



Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary

Committed to Serving the Church



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November 2010-April 2011

In July this year, the Namibia Qualifications Authority (NQA) officially recognised NETS as an accredited institution, and the NETS Certificate, Diploma and Degree courses as accredited courses. This recognition comes seven years after the first application was submitted, and marks a coming-of-age for the Seminary.

The process of gaining accreditation is both difficult and demanding, so why bother? Here are three very good reasons:

1. A more relevant, responsive and practical curriculum

Previously, NETS relied on agreements with South African Universities (Bloemfontein and Potchefstroom) to enable students to pursue post-graduate studies. The NETS curriculum was influenced by these considerations. Pursuing our own accreditation has given us the freedom to respond to Namibian Church leaders, former students and staff in developing our own unique curriculum: the curriculum which has been weighed and approved by the NQA. Our new curriculum is more contextually relevant and practical than a traditional western (or Southern African) Bachelor's Degree in Theology.

"Pursuing our own accreditation has given us the freedom to respond to Namibian Church leaders, former students and staff in developing our own unique curriculum."



NETS graduate Bhovick Tshimbombo looks forward to serving as a pastor in his home country, DR Congo.

We have moved from a traditional approach which separates history, biblical studies, systematic theology and practical training from one another as isolated disciplines. Many of our new subjects are holistic and integrated. As a pastor in a church deals with a grieving family he will use his understanding of systematic theology, biblical studies, and the process of grief, together with his skills as a carer, counsellor, preacher and leader of God's people. Our course on Death and Dying will teach these things as a whole. And so it goes for all of the other courses in the stream.

Knowledge needs to be practical. Thus, we have expanded the way we assess how well a student has learnt. The Church needs leaders who can do more than recite a list of facts that they were taught at Seminary. They must be able to apply what they have learnt. They also need to have acquired the proficiency and skills that they need to keep learning and growing for the rest of their lives. These are our guidelines as we measure the progress of students.

2. A sharper focus on quality education

It is important that our academic standards demanded of students be on a level with those expected in the universities of our region. The changes in curriculum have meant, in many cases, that more is now demanded of our students than before. This means that we can be even more confident of producing higher-quality graduates.

Observing the behaviour of the staff, and experiencing the environment at NETS, is every bit as important as anything a student will learn in class. The way we meet day by day to read the Bible and pray together, the way we enjoy one another's fellowship, and the way we carry one another's burdens will shape the student into the person God wants them to be. Accreditation gives everyone involved in supporting NETS the assurance that things are done properly here! It enables students to go on to post-graduate studies if they wish. It gives the staff of NETS a framework which we can use to assess how we are going in all of the various areas of the work here, and to make continuous improvements.



NETS Lecturer Rev Thorsten Prill and Rev Leon Beukes from Uniting Reformed Church enjoy a bite to eat and getting to know each other at the Pastors Information Afternoon at NETS.

3. Improved accountability

NETS has always been committed to equipping men and women of God for service through theological education. Being prepared to submit to an accreditation process is an expression of our willingness to be accountable in all that we do. Everything, from the way we manage our finances and property to our systems for governance and the way we treat our staff, has been laid bare for the accreditation process. We want it to be clear, to anyone who asks, that we are doing the right thing. (2 Corinthians 8:21)

“Observing the behaviour of the staff and experiencing the environment at NETS is every bit as important as anything a student will learn in class.”



We have put in place a system of continuous professional education for all our teaching staff, to ensure that we are always improving in everything that we do. Under God, NETS relies on the quality of its staff more than anything else in order to ensure the quality of its programs.

Please join us in praising God for the growth of NETS as a Seminary during the accreditation process, and pray that this accreditation would open even more doors for the building of his kingdom in the future!

Pastors' Information Afternoon at NETS, October 2010: NETS staff and Board members rejoice as NQA Director Franz Gertze hands over the NQA accreditation certificate to Dr. De Wet Strauss. The event was witnessed by pastors from different denominations, offering a good opportunity for pastors to get to know NETS Board members, staff and students.



Daniel and his three friends neither boasted nor kept silent. With reference to their faith and respect to the king, they testified to God's promises and care.

As the year reaches its final lap, two words come to mind: excitement and gratitude. Many are the exciting milestones we reached in the history of the Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary this year, and just as many are our reasons for being grateful to God.

April saw the inauguration of the Library & Resource Centre, and the possibilities it unlocked for the students, lecturers and community at large. And, just recently, NETS received the well-respected certificate of accreditation from the Namibia Qualifications Authority. Although these two events draw the attention of the public in a special way, it should not be forgotten that these events are but the results of processes and developments of an even more exciting nature. I would like to put it boldly: the acknowledgement of excellence that NETS now enjoys is due to the quality of its staff and students. Diligence, dedication, and obedience are the powerful vibrations that characterize the current dynamic nature of theological training at NETS.

A wise statesman once said that an institution of education, like our own school is, in a very real sense, a mirror of the nation. Therefore, a report card on the school is a report card on the nation. If these words of wisdom are true, then I can assure you that, by looking at the marks on the NETS' report card, the Namibian nation is richer in qualities of competency, authority and credibility because of a school like NETS.

The achievements of NETS remind me of the story of Daniel and his three friends. When looked upon by the king for their healthy features and brilliant minds, they neither boasted nor kept silent. With reference to their faith and respect to the king, they testified to God's promises and care.

May what we have achieved this year not only be about a good report, but about the hopeful signs of our Lord's gracious redemption of the world He loves so much.

May the peace of the First Born be with you in this season of Advent.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J J de W Strauss'.

Dr J J de W Strauss
Chairman of the NETS Board

did you know?

...that NETS has recently published its first volume of essays written by NETS faculty members? ***Building up the Church of Christ*** contains writings on Theological Education in Southern Africa (by Josh Hooker), Theological Giants and the Evangelistic Dimension of Mission (by Thorsten Prill), The Battle for Truth in Namibia (by Basilius Kasera) and Globalisation and Mission (by Thorsten Prill).

The book is available as an E-book for €13.99 and as a paperback for €18.99 from www.grin.com.

DDE is now CLOSER to YOU!

Rev David Greeff

The Department of Distance Education (DDE) is committed to bringing quality theological training to remote areas of Namibia, and to present people perfect in Christ (Colossians 1:28). Thus, we are thrilled to announce that, from the beginning of 2011, NETS DDE will have **four** coordinators working to help teach, equip and train people who are unable to study through NETS, residentially. In addition, our director, Rev Willem-Henry den Hartog, tirelessly works to cover areas not yet reached by coordinators. The newest member of our teaching staff is Rev Spencer Tuundjakuye Tjijenda, who will be moving to DDE from the residential staff. Rev Tjijenda is committed to reaching Otjiherero-speaking communities with quality theological education.



Rev Tuhafeni Hailonga
Coordinator for North-Western Namibia



Rev Brenden Jeke
Coordinator for Caprivi
and Kavango regions



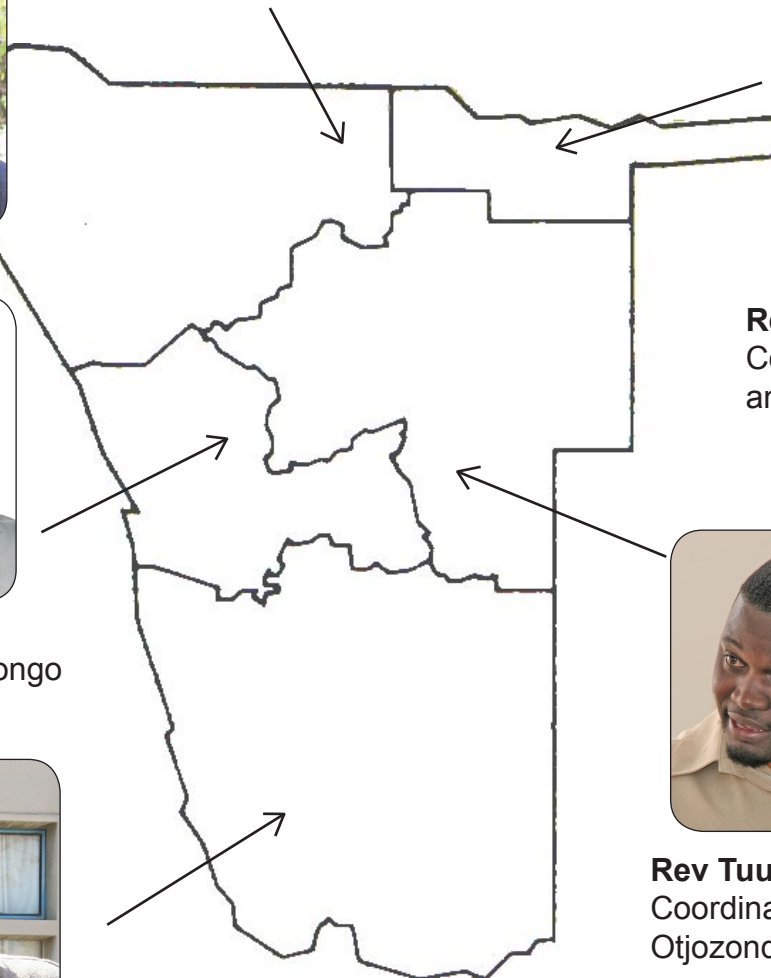
Rev David Greeff
Coordinator for Erongo
and Khomas



Rev Tuundjakuye Tjijenda
Coordinator for Omaheke and
Otjozondjupa



Rev Willem-Henri den Hartog
Coordinator for other areas



The presence of coordinators in regional centres is to provide students with maximum support as they proceed their studies. Currently, we have 14 learning centres where students are active and where coordinators or volunteers regularly hold classes. These include Divundu, Katima Mulilo, Rehoboth, Dihokohoko (2), Elim, Onaanda, Oshikango, Eenhana, Oshakati, Ondangwa, Okatha, Walvis Bay and Swakopmund. We also have many students in the 11 prisons around the country, which are visited regularly by our coordinators and our director.

If you are in one of the areas covered by these coordinators, please contact us to find out how you can enroll or join a study group. *We can't wait to hear from you!*



Blessing, glory and honour be to the Lord our God, for great is His faithfulness. We thank God for He has called us to serve NETS as a family. We give thanks to the Lord because He has seen us through challenges we encountered this year. The year kicked off with the welcoming braai for the first year students at Out of Nature Lodge, and then the graduation party in March. In the first semester, we bought T-shirts for both students and staff, and in Semester 2 we bought track suits with NETS logo for all students.

This year we were also blessed with a strong NETS choir. We ministered not only to NETS community but also reached out as we performed at Philippi Trust Graduation Ceremony and the new NETS Library opening.

We had outreach mission trips to Botswana and Keetmanshoop. These trips were acts of service to the wider church of Christ and were aimed at engaging students in practical ministry. I thank God for the knowledge and blessings He poured out on us and all different people we met. New relationships were formed. We left knowing that we had ignited a spark in other peoples' lives – a spark of faith and hunger to have a cherished relationship with God.

I thank God for the unity, love and care which have been our identity as NETS family. May we continue to grow in this area and most importantly in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus! Remember the unity of believers? One in heart and mind ... and they received a common blessing (Acts 4:32-37). May we in the same manner - as we are a fellowship of people united in the communion of the one Spirit and committed to serve and grow together in the mission of Christ - receive the blessing from our Lord Jesus!

Farewell to all our students who are leaving this year: we pray for God's abundant grace upon you in your endeavours and we eagerly wait to see you again, visiting and coming to share with us your new experiences!

Many blessings,

NETS SR COUNCIL 2010

Lasarus Ngube	President and Academic Liaison
Morris Klazen	Vice-President and Hostel Liaison
Zeka Tjiwana	Treasurer and NETS Admin Liaison
Jo –Marrie Fortuin	Secretary and Student Dean Liaison
Edwin Kakori	Sports Officer and Combi rep
Abednigo Musona	1st year Rep

We appreciate the service of Petrus Titus who served as our sport officer 1st semester and left to become part-time student.



This year we were blessed with a strong soccer and volley ball team. Here, Rev Spencer Tjijenda displays a trophy we won from Khomasdal Community Church.



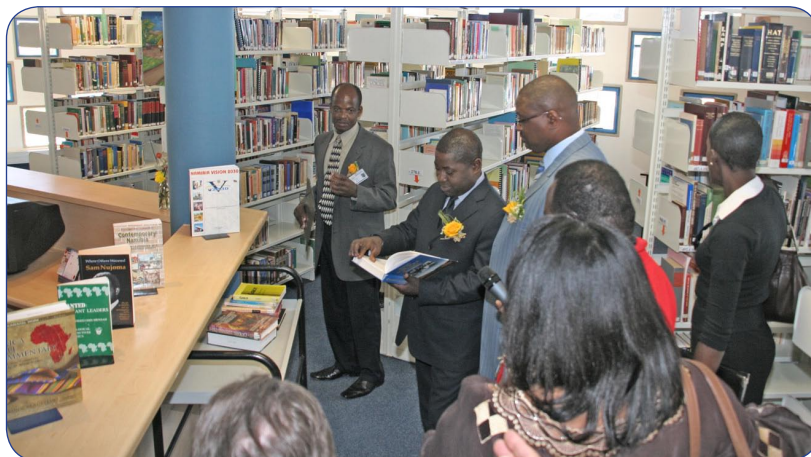
Dominique Fambi, 2nd year student: *The ministry trip was a real eye opener to me. I came to understand our people are suffering spiritually and physically and need our support, love and care. We need to do this again: taking Jesus to them!*



Morris Klazen, Vice President: *The ministry trip exposed us to various practical ways of serving and also to how ministry is done by different churches. We did both manual and evangelistic work, which was fantastic!*

Regardless of whether you are a pastor looking for material to help you prepare a sermon, a church elder studying theology by distance, a Sunday School teacher looking for new ideas to teach children more effectively, or someone who personally wants to dig deeper and know more about the Lord, the NETS Library and Resource Centre is the place for you!

2000 books were added to the library this year, making a total of around 8000. Thank you so much to all who have responded to our call for assistance in stocking our library.



At the opening of the NETS Library and Resource Centre on 23rd April, the honorable Minister of Education, Dr Abraham Iyambo (second left), spoke of the high importance of libraries for Namibia's education. Here, he is being given a tour by David Matsveru (far left), the NETS' librarian.

We have 6 registered pastors who are using the library. We recently ordered 500 books written by Africans, or on African issues, including a book written by NETS staff and a periodical by local church pastors in Windhoek. Once a month, lecturers are scheduled to sit in the library to help students with assignments. Learning does not end in class but continues to the library.

If you would like to receive occasional email news from the library (new developments, new books, prayer info), you can become *a friend of the library*. To become a member you pay an annual fee of N\$50. Please email David Matsveru at library@nets.edu.na or 'phone him on 061 222 885 to find out more about becoming a friend and becoming a member, and also about opening hours.

success, service or sacrifice?

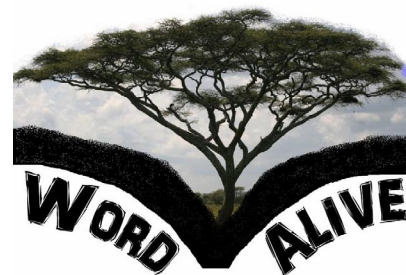
find out about Jesus' leadership model at Word Alive

Many consider the development of good leadership to present the greatest challenge that Africa faces today. There are many models of leadership in the world, but how does *God* want us to lead his people? Whether you are a pastor, elder, youth group leader, children's ministry leader, a Christian parent or a Christian who simply wants to lead their friends in the ways of the Lord - this conference has been designed for *you*.

Word Alive is a workshop for church leaders, pastors, and all believers who want to discover and apply godly leadership skills. Be challenged from God's Word about the kind of leader that the Lord Jesus is, and the kind of leader that he wants *you* to be, too.

Each evening there will be 'hands-on' workshop sessions to help leaders put the things they learn into practise in their lives.

For conference costs, please contact the NETS office on 061 222 885 or email administrator@nets.edu.na



VENUES

Windhoek

Sunday 10, Monday 11,
Tuesday 12 April:
6.30pm-9pm

Ongwediva, Rundu, Walvis Bay, Osire

Saturday 7 May:
9am-4pm

Comings and goings in 2010/2011

This year has seen big changes in the area of administration and campus management.

Hansie Beukes and Lynette Beukes (not related!) joined us in September. **Hansie** (right) works part-time for NETS as maintenance worker. He is also pastor of Faith Reformed Baptist Church. He is married to Louisa and they have four children. **Lynette** (second left)



is the new administrator. Married to Freddy, they have two children. She is a member of Pentecostal Protestant Church. **Ingrith Mutanga** (second right) has been the new friendly face in Reception since March. She has 3 children and is a member of Evangelical Bible Church. **Annelize Alberts** (left) who worked as NETS Campus Manager for many years has handed her role over to Hansie. She is now the NETS Catering and Hospitality Coordinator. Thank you, Annelize, for your continued faithful service to NETS!



We look forward to the arrival of **Peter & Lucy Beale** and **Warner & Sheena Hardie** (left) from the UK on 11th

January. Peter, Lucy and Warner will be lecturing in Semester 1 in order to help with a temporary shortage of faculty members.

Welcome back to our Acting Principal **Josh Hooker** and his wife **Cathy** with their three children (below). They return to NETS in January 2011 after 6 months' home assignment in the UK.



Academic Dean **Simon Gillham**, with his wife **Margie** and their two children, will be back home in Australia for the first half of 2011 for a well-earned rest and to catch up with their family and friends. Thank you, Simon, for your hard work as both Acting Principal *and* Academic Dean in semester 2/2010.

Courses Available

NETS Residential

- Certificate in Theology
- Diploma in Ministry
- Diploma in Theology
- Bachelor of Theology

NETS Distance

- Certificate in Theology
- Veritas (biblical exegesis)
- Certificate in Christian Leadership

NETS Part-time and Short Courses

- NETS@Night 2011
 - *Old Testament Overview*
 - *Understanding God*
- Word Alive (biblical leadership workshop)
- Intensive Courses 2011
 - *Evangelism*
 - *Church Governance and Finance*

CONTACT DETAILS

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