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From the Principal's desk

Dear friends and partners of HTC

I often find it amazing that even in the harshest of conditions — be it in the desert or a bitterly cold place, there are signs of life there. Even in difficult Zimbabwe in the theological sector we have signs of life!

If it weren't for your support then we would have succumbed to the harsh operating environment years ago. God in His wisdom has seen it fit to sustain not only the Harare Theological College but other colleges as well, enabling His word to spread and His work to carry on.

We realise as HTC that we are but just a little corner in God's vineyard and that we work in concert with other organisations and individuals. Our mission statement says: *"Our purpose is to glorify God in partnership with His church by equipping servant-leaders at the certificate, diploma and degree levels to know biblical truth, practice godliness, and to be effective in ministry."*

We are glad to report that we are reaching more than the traditional church leaders. Robert Maxwell talks about leadership in terms of influence and we have influencers across the board. We have grandmothers, grandfathers, teachers, husbands, wives, sons and daughters. All congregate at HTC for equipping and live out their faith implementing what they have learnt at the college.

Whilst the economic challenges seem to pose the greatest challenge to the

survival of theological education they paradoxically also produce the right conditions for people to commit themselves to studying the word of God. This is because the economic storms seem to show the people just how temporal material blessings are and how it is much more important to have a deep understanding of one's faith and walk closely with their God.

The second term (the winter term) is upon us — where traditionally numbers are often down compared to the first term. It is our prayer this year the we buck that trend especially considering the fact that we had one of the lowest enrolments in recent years in the first term. Usually the number of students exceeds one hundred (100) in the first term but this term we had sixty three (63) who enrolled. This is well below the desired target of approximately one hundred and twenty (120) students.

We have had some encouraging signs for the term ahead though. We have reached out to the churches as usual but more importantly the churches are reaching out to us! The believers are hungry for a more structured approach to their bible studies and we are realising that we need to cater both for the "academic" and the "average" Christian — a tension that theological colleges deal with continually.

We have also been inspired by the good feedback we have received from the weekend seminars that we have held in previous terms, especially in

the first term of 2017 where a seminar on Biblical Justice was held.

The first term heralded a new era at the College. We had to say goodbye to our head Librarian Mrs. Ann Podmore and one of the adjunct lecturers Fiona Thompson (Academic and Research Writing). They both served the college with distinction for over a decade. May the Lord bless them richly in the new seasons of their lives! We also welcome those that have taken over the baton and encourage them to run the race with perseverance.

I would also like to thank the HTC board who have given me the opportunity to be Principal of this elite theological college. I would also like to thank Dr David Rousseau, my predecessor, for making the transition smooth. I look forward to his continued support as he carries on lecturing. Congratulations once again on the doctorate, Dave!

Yours In Christ,

Mr. Pagiell Chimudzi



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Staff Update

Congratulations to **Dave Rousseau** who completed his Doctoral Thesis and graduated in December 2016 in South Africa. Pray for him and his wife as they will be on home assignment in the US for the second term 2017.

Fiona Thomson, as already mentioned by the Principal, returned to HTC after a long illness to teach, but she resigned at the end of 2016 to retire. Please pray for her and her husband, Roger, about their plans for the future.

Thomas Hodzi and a team of dedicated translators have completed the translation of our Old and New Testament Survey courses into Shona. During the December 2015 holidays these were taught and videoed at the college and it is hoped that the videos will go out into our rural areas to assist people there to learn more about the Bible. Please pray for that to happen.

Debarra Prentice finished teaching at HTC in April 2016. She then had to return to the US for home assignment and residential studies on her doctorate while waiting for the authorities in Zimbabwe to grant an extension of her TEP. Unfortunately, after a number of glitches and re-submissions, the TEP was denied on appeal and she was not allowed to come back to Zimbabwe & HTC as a teacher. Deb returned in March 2017 as a tourist to say good bye and discuss with her mission society about the possibility of going to South Africa or Swaziland. Please pray for her as she prepares for whatever the Lord has in store for her and as she grieves over the loss of many friends and a ministry she loved.



We rejoice with **Martin Ricquebourg** and his family over the birth of their second daughter. Please pray for him and **Ian Amess** who are

both working on further studies, Martin on a PhD and Ian on a Masters degree. Please pray for wisdom and endurance as they continue their studies and serve Christ at HTC and in their churches in their various capacities.

Congratulations also to **Caston Munhu**, who completed a degree in Library Sciences with Zimbabwe Open University in 2016. After **Anne Podmore's** retirement he is now our Librarian. The new Associate Librarian is **Felistas Mutonono**, who works for several hours every week to assist Caston in his duties. Please pray for both of them as they work together and continue to improve library services to our students, lecturers and approved readers.



HTC Planning Day & Curriculum Developments

On the 21st of March 2016 all HTC faculty, staff, some students and alumni as well as other stakeholders in the college such as pastors met together to chart the way forward for us.

It was a good meeting in beautiful surroundings and a number of good suggestions have come out of this and have since been implemented.

One of these was to introduce a **new programme** called **Foundational Certificate** in either **Biblical Studies** or **Christian Ministry**. Students for this programme will sit in the same classes as the diploma students but they are getting different assignments and quizzes and a shorter exam. The Foundational Certificate programme and qualification is an internal qualification by HTC, i.e. it is not accredited with the government. The purpose is to give students who do not have the time



or the requisite number of O-Levels to do some work and get some credit for the work they have done. Students who wish to change from the Foundational Certificate to the Diploma courses will have

to repeat the courses they did and/or do the assignments, quizzes and exams at diploma level and pay the difference in fees.

Moreover, we have partnered with South African Theological Seminary (SATS) in South Africa who have agreed to accept our students for a degree if they have passed our Advanced Certificate and Diploma courses. We do not teach the courses, but merely facilitate registration and offer our students a once-a-week study time with one of our lecturers to hold them accountable and give them an opportunity to transition more easily from face-to-face teaching to distance learning. Already a number of our students have taken up this offer, and we trust that this will go a long way to help anyone wanting or needing a degree until such a time when we will again be allowed to offer our own.

2016 Graduation



On the 26th of November 2016 we had our yearly graduation ceremony. There were 5 students who graduated with a Diploma in Theology, 3 with an Advanced Certificate in Theology, and 9 with a Certificate in Theology. For the first time we issued a Foundational Certificate in Theology to Jennifer Mudehwe, who in only 2 terms completed the 5 courses necessary for the qualification. The Bulawayo Extension Studies group came up for their graduation as well, having completed the required number of courses.

Also for the first time we issued a Certificate in Biblical Languages to Rudo Mutangadura, who completed 2 years of Biblical Hebrew language study. We also acknowledged the outstanding commitment to auditing classes to Shannon Burbidge, who over the years obtained 14 Certificates of Attendance and is still continuing to audit classes.

Please pray for our graduates that they may stay committed to the Lord & the ministry He has for them.

New Lecturers

Antony Dandato

Antony joined HTC in January 2016 as a new adjunct lecturer to help with some of our courses. Antony was born in Mutare but grew up in Rusitu in the Chimanimani district., where he also went to school and completed his A-levels, being sponsored by an SIM missionary, Miss Warrington. He came to know Christ at the age of 15 through the ministry of Pastor Manzanga, and immediately started to be involved in youth ministry in the area. He felt called to minister to God and went to Bible School at George Whitfield College in Capet Town, South Africa, where he obtained a BTh degree in 2008 and a postgraduate Honours degree in 2011. During 2009 and 2010 he received training as a student minister at the University of Western Australia, and he also ministered in churches there in a multicultural environment. Since he came back to Zimbabwe Antony has been involved in student ministry through the Fellowship of Christian Unions (FOCUS) in Zimbabwe at three campuses. Antony is also a pastor at Dzivarasekwa United Baptist Church. His passion is to spread the gospel and win people for Christ both in Zimbabwe and elsewhere. Antony is married to Vimbai; they do not have any children yet. Please pray for Antony as he continues to serve God in his various capacities as pastor, student minister and lecturer at HTC.



Sammie Mangwiro



Sammie joined HTC as a co-lecturer in Hermeneutics in January 2017. He has a BA in Bible & Theology from PACC (2005) and an MA in Ministerial Studies (Leadership Concentration) from Global University (2015). Sammie is the Pastor of Glad Tidings Fellowship Budiro Assembly, is married to Elizabeth and has two adult sons. He considers himself to be a scholar with a strong social and academic consciousness, and is deeply concerned about the state of the world, for which he has great compassion and idealism. He has a broad outlook on life which allows him to see the big picture, but he often shies away from dealing with minute details. He is attracted to people who can fit into larger plans of God, and consequently evaluates people on the basis of what they can do for the larger cause. He is a true egalitarian, rarely prejudiced and able to function well with people from different social backgrounds. He likes action and once he sets his mind on something will go forward and act accordingly. He radiates energy and enthusiasm around him wherever he goes. Please pray for him as he teaches Hermeneutics 2 (Bible Interpretation) next term, and that he may fulfill his God-given mission.

Student Profile



Annie Mubango is married and has three children. For a long time she was struggling to grow in her faith and with issues from her background in African Traditional Religion. She came to know the Lord in 1984 when a friend invited her to church. During the praise and worship she encountered Christ and committed her life to him. Although she was involved in church activities she still felt a desire to know and to learn more about God. That is why she came to HTC in 2012. She is very happy here and testifies that her coming to study at HTC has not only fulfilled her desire to know more about God and the Bible, but she can also see a transformation in her life as a Christian. She says: 'Before coming to HTC I was a carnal Christian. I did not know how to study the Bible; in fact, I did not enjoy reading it. I only looked for scriptures to

support my requests and petitions. Now I understand that the Bible is one story about God's love and our redemption. I now know how to study and apply it, and I enjoy reading it. I have grown in my spiritual walk with God, and my ministry as a preacher and intercessor has been transformed as well. I now know how to exposit scripture and preach the truth of God's word. I thank God for this opportunity he has offered me to be part of the HTC family.'

Since Annie wrote this she was awarded the Advanced Certificate in Theology and is now studying with SATS for her degree. Her previous work with HTC has proved useful and a good preparation for degree studies.





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**Training Christian Leaders
for Zimbabwe and Beyond**

If you would rather not receive our newsletter, or if you have queries or would like to register for a course, please contact our registrar, Silvia Linington: slinington@htc.ac.zw.

Please feel free to pass this letter on to anyone who might be interested.

If you would like to contribute to the needs of the college (either generally or for a particular project or to support our needy students), please contact Mrs Jane Mabika, our administrative secretary for details on how you can do so (jmabika@htc.ac.zw), or use these details:

**Our Ecocash Merchant Code is 51844
Our Standard Bank (Avondale Branch)
Account number is 8700208755800**

**We're on the Web:
htc.ac.zw**

Spread the word about HTC

So many of you have commented that you have grown in your faith, passion, & effectiveness in ministry as a result of your time at HTC. Please consider encouraging your friends at church to receive what you have benefitted from. We are particularly keen to see those who might otherwise shy away from training due to lack of time, funding, or pre-requisite O Levels to be encouraged to audit. Can you imagine how much more effective our small groups, Sunday Schools, Children's churches, Women's Ministries & Youth Groups might be if men and women involved in those ministries had the opportunity to sit in the class and soak up all the good training God has so graciously provided? Please help us strengthen the church in Zimbabwe by expanding our reach. We cannot do it without you!

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