



Confessional Lutheran Institute

February–April 2021 Quarterly Report to the WELS One Africa Team

submitted by Dan Witte, 2 May 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)

Done:

- *More Like Moses* research and writing course, round 2 (5 days a week, by WhatsApp, 8 February through 23 April) completed by 5 pastors in BDiv cohort—2 LCMC, 1 LCCA-M, 2 LCCA-Z—who had not completed the October–January *More Like Moses* course
- Mesue Israel, instructor at the LCC seminary in Kumba, Cameroon was added to the BDiv cohort. That cohort again numbers 20.
- Anthony Phiri, dean at the Lutheran Seminary in Lusaka, Zambia, and Witte completed an independent study course on biblical counseling.

Ongoing:

- Plans with Pastoral Studies Institute team at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary for 2022–2024 BDiv and MTh courses. No visiting instructors in 2021.
- Consultations with Stanley Daile, Alfred Kumchulesi, and Mecious Lubaba about possible entrance into MTh program, and consultations with David Kamwata and Chibikubantu Simweeleba about possible resumption of MTh program.
- MTh intermediate biblical Hebrew course (weekly OT sermon text study) with Rob Guenther (WELS pastor), Luke Lu (PSI student), Bright Pembeleka, and Nathan Schulte (WELS missionary). The course meets 5x a week asynchronously, with one weekly discussion over WhatsApp. It began 15 March and is to end 28 May.

Planned:

- BDiv African Church History biography course, in person, at Lusaka Lutheran Seminary, 18–23 May. 8 LCCA-Z pastor participants. Witte leads/manages.
- Other BDiv brothers to meet, tentatively, for the same course in Nairobi (CtK, LCC, LCMC) 24–28 August and in Lilongwe (LCCA-M) 31 August to September 4.
- Online MLC MTh class in which Anthony Phiri will participate 23 August to 10 December.

2) Professional Development (led by John Holtz)

Done:

- Three Professional Development courses on Dialogue Education (DE) in Malawi with pastors in the Central Region, Northern Region and Zomba/Phalombe/Machinga Region. Leaders: John Holtz and Dan Kroll.

Next Quarter Plans:

- Two more LCCA-M pastors groups learning together about DE in the next quarter: Blantyre and Thyolo. John Hartmann is planning to lead them with John Holtz.
- Reintroduction of Professional Development to LCCA-Z.
- A course on *Life after Death* to be taught in Malawi by John Roebke, with dates to be determined.

3) Seminary Consultation (led by John Roebke)

Cameroon

- Kroll and Witte completed initial student interviews over WhatsApp. Witte is working on setting up regularly scheduled WhatsApp calls with Pastor Israel and Facebook Messenger visits with Fon George, the Board for Working Training chairman.
- Kroll has been preparing an extra course on the Augsburg Confession and Apology.
- Roebke completed his quarterly rock to study manpower needs

Ethiopia

- Panning is coordinating a new program: Three-times-a-week for one month, to help Dr. Kebede, online instructors for the 4 students at Maor.
- First courses will be taught by John Roebke in May (*Formula of Concord*), Glen Thompson in June (*early/medieval church history*), and Forrest Bivens in July.

Kenya

- Al Sorum is teaching *Law and Gospel* to LCMC evangelists 1x/wk.
- Roebke is teaching *biblical Greek* 1x/wk.
- LCMC treasurer John Michoro is teaching a course on *congregational administration*.
- Mark Onunda is teaching *Homiletics*.

Malawi

- The LBI reopened 22 February 2021. Despite having lost so much time, the faculty feels that there is little option except to try to cover as much material as possible by the end of July. (Classes normally end in June). LBI year 2 will need to begin at the regular time.
- Panning will be on furlough July and August. During this time LBI will try to arrange for missionaries to teach some Small Catechism parts that Panning did not have time to teach.
- Based on the early results, the current intake is not strong academically. The faculty is concerned about the number of students who are struggling.

- A new LBI Board of Control has formed. It met for the first time in April, along with Holtz and Roebke.

Nigeria

- Kroll and Witte completed initial student interviews over WhatsApp. Witte is working on setting up regularly scheduled WhatsApp calls with each instructor and with a board member.
- Kroll has begun preparing a homiletics course for year 3, seminary.
- Roebke completed his quarterly rock to study manpower needs; see attached report.

Zambia

- We lost one seminary student for cause and the case was reported to the Board of Control; all remaining 12 students are progressing well and did not even take an Easter break.
- Dean Phiri continues to teach student wives on a daily basis; he reports that this is one of his best classes.
- Local LCCA-Z pastors are being invited to request student assistants to mentor, a process hopefully to be completed by June.
- Dean Phiri has visited all 4 student LCCA-Z vicars two times; they are facing significant challenges in their local support and one with a serious health issue.
- Vicar graduation for those men will be May 28 in a (Covid-restricted) service on campus organized by the faculty and Board of Control.