

NETWORK OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

NETWORK NEWSLETTER 15

APRIL 2008

**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**

KEEP GROWING IN RESEARCH COOPERATION

This issue has more news on the growing cooperation initiatives. One of the special commendable initiatives in the preceding regard is that of Annalise Kockott on the library network. We are filled with expectations that this milestone on our collaboration activities will practically make an excellent contribution in our network institutions. We take this opportunity to invite all of us in the Network to give it a try.

Next we convey our sincere congratulations to the MHS – School of Mission and Theology for gaining university status. Such high credit goes to the MHS staff's sacrifice, hard work, dedication and perseverance. It is a real pride to the network, bravo!

This year also we expect the accomplishment of the two publications, that is, the Kampala conference and Africanisation of pastoral care project. Thus it is an opportunity for us to deliver in advance our sincere appreciation to all the funding agencies. Their valuable financial contribution facilitated the realisation of the project goals through professional, spiritual and personal interaction.

Finally, a vote of thanks from the outgoing co-ordinator for the opportunity accorded to serve the network. Although it was for a short time, but it has been indeed an honour and a good learning experience to serve such an excellent collaboration effort that is worth to emulate elsewhere. It is my belief that such an endeavour has a real enduring and sustainable future. Best wishes to you all.

Kimilike, Lechion Peter

A few words of gratitude to the outgoing co-ordinator, from his predecessor! Thanks so much, Peter, for what you have done for the network. You have been a central part of the network throughout its history: as an exchange student between MUCo and MHS, as a researcher in our first major research project ('Africanization of biblical studies'), as a researcher in a more recent research project ('Africanization of pastoral care'), and as a co-ordinator of the Network from 2005. Thanks for your hard work, and I am sure that we will see more of you, at a later stage.

Knut Holter

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS 2008

The Africanisation of Pastoral Care Project 2006-2008

The 'Africanisation of Pastoral Care' (APC) third seminar was held at the *Institute of Pastoral Care and Counselling*, Modum Bad. The Institute is located outside Vikersund, a small town about 85 km from Oslo. The seminar started Sunday evening 28th October 2007 and was closed Saturday 3rd November 2007.

The seminar brought together a group of five persons involved in the APC. The group comprised of Dr Øyvind Eide (MHS, Norway), Dr Leif Gunnar Engedal (MF, Norway), Dr Peter L Kimilike (MUCo, Tanzania), Rev and PhD-student Emeline Ndossi (MUCo / MHS), Pastor and Master Student Nahanna Mndeme (MUCo / MHS).

The purpose of our seminar was mainly related to the following three issues:

- To discuss the overall status and resources of the APC-project, included economical and personal resources needed for a satisfying completion of the project.
- To discuss and elaborate on the present version of the texts, in order to clarify and develop both the theoretical parts and the case studies.
- To discuss the best possible ways for further development and conclusion of the project during year 2008, especially what concerns different possibilities for the publication of PCC books.

The seminar decided to publish one main textbook/monograph on PCC in English for Master level readers. This book includes four case studies in order to demonstrate how the method and way of analysing function. Also three minor books (ca 60 pages) in Swahili and perhaps also in English will be published. Each book will include a short presentation of PCC theology and method. The text of the monograph is expected to be ready for publishing by March/April 2008. The following is the provisionally agreed title and table of contents:

Title:

Restoring Life in Christ: Dialogues of Care in Christian Communities: An African Perspective

Contents:

- 1 Introduction (Eide)
- Part I African Perspectives on PCC
- 2 The challenge of integrating the African perspective (Kimilike)
- 3 Knowing the people (Mndeme)
- 4 The perspective of an African woman (Ndossi)
- Part II A Theology of PCC
- 5 The coming of God - The theological grounding of PCC (Engedal)
- 6 Restoring life - The basic functions of PCC (Engedal)
- 7 Restoring life - Word and sacrament in PCC (Eide)
- Part III Moving to Practice
- 8 A way to follow – The question of method (Engedal)
- 9 A case of AIDS - The image of God in PCC
- 10 A case of pregnancy - Discipline or grace in PCC
- 11 A case of domestic violence - Human dignity in PCC
- 12 A case of grief – Compassion and hope in PCC
- Part IV Development of Competence in PCC
- 13 A critical issue – theology and culture in conversation (Eide)
- 14 The counsellor's skills and competence (Engedal)
- 15 Summary (Eide)

The Africanisation of Biblical Studies Project

The following book review is quoted in full because it is a valuable appreciation on one of the products of the Network of Theology and Religious Studies published in the *BookNotes for Africa – A Review Journal* 21 (2008) pp. 10-11, by G. LeMarquand (reviewer) of K. Holter (ed.), *Let My people Stay! Researching the Old Testament in Africa. Report from a Research project on Africanisation of Old Testament Studies*. Nairobi: Acton, 2006. 226pp, pb, US\$ 10.00.

This book is essentially a report on three doctoral dissertations. Such a document would appear at first glance to be a dry academic exercise. On the contrary, however, this study is a rather exciting description of contextual exegesis. Following an introductory chapter describing the project in the context of African biblical studies, the book is divided into three major sections. In each section, the work of a doctoral student is introduced by that student's supervisor (or 'promoter'). Each student then

contributes two chapters, using their doctoral research as a starting point for describing the relevance of OT studies for the African situation. In each section these essays are followed by a chapter by another scholar who points to further dimensions of research and application. The book is pioneering, creative and engaging, and provides an interesting model for cooperative research and scholarship. Especially to be congratulated are the three doctoral students, Lechion Peter Kimilike, Georges Razafindrakoto, and Philip Lokel, whose efforts (on Proverbs, on the Malagasy use of OT outside of the church, and on Cush) provide basis for the text. Holter has once again made an exceptional contribution in facilitating and publicizing the achievements of African biblical scholarship. All lecturers in OT at theological schools in Africa will want to be familiar with this book, as will African students pursuing doctoral research in biblical studies. Advanced-level theological libraries in Africa will also want to have a copy available.

Library collaboration

Annalise Kockott, Librarian, Lutheran Theological Institute, South Africa, is initiating some collaboration between our network institutions, and she has provided the following valuable information:

In view of our planned "networking plans", I wondered whether the following Internet resource might be of use to you. The Internet is so huge that finding quality information can be very difficult. I wanted to store and make accessible sites of academic and church use, especially in the African Lutheran context.

If you go to the 'Del.icio.us' site you will find many internet sites that are relevant to Lutherans and to African Christians. I have collected these sites over the past year or two and when I come across something useful I just add it to the site.

How to search for Internet sites on **Del.icio.us**:

1. Go to the website **<http://del.icio.us/LTI>**. There is no need to log in.
2. On the right of the screen the Internet sites are Tagged with a keyword and then grouped in "bundles", such as Africa; Theology; AIDS; Social (social matters) etc. If you click on the blue letters, the "bundles" will open.

(The list on the right of the page is less useful because it is just a list of all

Internet sites ordered according to the date when they were added to the **del.icio.us** site).

How to add Internet sites that you feel would be useful to us all:

1. Go to the website **http://del.icio.us/LTI**. Login by typing "LTI" as user name; and "Luther" as password.
2. Click on "post" at the top of the screen.
3. In the box provided, fill in the URL (**www.....etc.**) (cut and paste it this) of the Internet site that you want to add to **Del.icio.us**
4. Fill in the name of the Internet site; and some notes/information about it in the boxes provided.
5. Finally, click on the appropriate Tag (eg: Tanzania, Uganda, Kenya, Theology, Africa, AIDS etc.) from the list of Tags in blue at the bottom of the screen. I have created Tags for each of our countries so that we can put the relevant sites that we find into those Tags.

All enquiries regarding the use of this link are welcome directly to Annalise Kockott: annalise_kockott@hotmail.com

NETWORK NEWS

MHS – School of Mission and Theology gains university status

NOKUT – the State of Norway accrediting agency for higher education – has on the basis of a report from an international committee decided that the School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger, can be accredited as a specialized university. In a comment on the MHS website, Rector Knut Holter says that the decision will strengthen MHS' national and international position as far as research and education are concerned.

MHS presents itself as an institution which:

- is training for local and global ministry
- is creating knowledge and understanding about faith and church, culture and society, in Norway and in a global world

- is offering our generation's interpretation of a two thousand years old Great Commission
- welcomes students who are interested in faith and church, theology and religion, mission and evangelism, culture and communication
- welcomes students who envision yourself as a pastor or teacher, a missionary or bible translator, an aid worker or youth worker, a journalist or researcher

Network Co-ordinator

Dr Peter Lechion Kimilike, Makumira University College of Tumaini University, has served as Co-ordinator of the Network of Theology and Religious Studies since 2005. After completing his doctoral studies – as part of a research project organized by this network – Dr Kimilike served as lecturer of Old Testament and Hebrew, as well as Director of Research and Publications, at Makumira University College. However, since January 2008 he is transferred by his church to found another Tumaini University constituent college, namely, Southern Highlands University College. With the publishing of this issue of the Network Newsletter, he concludes his service as network co-ordinator. Until a new co-ordinator has been elected by the seven partner institutions, the former co-ordinator, Professor Knut Holter, School of Mission and Theology, Stavanger, will co-ordinate the network interaction.

Guest lectures within the network

Makumira University College

Dr Madipoane J. Masenya, Professor of Old Testament studies, University of South Africa (South Africa) and part of the supervising team of our Network's Africanisation of Biblical Studies Project 2002-2006, visited Makumira University College (Tanzania) in late September 2007, where she gave two lectures.

- 'Seeking security through marriage: Ruth 1:6-8 put under an African woman's HIV/AIDS lens'. The lecture highlighted some very touching issues that have risked the institution of marriage to HIV/AIDS. Among the pertinent risky attachments are the patriarchal forms of making marriage as a yardstick of human

dignity that controls the female bodies. Also the women's socio-economic struggle to survive that risks them to the pandemic in the light of the referred biblical text from the Book of Ruth.

- 'Sacrificing female bodies at the altar of male privilege: A Bosadi (womanhood) reading of Judges 19'. It challenged the hearers on the violence that is perpetrated against the women by the use of biblical texts because it put the female folk at much risk at these times of HIV/AIDS. Again it touched on the patriarchal nature of the text and African culture as issues that can be used abusively.

Makerere University

Dr Gerd Marie Ådna, Associate Professor of Science of Religion, School of Mission and Theology (Norway) visited Makerere University (Uganda) in early April 2008, where she gave two guest lectures: 'Muslims in Northern Europe, with special emphasis on Norway'.

MHS – School of Mission and Theology

Dr Lotera Fabien, Professor of Practical Theology and Dean, Lutheran Graduate School of Theology (Madagascar), visited MHS – School of Mission and Theology (Norway) in early May, where he gave a guest lecture: 'The revival movement within the Malagasy Lutheran Church'.

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