

# ACTEA e-NEWS

January – June 2021

## Message from ACTEA Director

The year 2019 ended with a lot of optimism and hope. We anticipated that the year 2020 would begin and end the same way. However, with the onset of COVID in 2020 the year became extremely dark and uncertain. The darkness and uncertainty persist in 2021. The emails and messages of distress from Africa's theological institutions, friends, and partners are still greatly disturbing. Some institutions were in the verge of collapse. We prayed. We hoped. And we reached out. Friends came alongside our colleges in many ways. Some provided financial support; others provided online platforms and training; many prayed. Our members too became innovative and thrived beyond what we could imagine. We saw a rich institutional generosity and compassion never experienced before. Surprisingly, a few institutions that had not paid their annual fees for a few years managed to clear their arrears. What a blessing!

We take this opportunity to you all including our member institutions for donating to our annual fee relief campaign. We managed to raise USD 32,149, which is 45.6% of the target (\$70,000). Because of this, we have been able to give a relief of 54.4% to our institutions. If you want to support this project, please feel free to be in touch with us. Every single donation makes a very big difference. [Click here](#) to donate.

We also thank you for supporting our office acquisition project. We are now finalizing the fit-out work and should be ready to move into the office in a few weeks. You'll soon be receiving a special newsletter announcing our move to AEA Plaza. The words of Eugene H. Peterson in *Christ Plays in Ten Thousand Places*, (pg. 230), are comforting: "The Christian life begins as a community that is gathered at the place of impossibility, the tomb." Our faith began at an impossible place. We will all rise through impossible realities. May you find life again in impossible places and impossible realities. Enjoy this newsletter.

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## MISSION

*"To Strengthen Member Institutions in offering quality Theological Programs through Accreditation, Networking and Support Services".*

## VISION

*"A Trusted Association of Theological Institutions in Africa"*

## MOTTO

*"Serving theological education in Africa for excellence and renewal"*

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## 1. ACTEA RE-BRANDS: NEW LOGO, NEW COLORS

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### **ACTEA is Getting a New Look!**

ACTEA marked 45 years in March 2021. Although we did not have a major celebration because of COVID restrictions, we celebrated this milestone through prayer and thanksgiving. We hope we will have a major event in 2022 to celebrate and thank God for the far He has brought this organization. In the meantime, we decided that it was time to refresh the ACTEA brand. Thus, we embarked on a process of rebranding. We are happy to announce that we now have a new logo and new colors. A new website is almost ready. We want to share with you the rationale behind the updates, and what they represent for ACTEA brand and our community.

Our new logo inspired by the continent of Africa, church sanctuaries and more specifically, stained glass windows. The church is the community in which the faith is exercised, and the sanctuary is a place where the saints gather weekly to encourage each other and be fed spiritually. By paying homage to and being reminiscent of a form of expression that is singularly associated with Christianity, this identity immediately communicates that ACTEA's work is for the church and is gospel centered. The multiple rays radiating around Africa from ACTEA placed inside Africa speaks of ACTEA's vision of serving as a beacon of Christ-centred evangelical theological education for the holistic transformation of the church in Africa and beyond. As you have seen in our new logo, we chose three colors. Each color represents something we strongly believe in:

**BLUE** is the color of royalty and speaks to the fact that ACTEA is raising a royal priesthood of God's servants throughout Africa. It is also a color that engenders trust psychologically and speaks to ACTEA's credibility and ability to meet its mandate effectively.

**RED** is the color of blood and it symbolizes the redemptive act of Christ on the cross. It speaks of ACTEA's passionate engagement in the transforming story of redemption in Christ through theological education. As a vibrant color, it also speaks of the passion that ACTEA's work is undertaken with.

**GOLD** is the color of one of the most precious elements on earth. The Bible is also replete with gold symbolism. In our identity, it entrenches the idea of royalty and speaks to both the preciousness of God's Word and the work that God's servants do. It speaks of ACTEA's mission of

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prophetic proclamation of glorious hope in Christ to African peoples first and to the world through theological education. However, behind the new look we are still the same Association and team (more technically talented), dedicated to providing you the best possible services.

## Website

In the next few months, we will be unveiling a brand-new website that will include new features, user-friendly navigation, Resource Hub, and updated with the latest information about our services. We are working to ensure that our member institutions will send their accreditation reports via the website and applications for membership will also be possible through the website. The launch date of the brand-new website will be announced in a separate announcement.

## Strategic Plan

Our Strategic Plan (2017-2021) has enabled us achieve great things but it's time for a new strategy. With support from Scholarleaders International (SLI), we are working on a new strategy that will enable ACTEA to be more effective in achieving its mission to strengthen theological education in Africa and do so in a way that sustains that mission into the future. The process started with a stakeholder analysis. The purpose of the Stakeholders Analysis is to listen to theological institutions, supporters, and ministry partners with a vested interest in the work of ACTEA. In doing so, ACTEA seeks to learn how stakeholders currently understand the work of ACTEA, its effectiveness, the organization's strengths and weaknesses, and the opportunities each see for the future of ACTEA. We appreciate those who have provided helpful feedback. Your comments, suggestions, and critiques will enable us cast a better strategy for the organization. The Strategic Planning team are: Prof. Emiola Nihinlola, Dr. Ray Motsi (Chair), Dr. David Tarus (Secretary), Dr. Sheila Foster Fabiano, Prof. Hellen Ishola-Esan, Dr. Bruk A. Asale, Dr. Eloi Dogue, and Prof. Bosela Eale.

## **2. NEW PART-TIME ACTEA STAFF**

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Rev. Dr. Eloi Sobel Dogue joined the staff of ACTEA as the Liaison officer for the Francophone region. Dr. Dogue is from Senegal. He serves full-time as the Evangelism and Missions Executive Secretary at AEA. Before joining AEA and ACTEA, AEA Executive Board member & President North West Region from 2010 to 2013 and was the President /CEO of the National Evangelical Fellowship of Senegal (FES) during the same period. More recently, Eloi served as International Director Research & Strategy and as a member of the Calvary Ministries –CAPRO International Council for eight (8) years. During this period he was also the Chaplain of the Agape Chapel at the

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CAPRO international Office. He is fluent in both French, his lingua franca, English, and Portuguese. He joined ACTEA staff in March 2021. He is married to Francisca Soares Martins Dogue and they are blessed with three children.

*Rev. Dr. Eloi Sobel Dogue*

### 3. APPOINTMENT OF NEW AEA GENERAL SECRETARY



*Dr. Aiah Khabenje, outgoing GS, and Dr. Master Matlhaope, incoming GS*

At the recent Quadrennial General Assembly, 28-30 April 2021, AEA welcomed and inaugurated into office the 6<sup>th</sup> General Secretary of AEA, Rev. Dr. Master Oboletswe Matlhaope from Botswana. He was born at Kalkfontein in Ghanzi District in Botswana. He is married to Boipuso Eneldah Matlhaope and blessed with three children; two boys – Prince and David and a daughter, Abigail.

Matlhaope holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Practical Theology from North West University (NWU)-Potchefstroom in South Africa. He did part of his doctoral research at Cambridge University-United Kingdom under Tyndale House. He did his Masters at Cape Theological Seminary aka Global University at Cape Town – South Africa and majored in New Testament and

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minor in leadership. His first Degree was in Bible and Theology with Global University (Missouri-United States of America).

Rev. Dr. Matlhaope is no stranger to AEA. He is a senior minister in the Pentecostal Protestant Church (PPC) in Botswana and has been a pastor for over 22 years. He has also served the Botswana Evangelical Fellowship (BEF) in various positions and notably, as president of the BEF for a maximum of three successive terms. Among other responsibilities, Rev. Dr. Matlhaope has held positions in public service in his country. He was a member of a thirty persons Presidential Task Team (PTT) appointed by the Government in 2015, to design, develop, draw and document a long-term vision for Botswana, known as Vision 2036. He is also a member of the Advisory and Arbitration Council (AAC), a statutory and quasi-judicial body appointed since March 2017 to date. Rev. Dr. Matlhaope succeeds, Rev. Dr. Aiah Foday-Khabenje, who has served a maximum of three successive terms of four years each since 2009. We take this opportunity to convey our hearty congratulations to Rev. Dr. Matlhaope on his ascension to the position of General Secretary of the Association of Evangelicals in Africa. Our prayers and very best wishes for Spirit-led, Christlike impactful service to the Church in Africa, for the glory of God and indeed, the Africa God Wants.

#### 4. ACTEA / AEA BID FAREWELL TO REV. DR. AIAH FODAY-KHABENJE



*ACTEA and AEA Staff together with Rev. Dr. Aiah Foday- Khabenje*

ACTEA and AEA bid farewell to Rev. Dr. Aiah Foday-Khabenje, the 5<sup>th</sup> General Secretary of AEA (2009-2021), on 27 May 2021 at the Sarova Panafric Hotel. Aiah's tenure came to an end on 31 May 2021. Aiah provided exemplary and dedicated leadership to AEA. He repositioned AEA coming up with a new strategic plan, positioning AEA Projects to be more effective, invigorating the National Evangelical Fellowships (NEFs), and managing to move AEA from the timber structure office to the magnificently designed and constructed 9-storey AEA Plaza located at Upper Hill, Nairobi. We take

this opportunity to thank him for his exemplary leadership. Dr. Khabenje gave a passionate valedictory speech to AEA and Project staff members before exiting to his home in Freetown, Sierra Leone. He reminded us that "The AEA Secretariat with its various entities makes an important contribution to building the Church in Africa and in Global Christianity. This is a serious call worthy of our utmost consideration, guided by the Spirit, in Christ and in the fear of God the Father. The importance of this platform is not in our strength or rather the lack thereof, as

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individuals, God is glorified.” Please let’s continue to pray for Aiah and his family as they settle back home.



*Rev. Dr. Aiah's family*

## **5. AWARD OF AFFILIATE STATUS ACCREDITATION TO BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY -EKU (BTSE)**

BTSE is the third historical seminary of the Nigeria Baptist Convention, joining the seminaries at Ogbomoshos in the West and Kaduna in the North. BTSE was founded in 1945 by Southern Baptist missionaries from the U.S., who had a vision for a theological school in the Niger Delta region. During the first two decades, the school moved among various Niger Delta locations permanently settling in Eku in 1968. Rev. Dr. Dwight Singer, ACTEA Networking Officer, conducted the assessment of BTSE from Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July to Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 2017. The institution was by then not able to respond to ACTEA’s concerns from the assessment done until year 2020 when

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they reached out to ACTEA once again and they were successfully able to address those concerns. They received their affiliate award on 29<sup>th</sup> January 2021. **Diploma in Religious Education, Diploma in Theology, Bachelor of Religious Education, and Bachelor of Theology are the programs accredited.** Let's take time to congratulate BTSE for this achievement.

## 6. INSTITUTIONS ASSESSMENTS

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### ✦ [Salvation Army OTC Theological College \(S.A.OTC\), Turbo, Kenya.](#)



The college opened its doors for training of pastors in 2011 in Kakamega town where the Salvation Army headquarters is situated. The church decided to construct the current campus because the Kakamega campus was too small to accommodate the growing number of students. The new facility, situated in Turbo town along Mautuma road, was completed in 2017. The visit which took place in response to S.A.OTC's application for Affiliate Status accreditation was held on 19<sup>th</sup>

April 2020. This visit was undertaken by Rev. Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA and Rev. Alfred Ruto, Academic Dean, Africa Theological Seminary, Kitale, on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2020. The Institution is seeking ACTEA accreditation at the Affiliate level for only its residential Certificate and Diploma in Pastoral Studies. The institution has been given time to work on a few concerns before the accreditation can be approved.

### ✦ [Neema Lutheran College \(NLC\) Nyamira County, Kenya,](#)

Neema Lutheran College (formerly Matongo Lutheran Theological College) was first established as a Bible school in 1957 by Swedish Lutheran Mission (SLM). It served the purpose of training evangelists for the Lutheran Church in Kenya until 1977 when it was upgraded to a theological college meant to train pastors. The first class of Pastoral Training Course was admitted in 1978. In 1993, the college introduced Diploma in Theology (DT) for pastoral students. The first class of deaconess students was admitted, under Diploma in Diakonia in 2005. In 2010, the theological college merged with Matongo Teachers Training College to form Neema Lutheran College (NLC), offering theology, education, community development and social work. In the same year, NLC signed an MOU with Daystar University to offer Bachelor of Theology. Currently the college offers the following theological programmes: Certificate in Evangelistic Training (CET), Certificate in Theology (CT), Certificate in Deaconess Studies (Diakonia), Diploma in Theology (DT), and Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.). The College belongs to

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the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Kenya (ELCK). The assessment visit took place from 10<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> march 2021. It was undertaken by Rev. Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA.

## **7. APPLICATION FOR ACCREDITATION OF AN ADDITIONAL PROGRAM**

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Last year two institutions that are fully accredited applied to have new programs accredited by ACTEA. These are KIMA international School of theology (KIST) in Vihiga County, Kenya, and LIFE Theological Seminary (LTS) in Ikorodu, Nigeria. KIST whose Diploma in Bible and Theology was awarded full accreditation in 2018, is seeking ACTEA accreditation of Bachelor of Arts in Bible and Theology Program. Rev. Dr. David Tarus, Executive Director of ACTEA conducted the assessment of KIST program from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> March 2021.



*Rev. Prof. Emmanuel Oyemomi and Dr. Cletus Orgu*

LTS is seeking ACTEA accreditation of their Masters in Theology (MTh) program. They received full accreditation of their Bachelor of Theology (BTh) and Diploma In Theology (DTh) in October 2017. Prof. Emmanuel Oyemomi, Rector, Baptist College of Theology Lagos, a qualified ACTEA assessment officer, conducted assessment of the LTS MTh program on 29<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021. Let's continue to pray for all our schools as they await official response from the ACTEA Accreditation committee

## **8. NON – ACCREDITED INSTITUTIONS - CORRESPONDENCE STATUS**

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ACTEA would like to extend a warm welcome and very best wishes to the following Institutions that have just began the journey towards accreditation under correspondence membership:

- ✦ Africa Mission Training Institute (AMTI), Located in Karen, Kenya.
- ✦ Proclamation Task Institute - Uganda ( PTI-U), Located in Uganda
- ✦ Garem Theological Seminary, Located in Nigeria.

It is our hope that we will be of great help to these institutions as we walk with them towards accreditation of the programs they offer.

## **9. ACTEA ODEL STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HYBRID VIRTUAL SITE VISIT**

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ACTEA wishes to announce two important documents: **Accreditation Standards for Open, Distance, and e-Learning (ODEL)** and **Guidelines for Hybrid Virtual Site Visit**.



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The two documents were ratified by the ACTEA Council that met virtually on October 23, 2020.

- a) [ACTEA Standards & Procedures for Accreditation of Open, Distance, and e-Learning \(ODEL\) Programmes](#). The document has 3 important parts: introduction, procedures, and Standards. If your institution is offering online or distance programmes, then please, make sure there is compliance with the Standards by applying for accreditation of those programs. Please [Click here](#) to view the document.
  
- b) [ACTEA Guidelines for Hybrid Virtual Site Accreditation Visit](#). The hybrid or blended virtual site visit comprises an ACTEA full accreditation visit wherein a portion of the VT conducts the visit on-site with the remaining visitation team members engage virtually. Specifically, in accordance with the mandate from the ACTEA Council, a minimum of two of the VT members should be in-person, thus on-site during the entire visitation period, to conduct the accreditation visit. Furthermore, only an institution which ACTEA has previously assessed on-site and in-person is eligible for the hybrid site visit. [Click here](#) to access the document.

Our prayer is that these documents will help enrich your institution for God's glory.

## **10. ANNUAL FEES AND ANNUAL REPORTS, 2020/2021**



Following the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ACTEA office started a campaign to raise USD 70,000 to offset the annual fees requirement for the academic year 2020/2021. We are happy to report that we managed to raise **USD 32,149**, which is 45.6% of the target (\$70,000). The ACTEA Executive Committee resolved that ACTEA can only 'forgive' what has been raised, in this case, 45.6 %. In other words, your institution will be required to pay **54.4%** of the annual fee in 2021 financial year. However, please note

that this will only apply to institutions that will pay on time and have no arrears. Please get in touch with the office in case you need clarification on this matter.

### **A special appeal:**

The year 2020 was tough on your institution as well as on ACTEA office. ACTEA received less money because of closure of institutions. Even with this deficit ACTEA was required to pay Value Added Tax (VAT) to the government for the office space that had been purchased in Nairobi. We are happy that when COVID started, the government reduced VAT from the initial 16% to 14%. The Finance Committee resolved that we take advantage of the VAT reduction. We therefore used 28,128 USD raised from the annual fee campaign to pay the government. Consequently, we were left with only 4,021 USD. With the reduced institutional payments plus the VAT payment, the office has minimal funds for operational cost. We therefore want to humbly request institutions

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that can pay **100%** of their annual fee to please pay or to consider a **generosity gift** on top of the reduced (54.4%) fees, towards helping ACTEA meet its financial obligations.

## Next step:

Please complete the attached annual report for 2020/21, a requirement for ACTEA institutions and ensure you make this report a high priority. Please send the report to [adm.ass.actea@gmail.com](mailto:adm.ass.actea@gmail.com) or [adm.ass@acteaweb.org](mailto:adm.ass@acteaweb.org) and send a copy to [actea.africa@gmail.com](mailto:actea.africa@gmail.com)

As you prepare to send your institutional payments, here are a few important guidelines to ensure successful payment transactions without problems:

*First*, it is important to notify ACTEA office by email when funds are sent because it can be difficult to tell the source of a fund wire transfer that appears on the bank account statement. **Please note that you will need to first send a scanned copy of the Fee Notice that is filled, signed, and has a date. This will be the only way we will validate the payments made to ACTEA.**

*Secondly*, you can make payments via wire transfer, payable to, "ACTEA" to the following ACTEA account in Kenya using the following details:

### The wire transfer details are:

**Account Name:** Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA)

**Bank Name:** I&M Bank

**Account Number:** 00801801891510 (USD)

**Branch:** Karen

**Swift Code:** IMBLKENA

**Bank Address:** Karen Office Park, Langata Road, P.O. Box 30238-00100 Nairobi, Kenya

**N.B Please remember to factor in the transfer charges as you wire in the money. Any amount that is less the Annual fees will be debited into your account for the following year. Kindly note that all the Kenyan banks have been advised by the Government not to accept any foreign cheques. Therefore, please don't send/ post any cheques.**

Finally, for those institutions with arrears, kindly plan to clear it soon and communicate the same or your intended action plan to ACTEA office.

## 11. OUR INSTITUTIONS' PRAYER CONCERNS

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- ✦ **Thanksgiving:** Thanksgiving for God's faithfulness and provisions to ACTEA and it's institutions. For the 45 years that ACTEA is celebrating this year!

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## ✦ Office space for ACTEA

Please thank God for his provision. ACTEA hopes to move to its new office in July 2021. Currently the ACTEA's office fit out is taking place in preparation for the move. We have 3 lettable offices, workstations, board room, two executive offices that need fit-out. We are still fund-raising towards this project. You are all welcome to give towards this project. Kindly inform us of any partners that may partner with us toward achieving this goal

## ✦ Accreditation and Re-accreditation: Join us in praying for ACTEA institutions currently engaged in the process of getting

their study programmes accredited or re-accredited. Pray for wisdom, renewal of strength and good health for the leadership teams involved in writing the institutions' Self Evaluation Reports (SER). Please note that accreditation process in many of our institutions has been halted by ongoing pandemic.

- ✦ **Financial Stability:** Pray for financial stability of our theological institutions and ACTEA. The COVID-19 Pandemic greatly affected the financial stability of our institutions. Many shut down and some have very few students as they are yet to resume their studies. Many staff in these institutions have gone without salaries too. Pray that the Lord will provide adequate resources for the continuity of the gospel and theological education in Africa.
- ✦ **Peace and Stability:** In the face of a good number of African countries facing political instability, let us all pray that the Lord grants Africa peace and an end to wars and conflicts. May we be instruments of peace in Africa and let us continue to love each other as Christ has loved us and maintain peace with each other.



## 12. **UPCOMING ACTEA EVENTS & STAFF 2021 TRIPS**

Note and pray for the success of the following upcoming, planned events:

- ✦ **Global Theological Initiative (GTI) sponsored by White Horse Inn and ACTEA:** This is a post-doctoral forum for schools from 9 countries in East and Horn of Africa scheduled from 15<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> July 2021. This year's meeting will be held virtually. The theme is "Lord and Giver of Life: The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit." We have presenters from Kenya, India, and USA.
- ✦ **Global Associates for Transformational Education (GATE) virtual workshop (Year 4)** for 10 theological institutions from Southern part of Nigeria. Date to be confirmed later
- ✦ **Heads of Theological Institutions meeting** for the Nigeria Baptist Convention from September 9<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> at Nigeria Baptist Theological Seminary. The Director will attend.

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- ✦ **Vital Sustainability Initiative** meetings for three schools in Nigeria – September 12<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2021.
- ✦ **ACTEA Council Meeting:** This annual gathering of the highest governing organ of ACTEA will be held 21<sup>st</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2021. The ExCo will meet in July to decide the modalities of this year's meeting.
- ✦ **Continental consultation on "Theological Education for Sustainable Growth in Churches and Society in Africa"** scheduled for November 25-28, 2021 at the Desmond Tutu Centre, Nairobi, Kenya. This conference is organized by 14 theological education networks in Africa including ACTEA. Among the themes for the conference are theological education and resource mobilization, theological education and the curriculum, theological education and African Union's agenda 2063, theological education and formation, theological education and emerging issues, and guiding church renewal through research among others.
- ✦ **ICETE Global Consultation, C-21.** ICETE's Global Consultation event will take place in Rome, from 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> November 2021. This will be a hybrid meeting. Few members, mostly ICETE Board and consultants, will meet physically while the rest of us will meet online. ICETE hopes to have C-22 as a physical meeting next year November 14-18 2022. The venue will be communicated later. All are encouraged to register.

## Library News



### 13. ACTEA LIBRARIANS E-NEWS AND PUBLICATIONS

We have a few publications this year from our Executive Director

- ✦ David K. Tarus, "The Church and Ethnopolitical Conflict in Kenya, 1982-2013," in Rodney Reed and David Ngaruiya Eds., *Forgiveness, Peace-Making, and Reconciliation*. Africa Society of Evangelical Theology Series, (Carlisle, UK: Langham Global Library, 2020) pp. 169-192
- ✦ David K. Tarus, "The Entrenchment of Ethnocentrism in Kenya's Political Landscape and the Church's Responses to it," in Theodros Teklu Ed., *From Ethnic Enmity to Responsible Cohabitation: Moral Pedagogies for Africans*. Routledge, September 2021.
- ✦ David K. Tarus, "The Contributions of the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA) to Excellence and Renewal of Theological Education in Africa" in Hannes Knoetze and Alfred Brunsdon Eds., *A Critical Engagement with Theological Education in Africa: A South African Perspective*. Northwest University. Aosis, 2021 (upcoming).

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*"Those blessings are the sweetest that are won with prayers and won with thanks".*

- Thomas Goodwin

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