



NETACT MEMBERS' ANSWERS TO ONLINE THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION QUESTIONS

Compiled 31 Aug 2020

The seven questions:

- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop (**213 NetACT lecturers attended**)
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most?
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future!
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school.
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year?
- 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school?
- 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc.

Angola (Portuguese Region)

1. **Instituto Bíblico de Kaluquembe – Missão Urgente (IBK-MU)**, Pastor Dinis Marcolino Eurico - The President of Synodal Evangelical Church of Angola (IESA) +244 (923) 645-170; iesa.lubango@netangola.com; P.O. BOX 985, Lubango, Angola. Alternative: Oséas Chingui ochinguimatias@gmail.com

The Provost, Dr Dinis Eurico, reported that due to the bad signal they did not receive either the email notices of the OTE workshop in time and as such they are far behind in using IT in their Theological Education. Google translation of his report:

- 1 No one from the IBK Board participated in the debate on 27-29 July because of no IT.
2. As we do not participate, we cannot evaluate or appreciate the Workshop. But the initiative is good, at this stage of COVID-19
3. Yes. IBK-MU has used (somewhat) Online Theological Education (OTE) in this phase of COVID-19. Concretely it uses Whatsapp and E-Mail. Although with great difficulty because of the very low signal on the IBK-UM.
4. We do not have a good INTERNET signal at IBK-MU because we depend on UNITEL, the only mobile network in Angola that reaches all Municipalities. As for energy, we operate with two diesel electric generators, which use 500 liters of diesel / day x 135 kzs (+ - 0.23 U \$ D). Because of these high costs, the generator can only work 5 hours / day (6:00 pm - 10:00 pm) = 6:00 am - 10:00 am Pm. We are looking for who can help us with a solar panel project (clean energy)

5. The situation of COVID-19 in Angola is worrying. Today (28.August 2020) Angola has about 2000 cases and about 100 dead. Schools have closed since March of this year but the Government has not declared the 2020 academic year nullified so far. We at IBK-MU are taking advantage of doing Bible studies on the days that the Law allows, ie 3 days / week x 9 hours day = 18 hours per week. We select material. Our view is that the academic year at IBK-MU will extend until February 2021.

6. Our financial situation is difficult, because we feed on the offerings of the Church, whose offerings in services have dropped a lot. We had to fire 2 employees. This situation could be better if we receive the aid promised by the Barnabas Fund. We also launched an SOS to every church to help with Pentecost offerings.

7. The challenge is how to successfully carry out theological education in the time of COVID-19, because we do not know when the pandemic will pass and the situation is not the same in each country: (a) use the TiC's. If so how to solve the problem of INTERNET in areas like ours where the signal is low? (b) Stop and wait for the pandemic to pass? This will be a real setback.

2. **Instituto Superior de Teologia Evangelica no Lubango (ISTEL)**, Rev Alberto L.S. Alberto; otchakol@hotmail.com +244 2612 45540 (work) Cell +244946 284 285; ISTEL, CP 523, Barrio Commandante Cowboy, Lubango, ANGOLA.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop **5 out of 6 members of the Governing Board.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The evaluation was quite positive. We appreciate the testimony of the institutions that are already quite empowered in the field of online education. It helped us to understand more about its advantages. We appreciate the approaches that called for the need to preserve the balance between the face-to-face and the virtual dimension. We also appreciate some practical demonstrations.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **ISTEL has made use of OTE only in its Master's program. At this time, in particular, when teachers cannot travel to Angola, some classes will be taught online. In the under graduate program, classes were created through WhatsApp where teachers and students can interact, send or receive academic work. However, due to the relatively high cost of internet tariffs, not all students participated, with the number of students falling below 50%. As a result of the reflections made before and after the training, ISTEL held in June and July two training sessions for teachers on the preparation of classes through the Google class program. Participants had the opportunity to restructure their academic programs and fit it into the Google class matrix. This is the exercise that is underway and we agree that from now on the contents will have to be prepared considering the face-to-face and virtual methodology.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **ISTEL has installed on its campus a broadband system available to all teachers and students. The big challenge has to do with the costs of this service, which, as we have already said, is quite high. Another challenge is related to the quality of the internet signal which is quite low. The question of electricity is another challenge, since despite being a prepaid system it has had many cuts. However, to mitigate the situation, ISTEL has installed an alternative energy generator in its enclosure. Our library has about a dozen computers at the disposal of students and all those who consult it.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The most recent official data confirm 2,171 cases, of which 96 resulted in death, 818 recovered and 1257 active. From March to June 2020 Angola was in a state of emergency, going from July to a state of calamity. Community religious services and various public services**

were interrupted during the state of emergency. However, in the context of the state of calamity, with the exception of Luanda (capital city) and Kwanza Norte (city north of Luanda), community worship was authorized under various restrictions and strong biosafety measures. Regarding academic activity, it has been interrupted since March, at all levels, whether in public or private institutions. There is no prospect of reopening for this year and everything points to 2021.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation is complex. The present circumstances led the Angolan State to cancel all academic activities and consequently determined that no institution should charge tuition fees from students at this time. However, it also decreed that no school should dismiss its permanent employees, and should pay their wages normally. Another important source of revenue for ISTEEL has been the rental of its rooms to the Polytechnic Institute of Angola Evangelical Alliance . At this point, it is also closed and is unable to meet its financial obligations to ISTEEL. So, as you might imagine, humanly speaking, we are facing a kind of “impossible mission”. Despite all this, God's faithfulness has been revealed through the support of partner institutions such as Barnaba Fund - BF, Serving In Mission - SIM and Oversea Council Europa OCE. On the other hand, we had to redirect some amounts earmarked for various projects to the emergency fund which aims to address salaries, administrative, technical and maintenance issues. This is how we are surviving until now and we trust that God will be faithful until the end.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc **We just want to inform you that ISTEEL has started a radio program where we address various issues with the aim of orienting the church and awakening the community in general, in order to face the challenges of the moment with courage, hope and faith in God. Therefore, it is a one-hour weekly program, in which we invite teachers from ISTEEL to address, from the theological perspective, issues inherent to the challenges of the moment, and to answer the dilemmas that people, inside and outside the church, face. We count on your prayers, suggestions and any other type of support to maintain the program.**

3. **Instituto Teológico da Igreja Evangélica Reformada de Angola (ITIERA).** Pastor Campos Afonso, Tel. +244 936 045 183; Camposafonso-02@hotmail.com, Postal address: IERA, CP 2594-C Luanda, Angola.

1: Workshop of 27-29 // 2020, ITIERA Participated with 4 lecturers: **Rev, Campos Afonso-Director General, Rev. Paulo António-Academic Director, Rev. Cristóvão Vumaindo Bambi and Rev, José Paulo Bunga.**

2: Evaluation. **They appreciated the practical class part of: 1-How to create a video; 2-Online Education; 3-Competence and suitability of the Speakers in the presentation of the themes developed.**

3: Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **ANSWER: No! Because most students do not have adequate electronic equipment, that is, (Computers, Mobile Partner for the use of Internet as well as financial possibilities for acquiring Internet data for this type of classes. In future? ITIERA plan to use OTE Yes! We plan to mobilize sufficient financial resources to acquire equipment (Computers, Printers, Zap Vibra or Broadband to ensure better network of IT functioning to teachers and students now and in the future.**

4: Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support (describe the IT situation at your school). **Yes! But ITIERA does not have computers. Each teacher uses his laptop computer and his mobile phone to access the personal internet. Our thinking is to create an IT centre for OTE participants to start using.**

5: Covid-19 situation: Angola registered the first case of covid-19 in March 2020. For this reason the Presidency decreed a state of emergency for 45 days. Luanda is locked down ever and public Sunday services are suspended. Until 8 pm on 08/20/2020, Angola registered 2,015 cases of covid-19, resulting in 92 deaths, 698 recovered and 1225 assets. This situation continues to endanger the lives of ITIERA staff as well as Pastors here in Luanda since members are unable to congregate in the temples to mobilize financial resources to pay salaries to ITIERA staff and Pastors of the Congregations. The current situation of Covid-19 in Luanda and Kwanza Norte is extremely threatening given the increase in new cases that are emerging in Angola and worldwide. In this context, ITIERA closed its doors on March 23, 2020 and sent all students and teachers to their homes because of the confinement and social distance decreed by WHO Angolan Health authorities and the Angolan Government with a view to cutting Transmission and combat of the Covid-19 Pandemic. For the rest of the year, I must say the following: As God is the creator, the creator of everything and at the same time the owner of the story of what happens; we depend on your grace and intervention in raising through NeTAct, organizations and people of good faith to provide us with further assistance in addressing this situation.

6: Financial situation: ITIERA's financial situation up to August was considered normal because aid from the Barnabas Fund was received. But from September onwards, continuing the covid-19 crisis, we do not know how ITIERA will live, since the services that bring together members to contribute funds in favour of the School remain closed (This means: the food that comes from the provinces to Luanda to eat and to sell and thus have money, cannot enter the city because of the Lockdown. So they are without food and money –HJH). So we are asking for more help from NetAct to bring ITIERA to life.

R7: Needs: 1-Financial, 2-Teaching Material for OTE, IT Equipment, (Communication), Transportation, Administrative, English Course for ITIERA Teachers, Infrastructure and Agricultural Project for sustainable development at ITIERA. We propose to Prof, Hendriks to discuss the ITIERA situation at the NetAct Office board meeting on 08/28/2020 in addition to the last shots at the conference on 09/09/2020.

4. **Seminario Emanuel do Dôndi (SED)**, Principal's representative: Rev Coutinho Moma couthommoma@gmail.com +244 930 222 222. Postal address: SED, PO Box no 551, Huambo, Angola (Principal: Rev Adelaide Catanha acatanha@yahoo.com (244) 923473596.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop (0, 1 or 2?) **Attended by 3.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It was excellent. Thanks for providing Portuguese translation. The topics on methodology was greatly appreciated.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **WE NEVER USED OTE BEFORE. WE ARE GOING TO MEET TOMORROW WITH THE AIM OF DISCUSSING HOW SEMINARIO EMANUEL DO DONDI CAN REOPEN ITS TRAINING PROCESS ON LINE.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **NO, WE DON'T. WE HAVE A GENERATOR WHICH HELPS. HOWEVER, IT SPENDS A LOT OF OIL. INTERNET IS ANOTHER CONCERN. WE NEED TO MOVE FROM THE SEMINARY BUILDING TO THE CITY IN ORDER TO HAVE ACCESS TO INTERNET.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **ANGOLA IS FACING AN INCREASE IN NUMBER OF AFFECTED PEOPLE. FOR**

EXAMPLE THERE ARE 1906 INFECTED PERSONS. AMONG THEM 1190 ACTIVE, 89 DEATHS AND 628 RECOVERED.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **OUR FINANCIAL SITUATION IS NOT GOOD. WE THANK BARNABAS FUND SUPPORT FOR EMERGENCY SALARIES WHICH CAME ON A NEEDY TIME.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **WE'D LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE A WAY TO HAVE VISITING PROFESSORS THROUGH OTE METHOD IN THIS COVERED 19 ERA. STAY SAFE, DR ADELAIDE CATANHA, AND COUTINHO MOMA**

Democratic Republic of Congo (North-East Africa Region)

1. **Université Shalom de Bunia; Dr Georges Pirwoth Atido, President: Université Shalom de Bunia, The Democratic Republic of Congo, Email : george.atido@gmail.com, recteur@unishabunia.org Phone: +243 996 587 605, [Skype:george.pirwoth.atido](https://www.unishabunia.org) Web: <http://www.unishabunia.org>**
- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **8**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The workshop was very good. The IT team most liked the technical lessons such as how to create an online audio, video, text, google form and online exams, etc. while lecturers most liked the introduction to online theological education and debates on challenges in online theological education.**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **We have been making a distance learning education for those doing a master in leadership. All of them are working thus they come at the university for one week, interact with the facilitator and then go back to read and do assignments and continue to interact via emails. This program is done in conjunction with Development Association International (DAI) <https://daintl.org/about/#overview>. We have also just begun to use Zoom so that a professor who cannot travel due to Covid travel restrictions can teach our students gathered on our campus, almost a reverse OTE but very helpful at the moment.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **The University currently has a Ku-Band satellite connection of 10 Mb down and 2 Mb up. It is fairly reliable but inadequate for our needs and so is frequently unable to handle the traffic requirements. The LAN can also create problems and we have had satellite connection problems, which we hope are now behind us (we just changed the satellite provider and made major improvements to the ground antenna installation). Thankfully the University has trained IT staff who are gaining experience and work hard and some support from outside experts. As for the electricity, the city of Bunia had a transformer fail in March and so far (after 5 months) no replacement is available so we are dependent on our backup diesel generator. This is not a good long term situation as we do not run the generator 24/7. The Internet connection is set up with backup power of up to 2 hours (as that was the usual interruption from city power) but the backup is not able to supply power 24/7 for the internet connection. That would require a solar array and battery bank much larger than our current setup.**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The Congo was in COVID-19 pandemic lockdown from March 18 to July 21. It was lifted on August 10th, just as a**

larger number of cases are beginning to surface in the Bunia region for the first time. This is likely to lead to serious health issues in the near future for which we will need more prayers.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Due to the pandemic lockdown, student tuition payments stopped and the University survived financially by furloughing staff, cutting salaries and receiving some special gifts from overseas. Also, all ancillary operations, which normally provide 20% of operational income, ceased. This has been the most serious financial challenge the University has faced since the Congo war. Recently (August 10), classes resumed and it remains to be seen if all the students enrolled before the lockdown will be able to assume the financial obligations of paying their tuition as all of Congo is in financial crisis. There is a high risk of losing a significant number of students because they will not be able to pay tuition, and this will further impact the school's financial situation. Even if they are able to pay tuition, one year of tuition now needs to cover 16 months of fixed operating costs instead of the normal 12 months as the current academic year will run until December 14. Shalom University, which first opened as a Bible Institute in 1961, has survived through difficult situations before including war (1964-67, 1998-2004) and hyper-inflation (1988-95). With over 95% of the staff Congolese and strong church support, the vision of the school is propelled by the Congolese desire for spiritual and academic excellence. With an amazing Congolese commitment to keep the University viable through thick and thin, history indicates that the school will continue to be viable and will survive the current financial crisis. The school has been blessed with some financial support from overseas, but most of this support has been for capital projects rather than for operations. At present the University is looking for financial help to weather the crisis in operational expenses. But the long term sustainability of the school is not in question.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We need help with 4 months of salary costs. We need a second Ku-Band connection because of the number of computers connecting, needing both the hardware and the finances to pay for the second connection.**

Ethiopia (North-East Africa Region)

1. **Ethiopian Full Gospel Theological Seminary**, Pastor Gille Wakjira is the interim principal gille4missiodei@gmail.com Dean: Habtamu Solomon Kebede; +251 912 018 633; habtsol@yahoo.com; P.O. Box 8907, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Website: www.efgts.org

1: How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Answer: - No one was able to attend because of internet and political problems.**

2: What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **N.a.**

3: Have you been making use of Online theological education in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of online theological education? Tell us about online theological education at your school: present, past, and future! **Answer: - We have no online theological education. Even though, we have not yet start online theological education in the previously, we have future plan to start online education. First, we are working with Telecom office to upgrade the EFGTS internet (broadband) capacity. Then finalize our education materials and finally install online education program.**

4: Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Answer: - As it is mentioned above, we had Wi-Fi or broadband but low capacity and currently working on it to upgrade the capacity. Currently there is no electricity problem. We also planned to hire a IT man. We have been using one person as IT man and Librarian.**

5: Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Answer: - Covid-19 has affected the seminary seriously. Since Feb. 2020, it is totally closed and students and staff are locked down. We worked to help our second semester students to complete the quitted course through postal service. We also using Telegram app. To continue our teaching program for students those living where there is internet access.**

6: What is your financial situation now? Describe the sustainability of theological education at your school? **Answer: - The financial sources of EFGTS are student fees, small amount of support from the denomination office and other small incomes. Currently there is no student fee and other incomes except small support from national office. For the last six and seven months the seminary has been suffering but miraculously got small support from some organizations.**

7: Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and/or suggest that we discuss in a Zoom meeting scheduled for August 28 and the one on September 9th. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges, etc. **Answer: - The following are some points to bring to attention: We expect full accreditation from ACTEA for our BA program. We submitted our SER doc before the pandemic. We request at least beginning registration process for MA program in Practical Theology. We need support for sustainability projects. We have plan to purchase printing machines for multipurpose. We request grant support for current challenges of COVID -19 for staff and admin salary. Gille Wakjira, Pastor. EFGTS Interim Principal**

2. **Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST):** Rev. Misgana Mathewos (PhD), misganamathews@gmail.com , Director Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology (EGST), PO Box 24934 Code 1000, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Tel. Office: +251-113-692-696; Mobile +251-966-827-317; Website: www.egst.edu.et ; Skype: misgana.mathewos. Website: www.egst-addis.org

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Answer: 6**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Answer: All participants were appreciative of the workshop. They found it very illuminating and also challenging. Some specific points that come from individual participants are: wide range of issues and topics were covered. Besides addressing the significance and challenges of OTE, technical support on preparing online courses was instructive. Using Zoom and Telegram side-by-side worked well. It was quite participatory since everybody could express his/her questions and comments on Telegram. Presenters and presentations matched well. It was less costly compared to in-person or physical meetings. It was great to provide with online resources and presentations. Areas of improvement: so many themes and practical issues, so there was some kind of rushing to cover them up. Due to a large number of participants, it was not easy to address contextual or an individual institution's needs.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Answer: We developed a Google Classroom Platform and Telegram Group as response to Covid-19 pandemic to reach out our students. For a few ones who were not able to use these, emails have been used. A team assigned to study the Regional Campus Development has already proposed (this was before Covid-19 Pandemic) to explore the ways to start Blended Online Education. Currently, the faculty is dealing with this issue. So besides traditional classroom educational approach, the agenda of starting Online Education is under discussion.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Answer: We have a good internet connection but we encounter occasional interruption from the sole government run internet provider, EthioTelecom. Moreover, since internet is costly and inconstant, most of our students, particularly in the countryside, have difficulty to acquire it.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Answer: The school has been closed since the last week of March. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and other socio-political circumstances in the country, the semester was extended to August 07. Currently, the school is conducting an admission process for 2020/21 academic year, allowing the candidates to apply online and take entrance exams in small groups. We are expecting the government's response to the State of Emergency that would end next week. We have two options: divide the students into small numbers and conduct classrooms or continue Online Classes that we established or both.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Answer: Given that most students are unable to pay the tuition fees and almost all income generating schemes (that involve physical contacts) have been ceased since March, currently the school is in difficult financial situation. This has been reported to NETACT and the Barnabas Fund before.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Answer: 1. Developing the capacity of faculty and staff for OTE; trainings, follow-up and experience sharing should continue. 2. Ensuring the establishment of OTE administration (e.g. coordinator and IT personnel) and infrastructure (e.g. establishing studio with all the necessary equipment); 3. Develop internet capacity and internet accessibility for students; 4. Availing online resources and all-rounded printing machine. 5. Support in short and long-term financial sustainability**

Kenya (North-East Africa Region)

1. **Africa International University (AIU)**, Prof. Dr. James Nkansah-Obrempong, Professor of Theology & Ethics, Dean of NEGST, P.O.BOX 24686, 00502 KAREN, Nairobi, Kenya. Tel. +254 020 2603664/3; Mobile. +254 734419086; Email: james.nkansah@africainternational.edu , Website: www.aiu.ac.ke

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop **1 STAFF**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **THE WORKSOP WAS GOOD. INTRODUCING THE COURSE WITH A SHORT VIDEO WAS MOST HELPFUL. USING ZOOM AS A COMMUNICATIVE AND LEARNING TOOL WAS HELPFUL AS WELL.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN TEACHING STUDENTS ONLINE SINCE THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK USING MICROSOFT TEAMS. THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON WELL.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **THE UNIVERSITY HAS GOOD INTERNET ACCESS AND POWER SUPPORT. GOOD IT SUPPORT, THOUGH THERE IS A NEED TO UPGRADE SOME OF THE SERVERS. NEED SOME NEW GADGETS TO BE ABLE TO TEACH MORE EFFECTIVELY ONLINE—LAPTOTS WITH GOOD WEBCAMS, SOFTWARE THAT CAN ENHANCE QUANTITATIVE LESSONS, ETC**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **COVID-19 CASES IN THE COUNTRY IS INCREASING. THE GOVERNMENT OF KENYA HAVE CLOSED ALL INSTITUTIONS OF LEARNING IN MARCH AND THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT THE SITUATION IS GOING TO CHANGE ANYTIME SOON. ALL INSTRUCTIONS AT THE INSTITUTIONS MUST BE DONE ONLINE THIS COMING SEPTEMBER. THE SITUATION WOULD BE REVIEWED AT THE**

END OF THE YEAR. IF THINGS CHANGE, THEN UNIVERSITIES WILL OPEN THEIR CAMPUSES IN JANUARY.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **SINCE THE UNIVERSITY IS PRIVATE, IT DEPENDS HEAVILY ON STUDENT TUITION. WITH THE CLOSURE OF THE UNIVERSITY SINCE MARCH THIS HAS CREATED SOME FINANCIAL CRISIS FOR THE INSTITUTION. STAFF SALARIES HAVE NOT BEEN PAID FOR MANY MONTHS.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **NONE**

2 **Bishop Hannington Institute of Theology and Development studies** (Anglican Church) Principal's representative: vacant. Principal: Rev. Martin Olando Wesonga, OSA, molandozz@yahoo.com Cell: 0721 333769. Skype: olandom. P.O BOX 81150, 80100, Mombasa, Kenya. Alternative: Rev MNJAMA, Joseph Mwanyika josephmnjama@gmail.com+254 725630699.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Two attended.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It was good.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **We have used OTE to reach students. Through St. Paul's university, Limuru, we will have the first ever online classes for our students during the start of our academic year in September.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **We have good internet connection through Access Kenya service provider. We don't have electric support and if there is power outage we rendered offline. The IT situation in our college not yet good. We still do not have an IT person.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The school was closed on March 20. The government has put off in person classes till next year. This means that in person classes in our college open next year January 2021.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Due to students not paying school fees from March our financial situation is in dire states. With the church affected we see the students not paying the fees in the remaining months.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We suggest if we can get faculty to teach as a missionary or if we could get a mission group that can support one faculty salary. The online exams despite challenges worked well.**

3 **Carlile College**, Principal: Patience Wanzala principal@carlilecollege.ac.ke; P.O Box 72584, City Square, 00200, Nairobi, KENYA. Land line: 020-219 6940/1/2. Cell: +254-722-423397 / +254-733-228144 www.carlilecollege.ac.ke.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop. **I was the only one who managed to register and attend the workshop**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It was an eye opener that teaching and learning can happen online including having discussion groups for students. The whole aspect of creating materials, uploading them and interacting with students online was very interesting.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes so far we have managed to administer April exams online and we immediately went on with teaching and learning for the May/August semester which is almost coming to the end with online exams beginning on 24th August to 4th September 2020**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **This is our biggest challenge, the server we currently have cannot efficiently sustain the online platform and we always experience disconnection. We are in dire need of a better server that will be able to sustain the amount of connectivity we need to run online education effectively**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year. **In Kenya the situation seems to be at the climax as we have been witnessing high infection numbers every day ranging between 400-700. deaths have also increased especially to those COVID patients with other underlying sicknesses. The college was since then closed from any physical teaching and learning and we are currently doing online studies. For the rest of the year we are seeing the situation not coming to normal and online studies will be the way to go.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation of our college is at 45% in operation as we currently depend on the school fees the students are able to pay which is very minimal. We had to revise it to enable students pay something although it is not sustainable. We are not sure how we shall manage up to the end of the year and any amount of help will really be appreciated as it will motivate the staff to continue working and the college will also be able to pay for the internet.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We really need financial support for staff costs and internet. We also need to purchase a bigger server to support the online learning. We propose regular communication and interaction so that we can update you on how we are doing. We appreciate the continued support we have received from the network especially the training we received on online theological education. It is helping us to manage the situation**

- 4 **Daystar University**, Dr Josephine Munyai, josephinemunyai@daystar.ac.ke, +254724290688, PO Box 17, 90145, Nairobi, Kenya. <http://www.daystar.ac.ke/> +254 720 445 442. Alt Dr Fred Ngagwe Olwendo folwendo@daystar.ac.ke

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **4**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? **Very good, excellent for some.**

What did they appreciate most? **The trainings were greatly appreciated. The speakers were very good and a lot was learnt. Personally I learnt a lot and understood better the development of lesson plans.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? **Yes.** Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Daystar University did not close down in March but shifted to e-learning mode. This is coordinated by the ODEL Board comprising of the best e-learning champion from every School. The Department of Theology and Pastoral studies falls under the School of Arts and Humanities and its**

champion is our very own Dr. Martin Munyao whom I introduced to you some time back. mmunyao@daystar.ac.ke

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? **Yes.** Describe the IT situation at your school. **It is very good.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? **As said above, Daystar continued learning on line after the physical interaction closure in March. There were intial challenges which are being addressed as we become better and better by the day through various trainings.** How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **We are still online for the September semester.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? **It has been well. The university has been very supportive for online teaching. There are negotiated rates between the University and Telkom communications though some lecturers find airtime challenging. Salaries have not been reduced neither has there been any retrenchment for which we thank God. // However, incomes are falling and the University is strained financially. Our very dedicated colleagues who are part-time lecturers have gone without pay for several months and their families are badly strained. It has been a big struggle to raise money for even food and house rents among other basic needs. // After the directive to work from home, there were challenges as not every lecturer has a personal laptop. At times, the children have had to use the one available. Some lecturers have been teaching through the phone, especially supplementing e-learning with zoom and Microsoft teams. The university budget for laptops is strained and worsened by COVID-19. // For some describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? We see a great future in theological education. We have resumed admissions on all our programs. We are running Diploma in theology, Bachelor's program, MA and Mth. In the next few years, we dream to begin PhD programs.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **(Answered at 6)**

5 **International Leadership University (ILU), Prof Dr David Ngaruiya, dngaruiya@yahoo.com or dngaruiya@kenya.ilu.edu, tel +254 (714) 864 390, PO Box 60954-00200, Nairobi, Kenya. www.kenya.ilu.edu. ...**

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Two**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Response: extremely helpful. The networking and seeing a commitment to theological education was very encouraging. Also the sharing of resources.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Response: We intend to use OTE online as we start the September-December trimester.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Response: Yes we have both with ICT backup. However, there has been unstable power supply in some parts of the country.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Response: The curve is about to flatten in the country. Our school has been closed since March 2020. It will remain closed until possibly January 2021.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We have a financial deficit. Financial sustainability is a major challenge that we are continually addressing.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on our Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Response: We can discuss a case study of a school that has transitioned well in online learning. We can discuss quality assurance in online learning. There has been a need for student scholarships, more members of faculty and challenges of doing some exams online. Although demanding and inevitable, transition to online learning has worked though continually needing improvement.**

6 **Moffat Bible College (Moffat), Principal: Dr Paul Kamunge moffat@MoffatBibleCollege.org; Vice-Principal for Academic Affairs: Rev. Dr. Tom J. Obengo, academics@moffatbiblecollege.org or obengodrh@gmail.com +254 727 464 470. Moffat Bible College, P. O. Box 70, Kijabe 00220, Kenya**

Report from Moffat Bible College, by: Tom J. Obengo, Vice-Principal for Academic Affairs, obengodrh@gmail.com OR academics@moffatbiblecollege.org

- 1: How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **4**
- 2: What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **They appreciated the style and content of the workshop. // The most useful part for our team was the ways of developing and integrating video clips into the online learning. We had not been doing this before, so we have started preparing the video clips as we prepare for the coming September Term.**
- 3: Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes, we have been making use of OTE since April 2020. We have been using Google Classroom, and it has worked very well for our classes. We are able to lecture, teach, hold discussions, give quizzes, give exams, receive essays and term papers, assess assigned tasks, and award marks. We held our end-of-academic-year graduation on 11th July 2020, as earlier scheduled in the |College's calendar. Now we are preparing for the September 2020 term. The main challenge was faced by our students in areas where internet access and telephone connection is poor. We assisted them with data and also postponed deadlines for them.**
- 4: Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes, we have good and reliable internet connection at Moffat Bible College. We share a backup generator with CURE Hospital for the few times when electricity goes off.**
- 5: Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **As soon as the COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic, the Administration Council at Moffat met and decided that the College would be closed on 20th March 2020, which was one week earlier than scheduled. So we quickly brought the learning programmes to an end and examined students based on what had been accomplished. But while students went home, the Faculty met three times for training on the use of Google classroom. We had appointed Dr. Tim McAlhaney to lead the transformation of our teaching and learning from face-to-face to online mode. The faculty grasped the concepts well and prepared their teaching accordingly, as Dr. Kamunge (the Principal), Dr. McAlhaney (Faculty Responsible for overseeing online teaching and learning), and Dr. Obengo (Vice-Principal for Academic Affairs) supervised. We re-opened on 28th April for a new term, our final term in the annual academic calendar, and started online classes on 29th April. For the rest of the year, we will continue with online classes, especially since the Kenya government has already decided that colleges may only resume on-campus learning in January 2021.**
- 6: What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation at Moffat Bible College is declining quite fast. The fees were set by the Board of Governors at fairly low rates to**

make it affordable for churches in resource-scarce areas. The difference has always been made up by income from the Moffat Guest House. Since COVID-19 became a pandemic, the guest house receives no guests, so the College income base has been swept away. We made it through the April-July term because we received timely support from Barnabas Fund. During this term, if no partners come in the way Barnabas Fund did, we will depend entirely on student fees, which have also been negatively impacted because churches are receiving very little and still owe much of last term's fees. We have already reduced all faculty and support staff salaries by as much as 40%, and we fear we may reduce it further.

7: Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **A few items of concern: Moffat Bible College has never faced the kind of crisis it is facing now with regard to finances; at least not in the last 25 years. Being a college solely focused on theological training, we need advice and/or training on how to ensure that any future threats do not actually affect faculty and staff families. Needs: Salaries for faculty and support staff. Their families are going to experience painful changes, possibly loss of income completely. Challenges: Lack of internet access for some students who either cannot afford internet fees or data, or do not have suitable computers or smartphones. Also lack of laptops or computers for three faculty. Proposals: We need a workshop on how to cushion theological institutions in resource-scarce regions from devastating and unforeseen pandemics. What worked well: Governments alerted citizens and organisations, including institutions, early enough. Information sharing has been great. Some Christian organisations, like Barnabas Fund, quickly sought ways of supporting institutions in a timely fashion.**

7 **Orthodox Theological Seminary.** Father Evangelos Thiani, Deputy Dean and Lecturer, +254 721 443 044, frevangelost@yahoo.com; PO Box 46119 00100, Nairobi, Kenya, http://orthodoxwiki.org/Orthodox_Patriarchal_Ecclesiastical_School_of_Makarios_III

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **1**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It was an excellent and much needed endeavour. The practicability of the program.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes. We used it for the second semester of 2019/2020 and intend to use it for the first semester of 2020/2021**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **We have many limitations in terms of computers and internet for the library, staff and student.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The school is been CPL,SOFED since March 2020. The situation is expected to resume some normalcy between January and April 2021.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We were not doing well even before the pandemic and are doing terribly at the moment. We rely on foreign funding to run our affairs and now that everyone is been hit by the pandemic we have very limited options.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. -

8 **Pan Africa Christian University.** Head School of Theology: Dr Nathan Chiroma, nathan.chiroma@pacuniversity.ac.ke, Tel +254 20 529 3034; Cell +254755852477 **P.O Box 56875 – 00200, Nairobi, Kenya.**

- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **3 of us attended from PAC University.**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **We all felt the workshop was very helpful, we appreciated the networking part more**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **We are currently using the Learning Management System and we don't intend to change for now.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes we do have reliable internet connection and electricity support, we have a team of 3 staff in the ICT department.**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The school was closed since March, and we will remain closed for the rest of year hoping to open sometimes in January next year. We are doing some few units online to those who could afford. The COVID situation have left all our international students stranded and we are trying our best help them with supplies of food and medical equipment.**
- 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **At the moment our financial situation is not looking good, some staff members had to take unpaid leave, while all staff had to take pay cut. If schools open in January we are hoping our financial situation may begin to change, and we may get back to normal sometimes in the middle of the year. Being the only institution in East Africa offering Children and Youth Ministry programs, we are foreseeing a sustainable future of theological education**
- 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Our major area of need is support for our international students and staff development.**

9 **Reformed Institute for Theological Training (RITT)**, Rev Silas S. Wanjala, RITT Principal, siboecilas@gmail.com, rcea.ritt@gmail.com ,+254 . PO Box 406, 30100 Eldoret, Kenya.

- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop : **5**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? - **It was very good and informative.** What did they appreciate most? - **The practicability of the training and materials...the encouragement and preparation for transition into online**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? – **NO** - If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? - **YES** - Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! - **We have not been using OTE at RITT, but with the prevailing situation brought about by COVID 19, lessons and interventions acquired from Net Act, we are at an advanced stage of implementing OTE.- In the future we want to be competently doing OTE.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? - **The internet and electricity is not reliable.** Describe the IT situation at your school. - **We do not have adequate computers or an IT person at RITT. Everything is very basic, a few computers and only basic knowledge on how to operate them.**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Covid – 19 has impacted RITT hard. Schools have been closed since mid-march. This stopped learning/teaching. We are basically grounded.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We are financially broke and unstable because the there is no income coming in through the payment of fees. The sustainability depended on fee payment and continuation of school.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc.

10 **Scott Christian University (CSU)**, Prof Dr Mumo Kisau, Vice Chancellor, +254 72 269 6026, wakisau@gmail.com, Box 49 -90100 Machakos Kenya.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **3**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **a. Learning from others on how to use online resources for theological education; b. Learning from the speakers on the ways to overcome online education challenges; c. Learning on how develop outlines for online theological education.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **a. Yes, we have taught several units online; b. Contacted online open book exams successfully; c. Now registering new students for OTE; d. This is most exciting moment as we are able to reach students remotely.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **a. Yes, and in addition one of the mobile telephony providers has given teachers free internet bundles (not really free since our ISP has paid for it); b. Students have also been provided with cheap bundles by one of the providers.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **a. The school was closed since March 2020 by the directive of the government. b. This has become a huge disruption. c. The school has prepared for face to face opening anytime the government allows that to happen. We have even invited a public health officer to certify our preparedness.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **a. The financial situation is very dire, with no tuition from the students, one wonders what to do next. b. We have tried to reach out to the church to help, but the church is negatively impacted since the face to face opening has just been allowed and the numbers are limited to 100 people. c. Going forward, it is only by God's grace that we rely on for continuity. d. Most theological students who are pastors experience difficulty in tuition fees payment due to reduced disposable income as a result COVID 19 mitigation guidelines to close churches. e. Following suspension of face to face learning, the theological learning is being done virtually to ensure financial sustainability.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **a. NetACT might consider appealing to donors to support theological education recovery even within the Covid-19 pandemic; b. Hold more webinars that might not only be a source of resources but also encouragement at this time.**

11 **St. Paul's University (SPU)**, Rev Rowland van Es; vanesjr@spu.ac.ke +254 736 889 167, St Paul's University, Private Bag 00217, Limuru, Kenya.

Answers for SPU in bold as far as I know them (Rowland van Es). 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **None, because we were having many trainings of our own at the time we shifted all teaching online here.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **NA**

- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **In the past we already had Distance learning or E-learning through the SPU website for students. In the present we added Virtual learning for our students that had to leave campus all on website. In the future we will have more blended learning and enhanced features for our Virtual learning.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes, at the 4 SPU campuses, less reliable internet at the 9 Diploma colleges**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **In person learning closed 20 March and shifted to virtual learning including final exams. May-August semester and Sept-Dec semester also virtual. Plan to re-open campus and in-person learning in Jan at this point, depending on Covid situation in 2021.**
- 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **St Paul's University is surviving as 4,000 out of 6,000 continued to study on-line. But not all have paid the full amount and the government only pays a portion of the fees we usually charge.**
- 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **For those of us who did not attend the workshop is there a summary we can access? Also, we may need more discussion on how to do practical and pastoral training virtually: counselling and preaching and other areas of spiritual formation etc. which are less content oriented, more about process.**

Lesotho (Southern Region)

- 1 **Morija Theological Seminary (MTS).** The Director, Rev. B. Mojaki Kometsi, bmkom@gmail.com; alternative: mtslecsa@gmail.com Tel: +266-22360214 (Office); Cell: +266-58419039 / +266-66300018. Post address: PO Box 32, Morija 190, Lesotho (Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa); Alternative: Rev. Zacharias Ramonotsi, zramonotsi@yahoo.com
- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July, Workshop? **Two members (Rev ZK Ramonotši and Rev MP Moshoeshoe attended the workshop)**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Their observation was that the workshop was well organized and achieved its objectives. They appreciated the training as enhancing their personal and professional skills on online theological education**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, does your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **MTS as an institution has not yet started using OTE. Only one faculty member (Rev Moshoeshoe) began a trial without much success. In that trial, Google Meet App was used. It was done with a group of three students of which only one managed to respond while others could not because one did not possess a smart phone, while another had a data issue. The Seminary intends to begin OTE this academic year (beginning September). Our library is already making available to students online open-access books and journals.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **MTS has a somewhat reliable internet connection because it has limited range and capacity. It was initially meant only for office use not for OTE.**

There is generally sustainable electricity supply. Not all our students have reliable smart phones for OTE. The Seminary does not have an IT officer or reliable IT support.

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The Covid-19 situation in our context is that the country moves from 4 to 3 of 5 levels beginning Monday 24 August 2020 even though infection rate are souring daily. The authorities declared that it is due to economic stress that the restrictions are loosened. This means that there will be a high infection rate in the near future. The Seminary closed in March to April due to general lockdown. However, it is possible to open as tertiary education institutions are allowed to open with conditions.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation at the moment is dire. The proprietor (LECSA) has indicated a desire to close down the Seminary due to financial constraints and uncertainties as worship remains one suspended services. Seminary Board and management have since begun attempts to strengthen sustainability through self-help projects including poultry and piggery projects though at a very small scale. The detailed summary of the seminary needs are to be found in the previously submitted financial support request¹.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Funding of theological education during covid-19. A design of a post-graduate certificate/diploma programme on Mission and Epidemiology to prepare Christian ministers and workers to efficiently deal with theological and ministerial issues in the midst of pandemics.**

Malawi (Central East Africa Region)

1. **Africa Bible College (ABC)**, Dr Maggie Madimbo, VC, mmadimbo@africanbiblecolleges.net or sadyamaggie@gmail.com Cell: 265 888 211 019; C/o African Bible College, PO Box 1028, Lilongwe, MALAWI; Alt Rev Bentry Mhango bentrymhango@yahoo.com

Answers by Dr Madimbo:

- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Four staff members attended the Zoom workshop.**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **the information especially how they can use cheap ways to do Zoom and other meetings.**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Currently our students are on holiday but when they return we plan to use OTE.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes we do have a reliable internet**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **In Malawi all schools and colleges closed on 23rd March 2020. On Saturday 15 August the president indicated that schools might open in September if they follow the guidelines for reopening of Colleges and Universities in Malawi.**

¹ nicom@absamail.co.za; 'Hendriks, HJ, Prof [hjh@sun.ac.za]' <HJH@sun.ac.za>; 'Morija Theological' <mtslecsa@gmail.com> (May 1, 2020, 3:09 PM)

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Currently we are running out of resources if we do not reopen next month we will be completely broke.**

Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss it at our Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **For us the main challenge is to help our students to have laptops and or Smart phones**

2. **Chancellor College**, Dr. Jones Mawerenga, Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies jmawerenga@cc.ac.mw; Rev. Dr Joseph Thipa, , josephthipa463@gmail.com +265995250704, Chancellor College, P.O. Box 280, Zomba, www.cc.ac.mw

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **2**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **They expressed their satisfaction with the way the workshop was conducted and explored the possibilities of online learning at Chancellor College.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **In a very limited way, we have been using OTE to mainly support our traditional Face-Face teaching of our TRS courses. The university announced that it will soon open but we will be using the online platforms for delivering our lessons to students. So, from 17-21 August an online training via zoom was conducted for lecturers.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **We do have a very reliable internet connection and electricity supply almost 24 hours daily. If the ESCOM power goes out, we use the College generator so there is power throughout. We also have a good ICT resources; but, the only problem at the moment is that at least 10 members of staff do not have up to date lap tops that can function well with online learning. We have outdated desktop computers that are failing to catch up with the modern internet technologies.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **COVID 19 has affected us greatly, starting with the closure of all schools in March 2020. Although no official lockdown has been implemented, the situation is very dire affecting many Malawians who live on hand to mouth existence. Our students who are at home during this time are also experiencing some challenges of just staying home without engaging with academics. However, the government has announced that due to the stability of COVID 19 cases, schools will open in first week of September 2020 and they are working on logistics to accomplish that.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation is not stable and the Theology and Religious Studies department is failing to implement some of its programs. However, as members of staff we are getting our salaries because of government subvention support for the University.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **As earlier pointed out, we do not have lap tops in the whole department. This is a big limitation for us because even the desktop computers which we have are not reliable, particularly in using for online learning.**

3. **Josophat Mwale Theological Institution (JMTI)**, Principal: Rev. Dr. L. C. H. Katundu, +265 888 54 61 79, leonard.katundu@gmail.com; PO Box 136, Lilongwe, MALAWI.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **I (Leonard Katundo) attended much of the workshop while one member of staff partially attended the workshop.**

2. What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **I appreciated all the three areas of the workshop such as the introduction to online theological training; creating online theological training; and delivering online theological training. Another most important thing I learned is to have access to online libraries this time when we are migrating to online education due to COVID 19 effects.**

3. Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **The workshop was timely for us. When COVID 19 was declared a pandemic worldwide and in Malawi a national disaster, the government closed schools in March 2020 forthwith. It became imperative for most private universities to introduce online education for the survival of members of staff's livelihood. Since then to date we have been implementing online education. We must admit that our performance was a kind of hit and run situation. Of course, we had some experts who tried to orient us to this new norm. However we lacked an in depth training like the one organized by NetACT. Hence this underscores the importance of the workshop in our case. I can therefore say without doubt that OTE will be made use whether COVID 19 subsides or not. It will certainly be used under ODL programs.**

4. Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **As a matter of fact we do not have reliable internet because it is still expensive compared with other regional countries around us. Another challenge is that of electricity which very often we experience load shedding. The institutional IT is fairly ok.**

5. Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **This question has been covered in question 3 as a background to the same. But suffice to say that our College did not close. Our plan is to open school on 31st August, 2020 using OTE if COVID 19 continues to be a threat to Malawi.**

6. What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Our financial situation is very bad more especially our pastoral training which depend on church subvention. And our Theological education is not sustainable because we largely depend on handouts other than generating our own income. Our plan is to put up a structure like a hostel as an income generating activity.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Let me appreciate initiatives done by NetACT in contacting funding partners. I was however disappointed to note that some of us fail short of the support when we were in dire need of it. Unfortunately no adequate explanation was given so that we could have improved our presentation of the proposal. Secondly, we are expecting that more workshops of this nature will continue so that my colleagues who failed to attend the first one could do so.**

4. **University of Livingstonia**, Institutional e-mail address: ulct2003@gmail.com, PO Box 112, Mzuzu, Malawi. Temporary contact person: Mr Nkhonjera Lapani nlapani@yahoo.co.uk

1. **Three (3) members of staff from Our Intitution attended and participated in the July Online workshop.**

2. **The general evaluation can rated good. This is because of the members availability on internet which sometimes was poor. However, members appreciated the initiative NetAct took to connect members throughout the workshop.**

3. The use of OTE for reaching students has been made, though simply by emails and texts. Still working on the on advancing the approach.

4. Of course we have a reliable and good internet, but challenged by our economic situation to remain connected. Electricity is stable and we have reliable IT personnel.

5. The effects of the Covid 19 is so severe for our institution and institutions across Malawi. All schools were closed on 23rd March this year, and since our operation relies heavily on fees collection, has worsened the situation. Members of staff have not been paid for almost 5 months now. The rest of the year may be expected in great dismay as hope to reopen schools is not showing up.

6. Question 6 and 7 can be understood in respect to 5

5. **Zomba Theological College**; Principal: Rev Dr Takuze S. Chitsulo; tbchitsulo@yahoo.com , P.O. Box 130, Zomba, Malawi. Cell: +265 888 311 000 or +265 997 296 058; Tel: +265 1 524 419 Alt Rev Anderson JM Mnthambala andersonmnthambala@gmail.com

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop 5 Teaching Staff attended online workshop.

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It was good to learn more on how we can run online theological education. We appreciated most the fact that facilitators were able to take us step by step in providing us with skills and know how required in providing online education.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **No. However, due to the coming of COVID 19, ZTC is planning to introduce OTE. Currently, we are working on modalities of making sure that the program is in place.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Currently, we do not have reliable internet connection. But we have electricity support available. In 2019, the College installed solar power system as backup. In terms of IT situation, I need to mention that we do not have enough computers for our students. Our computer lab has 10 computers running to cater for 83 full-time students and 87 distance learning students.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Malawi registered the first case of COVID-19 on 3rd April 2020 in Blantyre, which is in the Southern Region. Currently, the country has registered 5419 COVID-19 cases, of which 169 have passed away and 3059 have recovered. The President of the Republic of Malawi declared Malawi a Disaster Area on Friday, 20th March 2020 and ordered closure of schools from 23rd March 2020 as part of precautionary measures to guard against COVID-19. Zomba Theological College was closed on 23rd March 2020 and the situation is unpredictable; we do not know when schools will be reopened considering that the numbers of new cases are increasing on daily bases. Malawi Government is considering to reopen schools. As to when, it is unpredictable. Currently, a special committee is looking at modalities to ensure safe environment for learners and teachers when schools reopen. Despite these developments, the situation will take time to heal from the effects of COVID 19. This entails that students will continue to struggle to meet their academic and living expenses.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The COVID 19 situation has worsened and affected the already struggling financial position of the College. The uncertainty and abrupt closure of the College created financial insolvent as 75% of the income is generated from tuition fees. The situation has gravely affected Zomba Theological College in the following ways: 6.1 The Cash inflow: The College generates its income from students' fees,**

property rentals, support from Synods and international partners. The pandemic and closure of schools and banning of church gatherings has really affected the College's income. 6.2 The College struggles to pay staff salaries and other administrative operating activities to the effect that the teaching staff and all support staff have not received their salaries since June. 6.3 The College struggles to take care of some ministerial students who are staying on campus with their families, who cannot go home due COVID 19 migration rules. 6.4 The College cannot facilitate e-learning programs due to inadequate financial resources to maintain internet facility costs and advanced Information Communications Technology equipment.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Zomba Theological College will need both financial and technical support as the College endeavours to introduce OTE. The College believes that for OTE to succeed, there is a need to improve its IT situation, which include reliable internet connection and enough computers for both learners and teaching staff. Not many of our students have access to IT equipment such as laptops and smartphones that can facilitate OTE.**

Mozambique ((Central East Africa Region)

1. **HEFSIBA Mozambique**, Rev Samuel Matunda (Vice Principal); srmatunda@gmail.com; Tel: +258825800178; Post Address: Box 312, Dedza, Malawi. Alternative address: hefsibaisc94@gmail.com Phone; +258 82 580 0178. Alt Miguel Nobre, nobrevila@gmail.com 258 82 751 7700.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: Nil.

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **N.a.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **In the far past, Hefsiba did not use OTE; in the recent past, from March 2020, and with forced closure of schools due to Covid-19, there was attempt to use OTE; the experience brought several challenges, namely: first of all, the lecturers are not familiar with its use; likewise, in the second place, students would also need a workshop for the use of OTE; finally, our facilities would need a special upgrade in terms of computers and related resources.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **We have internet connection at Hefsiba; sometimes it is very good; other times the connection bounces. In June 2020, the final exams took place successfully, via on-line, provided the students were off campus. In terms of IT, the situation is not good; the number of computers is less than the number of students. We have 8 very old computers to serve 25 students.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The schools are closed as from 23 March 2020; for the rest of the year, this situation is likely to remain where learning will continue on-line.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **At the present moment, our financial situation is not good at all; for instance, our students did not receive any subsistence fee for three months; as a result, they were sent off campus so that their sending synods would assist them.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **At Hefsiba, we encourage NetACT's initiative to bring OTE approach for our institutions.**

Namibia (Southern Region)

1. **Namibia Evangelical Theological Seminary (NETS)**, Acting Principal: Dr De Wet Strauss, principal@nets.edu.na or dewet@afol.com.na Tel: +264 81 242 3867+264 61 22 2885 NETS, PO Box 158, Windhoek, NAMIBIA. <http://www.nets.edu.na/> Alt JD Oudshoorn joramoudshoorn@gmail.com; PRO officer: Theo Klein, +264 811241747 tgklein@nets.edu.na.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: **Unfortunately, we had difficulty with the registration process and missed the Thursday, 23 August deadline.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **N.a.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past, and future! **NETS is not formally making use of OTE but was forced by the Covid-19 regulations to use video conferencing and WhatsApp to emulate a face to face classroom in distance mode. NETS is only geared for face to face classes being offered in a distance mode (NQF lvl 3 – Certificate in Christian Ministry). NETS is determined to develop an on-line mode of delivery.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **NETS is having a fibre-based, symmetrical, 10 Mb/s internet connection. Electricity supply to the institution is not backed-up in any way, nor any battery or UPS for the server. Onsite server is in the form of a high specification PC. Three hotspots serves to provide access to the central server and the internet.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **NETS is affected in a way that it may not conduct any face to face classes. The only mode of delivery for its entire Residential Program is adversely affected by the Covid-19 restrictions.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **NETS is operating under a highly subsidised model and is keeping class/course fees as low as possible to allow broader participation. Five of our lecturers are foreign missionaries at no cost to NETS. We are highly dependant on donations and alternate income from accommodation of its on-campus hostels and flats.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **NETS is faced with limited financial resources and no experience in the field of online learning, which is limiting the execution of projects to develop its online capability. The need for alternate channels of learning is recognised as a must.**

Nigeria (West Africa Region)

1. **Apokalupsis Theological College, Kafanchan, Nigeria;** Apostle Dr Emmanuel Nuhu Kure; emmanuelkure@yahoo.com or throneroomhqkaf@yahoo.com Address: 2 Zauru Hills, P. O. Box 266, Kafanchan, 801101, Kaduna State, Nigeria. Phone: +2348143071547; **Email:** apokalupsiscollege@gmail.com (35 students).//Alternative: Apostle Gaiya David Kari, Acting. Provost, Apokalupsis Theological College apokalupsiscollege@gmail.com

1 **None** of our staff attended the 27th – 29th July, 2020 workshop.

2 **Not applicable, since no staff participated and therefore, no opportunity for evaluation. However, we appreciate the knowledge that it is possible to connect with our students online through OTE.**

3 **We have not been using OTE in the school whether past or present, however, the school had improvised by the use of WhatsApp platform.**

4 **We do not have a good and reliable internet connection, though we rely on the use of MIFI for the WhatsApp lectures which is for a limited number of students and staff at a time. There are plans to have a good and reliable internet connection. The electricity support to the institution is good with a brief and intermittent power outages that last for a short time of 30 minutes to 1 hour. IT situation of the school is in preparation with available IT room, which needs furniture and other internet installations.**

5 **Since the advent of Covid-19 pandemic and its attendant lockdown from March, 2020 in Kaduna State, Nigeria, the school activities were shut down – with the school shutdown and until last month July, 2020 when the staff began to work in the office. The lockdown is not yet lifted up in the state and in addition to that armed bandits' attacks in Southern Kaduna affects Kafanchan town and its environ, as a result of the situation a 24hours curfew was imposed on the town, which further worsen the situation in Kafanchan and further complicated the dissemination of theological education from Kafanchan.**

6 **The effects of Covid-19 pandemic lockdown have affected every aspect of life. The school is in a financial crunch due to the fact that all sources of income to the school, through school fess, donations and so on, has dwindled, this further affected the financial sustainability of theological education in the school.**

7 **Due to the absence of good and reliable internet the school had to improvise the use of a WhatsApp platform for the continuation of theological education to our students. This platform is limited when it comes to Zoom meetings, and therefore the school was not able to attend any Zoom meeting by NetACT.**

Therefore, the school needs IT and or good and reliable internet facility. Lack of this facility poses a great challenge to the progress and development of theological education in the school. So on the interim, we proposed the use of WhatsApp platform, while we await the provision of IT facility. Online Theological Education has worked well for some institutions as we have seen during the pandemic, but some courses peculiar to our institution may not be effective in delivering lectures for the practical nature of the courses, such as Prophetic Evangelism, Prophetic Tradition, Practical Prophetic Prayer and Warfare.

2. **Baptist Theological Seminary, Kaduna;** Dr. Moses Audi (President). His contact email is btskpresident@gmail.com Box 94, Kawo, Kaduna, Kaduna State, NIGERIA (60 staff 465 students; ACTEA accredited).

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Eleven participants, nine of which fully participated.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **All participants saw the need to develop a sustainable online study and supplement to the regular face to face programs we have. They appreciated every part of the program and**

it introduced a new way of looking at theological education. They all express the need to have strong follow-up so we will not lose the dividends gained from the workshop. They all see it as possible though there are attendant challenges.

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **We have not been using OTE with our students. Before the pandemic, one or two of our faculty employs OTE with their PG students especially when not able to meet them in class due to official engagements. During the Corona lockdown, about four faculty members used OTE to cover some of the work with the PG classes. The undergraduate classes were completely out of touch for the classes. Before COVID 19 BTKS has had a website but not fully operational. For the past three years or so we have been making effort to have a functional portal and website. The challenges noted below hindered the actualization of this goal. With the gains from the workshop, there is a renewed effort towards making OTE to function. A meeting is scheduled a few hours from now to discuss this proposal for the future relating to OTE.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **There are alternative sources for good and reliable internet connectivity for the city where our school is located. While the electricity supply from the national grid is fairly good in the city, there is need for reliable alternative source of power that can supply the entire campus, which we do not have. Also, a larger percentage of our students come from places where there are very limited access or total lack of both internet connectivity and electricity. We do have an introductory course on IT for the students, but is not enough to enable the students to take advantage of the OTE. Also, there are challenges relating to capacity building and facilities which is elaborated below.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The COVID 19 caused a lot of challenge for us at BTKS. Our State was on total lockdown from the March 20th 2020 to July 6th 2020. With special request to the State Government, we re-opened for our final year classes to return without members of their families to complete their semester. This was granted to us. They have completed their semester and the returning students are back now to also round up their classes for the second semester. We are not able to spend full day of classes yet. We are hoping that by the second week in September, we can start the first semester which will be about 5 weeks late opening. We have lost our summer classes for the year and hope to capture them in January of 2021. We will be able to even out the summer classes in January 2022. We are hoping that we can improve OTE to consider catching up earlier than the set dates above. If we are able to get the OTE running, it will be a good test of it running with the summer classes.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **At the moment, we have huge deficit on the operations of the school financially. We have been able to manage net pay with lots of outstanding needs. We have had to cut down on the marginal subscription of data for our library just to enable students access the catalogue and some of our library resources. This is grossly inadequate for any institutional operation of OTE. Most of the faculty members who still hold some classes online take full responsibility of the costs. It will take us a long time to catch up because some of those who come to our aid are also affected by the pandemic. Our situation is compounded also because we are in the midst**

of effort at moving the institution to a safer region of the city from the volatile part of the city since the school was affected by religious crisis in the year 2000.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We were not able to do much during the pandemic due to the challenges. Crucial challenging facing us include: capacity building for faculty and students; human resources to administer and operate the structures for OTE; The financial challenge to procure the required hardware, services, and maintenance of the workforce; and, providing reliable power supply. The proposals we are considering include: finding ways to fund the project of OTE, get started with one IT person with capacity to administer OTE and build the capacity for the faculty and students.**

3. **ECWA Theological Seminary Igbaja (ETSI).** Provost: Rev Dr John Olu Adetoyese, e-mail: ecwasembaja@yahoo.com, Tel +2349038284130; cell +2348038304410; P.O. Box 20, Igbaja, Kwara State, Nigeria.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Twelve (12).**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The seminar was a wrap up and a worthwhile expanded knowledge on the earliest crash training received by our Faculty members in preparation for our online summer school that was ongoing during the period of the seminar.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes! ECWA Theological Seminary, Igbaja is currently making use of online theological education (OTE), following the gruelling experience of COVID-19 and its economic challenges occasioned by lockdown and imposed restriction on interstate and intercity movements by the Federal Government of Nigeria**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Partially. Although we have an existing internet service, our current bandwidth subscription is not enough to serve the purpose of OTE. The seminary was using 6 mbps purely for administrative purpose while we had never run online classes. And as the lockdown forced us to go online since May 2020, it has become evident that that is way too low for what we need for OTE. For most often, due to network overload, classes are often cut off/interrupted. The campus is also facing a serious case of dark spots, a situation whereby internet (wireless) network is not available in some critically needed places, due to weak and obsolete equipment. // While the just concluded online summer school served as our first litmus test of OTE, power supply posed a great deal of challenge. Supply from national grid is usually near zero level, and our alternative source of power at the moment is basically from diesel and petrol generating sets which cost us much to maintain on daily basis. // We also witnessed and are still witnessing cases of insufficient devices and where available majority are obsolete or non-compliant devices.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Since the Federal Government of Nigeria has imposed lockdown on the nation since March, 2020, the seminary and other institutions in Nigeria have been closed down for academic activities. Although we anticipate that the lockdown may soon be eased off, it is not likely that the seminary will attain its staggering economic balance soonest. Needless to say our academic has been disrupted and may take shape soonest.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation of the seminary can best be described as precarious at the moment. When the school was closed in the month of March,**

our regular students were just midway the semester of which many of them have not paid their fees. The little money we had by then and few of the assistances we received have been used for some administrative purposes and to deploy website, portal and Learning Management System (LMS). Worse still, only few of our summer students turned in for the online summer school, many of whom could not pay their fees and majority of those who made payment only paid in parts. Pursuant to this, payment of salary and other overhead cost has been a challenge. In fact, personnel are been paid in percentages since May, 2020.

Should the pandemic continues, chances of sustaining OTE financially by ETSI is narrow except with some financial intervention. For, while we are getting little revenue from the fees of already dwindled students' enrolment, we are disproportionately spending more than our revenue. Worse still, it will not only be unwise and cruel to think of tuition/fee increment in the midst of this economic challenges, it will also be unChrist and contra-business idea. In short, financial sustainability of OTE if the pandemic persists is not feasible. However, for sustainability, students will be made to pay ICT fee which will be used in financing the continuous operation of OTE.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc.

It is our desire that more seminars would be organized on OTE most possibly on digital education. Currently our needs and challenges with regards OTE, even as we are planning to continue some of our programmes online include the following:

a. **Insufficient bandwidth:** At the moment, the seminary operates on 6 mbps which before now which was designed to function for administrative purposes only but now that we had moved online, and on the basis that the life wire of OTE is internet, it has become obvious to us, particularly with the just concluded Summer School, that 6 mbps is far below what we need for OTE. In view of this, the Academic Committee in collaboration of the ICT Committee have recommended to the Management of the Seminary that for a robust OTE the Seminary should go for at least 60 mbps which will cost us about \$1,348 (₦600,000) on monthly basis.

b. **Epileptic power supply:** One of the major challenges of Nigerian is that of epileptic power supply. At the moment the seminary pays an average of \$1,012 (₦450,000) as a monthly bill for power supply from national grid. Sadly, in a whole month we may not have 25% benefit of the power and when it will come it is most often at night. This has forced us to be using generators for about 75% of our operations and consumptions with an attendant heavy cost on our side. In view of this, solar is the best option as our alternative power supply. The bill of engineering measure and evaluation (BEME) thereto stands ₦3.5 million (7,865.2).

c. **Insufficient digital devices:** During the just concluded summer school, it hit us hard that: many of our faculty members do not have digital devices to facilitate their classes. In many other cases, those that have were only parading obsolete and non-compliant devices. Specifically we are in need of computers (laptops), projectors and other ICT based devices.

d. **Digital Library resources:** Since online theological education depends heavily on digital library, at ECWA Theological Seminary Igbaja we have developed our online library but sadly we lack digital material to stock same. We therefore look forward to your kind assistance in this regard. Moreover, there is an urgent need with subscribe to digital libraries like JSTOR etc.

e. In view of the above needs and challenges, the seminary is in dire need of fund to build on our existing platform as to bring about the efficiency of OTE in ETSI.

Call or Assistance: in view of all of these challenges the seminary appeal to Oxford Centre for Religion and Public Life (OCRPL) and Barnabas Fund (BF) for kind and generous as to sustain our online theological education (OTE).

4. ECWA Theological Seminary Kagoro (ETS Kagoro), Provost: Prof. Bitrus Sarma. bitrussarma@gmail.com. +234 8086965551;+234 803-645-8616. PBM 35, Kagoro, Kaduna State, Nigeria, 801005.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: **Eighteen (18) staff attended the workshop. That is 18 of 22 faculty members.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The appreciation of the workshop is overwhelming and really encouraging. They all saw it as timely and extremely helpful. They seemed to appreciate everything, especially on creating course content. This seems to be the most important area that could pose challenge for teachers.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes. We were running our summer school online before the workshop. But the workshop opened our eyes to some of our weak areas and sharpened our vision and focus for online theological education.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Our internet connection is not too good. We subscribe our internet from servers. They have not been quite effective. We have had to change our server in recent times. It is much better now. Thankfully, some faculty members taught from areas where internet connection is good. Similarly, the problem of electricity is constant challenge in our context. We augment electricity with solar power.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **We closed the school in March because our government ordered all schools to close. That situation forced us to begin online studies. We created a portal for our students to register for summer (May to July). It was difficult for all at the beginning (and still working to make things better). Right now we are beginning the first semester (August to December) online. Unfortunately, we are losing some students who come from remote areas and have no access to internet services. Similarly, there are some students who are computer illiterate. For them, e-learning is a big challenge. We are asking them to hold on until the schools open for face to face learning. But this means that they will not graduate with their classmates.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We actually lost a lot to student debtors when we closed our school in March. Similarly, we did not have enough students for the summer due to the reasons given in number 5. That posed (and is posing) serious financial challenge. But we are deeply thankful to God for His sustaining grace. But we really need financial help to continue as registration has dropped. In addition, the general economic crises in our country is making things worse for our students.**

But my school has a peculiar case. ECWA Theological Seminary Kagoro is located in the heart of Southern Kaduna where the Fulani militia battle is raging. Most of our students are from Southern Kaduna. Similarly, majority of our staff are from Southern Kaduna. The economy of the area is badly affected due to the incessant attacks of communities. For example, the curfew imposed on two local governments (one of which my school is located) has lasted for almost three months now. The curfew has not stopped the Fulani militia from attacking, however. This is the general condition we are in and is telling on our students financially.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **For my institution, some of the critical issues include the sustainability of online theological education in terms of IT costs, dealing**

with staff that are redundant staff (because the school is operating online and their work is virtually manual labors), handling students who are unable to go online due to their rural setting, maintaining the quality of our education, mentoring through online education, among others.

5. **Hugh Goldie Lay/Theological Training Institution Arochukwu (HGLTTIA)**; Rev Dr Olo Ndukwe, goldie_media@yahoo.com or olondukwe@yahoo.com +234 (803) 711 4050; P.O. Box 107, Arochukwu, Abia State, Nigeria.

1) 10 out of 20 members of staff attended.

2) It's a very valuable and timely Workshop and the areas my staff appreciate most are: Creating and Writing Courses, Online Resources and Online Platforms, Creating Online Content for Theological Education and Zoom Meeting

3) We started with Online Entrance Exams in April and July and hope to start full OTE by September 2020

4) Yes we have good internet and electricity but the issue of maintenance is a very serious one because our school has been under lockdown since March and the students are not there

5) As earlier pointed, we have been under lockdown since March and it's only hoped that the Government may likely allow for resumption by January.

6) The financial situation is horrible and many of our ordained ministers-staff members are threatening to withdraw from the institution and go into Parish ministry.

7) The possibility of NetACT helping out for the institution in acquiring some of the soft wares and licenses, which are very expensive since they are (mostly) developed outside Africa; in addition, the issue of helping the institutions to get especially computers for the students at subsidized cost is very critical because of the issues of poverty of the students

6. **Jos ECWA Theological Seminary (JETS)**, Prof Dr Sunday B Agang, Provost, JETS_PROVOST@outlook.com +234 906 525 1404; +2348083592639 or 08093465193, PO Box 5398. Jos 930001, Plateau State, Nigeria. <http://www.jetseminary.edu.ng>

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **JETS staff in attendance were 60. We adopted the OTE workshop as our annual Faculty Development Seminar (FDS). JETS full-time and adjunct faculty, and staff of JETS embedded sister school, ECWA College of Education Jos (ECoEJ), attended.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **They regarded the workshop as very beneficial. Already JETS had done summer classes online, using only emails, WhatsApp and the JETS portal as media for engaging the students. So the OTE workshop helped to further define new areas to incorporate in the new semester that began on the 17th of August 2020. The sessions on creating online content (creating text for online, video and audio), accessing online library resources and the workshop on Google forms were particularly useful.**

3 How have you been making use of OTE in reaching students? If not, does your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future. **Yes, in the past JETS made use of OTE in reaching out to students, albeit, in addition to existing physical approach. Lecturers communicated with students via emails; sending and receiving assignments, course outlines and class notes. In the present, JETS employs the use of online portal for both lecturers and students. The portal allows for students to access documents and notes in the form of PDF, Microsoft Word MP3, videos, PowerPoint presentations etc. In the future JETS intends to further define and train faculty and students on the newly acquired of OTE. Usually we would have to get JETS faculty board and management approval before introducing a new facilitating class**

programs. The plan, ultimately, is to develop full and comprehensive online courses and programs

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation in your school. **Firstly, we have internet connectivity that can be said, within the context of Nigeria, to be good but unreliable and inconsistent. We get to experience downtime sometimes even though we pay heavily, 300,000:00 (three hundred thousand naira) for the services. Secondly, electricity supply is very erratic in Nigeria. JETS is yet to acquire prepaid meters and has to pay a monthly fixed rate of 350,000:00 (three hundred and fifty thousand naira) monthly for it. We often have to rely on a diesel-powered generator that runs between 8am and 4pm daily. This is definitely not good for IT services because it is very costly and it often supplies fluctuating currents that damage our facilities. The best bet would be to acquire solar energy sources but these are beyond our present financial situation. JETS has qualified, well-trained and experienced IT personnel. But poor/inadequate IT facilities, especially regarding distributing the 8mbps which we subscribe to, at exorbitant costs, monthly.**

5 Please give a short description of the covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **JETS put the government policy on lockdown into effect on the 23rd March 2020. Our faculty, staff and student population of about 600 were told to go back to their respective homes. We have been relying solely on aids from JETS friends to pay salaries to faculty and staff. JETS' is 95% reliant on student fees for our salaries, wages and other bills but very few can afford to pay all their fees. JETS's virtual summer school 2020 held but with few students. The summer school program has been a main stay of the school income because of the involvement of major partnerships with IFES and the Nigerian Airforce Chaplaincy (NAF chaplains) but these partners could not participate because of the lockdown policy and the ban on travels.**

JETS August to December semester began on the 17th of August with very few students able to pay their fees. It is definite that we will run online classes till December. Even if the government were to reopen schools JETS would not be able to do so because of the cost of meeting the NCDC requirements that have already been put in place for primary and secondary schools (exiting classes) to reopen.

Already many students, especially internationals, who are resident on campus with their families are stranded. Many of the international students come from war-torn countries like Cameroun and Chad, and have no sources of income. Many indigenous students also remain on campus because they have no church support, have not paid their fees and have nowhere else to go. This means the meagre resources are quickly running out. Unless God miraculously provides again JETS may not be able to pay salaries beyond August.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of the theological education at your school. **The financial situation in JETS is dire. As I have said above, JETS' is 95% reliant on student fees for our salaries, wages and other bills, but more than half of our student population has not been able to pay any fees. Less than half of the student population can afford to pay some parts of their fees. Very few can afford to pay all their fees. The incompetence of the federal, state and local governments dictates why the handling of the pandemic in Jos has been shoddy. Since the lockdown we have experienced a mini food-crisis, not only in the form of scarcity, but also in form of hike in prices. Food prices have almost doubled! Inflation is on the increase; people are hoarding essential commodities- food and drugs, not knowing which way the nation will go. The pandemic in Jos has exploded. Jos now records one of the highest cases of Covid-19 in Nigeria. This will further worsen the situation.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and /or suggest that we discuss on our zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic challenges etc. **The challenges and proposal for continuing online training of our students which JETS currently face have been enumerated above.**

7. **Life (ECWA) Theological Seminary, Aba, Nigeria;** Rev Dr. Joseph Isaac, Rector. beautifulgate2000@yahoo.com Alt: Dr_Godwin_Etukumana@yahoo.com, Provost ECWA Theological Seminary Aba, P. O. Box 602 Aba, Abia State Nigeria, Phone: +2348030977376 gaetukumana@yahoo.com and ecwaseminaryaba@yahoo.com

1 Unfortunately, got the information late on the workshop, therefore, we could not attend it. **To our point of view, based on discussions from other colleagues, the conference was highly appropriate as such as a time as this. We appreciate the insights gained from the workshop especially the aspect that dealt on coping with the new normal in the theological education in Africa. We can say that the workshop was timely.**

2-3 What was their evaluation of the workshop? **Yes. We in our institution is on the OTE using various platforms that enable us to reach to students. It was last year that we planned to have an internet connection on campus but we not achieve this due to lack of power supply and finance. It was during the pandemic that we began to think differently with support from Barnabas Fund, we now have an assurance of connecting the school with solar energy soon. It was this assurance that enabled us to gear towards having internet activated for an online programme to begin. Again, the Barnabas fund though NetACT helped us in paying the bill of the internet connection for one month and that enabled us to have access to one full month subscription. The experience was so fantastic. We are now working on this to begin our next semester on an online platform. The lecturers who are internet compliance were trained on how to make use WhatsApp, telegram, zoom and google meet. These platforms are mostly used by many of our lecturers in the seminary. We hope to continue out theological education online as long the seminary continues to exist. We hope to connect more capable lecturers from outside Nigeria and make use of them to give credibility to the programmes we are running in the Seminary. We also need to work on our website to allow online compliance plugins. This will enable our students to have access to the site without much stress.**

4 At it is now, we do not have a reliable power supply. **However, we hope to have constant electricity supply through solar installations that will soon be completed and put to use later this year. We have procured about ten computers to improve our IT unit. The IT situation is not encouraging at present. We are praying that the Lord will make provision available for us to install a suitable IT system within the Seminary as soon as possible.**

5 Please give a short description of the covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The COVID-19 situation in our school is very pathetic as we were ordered to shut down since March this year. As a result, all the programmes were stalled. Nothing is going on for now. We do not expect that the situation will improve soon. It is very difficult to even take care of the Seminary's compound due to lack of fund. There are situations of the falling fences, blown out of building roofs by the wind weekly. We are almost faced with many challenges due to COVID-19 pandemic. In actuality, there is no hope that the situation will improve soon as the cases of the coronavirus in Nigeria are increasing. We need prayer in such a time as this.**

6 The financial situation in our Seminary is becoming more unpredictable. **We are in total deficit. We have not been paid a net salary since this pandemic started. The only month we paid full salary was on May when Barnabas Fund through the NetACT helped us in paying our salary for in the month of May. The future financial sustainability in our Seminary seems uncertain. The reason is that so many students do not have access to electricity and internet connection in their different homes. The reason is that many of these students come from interior areas of Nigeria and Cameroon. Lack of internet connectivity and electric supply make theological education quite difficult with direct impact on our financial situation.**

7 **First, we want to thank the NetACT for helping us in the month of May. We are very grateful. Please thank you. We also want you to pray for us as an institution that does not have anything subvention from the government that the Lord God will make provision available. Broken fences and walls are causing many concerns to all of us at the Seminary.**

Help us pray that the Lord will make provision available for us to maintain these broken walls. To build an IT centre is a difficult thing to comedy now, we need prayer that the Lord will make provision available for us to have a good IT centre and good personnel to manage it. Lastly, we want to gain more insight on how to navigate this wave of the pandemic as we hear from you in the next coming zoominar.

8. **Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary**; President Rev. Prof. Emiola Nihinlola, nbtspresident@gmail.com; Registrar: Dr Dele Oluwole, deleayankeye@gmail.com; Alt: Edward Nnanna eddytenor2k4@gmail.com; P. O. BOX 30 or P.M.B. 4008 Ogbomosho, Oyo State nbtssseminary@yahoo.com Telephone: 09029062777; <https://nbts.edu.ng/>

1. How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **16 faculty members**
2. What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **a. Excellent and exemplary; b. The following were appreciated i. The simplicity of the workshop, ii. The step by step way we were taken through very relevant things for online training. iii. The diversity and involvement of facilitators from different places and the way they provided for breaks and learning with hands-on practical experiences and the opportunity to practice each thing we were taught. iv. The resources provided and the opportunities for networking.**
3. Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **It has been in use before the conference; Past: Several lecturers were making use of different free version of LMS for the learning-teaching process, such as Edmodo, Schoology, Easyclass, Google classroom, email messages and WhatsApp, and some other medium. Present: The Seminary, since 2019 has adopted the use of a paid version of LMS, "HisMoodle" for academic processes. We made use of the LMS during the COVID 19 lockdown. There is constant seminars to encourage the maximal use of the online for theological education. Future: We have the plan of incorporating more courses into online facilitation at all levels of study.**
4. Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **We have a stable internet connection and reliable sources of power supply.**
5. Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **It affected us a bit, but we were able to adjust due to the available LMS application for the learning-teaching process. Almost all the classes were taken and examinations via the LMS and Social Media platforms were done.**
6. What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We are above average in financial stability.**
7. Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and/or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Our Distance Learning Centre was established in July 2019. We started to increase the capacity of faculty, staff, and students from face-to-face classes enhanced with technology to hybrid mode. Our Seminary (NBTS) has sixty (60) full-time residential faculty members. Out of these numbers, nine along with five senior administrative staff making fourteen have been equipped with skills for full online theological education paradigm. Our plan is to equip every faculty member to that level in the next two academic sessions. Attached to this report is "God of Providence" the report of the NBTS President to the Governing Council on Thursday, August 6, 2020.**

9. **Redeemed Christian Bible College**, Provost: Rev Dr Babatunde Adedibu, babatunde.adedibu@rcbc.edu.ng Website: www.rcbc.edu.ng, Tel: +2348147689754. Address: Main Campus, Redemption Camp. Km 46, Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, Redemption Camp, Mowe, Ogun State, Nigeria.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Director of Online Studies**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Excellent report and the opportunity to ask questions during the workshop**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future!

RCBC has been using online platform for over ten years

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Excellent Electricity supply and internet connection.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Tertiary institutions in Nigeria were closed on the orders of the Federal Government of Nigeria on the 19 March, 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID 19 in the country. The response from the government is far is not commendable due to lack of palliative measures to cushion the economic meltdown in the country. Although statistics are churn out periodically and schools were advised to utilised technological approach in educating the students, this is rather unfortunate when the regulatory authority for university education has not even licensed 25 universities to deliver courses online. It is a pitiable sight and mockery of intellectualism. However, the public sector, religious organisations and individuals contributed in alleviating the social and economic challenges of an average Nigerian.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We are currently in dire straits as the prevailing fear of COVID 19 pandemic and we are contemplating laying off some of our staff till when the situation improves.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **It is imperative for Net Act to look into the area of sourcing for funding not only for small theological institutions in Africa but also the seemingly large ones that have contributed over the years to the theological education might collapse if the economic situation does not improve. Secondly, it is imperative that NET Act initiate a book project on The Prophetic Role of the Church to reiterate the role of churches at a time like this and speak out on behalf of those in the margins.**

10. Reformed Theological Seminary (RTS or NKST), Rector: Rev. John T. Abawua, +234 806 497 3057, +234 817 710 5569 abawuanguter@gmail.com; RTS, Mkar, PMB 204 Gboko, Benue State, Nigeria. Alt 2019 representative: Rev Peter Orngu piorngu@gmail.com;

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: **Liberian and myself.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The two of us appreciated it so much. The conference enhances Theological educators' interaction among themselves through zoom. Secondly, theological educators can offer assistance to members of NetACT without necessarily embarking on face to face trips as it has been the case before. Again, learners can embark on visual trips to interesting sites at a distance to see and observe things while in their places of abode. What we did appreciate most is accessing online resource sharing. What we missed was the introductory aspects of online theological education which was done on the first day.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **No. However, we plan to be making use OTE. We have not been using OTE in an organized way. We do ask our students to go online and research. In term papers, students are required to give at least five online references depending on the volume of the paper. In the past, it wasn't like that. Our plans for the future as we have gone**

through the workshop, and the presence of COVID-19, we intend to engage our students and staff in online theological education so that no session will be missed.

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **No. Our electricity support is not dependable. They (Jos Electricity Distribution - JED) usually give us light 8-10 hours only a day. Our Seminary generator is working but the cost of diesel is too high for continued usage. In the area of IT at my school, it is OK. We do subscribe regularly only that sometimes network service is not available. The problem we have about our IT is lack of enough computers. We have at present, ten computers in our IT center. This number is not enough as compared to the total population of our students (113). Our lecturers have their personal laptop computers.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year?: **COVID-19 has given a serious blow on education in Nigeria. Since March, 2020 schools are not allowed to reopen. Recently, the Federal Government has given approval for final year students in SS3 and JSS3 to resume so as to write their exams. All tertiary institutions are still closed. However, we in our Seminary have decided with the approval of our church to reopen to enable our students to write their end of session's exams. That has been done and they are back home pending when the Federal Government will approve the reopening of tertiary institutions. // We do not see the reopening of schools any time soon. This is because the number of confirmed cases are on the rise daily. As at yesterday, 593 new confirmed cases were reported in Nigeria bringing the total number of cases to 50,488; 37,304 were discharged and 985 deaths. We in BENUE state, 430 cases have so far been confirmed.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **About the financial situation of RTS, Mkar at the moment, let me first of all appreciate NetACT Officials for connecting us to Barnabas Fund. We received grant that enabled us pay one month salary. We did write stating the fact that NKST as a denomination has been doing her best to provide necessary funds for her Seminary. However, the presence of COVID-19 pandemic, the funds are not forthcoming. Churches are not allowed to operate fully as was the case before the pandemic! In addition, the money we do get from school fees is not there because of closure of schools. As such, financial situation is nothing to write home about. If the spread of Corona virus does not slow down, the financial sustainability of theological education at RTS Mkar will be seriously hampered, unless funds will be available to fully use online training.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **1. The need to fully equipped ICT Centres in schools that do not have enough funds. 2. Since COVID-19 Pandemic is not to leave us soon, there is absolute need to work on online theological education. I therefore, suggest that more online theological education workshops be organized to educate more member institutions. 3. Prayer: This cannot be left out. Our theological institutions should be encouraged to persist in prayers for quick solution to this pandemic and challenges that accompanied it, from our God who has allowed COVID-19 to come.**

11. Theological College of Northern Nigeria (TCNN), a seminary of the Fellowship of Christian Churches in Northern Nigeria), Provost: Rev. Prof. Samuel P. Ango, +234 803 578 2647 & +234 808 072 0841; angosamuel@yahoo.com; angosam@gmail.com; Box 64, 930008 Bukuru, Jos-South, LGA, Plateau State, Nigeria.

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **10 attended.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **It has opened up possibilities for continuing online education for us.**

3 Have you been making use of Online theological education in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of online theological education? Tell us about online theological education at your school please, present, past and future! **We have been using online outreach since schools were closed all over Nigeria in March. That was the only way we kept afloat.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Our electricity is fairly stable, but our internet connectivity is not large, so faculty members mostly buy their own data with subsidies from the school.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **School was closed since March, and students stopped paying fees, which was our main stay. We were able to continue when we used Google Classroom which we had already registered with before Covid 19 to begin online classes and students began to pay again. Schools are still closed and we are still using online to continue. Opening regular schools for us is uncertain.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the sustainability of theological education at your school? **We have embarked on some cuts in expenditure, including a 10% salary cut to stay afloat. We believe we can survive using online, at which we have been fairly successful, including video meetings, albeit erratic due to poor national networks.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to attention and / or suggest that we discuss in a Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We are anticipating opening with safety regulations such as masks, sanitizers and social distancing, for which we have to make facilities available. We may consider smaller class meetings or outdoor meetings when it is not raining. Going forward we realize we will have to continue with a hybrid of virtual and physical class contacts as well as enrolling some students online on a more permanent basis. Our greatest challenge will be to strengthen our internet connectivity.**

12. **UMCA Theological College** (United Missionary Church of Africa). The Rev. Dr. Olusegun Noah Olawoyin, olawoyin.olusegun@umcatc.edu.ng +234 706 545 4648 UMCA Theological College, PO Box 171, Ilorin, KWARA State, Nigeria. <http://www.umcatc.edu.ng>

1: How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: **1 person (myself)**

2: What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The Workshop is appreciated as very good, although very tasking. The particular segment appreciated most is the one on Lesson Plan writing practice.**

3: Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **In the Past, we have not been doing OTE, and the College Bandwidth was just a paltry 2 mbps. At present, our bandwidth has been slightly increased to 6 mbps. Our Faculty members have been given some training on writing of lesson plan and interaction with their students through zoom online. The College E-library is where interaction with students through zoom can be done; but faculty can interact with the students from their personal offices using other platform (Telegram, WhatsApp, etc). In the future, we plan to increase the bandwidth to at least 100 mbps and use a standard LMS platform. We have signed an agreement with Moodle. We have also decided to convert our summer and programmes to blended programmes, thus increasing the interaction that the faculty can have with their students, but reducing the students' in-person presence. In addition, we have decided to develop a full OTE, beginning with our M.Div. programme.**

4: Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **No, we do not have a good and reliable internet connection, only 2 mbps; however, our electricity support is fairly good, with the connection to national grid in Government Reserved Area of the Kwara State Capital, Ilorin. We also**

have 40 personal computers in our E-library, primarily for our students, but staff also use it since the beginning of OTE.

5: Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **To the glory of God, none of our student and staff has been infected with COVID-19. Since partial reopening of Nigeria, and particularly Kwara State, we have allowed 28 of our staff to resume, primarily the Faculty members, with a few administrative staff. The College was closed on March 23, and is yet to fully reopen. Our 62nd graduation ceremony, already scheduled for September 12, has been postponed until further notice. Since we are not sure of what the situation will be in the next one year, we are planning to focus more on the development of our OTE.**

6: What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Since April, the staff are only being paid half salary, and we have not been able to remit deductions that we ought to.**

7: Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **These have been mentioned under numbers 1-6 above.**

13 New Member to be approved at 2020 West-Africa Regional Meeting:

Gindiri Theological Seminary Rev Prof. Jotham Maza Kangdim: **Provost:** , Postal Address- Gindiri Theological Seminary, PMB.0100101001, Gindiri, Plateau State, Nigeria: Phone: +2348036186118: Email: jfkangdim@gmail.com; Alternative representatives: Rev Dr. John Iliya Kachalla: **Registrar:** + 2357030405771; Email: jikiliya@gmail.com; Rev Dr. Toma H. Abungyak: **Director of Advancement/advocacy.** +2348142168777: Email- abungyakth@gmail.com

In view of the pandemic, Gindiri Theological Seminary was closed down in March 2020. However, it has continue using some form of distant learning and teaching.

NEEDS:

Funding; partnership with institutions that have been Online Theological Education; Functional Website; Continuing using of distant learning, virtual learning and teaching(particularly using WhatsApp and Google classroom is non-negotiable options; Establishment of satellite locations; Acquisition of strong and reliable internet; Alternative source of power- Solar Power; aggressive training of staff and students in computer and online literacy.

CHALLENGES:

Lack of payment of school fees by students; Lack of grants from other sources or other financial support; High cost of obtaining and sustaining quality internet; Access to smart devices (computer, tablet or smart phone) a good number of our students do not have such devices. Low level computer literacy. Students living in rural areas with no access to phone or internet.

PROPOSALS:

Sourcing for funds; A website; Internet access; Training of staff and student in Online Theological Education; Funding and sustaining Online Theological Education.

WHAT WORKED WELL IN HANDLING THE PANDEMIC AND CHALLENGES:

Usage of Distant learning approaches; Awakening, inspiration from NetACT; Gradual usage of WhatsApp and Google Classroom by a few Staff; Learning from

other institutions such as (TCNN and JETS); Orientation, sensitization of Staff on way forward.

South Africa (Southern Region)

1. **Free State University (FSU)**,_Dr Joseph Pali PaliKJ@ufs.ac.za, +27-722273490;_University of the Free State, P.O. Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300, South Africa. <http://www.ufs.ac.za>; Alt Dean: Prof Dr Rantsoa Letsosa, letsosar@ufs.ac.za
 - 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **We were unable to attend.**
 - 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **N.a.**
 - 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes we have. Most of our coarse work were moved to our online Blackboard platform. It is not a new development and students are familiar with platform as coarse work, assignments and lecturer communication with students are already taking place on Blackboard. During the lockdown the UFS provided students with data to use the platform from their respective homes. Vulnerable students were also provided with laptops that were subsidized by the government (average 3500 laptops we received by the UFS to distribute to more than 20 000 vulnerable students. There is still a need of more laptops. These laptops are not for free student pay them from their subsidies).**
 - 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes we do. There is wifi on campus and the offices plus lecturers do have access to laptops and data in their offices. Now, since most of the lecturers and students work from home they use globalprotect software which gives access to educational websites without using much data. On the other hand, lecturers are allowed to buy data from their research funds to use it for academic purposes.**
 - 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **The UFS closed when the national lockdown came into effect in March. We remain closed and is likely to remain close for the rest of the academic year. We did however met with our post graduate students in August for a weeklong contact session on campus.**
 - 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **We are a government funded University and as part of that our faculty of Theology receive full funding. Our students how ever are affected financially severely. There is NSFAS (national funding for students) that help our students with study funding! There is uncertainty about what government funding will look like next year, that is whether there will be not increase, will there be a reduction in subsidy or increase for subsidy?**
 - 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic **At UFS we are busy developing short learning courses as our 3rd stream income to help subsidize our income. We are reworking on our student admission into our academic program and it bears some fruits as it increases our 1st year level from 20 students to more than hundred in both BDiv and Higher certificate. However, the challenge is funding for the students, accommodation, access to laptops. // From my personal experience we have a potential challenge of attracting students from Pentecostal-charismatic churches as many of them prefer prosperity gospel training, and a part time training with low expenses. To engage this problem we created an opportunity that once on Wednesday for 2 periods every**

church has an opportunity to train its own students in their own theological practices whilst the Faculty offer ecumenical theology to our general body of students. We also invited on advisory board of the Faculty some pastors from Pentecostal-charismatic churches so that when they understand what we offer in theology they may be our ambassadors to their own denominations

2. **Huguenot College**, Prof Nelus Niemandt, Rector, niemandtn@huguenote.com Tel: +27 (0)21 873 1181 +27 (0)21 873 7100; cell: 082-451-1670; P.O. Box 16, Wellington, 7654. South Africa. www.huguenote.com **Alt Dr Andre du Toit** afdutoit@huguenote.com

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **One.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Very good. I especially appreciated the strategic vision, and the overall insight in the growing importance of OTE.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Yes, we already offer an online BTh, as well as a number of online courses for ministry (Preaching and Youth Work). We also offer a blended teaching for Social Work students online. In future we would like to offer a more comprehensive online Social Work degree course, as well as blended courses for Aux Social Workers.**

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Yes, excellent bandwidth optic fibre. We will need to install a generator due to possible frequent "load-shedding" electricity interruptions. Excellent servers, and IT capacity with staff that attends to IT on full-time basis. Excellent capacity in terms of teaching platforms (Moodle), as well as ability to support development of teaching platforms.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **We were closed for three months, but converted to and continued with online teaching. We are now open for 33% of students. We see more and more students returning to campus up to end 2020 and normalisation of face-to-face lectures for some of our courses.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **Due to assistance from Barnabas and other external funds, we are able to manage cash flow up to the end October and possibly Nov. 2020. I would describe our situation as better than three months ago, but not completely "out of the woods". A lot depends on the ability of students to pay study fees and accommodation fees, and we are concerned about the fact that most of our students are from marginalised communities whose ability to pay have been severely curtailed by the impact of Covid-19. We struggled with the ability of students to afford airtime/data in order to be able to connect with the learning platform.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **We were able to shift the pedagogical model to online teaching. We struggled with the ability of students to afford airtime/data in order to be able to connect with the learning platform. The regulations and issues concerning prescribed quarantine facilities and protocols also implied a huge extra financial cost, as well as the cost of keeping physical distancing in classrooms (it implied the use of only half of the normal teaching space!). Challenged by the cost of doubling up on teaching due to limitation of teaching protocols imposed by government).**

3. **North West University (NWU-Mafikeng campus)**, Dr Hennie Goede, Executive Dean, Faculty of Theology Tel no: 018 285 2496 Mobile no: 0824441631 E-mail hennie.goede@nwu.ac.za, North-West University, Private Bag X1290, Potchefstroom 2520, South Africa Alternative: Prof. dr. Alfred Brunson, Landline 018 389 2666, Mobile 082

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? None. Apart from the fact that the workshop coincided with the normal business of our Faculty, the Faculty of Theology of the North-West University is teaching in the open distance/online environment since 2013. This initially took place to accommodate distance students under the auspices of the Unit for Open Distance Learning (UODL). Since March 2020 all our students were accommodated in this way. Lecturers are thus well-versed in this modality and did not display a need for outside training in this regard as the NWU has its own platforms for which all staff are duly trained by the NWU.

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? N.a.

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! See 1.

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. Yes.

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? See 1. It can also be noted that the NWU provided for devices and data to support online teaching and learning. Students in remote areas were accommodated accordingly through the provision of printed materials.

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? In the broader context of the NWU, the institution is still viable.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. None.

4. **Pretoria University**, Dr Zoro Dube, Zoro.Dube@up.ac.za, Tel +27 (0)12 420 2358, Cell +27 067 903 6862 (Alternatives: Dr Maniraj Sukdaven sukdavenm@gmail.com; Private Bag X20, Hatfield, Pretoria, 0028. South Africa. <http://www.up.ac.za/en/faculty-of-theology>

Report: This report serves to give feedback regarding the workshop that took place on the 27th till the 29th of July 2020. As faculty representative, I requested that the workshop be announced to all personnel and encouraging members to attend and share their insights. Two factors coincided with the workshop –first, the workshop took place during the time when the University of Pretoria was commencing second semester and, therefore, most of the staff members were busy with final preparations in connection with online teachings and assessments. Second, the agenda of the workshop details issues that the staff members are already doing or practicing. The University of Pretoria has blended learning approach, meaning that most staff members have gone through training regarding online teaching. However, despite ability to attend, most staff members appreciated being invited and praised the work that NETACT is doing across the continent, especially to disadvantaged theological institutions.

5. **Stellenbosch University (SU)**, Prof Reginald Nel, Dean, rwnel@sun.ac.za Tel: +27 21 808 3254, Faculty of Theology, Private Bag X1, MATIELAND, 7602; Alt Prof D Xolile Simon dsimon@sun.ac.za

- 1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop: **One, Len Hansen**
- 2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **Spot On.**
- 3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **The Faculty of Theology, Stellenbosch University has been using OTE (known within the university as emergency remote teaching - ERT in our context) and plans to continue in this modality for the remainder of 2020.**
- 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **The University IT helpdesk and support services assist all staff and students with any IT related queries. Since we have all been working from home, it was required that students and staff were supplied with the necessary equipment and data with which to continue their work.**
- 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **South Africa has just recently shifted to what we assume as level 2 of our national (Covid-19) lockdown. This has meant that all staff and students work from home from March this year. During level 3, 33% of our student body was allowed back to campus. At present arrangements for a further 33% (Fully 66%) return is being made. This is all within the provision that all Covid-19 restrictions and safety measures be upheld. At this point, the faculty remains closed to face-to-face teaching for the remainder of the year.**
- 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The faculty of financially sustainable.**
- 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **None**

South Sudan (North-East Africa Region)

1. **Nile Theological College**, Principal: Rev. Santino Odong Othol, ntcmalakal@gmail.com. Address: P.O. Box 40, Upper Nile State Malakal, South Sudan. . +211912661560-WhatsApp; +211922313319; Skype: Santino Kwanyang. Alternative: Rev Michael Obat obatmichael16@gmail.com Alt_Rev James Bol Obwonyo Padiet obwonyobol@yahoo.com
1. **Four (4) of our staff including myself attended the 27-28 July workshop.**
 2. What was their evaluation of the workshop? **Due to the fact that we accessed internet outside our residences and due insecurity in our country we were not able to attend the evening sessions. However, our evaluation of the sessions we attended is that we learned helpful new things which now are helping us as we consider online teaching.**
 3. Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? **Now we are working on online program to reach our students.**
 4. Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? **On Friday we installed wireless. It is the one I am using as I write this email. So far it is reliable.**
 5. Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. **Currently, Covid-19 cases in South Sudan stand at over 2,700 cases, over a thousand recoveries and 47 deaths. Tests are not effective. Therefore, we think cases may be more than those officially declared by the government. Our College was closed from March 20 to mid-July this year. From mid-July to early August we conducted intensive courses in**

churches, observing preventive measures and we completed our first semester that way. Currently we considering online teaching to kick off late this month or early next month.

6. Our financial situation is shaky. Due to effect of Corona Virus Pandemic some of our partners either reduced, or suspended their pledges. We envisage financial challenges for the next four months.

7. Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention. **Our librarian was not able to attend the librarian workshop in Nairobi last year due to financial constrains. Now especially as we have a better internet service, we would like get access to the NetACT online library.**

- 2 **St John's College of Theology and Development**, Rev Moses Deng Bol, Archbishop of Northern Bhar El Ghazal Internal Province and Bishop of the Diocese of Wau Hai Mozephin, C/o ECS Provincial Office P O BOX 110 Juba South Sudan, Tel +211 915 485 817 / 955 602 769/+254 716 641 233, Email: bishop@wau.anglican.org Web:www.wau.anglican.org Alt: Mr Philip Abiel Nyok Awol, wundhol1979@gmail.com

1 Number of staff attended the OTE training is zero of 1; due to lack of internet connection within the College premises and poor internet at commercial centres;

2 Not Applicable because nobody attended the workshop;

3 We didn't use it because we didn't have it. The college is making consultation with the Government now on modalities that should be used to open the College in September, 2020 and one of the options is to use online means of communication to communicate with students, unfortunately the college is lacking internet infrastructure which is a big drawback and it may hinder opening the College in September 2020. So, we would like to use it if we could get it.

4 This college has only 5 functioning computers in its computer laboratory and 2 others that are not functioning. The internet infrastructure is totally lacking at the College, while it is depending on a generator for power which is sometimes not reliable.

5 COVID 19 affected the College so much because we loss now one full academic semester which will not be compensated again. This College was closed on the 2nd of March, 2020 and it is not yet open due to the Government restriction. Well, based on my observations it is possible for the Universities to open because Bars, Restaurants, Hotels, Night Clubs, Markets, etc are opened and operating normally and the level of infection is reducing gradually;

6 The financial situation of the College of course is bad now, because partners, friends and donors who were supposed to donate and sponsor our students have reduced their support if not totally suspended or cancelled. At local level, the college loss over 5 million South Sudan Pounds because of COVID 19 which prevented the College to enrolled students from the Department of Business Administration which paid tuition fees in local Currency.

7 So, in the real sense, the College is broke totally; even some of the developmental projects which we planned last year to be implemented this year have ceased totally; and I think, apart from Internet and electricity; the College is facing also a lot of challenges including water, physical infrastructure, trained teaching staff, COVID 19 preventive equipment (masks, gloves, sensitizers, etc.), computers, etc.

My proposal would be that if NetACT members could put hands together and devise a mechanism on how to support those Colleges that have limited resources and infrastructure, in order to bring them up and strengthen them to be at the same level with the rest and I think that is the meaning and benefit of coming together as members of one body. Those weak Colleges should be identified and prioritised to be helped out and supported in order to stand on their feet in the near future; because all the members of the NetACT are not strong at the same level.

Zambia (Central East Africa Region)

1. **Justo Mwale University (JMU).** VC Dr Lukas Soko, mzamoselukas@ymail.com. Office: +260295364, Cell: +260 977883495; PO Box 310199, Chamba-Valley, Munali Road, Lusaka, ZAMBIA. Alt Dr Victor Chilenge balenisambili@gmail.com
 1. How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **Two staff members.**
 2. What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **-The presentations during the workshop were very educative; Time management was good and well applied.**
 3. Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **- Justo Mwale University is making use of OTE -In the past, it was all physical class attendance; -In the now situation, most of the courses are being offered online using the Zoom and Moodle Platforms; -For the future, we plan to develop the Online Platforms to include more of the features that will promote Lecturer-Student interactions.**
 - 4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **-There is internet readily available, but the band-width need to been expanded; The challenge of electricity is real, effects are being made to have a backup system by using solar and Generator.**
 - 5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Covid 19 situation in Zambia has remained posing a challenge as numbers are escalating. As a result of this Government directly enforced the health measures of closing all learning Institutions. -Covid 19 has greatly affected us as a nation (Zambia), and the institution (Justo Mwale University) is no exception to the negative impact it has brought to life in general and learning in particular. The Institution was closed in March 2020, and we had to send all of the students away. -For the remaining part of the year, there is hope that learning will resume alongside the OTE that is now part of the school system.**
 - 6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **-The financial situation at JMU has been adversely affected due to Covid 19. We can't run some of the programmes. Our main income is student fees and that stopped because the students are no longer on campus (because of the Covid 19 health restriction). JMU gets income by renting houses in the compound-campus. Since also our renters are affected too some have problems paying.**
 - 7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on or Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Help us with: Up-grading the internet system of OTE to facilitate smoothly on online education; training of faculty members and ITC members on delivering of online Theological Education; Setting up of the Online Library; Creating of a Theological Fund to support member institutions; Help**

us with income-generating projects for the school; Pastoral support to staff and students to deal with the disruption of the pandemic.

Zimbabwe (Central East Africa Region)

1. **Domboshava Theological College**, Principal: Rev Dr Roy Musasiwa, rmusasiwa@gmail.com principal@dtc.ac.zw, 78 Fife Avenue, Harare, Zimbabwe, +263-4-705345738464 <http://www.domboshawa.org/> Alt representative: Mrs Sithembiso Tshakalisa, stshakalisa@dtc.ac.zw

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **None.**

2 What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **N/A**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future!

YES. Ever since the end of March 2020 our only means of reaching our students was OTE given the lockdown situation in Zimbabwe that has not yet been lifted. The process began by the principal giving orientation to lecturers on the use of the Whatsapp teaching platform involving:

- Interactive written texts;
- Short audio lectures;
- Shared uploaded notes.

Lecturers then delivered their lectures and seminars to students following time-table allocations. The result was that when lockdown was briefly lifted middle of July 2020 all our students managed to sit for their exams. The Whatsapp medium was found to be the cheapest (and most easily mastered) of all the online options. We noted only three challenges with it:

(a) the speed of delivery and interactivity is a bit slow

(b) some students complained of either poor network where they were, or shortage of money for buying data given the economic meltdown of the country where hyper-inflation is now in the region of 800%.

(c) Some technical subjects were more challenging to teach by whatsapp and these include New Testament Greek and Computer Skills and to introduce other teaching platforms to make their teaching possible.

Despite the above, however, students had the advantage of catching up with lectures even long after scheduled classes. For example, those who find connectivity stronger after working hours are still able to catch up with the texts, voice notes etc.

4 Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Our ISP (Zimbabwe Online) has a choice of subscription levels. The higher the subscription level the better the speed and the higher the number of people can connect. Please find below the costings involved for Office and Large Office Packages (Two choices: one at USD 495 pm the second USD 725 pm).**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year?

- **In July there was an acceleration of local infection leading to an intensification of lockdown and the introduction of 6pm – 6am curfew.**
- **The actual coronavirus stats stands as follows: 5,378 deaths, 141 deaths and 4,105 recovered.**
- **Ever since lockdown started at the end of March 2020 our college had to close, but later we resorted to online teaching as explained above. That situation remains up to now.**
- **For the rest of this year we have postponed our August 2020 intake to January 2021 when we expect the lockdown situation to be considerably eased. All other classes will however continue online, with the proviso that if lockdown is eased sooner we will resort to regular teaching, or a mix of regular and online teaching.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school?

- **During the period of lockdown the majority of our students were not able to raise required fees, and some only partially paid what they could.**
- **The college has however survived financially on the basis of (a) donation**

income (primarily) including a one time lockdown grant of USD3,000 from the Barnabas Fund (b) rent and hall hire income and (c) cutting down costs as much as possible.

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT's attention and / or suggest that we discuss on our Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. • **It would be highly appreciated if NetACT can assist member colleges to raise funds for lockdown survival lasting approximately 6 months @ 50% of normal monthly running costs.**

2. **Murray Theological College (MTC), Rev Dr Rangarirai Rutoro, rangarutoro@gmail.com +263-772570873 / +263788654943; MThC, Box 876, Masvingo, ZIMBABWE. Alternative: Rev. Webster Vhembo. wvhembo@gmail.com + 263 772 579 863.**

1: How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July 2020 workshop? **Five (5) of our full-time members attended this noble workshop.**

2: What was their evaluation of the workshop? What did they appreciate most? **The workshop was an eye opener and was timely in the lockdown period. The expertise of the presenters and the devotional leaders was greatly appreciated.**

3: Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students?.. **Yes, we have been using Whatsapp and text messages. Funds permitting, we would want to have an advanced online platform such as zoom, skype or google class etc even beyond COVID-19.**

4: Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **This is a thorn in the flesh for our context (The internet connection and electricity support are not reliable. We use a solar system which needs upgrading). In relation to IT infrastructure, our Seminary is operating without an internet server, one internet router and with great difficulty in paying the monthly fees charged by our service provider, Telone.**

5: Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Our Covid-19 situation is not improving in terms of scaling down. As per time of preparing this report, the official updates were as follows, confirmed positive cases, 5261 with insufficient testing kits meaning the numbers can be more than this, deaths were 132, recovered cases, 2092 as compared to March 2020. The Seminary was closed on the 24th of March 2020 but operating now online. The situation is pessimistic pointing to the idea that we cannot see a sudden change since the nation is having more new cases now and again. The Seminary has insufficient resources in preparation for reopening which points to disinfecting the lecturer rooms, offices as well the library and the chapel.**

6: What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The financial situation at this moment is grappling caused by hyper-inflation within the nation. The financial sustainability of the Seminary is not consistent. The College depends on friends and well-wishers. Here and there, our sister church, DRC of the Cape is gapping up our crisis though not sufficient for the financial sustainability of the Seminary.**

7: Share whatever else you would like to bring to the NetACT attention. **There is need for NetACT to focus on how Seminaries can access PPE (personal protective equipment) for COVID-19 and augmenting livelihood for lecturers and students who have been locked down in the Seminaries. In the Zimbabwean situation, the financial crisis has affected even the main financial sources, the congregations which support the Seminary. We propose that urgent assistance be considered to seminaries in difficult economic situations in different countries. We propose NetACT to persuade some of our partners not to mix political situations and church related situations in promoting network assistance. Solidarity communications, sharing and workshops which were done worked well for us during this COVID-19 lockdown period. Even the proposal of roping in our policy boards assist in handling the pandemic situation if we share the same views.**

Reformed Church University, Prof Dr OE Maravanyika, Vice Chancellor, vc@rcu.ac.zw or profmaravanyika@gmail.com Work +263 772 153 691 or +263 772 611 719; www.rcu.ac.zw PO Box 80, Masvingo Zimbabwe. Alt. Mondli Sibanda sibandam@rcu.ac.zw

It seems RCU stopped functional at all.

3. **Rusitu Bible College**. Principal: Rev Rodney Joel Kastner, kastscan@zol.co.zw, cell+263 779184093. P.O. Box 3746, Chimanimani, ZIMBABWE. <https://www.facebook.com/RusituBibleCollege/>

1 How many of your staff attended the 27-29 July workshop? **None (0) of our staff members were able to attend the July workshop – no internet (remote rural area).**

2 What was the evaluation of the workshop? **N.a.**

3 Have you been making use of OTE in reaching out to students? If not, do your school plan to be making use of OTE? Tell us about OTE at your school please, present, past and future! **Rusitu Bible College does not have good enough internet service or connections to make use of Online Theological Education. And it seems any service available to this area is very expensive, to the point of being beyond our reach. Perhaps one day when service is better and the expense is within reach of our budget.**

4. Do you have a good and reliable internet connection and electricity support? Describe the IT situation at your school. **Ah, this is the major issue with our college, we do not have a reliable internet connection or electricity support. The College is seeking for quotations for solar electrification of the campus.**

5 Please give us a short description of the Covid-19 situation in your context. Was the school closed and since when? How do you see the situation for the rest of the year? **Our college was closed for three initial weeks at the beginning of the second term. Being small and extremely isolated we were able to meet the criteria for operation: We are under fifty (50) persons; we have in place social distancing and expanded boarding facilities, using two vacant staff houses for students accommodations; we have made available individual sanitizers and disinfectants for rooms, offices, classrooms; We take and record daily temperatures of all personnel, and with the hospital close by, we are better assured of care. // We completed our regular second term extending two additional weeks into the usual August break time. // Staff members were all assisted with Barnabas funds for salaries for the month of June when we were yet able to get started. This has tied us over for the term and we finished the term without debts owed to anyone.**

6 What is your financial situation at the moment? Describe the financial sustainability of theological education at your school? **The college basically runs hand to mouth, and students provide food stuff or “kind” in lack of school fees if they are not able to come up with cash; which is the general condition in the country. Donors were concerned with their contributions and some hesitated to give since we were delayed in starting. When we resumes all were informed of our status and we assume regularity will continue with our partnerships, though it is still too early to account for annual giving to the college.**

7 Please share whatever else you would like to bring to NetACT’s attention and / or suggest that we discuss on our Zoom meeting. Share about needs, challenges, proposals, what worked well in handling the pandemic and challenges etc. **Rusitu Bible College plans to continue on into our third term of the academic year**

(September through November) without changes. Any students from higher pandemic areas have all stayed at the college during the break working for school fees (by their own choice).