



## Confessional Lutheran Institute

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### August–October 2021 Quarterly Report to the WELS One Africa Team

submitted by Dan Witte, 1 November 2021

The Confessional Lutheran Institute (CLI) is the OAT arm aiming to *equip, enhance, and enable* pastors within African CELC member churches. CLI divides into the three functions below.

#### 1) [Formal Continuing Education \(led by Dan Witte; he returned from furlough 9 Sep.\)](#)

##### Done:

- Teach African Church History BDiv course in LCCA-M while getting feedback on practical value of BDiv program from stakeholders and participants: Completed 24 September 2021.
- Teach African Church History BDiv course in LCMC while getting feedback on practical value of BDiv program from stakeholders and participants: Completed 14 October 2021, though pastors are still working on their final projects.
- Plans with Pastoral Studies Institute team at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 2022 BDiv and MTh courses.
  - Brad Wordell will teach Psalms at both BDiv and MTh level (at the same time) in late March and early April 2022 in Lusaka.
  - Al Sorum will teach a) Personal Pastoral Outreach and b) Developing a Congregational Mission Mindset in September or October 2022.
- Consultations with Medson Mitengo, Davison Mutentami, and Mark Anariko Onunda on practical value of BDiv.

##### Ongoing:

- Online MLC MTh class (“Families in Crisis”) in which Anthony Phiri is participating 23 August to 10 December.
- Plans with Pastoral Studies Institute team at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 2023–2025 BDiv courses. Courses not yet dated, instructors not yet contacted. Some courses could also be MTh courses:

*New Testament*

- 1 John (possibly a different letter)—Dave Bivens or Dan Witte

*Pastoral Theology*

- Solving Your Biggest Ministry Problem—Jon Bare & Mark Onunda; Howie also attends?

*Systematic Theology*

- Pentecostalism, Cherney
- Marriage/Family, John Schuetze and Anthony Phiri

*Historical Theology*

- Relevance of the Church Fathers Today, Rob Wendland

- Consultations with Richard Amayo (LCMC), Stanley Daile (LCCA-M), and Alfred Kumchulesi (LCCA-M) about possible entrance into MTh program.
- Dan Witte started an online course with Global Learning Partners on *Intentional Design* on October 25. He will do a little partnering with Missionary Peter Janke from East Asia. His course project will relate to upcoming teaching in Bishoftu, God willing.

**Planned:**

- Dan Witte will participate in a 6-hour online workshop 16–17 November through ICETE (International Consultation on Evangelical Theological Education): *Formal and Non-Formal Theological Education in Dialogue*.
- BDiv African Church History biography course, in person, at Lusaka Lutheran Seminary, in November (dates not yet set). 3 West African participants. Witte leads/manages.
- Witte travels to Bishoftu in early December (dates not yet firm) to lead learning about Paul and nine of his epistles, especially Romans.

2) **Professional Development (led/managed by John Holtz)**

- **Unfinished rock:** Review and report on LCCA-Z needs for PD/Ministry Counseling based on information coming from Phil Birner Field Relations rock.

*Details:*

Based on information coming from Phil Birner, the LCCA-ZS has been discussing this positively but still needs to officially give the green light for it to begin. This official communication may likely happen January 2022. Phil describes it this way: “JEH, you’re ‘waiting in the wings’ and ‘waiting to be utilized.’”

*Dan Witte got similar confirmation from Chairman Mutentami in Friday 29 October 2021 phone conversation. He mentioned Dialogue Education specifically.*

- **Finished rock:** Explain Professional Development to brothers in Cameroon and if desired set a date.

*Details:* In the October 2021 visit to Cameroon, John Holtz explained the PD program to 11 LCC brothers who met in Douala. They wholeheartedly accepted the program and asked for examples of courses. They requested that the first course be Dialogue Education. They gave other suggestions. After the first course is completed, they will prioritize their next suggestions. Likely date is January or February 2022.

- **Unfinished rock:** Reevaluate the Professional Development and Continuing Ed in Malawi and recommend future action.

- *Details:* OAT will address the strain on the relationship with LCCA-MS before PD or Continuing Education in Malawi is reevaluated and future action recommended. The suggested dates for an OAT - LCCA-MS Synodical Council meeting are 24 & 25 November 2021. To date, no confirmation from the LCCA-MS has been given.

### 3) Seminary Consultation (led/managed by John Roebke)

**Rock: Work with Lutheran Bible Institute Board of Control to create first draft of handbook**

- Met with Rev. Mjinga and Rev. Kumchulesi via phone on 14 Oct to review LCCA constitution
- Issue for East Africa Field Relations: who controls funding for Board of Control meetings?
- Issue for CLI Professional Development: request for training in administrative skills

### **Cameroon**

- We have begun a new class with courses in the Formula of Concord, Homiletics, Romans and Dogmatics (*Grace Abounds* ch 10–19);
- We are making plans to meet with OAT in Douala to discuss
  - the current Theological Education by Extension program
  - courses needed for the next cohorts
  - the possibility of a second teacher on campus
  - the work of Pastor Israel in BDiv
  - potential Professional Development course
  - delivery and a bit of training in use of Chromebooks for students.
- OAT has funded the production of a 2022 calendar featuring our students and WT program.
- OAT has tentatively approved a French course for students, to be taught this year only by a fellow student.
- OAT has tentatively approved a gift to begin a '*kantemba*' ('canteen') on campus so that students will not have to go to town for simple necessities of life.
- OAT has not yet received any reports of what is being done on campus this school year, but hoping to be more involved in the coming months.

### **Ethiopia**

- The current class of Ephrem Kebede, Cherinet Lemma, and Lam Nihal are now 1 year through the 2 year program, and things seem to be on track.
- Next OAT teachers are Witte and Mohlke in December. Wordell teaches in January.

### **Kenya**

- Greek online teaching (weekly, Roebke)
  - 3 students on track to finish the "OAT Foundations" course at end of November
  - have learned all 4 cases singular & plural, present & aorist indicative active and middle singular & plural and a little subjunctive — slow going with once-a-week studies, but Roebke pleased with progress
  - Next level Biblical Language Center (BLC) course cost \$70/student
- Waiting for student outcomes report before sending next \$3,200 for Kenyan evangelist training — Roebke hoping it will be to CLI by December

**Malawi (from Mark Panning)**

- We restarted LBI Year 1 with the same 18 students. We are hearing some continued rumblings from Zambia that they are interested to know which of the Zambian students are not likely to make it
- We purchased a new photocopier
- The Daile house is finished and prof is living in it
- The old student house will be slightly modified back to its original condition (geyser removed, inside doors locked up etc)
- Due to our continuing water issues, we are investigating how we can make the LBI borehole/water system more efficient.

**Nigeria**

- We have not received any reports from the campus since classes have started.
- Kroll and Witte are hoping to make a West Africa Field Relations and Sem Consultation visit to Doula, Cameroon in March 2022. Ideally, Kroll and Witte would meet with six men:
  - the 2 Uruk Uso (CtK) seminary instructors
  - the current and new LCC seminary instructors

**Zambia**

- We currently have 4 Zambian and 8 Malawian students in the current Seminary II class, which began studies in September.
- All of the students are doing well grade-wise, and they seem to get along very well too
- The wives are attending classes with the Dean of Students, A. Phiri.
- The student work program has almost completed rebuilding all the walls that were broken down during a sudden flood that hit the campus last November.
- The incidence of Covid is currently very low in Zambia, but precautions to maintain prevention are still in force.