NEWS FROM NORTHERN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR 2015

1. Applications for new NTS students
URCSA members who wish to study part-time in 2015 but missed the application deadline of 31 August 2014, may now apply for admission to the part-time programme in the second semester. The deadline for such applications is 31 January 2015. Application forms may be obtained from the NTS office (012 343 4114 or 079 838 2657) or at nts.seminary@telkomsa.net. Students will be interviewed by the Assessment Committee in March 2015 and start with their studies in July 2015.

2. NTS opening and licensing
The annual opening service of NTS will take place on Sunday 1 February 2015 in the Melodi ya Tshwane congregation at 10:00. On that occasion new ministry candidates (proponente) will be licensed. Everyone welcome!

3. Theological Day
The annual Theological Day, in which URCSA ministers are invited to a conference with NTS students, will be held on Monday 2 February 2015. The theme will be a new proposed licensing oath for the URCSA.

4. NTS Open Day
An Open Day, in which URCSA members can come to get information on NTS and the URCSA ministerial formation programme, will be held on Saturday 23 May 2015. Please encourage all members who are interested in studying for the ministry to attend. Venue: NTS house, 611 Reitz Street, Sunnyside, Pretoria. Information may be obtained from the NTS office (012 343 4114 or 079 838 2657) or at nts.seminary@telkomsa.net
NEWS FOR JUNE-OCTOBER 2014

Melodi ya Tshwane Ward 5 came to visit us

On the 7th of June 2014 we were visited by Melodi ya Tshwane Ward 5, accompanied by Melodi ya Tshwane CMM. They brought groceries for the students and spent a day with us. Their aim was to get to know the students and also get to see where and how they live. We got to know each other and had a braai afterwards.

We send our thanks to them for their initiative. May God bless them greatly. We extend our invitation to anyone that would want to visit us, it is always a delight.

MBB South came to visit us

On the 8th of June 2014 we had a visit from MBB Southern Synod. It is their second visit and it is always great having them around. They contributed financially towards the Seminary and strengthened their relationship with us. They joined us in worship at Melodi ya Tshwane and had Sunday lunch with us at the seminary.

They are concerned about the future of the church, especially future ministers and want to help wherever they can to ensure that the future of our church is bright. Thank you once again, MBB Southern Synod!
Intensive in-house courses for NTS students

The students were participating in an Intensive in-house programme which started on Monday until Friday (30 June-04 July 2014). They had different lessons from internal and external lecturers. Rev. Makulubele conducted Church Order lessons, Proponent Tshidi Moetsi conducted Theological Vocabulary lessons, Prof. Kritzinger conducted studies on biblical exegesis and hermeneutics and we were also blessed by the presence of Reverend Mike Ribbens from the Christian Reformed World Mission (USA who conducted the Timothy Leadership Training course “Caring for God’s people” on pastoral visitation.

NTS Revival and fundraising at Emalahleni

NTS had their annual revival and fundraising in the Northern Synod at Emalahleni, Mpumalanga on 5-6 July 2014. The event was well attended. We would like to extend our gratitude to Rev T I Monyatsi and congregation for hosting us. To everyone who attended and those that could not; we are thankful for your presence and contributions. It really means a lot to us as it ensures that the future of our church is secure and that future ministers are taken care of.
Who said NTS is all about preaching?

NTS has joined a soccer league in order to stay healthy and fresh minded. Urban 5occer is Pretoria’s first 5-a-side football facility. It aims to provide a much needed cutting edge 5-a-side facility and to offer “one of the world’s fastest growing sports” to the residents of Pretoria.

Our soccer matches are on Wednesday evenings. We would appreciate it if sponsors would help us pay for our matches and also provide us with a soccer kit.

Congratulations graduate!

It always delights us when one of our students graduates. Our student from KZN Brother MV Xulu passed his Bachelor of Theology Honours (BTh Hons) at the University of South Africa. He celebrated his Graduation ceremony in Durban.

We congratulate you, brother Xulu, for this achievement. May God grant you strength for the future.

Pictured: From left: NTS student M Nxumalo, Adeline (Brother Xulu’s wife), MV Xulu, and Ms Shabalala (a friend)
The 21st and 22nd of August 2014 were very inspirational days for NTS students. It was Prof Allan Boesak’s public lecture and the launch of a book dedicated to him, titled *Prophet from the South: Essays in honour of Allan Aubrey Boesak*.

The wealth of information and wisdom we received was not only a privilege but also a blessing. Prof Allan Boesak and Prof. Takatso Mofokeng are two great contributors in the academic world and brilliant leaders of the URCSA. It was indeed an honour to be in their presence.

**IM Model workshop at URCSA Emmanuel**

On the 23rd of August 2014, Prof JNJ Kritzinger accompanied by NTS students (Katleho Mokoena, Monyane Ntai and Elvis Mofokeng) went to Reiger Park, Boksburg to conduct a session on the IM Model. The presentation was an introduction to the model and to equip the church council on using the model. The workshop was a success and a lot was learned. Thanks to URCSA Emmanuel for the invitation and hospitality.
Annual NTS Gala Dinner

On the 6th of September 2014, we had our annual Gala Dinner at the Stone Cradle conference centre in Pretoria. The theme was “Faith and politics in South Africa today” with our main speakers; Dr Vuyani Vellem from the University of Pretoria and Mr Stanley Mathabatha, premier of Limpopo Province. They both gave exceptional presentations on one of the most controversial topics of our church.

The entertainment was provided by Melodi ya Tshwane double quartet and Botshabelo Sunrise, a group who came all the way from Free State.

We would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our hearts for being with us at the Gala dinner. Thank you to all who contributed to the fundraising, those who were present and absent. Please suggest ways in which we can improve the Gala Dinner to make it better and better each year.

NTS Students on a Cape Town Tour

Tuks Theology students went on a tour in Cape Town on the 14th to 21st of July 2014 in search of new perspectives on the history of the church in South Africa. Two of NTS students that went on this tour are; Mrs Meisie Malatji and Mr ME Mothamaha, who are both Honours students at the University of Pretoria.
URCSA Theological Students’ conference

The weekend of 4th - 7th September 2014 was very special for NTS. For the first time, all theological students from URCSA met for a conference at Dienssentrum in Mamelodi. Students came from Stellenbosch University, University of Free State, NTS KZN and Namibia.

The students were accompanied by some lecturers and MFTT (curatorium) members. Four students presented academic papers: Mr M Gcaza from Stellenbosch spoke on “The distinction between licencing and induction”, Mr S Majiedt, from Bloemfontein spoke on “The task of a minister in URCSA Church Order and Stipulations”, Mr EM Mofokeng, from NTS presented a paper on “Examining the draft new licencing oath” and Mr C Bock from Namibia spoke on “Examining the “formulier” for the induction of a minister. These papers were discussed vigorously by the students and proposals were made for submission to the General Synod.

Congratulations, more graduates!

On 29 September 2014, NTS celebrated when Monethi Moshoodiba and Tshediso Pudumo obtained their BTh degrees at the University of South Africa. We congratulate them and wish them all the best in their onward journeys.
Former NTS students attend Regional Synod as Ministers

Here are some of the former NTS students who attended the recent Synod meetings of the Northern and Southern Synod respectively.

The Northern Theological Seminary belongs to the Northern and Southern Synod by jurisdiction, hence the picture with only the two synods. This does not mean that other synods are not a part of us, as we do have students from other synods and also former students serving as Reverends in other Synods. From these two Synods a joint MFTT (Curatorium) is elected which is responsible for oversight over NTS.

NTS is excited with the newly elected Moderamens

We welcome and congratulate our newly elected Moderamens of 2014-2018. We pray for God’s strength to be upon them and to lead the church in alignment with the will and kingdom of God.

Pictured: Northern Synod, From left: Rev Hendrik Moima (Assessor), Prof Christina Landman (Actuarius), Dr Winfred Moime (Scribe) and Prof Ezechiel Moraka (Moderator)

Southern Synod, From Left: Prof Reggie Nel (Actuaris), Rev S Mabelane (Scribe), Dr L J Modise (Moderator) and Rev BB Senokoane (Assessor).
NTS Student making moves

Katleho Mokena took it upon himself to continue studying the Ancient Languages and is currently studying Greek and Hebrew at a third level. He is also a Greek tutor for first year students at the University of Pretoria.

NTS Website is on the way...

Technology is growing very fast and an institution that does not use social media for communication is at a disadvantage. NTS had a website before but due to technical problems it shut down. Recently, Katleho and a few colleagues have been busy designing the new website for NTS and hopefully it will be launched by the end of the year.
We use Facebook to share NTS and URCSA related information on what we are currently doing. We currently have 540 people who have “liked” the page and we give thanks to each and every person that have done. If you have Facebook or know of someone who has Facebook, do not hesitate to “like” our page.
NTS Student took a tour to Greece!

From 28 August to 16 September 2014, NTS Student Monethi Moshoadiba went on a trip to Greece, organised by Professor Magdel Le Roux from the University of South Africa, in the Department of Biblical and Ancient Studies. Prof Theomillis from Greece was the area supervisor and in charge of that particular archaeological site. The trip was mainly about excavation and a little about tourism.

Monethi, how was your experience of the trip?

Well as it was my first time going abroad, it was a great experience and very informative. I was introduced to the ancient history of Greece, through visiting the archaeological museum and other historical sites. What intrigued me most was doing excavations. This gave me a different view on how I should shape and structure my theological understanding with regards to the history of Old and New Testament. Seeing the place where Paul was addressing the Athenians in Acts 17 made Scripture alive for me. What also fascinated me was seeing the Acropolis in Athens still standing. This made me inquisitive about how the ancient Greeks managed to build such an enormous building without the use of the technology we have today. In regards to archaeology, I realised that in order to understand the significance of Biblical archaeology, it is necessary to understand two basic concepts; archaeology as a scientific framework and the Bible as an object for research.

Picture: The Acropolis in Athens
NTS videos watched over 5500 times!

NTS has a YouTube channel that was created by Katleho Mokoena to capture NTS events on video. These videos can be accessed by anyone from anywhere through the internet. The videos include: preaching, singing, and sharing of stories by students; what NTS is about: camps, revivals and fundraisings, as well as theological presentations. We thank everyone who watched these videos and encourage those who have not yet watched them to do so as well. We are aware that not everyone has access to the internet and many want copies of these videos. Soon (God willing) a 2014 NTS photo and video collection on DVD will be compiled (in the form of a slideshow). This DVD will be available for purchase by the end of 2014. For more updates on this development, everything will be communicated on Facebook.

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