world is being run by a complex convergence of corporate economic globalization, US Imperialism and increasing concentration of wealth in the North and poverty in the South. This has terrible physical and spiritual consequences for both the poor and the rich. The ‘Good News’ is that “Another World is Possible”. The challenge we face at the present crossroads is to make our option as theological educators and students for that other world.

### The fullness of life

The divide between those worshipping in comfortable contentment and those enslaved by economic injustice denies the reality that Jesus has come that we might all have the fullness of life (Jn 10:10). This is not just another issue to be addressed. Rather it goes to the heart of our confession of faith. How can we say that we believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord over all life and not stand against all that denies the promise of the fullness of life to the world.



Mr. Vuyisile Sonti spoke on economic justice and he warned of the time bomb of poverty where one day the poor will say, let us go and take (not steal) from the rich. He challenged TEE and the church posing questions such as:

- What has happened to the voice of the voiceless?
- What happened to the prophetic church?
- We are free, but free from what?

There is a trend where the rich and those with power make themselves comfortable at the expense of the poor. Does TEE produce students who truly serve the poor or those who live off the poor?



*Some of the delegates at the Symposium*

The two great threats to life in the 21st century are economic injustice and ecological destruction. When we read the Bible with a concern for economics, we discover a vital thread for life running through the scriptures which can be called Sabbath Economics or Jubilee Spirituality. Bishop Geoff Davies from SAFCEI (South African Faith Communities’ Environment Institute) reminded us that it is only as we have justice and care of the environment that we will have peace.

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Past Principal Brian Banwell (1985-1993) and Ross Kinsler.

Part of caring for the poor is to ensure the health and well-being of all. Gloria Malindi, spoke on the need for a holistic approach to HIV /AIDS, to see the person and minister to them in all aspects of life.

### Getting the Message Across

Rev. Loraine Tulleken challenged us, the church to find the most effective way of communicating – to use the media strategically in order to get the message across. St. Paul knew this, he used the Roman system and spread the gospel. Closer to home Archbishop Ndungane uses the media to get across a message of care for the poor and debt relief. The church needs to learn that customer care and response times are important – they are not just an invention of the corporate world.

Throughout the symposium we were aware that it is God whom we serve. Rev. Philip Bauser spoke on spirituality and reminded us that our spiritual growth takes us to the heart of God and of the world.

### The Seminary, the Sanctuary and the Street.

The TEE movement began with the primary purpose of providing theological education and ministry to local leaders, without uprooting them from their context.



A meaningful time of worship

Kinsler pointed out that both residential and distance programs have flaws. The residential students become divorced from their churches and cultures and the distance students need at least brief opportunities to escape from the demands of family, work and church in order to concentrate on their studies, to gain access to mentors and greater library resources.

In a country like South Africa many highly motivated church leaders are reached through correspondence courses, but their formation might be enhanced through the addition of regular meetings in remote areas to debate and deepen and apply what has been studied individually. There could also be annual gatherings at the regional or national level to share critical issues and challenges of ministry and mission. What do you think?? ■

### A Graduating Student writes...

*"To all concerned at TEE*

*Thank you for organising such a superb graduation ceremony - I found it all a very moving experience. It was grand too, and the setting and panoply of academics was impressive and colourful to say the least. I also loved the staff dressed in traditional garb - THAT was beautiful.*

*It was time and occasion for update in some ways -to hear how you are moving education and ministry forward in such contextual ways, and with such diversity. Yet you never lose sight of the individual on a faith walk. In such a huge institution you have never let the personal commitment come second.*

*The ceremony and address and tone was itself one of a statement of faith. The leadership is superb and the dedication of talent to His service is evident.*

*I met lots of wonderful students and we discovered much common ground and no doubt we will cross each other's path in time to come too. The national nature - even international connections are very exciting to me.*

*On a personal level I look at the way the last 6 years have shaped my life. When we started, we used your umbrella to shelter the Desmond Tutu School for Ministry, and a particular Anglicanism was encouraged in our group. This very group have become deep friends and our life journey has been shared. Many of us have moved to ministry, as I now do. Through each year the studies have continued, woven through the density of life experience: assignments were always done under pressure and hardly ever willingly, but always meaningfully.*

*For me personally I have had such emotional upheavals and life changes in addition to being a full time working person, but the need to achieve and meet deadlines kept me focused: thank you!*

*Regarding course content - it has given me an excellent base for ministry and a reference point I frequently refer to: the notes were very well compiled - and perhaps the most important thing was that it is all contextualised, and made me probe my own community for their response. In fact it made me revisit history of our country and for that I am very grateful: maybe I would have been stuck in the 70's and that would have been limiting indeed. So in a way I have grown as a South African and hopefully dropped my bias. I learned to research, to website, to contextualise, to present .....*

*Some of us are continuing with theological studies at post level, having other qualifications too. However in my ministry, it is your base that has become my platform.*

*I wish each of you well and thank you for your wonderful dedication!*

*Love and blessings*

*KATHY BARRABLE*

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# REPORT ON THE 2006 GRADUATION



by Gill Oosthuizen

**O**ur 30th Anniversary Celebrations culminated in the Graduation, held on the 22nd April 2006. The ceremony was held at the Salvation Army Territorial HQ once again, as this venue is very suitably situated in Johannesburg, and easily accessible.

The 2006 graduation was by far the biggest graduation ever, and it was fitting that this coincided with our 30th Anniversary celebrations. We had 115 graduands, 28 of whom graduated with Distinction! Another cause for celebration was the fact that we had 7 graduands receive our new qualifications for the first time ever viz. The Diploma in Theology and Ministry (4) and the Bachelor of Theology degree (3).

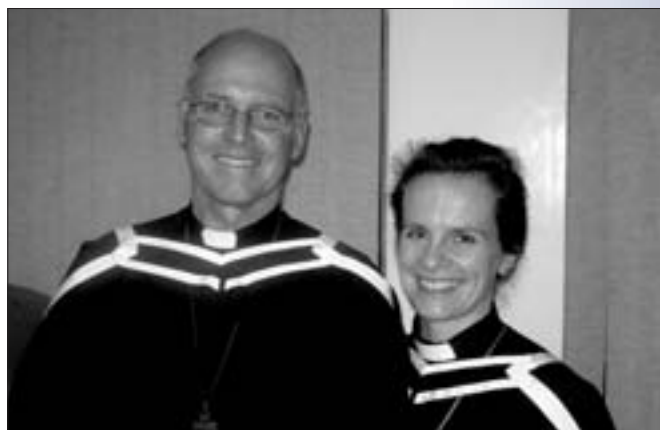
We were honoured to have as our guest speaker the Rev Dr Ross Kinsler, who started the concept of TEE training in Guatemala years ago, and was instrumental in the meetings which established TEE College 30 years ago. His address was challenging and inspiring to all.

Other special guests included Rev Brian Banwell, a past principal, Rev Kangwa Mabuluki, Director of TEE Zambia, Rev Nicolas Monnier from Ricatla Seminary, Mozambique, College Council Members, Regional Co-ordinators and Markers from all over the country and Southern Africa.

It was a joyful celebration, in true African tradition, and we pray that TEE College's investment in the lives and ministries of the graduands will bear much fruit for the Kingdom. ■



*Some of the 2006 Graduates waiting for a photo.*



*Ray & Elizabeth Goddess registered & graduated together, they are now both Methodist ministers.*

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## TEE College Leadership

We wish to pay tribute to the leaders and staff of the College over the past 30 years. Thank you for your labour in this part of the vineyard, and for undertaking the mission of equipping anyone, anywhere for ministry.

The College has faced many challenges and joys over the years and we believe that each of you was placed here by God at a certain time in the life of the College.

Thank you and may God bless you.

**Fr Louis Peters, OP** (March 1976 – December 1982)

**Rev Johan Kromberg** (January 1983 – September 1983)

**College Executive and Senior Staff**

(October 1983 – December 1984)

**Rev Brian Banwell** (January 1985 – June 1993)

**Rev Canon Peter Gunning** (July 1993 – October 1993)

**Dr Gert Steyn** (November 1993 – December 2000)

**Dr Adrian Chatfield and Mrs Megan Norgate**

(January 2000 – December 2000)

**Rev James Massey** (January 2001 – present)

**Reminder!**

## TUTORIALS TO PREPARE FOR EXAMINATIONS

Writing an examination is very different from writing an assignment. Make sure you contact your Regional Co-ordinator to find out the date of the Exam Preparation Tutorial planned in your region during August. It will help you prepare for and write examinations

Don't miss it!

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# REGIONAL VISIT TO THOHoyANDOU

## Venda Region

**O**n April 7th 2006 Lynell and James Massey travelled northwards up the N1 to Thohoyandou to visit students from the Venda and Polokwane Regions. Fifteen students travelled hundreds of kilometres from as far afield as Zebediela, Polokwane, Makhado, and Nylstroom to spend the weekend at a very old Lutheran Mission station called Beuther Lutheran Centre just outside Thohoyandou.

This mission station was established in the 1700's and the impact it had on the community is still evident. The Lutheran church is the largest denomination in the area.

During the struggle against apartheid, the priest at the time and now director of the centre, Rev Farisani, was arrested three times from the mission house for resisting government policy while caring for his church. Dr Beyers Naude was also arrested at the mission house in which we were entertained.

The Regional Co-ordinator, Rev Samuel Mudau has worked hard to establish a centre for TEE studies at the Lutheran mission. The Deacon of the area, Rev Rannditsheni (also a TEE marker) has appointed him full time to this task. Rev Mudau has five tutors to assist him, three of whom are TEE markers.

On Friday evening James gave a short power point presentation on the College and then answered general questions. Then Rev Mudau called on the students to own the process by offering to do devotions, take minutes and manage finances for the weekend.

On Saturday morning James did an Exegesis workshop and Lynell finished with a short input on analysing assignment questions. After lunch, which included fried mopani worms (no, we did not partake!) we broke up into study groups and interacted on assignments until supper time.

On Sunday morning we crossed back over the submerged bridge we had crossed on Friday, to attend a Palm Sunday service at Rev Mudau's previous church appointment.

This time we were driven in Dr Farisani's 4X4 which "waded" through the river quite comfortably. Dr Farisani told us that before the bridge was built one either waded through on foot or was carried across by some enterprising young men who charged 5 cents for the privilege. He remembers how once, in mid-crossing, he was asked to come up with another 5c because he was too heavy!

The Palm Sunday service is an ecumenical venture which Rev Mudau started whilst the priest of this church. A large



*The Principal, Rev J. Massey, Dr Farisani & Rev Mudau, The Regional Co-ordinator.*

palm procession consisting of several denominations and accompanied by the local police with sirens wailing, moved through the streets towards the church carrying palms and crucifixes. They were accompanied by the Lutheran church brass band. The church was beautifully decorated with red and white drapes on chairs and lecterns with many palm branches as well. The altar area is beautifully decorated with wood panelling.

The TEE students formed an ad hoc choir. The principal advertised the College and encouraged people to speak to Rev Mudau about registering to study in the future. He then preached a very animated sermon which Dr Farisani interpreted most creatively.

After lunch we reluctantly took our leave. We had enjoyed listening to Lutheran mission history and Apartheid Struggle anecdotes full of pain and courage. We had driven at night over roads which don't deserve the name, worshipped in an ecumenical gathering, and shared pap, meat and mopani worms with some very dedicated and special students.

As we drove toward the Punda Maria camp in the Kruger Park to begin our Easter break, we marvelled at how blessed and privileged we are to have this kind of experience as "part of the job"!

Rev Mudau, who himself is a man of great courage and perseverance in his physical challenges, is to be commended and encouraged for the work he has started in this, the newest of our Regional Centres. As we left, he was thinking up ways of travelling the 250 kilometres to Polokwane to facilitate tutorials nearer to student's homes! This is TEE (Southern Africa) in action. Praise God for students and tutors like these. ■

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**We welcome articles by students. PLEASE send in any articles for the next issue NOW!**

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