



Caroline and Dick Seed

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Location: South Africa



What we do: Training Bible teachers in key theological institutions across the African continent and beyond

Dear friends,

We bring you warm greetings from Cape Town this Christmas as we pray in the words of Isaiah 9:5–6 that the whole world in its turmoil and war will acknowledge Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

In this end of year letter, we reflect on TEDS in the second half of 2023 and look forward prayerfully to plans for TEDS activities in 2024.

We need more help!

“There are only 16 of us here but how I pray that there will be a way this lecturer training can be extended to the whole university. We need more help!” These were the concluding words of the dean of Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology after Phase 3 of our lecturer training in Uganda in early November.

We thank the Lord for the success of the training in Jinja in the first week of November and we acknowledge the need to spread the training more widely. What we teach over three phases is only an introduction to the needs of theological lecturers in the current higher education climate. However, we cannot do more than we do. As Jesus said, *The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few* (Matthew 9:37). What can be done?

Pray and never give up

Jesus gives the answer, *Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the field* (Matthew 9:37–38). This year we have done just that. Karen from CMS Australia who works with TEDS got stuck in Adelaide for 12 months waiting for a visa. Nancy from Nairobi did not have time to help us this year. We have been alone and struggling to keep the course administration running efficiently.

Jesus teaches that we should pray and never give up (Luke 18:1). We have prayed and you have prayed. And the Lord has answered. Karen and her family are on their way back, visas in hand. Nancy has agreed to run Phase 1 in Nigeria with a Kenyan assistant in June 2024. A suitably qualified person has asked for training to help us run courses in other parts of Africa. The Lord has been providing people to help in response to prayer.



Caroline teaching in Jinja

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**With Jesus
With each other
To the edges**



Increasing the reach

Yet still, five trainers cannot reach all the faculty in one Christian university, nor the lecturers in Bible colleges and Christian colleges across the continent. We need to equip local trainers in the different regions who can run courses for their colleagues. To this end, we are waiting for the Council for Higher Education (CHE) to respond to our application for the online postgraduate diploma in higher theological education that will equip select lecturers to establish lecturer training in their own institutions. Word on the street is that it takes 18 months for the government response. As we are hoping to begin in 2025, please pray that this programme will be approved in time.

Second half of 2023

The second half of 2023 saw the completion of training for three cohorts of lecturers from Alexandria School of Theology in Egypt, Bishop Tucker School of Divinity and Theology in Uganda and eight different institutions across Africa through our online training. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to work with such dedicated men and women.

In addition, in November, we ran a writers' workshop in Uganda for members of the Generosity Project. This is the team of African scholars who are writing materials to propose a generosity-based response to the prevalence of the prosperity gospel in Africa. In this workshop, we were helping them to write the workbooks for the church-based training materials. However, as the accompanying academic book proposal has been accepted by the publisher for 2024, we were also working with some of them on editing their chapters.

Praying forward to 2024

For us to prepare academic programmes, write training courses and provide editing and supervision, we also need periods of quiet time in the office to think and write. These times are not easy to come by. 2024 already looks jam-packed with commitments, so much so that we cannot fit in all the demands. Please pray for wisdom as we make decisions for 2024 on the following:

- ▶ Running lecturer training courses online and in person
- ▶ Attending conferences outside South Africa
- ▶ Writing and editing materials for different projects
- ▶ Teaching for George Whitefield College
- ▶ Planning home leave

We thank you for your participation in the work of supporting theological education in Africa and beyond through faithful prayer and giving. May the Lord bless you and your families in Jesus Christ, this Christmas and always.

With our love

Caroline and Dick



Photos from top to bottom: Group discussion time; Phase 3 group in Jinja; Phase 3 Cairo; Generosity Project writing team in Uganda



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