



NEWSLETTER

Domboshawa Trust UK



Vol.2
Autumn 2021

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your ongoing support and continued interest, both in Domboshawa Theological College, and Zimbabwe as a nation. Your generous care and effective prayers make a real difference and are a source of substantial encouragement to the College, Staff and Students.

2021 has continued to throw down severe challenges akin to those described in our previous newsletter. We wish to update you on the situation and some of the developments therein. It is wonderfully encouraging that new students are still coming forward to enrol in studies despite economic hardships, that teaching has continued throughout the lockdowns, and that the Masters' Course has got off to a great start. This enables DTC to offer high academic qualifications. We hope that this newsletter will provide you with fuel for prayer and occasions for thankfulness. We sincerely thank you for your partnership in the gospel.



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TOPAZ Students: TOPAZ (Trainers of Pastors Association of Zimbabwe) - an organisation founded by and operationalised by DTC in 2011.



COVID-19 Update

In the last newsletter we reported that the immediate impact of the COVID Pandemic on health had been relatively limited compared to the West. World Health Organisation (WHO) figures for the 17th December 2020 revealed that there had been 11,749 cases and 313 deaths (though admittedly testing had been far more limited). However, since the start of this year Zimbabwe has been exposed to more virulent strains of the virus: the South African and Delta variants. By 21 September 2021, there had been 128,186 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 4,569 deaths, reported to WHO. Many Zimbabweans now know people who have lost their lives to the virus. Thankfully, as of 14 September 2021, a total of 4,751,735 vaccine doses had been administered. Notably, many of these doses have been Chinese vaccines Sinopharm and Sinovac, a sign of China's growing influence in the region.




The effects of lockdown continue to be severe, and it is sobering to consider how they have affected two groups in particular: women and students.



"By 21 September 2021, there had been 4,569 deaths of COVID-19 reported to WHO"


- With the unemployment rate over 90% most people subsist through the informal sector. But here the odds are stacked against women. Cross-border trade, domestic service, informal work on farms, and various types of other informal employment are disproportionately carried out by women and girls. And all these have all been curtailed through lockdown.
- Women, who out of desperation have continued to cross borders, have fallen prey to rape and robbery by the men who transport them illegally.
- Women and girls, who remain at home selling second-hand clothes, fruit or vegetables around village homesteads, have increased their risk of exposure to COVID 19. They also risk having their goods confiscated by law enforcement agents.
- According to the Mutasa Project, a Zimbabwean organisation that provides shelter to abused women, there has also been an increase in domestic abuse against women precipitated by men who feel incapacitated by lockdown restrictions. Moreover, the closure of schools and colleges brought girls into this explosive domestic situation increasing their chances of being abused.
- While many tertiary education institutions have made great advances with e-platforms, poor bandwidth and the cost of internet connections limits the ability of students to receive effective learning and teaching, especially those in rural areas.
- The curtailing of social and sporting activities led to an increase in social isolation and mental illness.
- The downturn of the economy has caused many companies to cut work placement opportunities, depriving many students of quality professional experience.
- More generally, economic decline has increased graduate unemployment.
- Instead of focussing on their studies some students have turned to trading, joining hundreds of thousands of others who seek to eke out a living on the streets while avoiding the authorities.

According to the World Bank half of Zimbabweans fell into extreme poverty during the pandemic, meaning that they live on less than 1.9 USD per person, per day.



Domboshawa Theological College
Diploma in Pastoral Studies



4 Days To Graduation

"This Diploma has impacted my life in a transformational way. I have been equipped with the tools that i need to carry out exegetical analysis of any Bible content and how to prepare and deliver the Word in a meaningful way. I now know my calling and my confidence in public speaking has increased tremendously as i have been trained 'to go ye therefore'..."

Adiolla Adiona Kapora
Intake 22 Class Representative

2022 Enrolment now in progress

Contact Details: +263242705345 +263772220284 +263712396199

The Political Situation

Earlier this year an explosive series of revelations by the South African publication, The Daily Maverick, provided a bleak summary of the current political outlook. The report, published over several days in January, outlined the extent of Zimbabwe's 'state capture' by a corrupt network of military, secret service personnel and businesspeople. Cartels had been formed which hamper honest business transactions and rob citizens of a better life through their manipulation of the state. A key mechanism for enrichment is overpricing. It means less medicine, fewer kilometres of roads, more sub-standard education, and less private consumption of goods and services for citizens while elites amass billions.

One of the many examples of state capture concerns Sakunda, a fuel company accused of monopolising fuel supplies, which owns the pipeline from Beira to Zimbabwe. Sakunda received an illicit payment of Z\$3.3 billion which was ten times more than the value of the services it provided. To meet the shortfall, the Reserve Bank printed money that caused the overnight devaluation of the Zimbabwean dollar by 90%, eroding the incomes and savings of millions of Zimbabweans.

"A key mechanism for enrichment is over-pricing."

A name that appears repeatedly in instances of state capture is Kudakwashe Tagwirei, an ally of Emmerson Mnangagwa, whom the President has described as a nephew. According to media reports in 2018, Tagwirei gave luxury vehicles to President Mnangagwa, Vice President Constantine Chiwenga, the late Minister for Agriculture, Perrance Shiri, and other ZANU/PF officials.



2019 Diploma in Pastoral Studies graduation

Reflections of the DTC Principal

1. Adversity:

'Political polarisation, involving various forms of injustice and inter-party and intra-party conflicts, has resulted in significant national destabilisation which became worse following the coup of 2017. The economy has been badly affected, a situation which has been deeply exacerbated since 2020 by the COVID-19 world-wide pandemic. We thank God however that good rains in the last season will avert hunger and bring a modicum of economic relief. Many students have struggled to pay fees and this has affected the financial health of the college. Face to face lectures were suspended for most of 2020 due to covid lockdowns.

Yet thriving by the grace of God:

DTC commenced its new Masters' programme in February this year marking a new milestone. The college suffered a very minimal loss of existing students. In fact, overall enrolment increased from 100 to 115 students since the beginning of this year. The college managed to overcome the effects of coronavirus shutdowns by delivering effective education through online teaching. Some students who would have dropped out of college due to economic hardships were rescued by the provision of revolving educational loans. Despite the socio-political hardships in the nation, morale among students, staff and faculty remains relatively high.

We are greatly thankful that the Lord used the Domboshawa Trust UK as part of his plan for the survival and thriving of the college'.



Domboshawa Theological College



DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL STUDIES
2021
GRADUATION CEREMONY

SATURDAY 16 OCTOBER
10:30am - 1:00pm
78 Fife Avenue, Harare

 **LIVE** Domboshawa Theological College - DTC

2022 Enrolment now in progress:
Diploma registered with the Ministry of Education
BA Honours' Degree affiliated with Zimbabwe Open University
Masters' Degree affiliated with Africa University

Contact Details: +263242705345 +263772220084 +263712396199



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"Now offering a Masters' Programme"



The principal and his wife standing with recent DTC BA graduates

A Ministry that has borne Fruit

There is no greater testimony to the ministry of DTC than the lives of its graduates. Here is a sample of those graduates who have passed through DTC in various years.



Kate SMITH, retired medical doctor from England, studied for a BA in Religious studies and Theology with us from 2016–2019. After graduating she founded Haven of Hope Trust to reach out to and facilitate the reformation of addicts who are often neglected by the society.



Samuel KALIZI, trained with us from 2013–2016. He is now the National Director of Scripture Union Zimbabwe, and an associate pastor with Fresh Water Christian Fellowship in Harare.



Kimion TAGWIREI, studied BA Religious studies and Theology with us from 2015–2018. He then took a Masters' Degree in Theology with Great Zimbabwe University (2019–2020) and is currently pursuing his PhD in Practical Theology with the University of Pretoria while serving as an associate pastor with the Assemblies of God church in Masvingo. He has also just launched a digital Christian magazine called Ecclesia.



Mukululi NCUBE, studied with us from 2014–2017. He is now the National Director of Swaziland Fellowship of Evangelical students. Many other alumni testimonies can be found on the DTC Facebook page: Domboshawa Theological College – DTC.



Francis MACHINGURA, studied with us from 1997–1999 graduating with both a Diploma in Religious Studies and a Diploma in Pastoral Studies. Since at that time we had not yet established a degree programme, he proceeded to the University of Zimbabwe for his Masters' Degree, with a PhD then being acquired in Germany. He is now a professor with the University of Zimbabwe and an established scholar while also being a pastor of one of the Apostolic Faith Mission Assemblies.



Sylvia MUSASIWA, is one of our intake 1 of the degree programme and studied with us 2007–2010. Following her graduation, she proceeded with the Masters Degree with the University of Pretoria and is now completing her PhD with the same University while also serving as one of the adjunct lecturers at DTC. She is a founder and Director of a school for children with learning difficulties.



Georgina PHILIPS, studied with Domboshawa Theological College from 2009–2012. She is now a Chaplain in Jersey in the Channel Islands, and a lead Therapist at Macmillan Jersey Cancer support.