



Caroline and Dick Seed

Link Letter no. 76 | April 2024

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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

Time for inspection

On Wednesday 27 March George Whitefield College underwent a government inspection of its academic programmes. The purpose was to ensure that quality assurance systems are in place and effective so that the programmes can be reaccredited. Caroline took part in one of the interview sessions and Dick chatted with the inspectors about the requirements for lecturer training. The college is now waiting for the full reaccreditation report.

Accreditation inspections have become normal for theological institutions across the continent of Africa. They require lecturers and administrators to have a robust knowledge of the principles and practices of higher education. However, most lecturers in theological institutions are drawn from the clergy, who have no background in education theory or practice.

It was for this reason that the Lord gave us the vision of setting up Theological Education Development Services (TEDS), to provide the necessary training for lecturers and administrators so that Christian institutions can continue to provide quality training for a mission-oriented church.

TEDS and the Africa Mile Deep Strategy

Since its inception in 2012, TEDS has grown from a small training programme at St Paul's University, Kenya, to a department of George Whitefield College (RSA) offering short courses in lecturer training and planning to offer a professional diploma in theological education from 2025. We also offer consultation and advice on accreditation to various colleges.

TEDS is part of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy (AMDS) supported by Local Leaders International (formerly Overseas Council Australia). It consists of leaders from seven key Anglican training institutions in Africa (in Egypt, Nigeria, Uganda, Rwanda, Kenya, Tanzania and South Africa). 2024 marked the seventh annual meeting of the AMDS partners, hosted by St John's University, Tanzania. This year the meeting was planned and led by the institutions with minimal input from the sponsors. It was good to see how cooperation between the groups has grown.

AMDS has 12 areas of cooperation and TEDS is responsible for three of them. During the conference from 4-8 March, we spent time with each hub, planning further support for them in each area:

Pedagogy

During 2023, Alexandria School of Theology (Egypt) and Uganda Christian University completed the short course in teaching and learning and were issued with their certificates. They were delighted to receive them. The dean of UCU reported that the Ugandan government has made it compulsory for all university



Participants AMDS 2024 Dodoma

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lecturers to undertake an accredited course in higher education and he was proud that UCU has already done this. We also planned new courses in 2024 for Nigeria and Southern Africa.

Theologically-oriented research

Caroline ran the research methodology course for GWC in the week before the conference. At the conference, Local Leaders asked her to run a similar course online for AMDS faculty members who are beginning further studies as part of leadership training. She is currently making plans to do this.

Keeping Christian universities Christian

In 2023 we began training lecturers at Uganda Christian University in how to integrate faith into their learning across the curriculum. Without this, a university will soon lose its distinctive Christian witness. As a result, UCU has invited us to go back later in 2024 to deepen the training so that they can begin to apply the principles across the whole university.

CMS-Africa conference

After the AMDS conference, we flew on to Kenya for the once-in-four-years CMS regional conference in Naivasha. There we met with partners in mission from both CMS-Africa and CMS Britain. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, but once again we found the theological educators in need of training. We chatted with the team from DR Congo about translating our materials into French and running training with them in 2025. There were also calls for training in South Sudan but we cannot manage that at the moment. We reassured them that we will provide lecturer training for the many South Sudanese lecturers completing their theological studies in South Africa.

Managing future demands

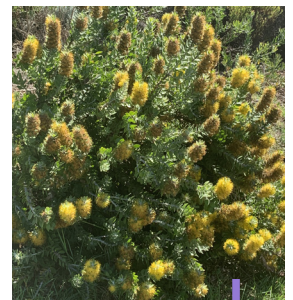
We are grateful that Karen Roe from CMS Australia is back with us and taking a lead on planning and administration for the lecturer training. Nonetheless, the demands on our time are still enormous. In the last letter, we asked you to pray that the Lord would raise up others to help. We are now actively mentoring others. Karen will be running the short course in Nigeria with Nancy (from Kenya) in June and she will run the GWC training later in the year with a South African lecturer. Then, we will train several of our “graduates” from Chile in December so that they can run their own training in Spanish. It’s just a start, but it is important. We hope to run a bigger “training of trainers” in 2025.

Prayer for the next three months

- ▶ Dick in Sierra Leone for further curriculum development consultations (7–14 April).
- ▶ Caroline in Kenya for the Overseas Council International consultation on women in senior leadership (22–26 April).
- ▶ Phase 3 lecturer training online with lecturers in Brazil on Saturdays during April.
- ▶ The report from our application for the postgraduate diploma is expected in the middle of May.
- ▶ Phase 1 lecturer training online (Southern Africa) at the beginning of June.
- ▶ UK home leave starting on 12 June.

Thank you for your partnership with us in the gospel.

Caroline and Dick Seed



Photos from top to bottom: Dick with Canon George, an online training graduate, in Dodoma; GWC principal awards certificate to lecturer from Egypt; some students from the research methodology class; golden pagoda – Cape Fynbos



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