

NETWORK OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

NETWORK NEWSLETTER 13

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**INSTITUT LUTHÉRIEN DE THÉOLOGIE
CAMEROUN**

**MEKANE YESUS THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
ETHIOPIA**

**LUTHERAN GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY
MADAGASCAR**

**SCHOOL OF MISSION AND THEOLOGY
NORWAY**

**LUTHERAN THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL, SOUTH AFRICA**

**MAKUMIRA UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
TUMAINI UNIVERSITY, TANZANIA**

**DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES
MAKERERE UNIVERSITY, UGANDA**

NEW PROJECT TO TAP RESOURCES OF HOPE FOR FEMALE EX-CHILD SOLDIERS IN UGANDA

The news of the approval for our second project applied for funding by NUFU – Norwegian Council of Universities’ Committee for Development Research and Education – has freshly created both excitement and anticipation in our research collaboration efforts. In other words, our Network of Theology and Religious Studies has shown above all once again its ability to develop challenging projects successfully. Its objective in the collaboration is to establish a firm international, open and creative research framework. And now in the framework of the new project it extends to developing new interdisciplinary and multi-cultural relevant projects to human dignity, especially in the African context.

We challenge those who will proceed with this challenging project to certainly have the right attitude towards this huge endeavour. It is also our prayer and hope that the project will meet the spiritual, intellectual, moral and emotional needs of the female ex-child soldiers in their reintegration in Ugandan society and Africa at large. Most important it should test the potentiality of tapping of the rich store of African resources and draw sustenance from universal human ideas and the practical experiences of other peoples.

I think, perhaps, it not too much to ask for the moral and spiritual cooperation and commitment from all of us in the Network institutions that our project will make a great accomplishment in its relevant goals.

Kimilike, Lechion Peter

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS 2007

1) Africanisation of Biblical Studies Project (2002-2007)

Firstly, the climax celebration of the successful completion of the Africanisation of Biblical Studies Project (the first project in our network funded by NUFU, Norwegian Council of Universities' Committee for Development Research and Education) last year was a very remarkable historical event in academic circles at Unisa, University of South Africa. On behalf of the network I convey our appreciation with a privilege to republish their web news release of the memorable evening: 'Thanks, Unisa!'

From Unisa Online: History Made at Unisa Graduations

Unisa broke with tradition recently at a graduation ceremony when a non-member of staff delivered the Chancellor's Address. Professor Knut Holter of the School of Mission and Theology in Norway attended the graduations to celebrate the fact that three of the students whom he had supervised, were obtaining the degree of Doctor of Theology (DTH). Father Philip Lokel, Rev Lechion Peter Kimilike and Rev Georges Razafindrakoto, from Uganda, Tanzania and Madagascar respectively, are products of the Africanization of the Old Testament Project initiated by Prof Holter. As part of the celebrations, the Department of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Studies made a special request to Unisa Principal, Prof Barney Pityana, to allow Prof Holter to deliver the Chancellor's Address.

Secondly, two parallel editions of the Africanisation of Biblical Studies Project published:

Holter, K (ed), *Let My People Stay: Researching the Old Testament in Africa*. Nairobi: Acton Publishers (2006).

Let my people stay! A multi-institutional research project on Africa and the Old Testament. *Old Testament Essays* Volume 19 Number 2 (2006) 377-557.

In addition, a report from the research project is available online at http://www.mhs.no/article_630.shtml

Thirdly, the three doctoral graduates Father Philip Lokel, Rev Lechion Peter Kimilike and Rev Georges Razafindrakoto and their promoters Prof Willie van Heerden, Prof Madipoane J. Masenya, Dr Magdel leRoux and Prof Knut Holter have agreed to formal research collaboration: International Research Team of African Old Testament Studies (IRTAOTS). The collaboration will be coordinated by Prof Willie van Heerden (UNISA) and its goal is to continue the Africanisation of Biblical Studies theme.

2) The Africanisation of Pastoral Care Project (2006-)

The Second International Seminar of 'Africanisation of Pastoral Care Project' was successfully conducted between on 13th -18th November 2006 at Makumira University College of Tumaini University (Tanzania).

All researchers attended except for Rev Emeline Ndossi (on a trip to Israel) and Rev Sabina Lumwe (relieved from the project). The latter place has been filled by Rev Victoria Ntenga who is currently pursuing a Master of Theology specialized in HIV at Makumira University College.

The second seminar's achievements are as follows:

- Reviewed the method proposed in the March 2006 seminar to be used to analyse cases and design guides for the intended objective of the project.
- Tested the potentiality of the method by using some cases developed by the parish pastors in order to build on African strengths, achievements and vision to advance the contextualisation of pastoral care.
- Oriented the researchers in research methodology so that they can undertake further assignments.

The following themes are the first five the publications for the proposed Makumira Series of Pastoral Care that were suggested:

- Care in Context: an African perspective on pastoral care and counselling [Introductory booklet]
- Domestic Violence Against Women in the Families
- Youth Premarital Counseling

- HIV/AIDS
- Pastoral Ministry to Sickness and Addiction

By the end of the Spring term, i.e. May 2007, the first three booklets are expected to be ready. This will lead to consultative meeting for the texts on 18th – 24th June, 2007 at Makumira University College.

3) Reintegration of Female Ex-Child Soldiers in Eastern Africa: Religious, Ethical and Practical Perspectives (2007-2011)

This new research collaboration project is among a total of 52 multi-annual bilateral and network projects that have been allocated nearly NOK 221 million by the NUFU Programme Board (Norwegian Council of Universities' Committee for Development Research and Education) for the programme period 2007-2011.

The approval of this new project I agree with Knut Holter's e-mail announcement last November that "is really good news, both to the Network of Theology and Religious Studies, to our three institutions, to the individual participants (senior researchers as well as Ph.D.- and Masters-students), and – I think – to society at large, which is struggling with this severe problem". The project is in the offing since early January 2007, with all the arrangements in place officially it will start up in August 2007.

As in our recently concluded project three African female researchers will be trained:

- Christine Mbambazi (Makerere University, Uganda)
- Helen Nkabala Nambalilwa (Makerere University, Uganda)
- Emeline Ndossi (Makumira University College, Tanzania)

Two research teams will be created around these three Ph.D. students, one in Kampala at Makerere University and one in Stavanger at the School of Mission and Theology:

Research team at Makerere University:

- Dr Robert Bakeine (Southern Coordinator)
- Dr Sr Tereza Tinkasiimire
- Dr Deusdedit Nkurunziza

Research team at the School of Mission and Theology:

- Prof Bård Mæland (Northern Coordinator),
- Assoc Prof Thor Strandenaes,
- Assoc Professor Gerd Marie Ådna,
- Assoc Prof Marta Høyland Lavik
- Prof Knut Holter

4) Mission History Project – South Africa (2007-2010)

The School of Mission and Theology (Stavanger, Norway) and the Lutheran Theological Institute, University of KwaZulu-Natal (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa) are just about to start a joint research project in mission history.

The project is part of a larger research project initiated by the School of Mission and Theology and the University of Stavanger, and funded by the Regional Research Fund in Rogaland (Norway). This larger project includes:

- a joint research project on literacy between the University of Stavanger (Stavanger, Norway) and the University of Toliara (Toliara, Madagascar), each with one Ph.D. student.
- a joint research project in mission history between the School of Mission and Theology (Stavanger, Norway) and the Lutheran Theological Institute (Pietermaritzburg, South Africa), each with one Ph.D. student.

The latter project, which relates to our network, will start up now in 2007, with Professor Odd Magne Bakke as project coordinator. The Norwegian Ph.D. student has been identified: Kristin Tjelle, whereas the South African Ph.D. student has not yet been identified.

5) Ph.D. project in New Testament Studies

Ruben Ngozo, M.Phil., from Institut Luthérienne de Théologie (Meiganga, Cameroun), has been awarded a four years Ph.D. scholarship in New Testament Studies by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America. His

project is entitled *The One God and the Many Gods: Monotheism and the Danger of Idolatry in Philo and Paul. A Comparison of Theology and Practice*. Ngozo will do his research in the School of Mission and Theology (Stavanger, Norway), where Professor Torrey Seland will be his promoter.

NETWORK NEWS

From Tanzania: Makumira University College of Tumaini University

In the academic staff there has been some changes. Assoc Prof James Bangsund and Rev Judy Bangsund finished their more than 12 year missionary contract and returned home to the USA this January. Assoc Prof James Bangsund was in the Biblical Department (OT) and Rev Judy was in the Practical Theology Department (Music and Worship) and she was the Chaplain of the MUCO University Congregation.

Ragnhild and Kristian Due, exchange students from the School of Mission and Theology in Stavanger, were in Tanzania for the whole first semester (August – December 2006). They participated in various classes of their choice to fit their home institution's curriculum requirements but they also had a number of extra-curricula activities available to them. Currently they are back in Stavanger.

From the Coordinator of the Network of Theology and Religious Studies: Send us your news!

We need your news to include in this newsletter and to share more widely with others. You do not need to send a polished article. Just send us full information about events at your institutions: who, what, where, when, why, how, with what result and if possible comments from people involved. Just send us as many relevant facts as possible; we will be glad to publish!

By the way I have not yet receive any contact name for the Network's representatives in your institutions as agreed in the last general meeting in Kampala 2005. It will be a great service to the Network if the communication could be made easier through such an arrangement as soon.

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