

Zimbabwe Theological Seminary

Rev. Muno Chirovamavi (Ph.D.)



Rev. Dr. Muno Chirovamavi (Principal)

1. Introduction

Greetings to the Lott Carey Family

It has not been easy to step into the shoes of Prof. Henry Mugabe and Rev. Dr. Dudzirai Chimeri. Even though I was seconded from the Zimbabwe Theological Seminary Board to lead the Seminary where I was actively involved at directing policy issues, being a foot soldier is somewhat a new ball game. There was no job orientation because of their untimely departure through the horrific accident. The two leaders had vast experience of stirring the institution even against the tide of economic meltdown. But thanks be to God, I was their disciple as a Seminary student in the 1990s. I also served with them as a teaching colleague for many years. This kind of gives me a clue as to what their vision was and with Lott Carey family support, we are bound to reach “the promised Land”.

The Zimbabwe Theological Seminary (ZTS) Board and the ZTS staff are all voicing the same chorus that the “Seminary will never die”. Indeed, prayers, solidarity and financial support from Lott Carey continues to make

missional and educational planning predictable. The doors of quality theological education remain open to deserving men and women courtesy of Lott Carey generosity.

The Lott Carey support to ZTS started from the inception of the Seminary in 2011. Since that time, together we have trained more than 250 Christian leaders who are serving in different capacities locally and globally. To that end, we can surely say to our founding leaders, Prof Mugabe and Dr. Chimeri, “though gone, yet your legacy lives on”. We continue to pray for Hermina and Matilda, the surviving spouses and their families for the Lord’s presence as they navigate this transitional journey. We thank you for the support rendered to the bereaved families.

2. The Impact of ZTS Ministry

Our founding leaders’ vision of seeing Zimbabwe Theological Seminary becoming a degree awarding institution was realized almost eight months after their departure. Built on the firm foundation that they laid in library resources, physical and technological facilities as well as investment in human capital, ZTS was granted affiliate status by Great Zimbabwe University. Previously, we had an Associate relationship that accorded us Diploma accredited certification.

The reputation of the Seminary continues to be an intangible resource, yielding tangible results. Our inaugural degree class had 23 students and 9 Masters candidates. Our current student body stands at 50 enrolled in different programs. Certificate in Theology,

Diploma in Theology/ Religious Studies, Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Philosophy and Master of Arts in Theology. We also run Pastoral Excellence programs for those leaders already in ministry.

3. Number of persons/ communities served:

Some of our graduates serve as pastors, Bible teachers, Youth leaders, Chaplains in Prisons, Hospitals, Police and Army. Our Seminary is well known for programs that intentionally create spaces for women in leadership as evidenced by a gender sensitive faculty and an active role in supporting churches to ordain women for ministry. This has led to church growth as more and more Churches across denominational boundaries are realizing how much the church has been famished by holding on to patriarchal cultures in church and society.

Our impact is felt through representation in the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, an ecumenical body whose mandate is to empower churches in our quest for justice and missions. Our graduates and faculty are involved ZTS in peace building initiatives. Currently, calls for the planting and support of new churches have been the order of the day. Different communities and churches are aware of our strategic position in both training and leadership development.

Zimbabwe Theological Seminary's imprints are visible among Baptists, Methodists, Anglicans, United Methodist Church, Church of Christ and other Pentecostal groups, just to mention a few. We work with Para-Church ministries such as Scripture Union, Orphanages, Disability Ministries, and government institutions.

4. Needs Required for ministry to thrive:

We continue to rely on Lott Carey partnership in offering scholarships to students who come from poor backgrounds. Staff Development remains a priority area to maintain the unique brand in theological training. We therefore need to advance our efforts in income generating projects such as chicken farming, market gardening, fish farming, & pig farming. Initial substantial capital is needed for these projects to take off.

The development of the Seminary into degrees awarding status also call for investment in more college furniture and educational technology. There is desperate need for more desks and chairs for students, more computers, and other related accessories. A diesel-powered generator is needed to back up electric power supply.

A college van has been on the prayer list for some time now. The existing one is broken down beyond repair. It is now a requirement in meeting the demands of our new status. The same goes for college premises rentals in the property we are currently operating from. The long-term plan is to acquire our own premises where we can build and expand into a full-fledged university.

The Seminary prides itself in retaining hardworking staff and wishes to develop and attract other competent and skilled staff. This is supported by providing fair living allowances for their services.

5. Payer Requests

- Our country will be going for national elections in August, and we continue to pray for peace and stability during

election period. Pray for violence free elections, free and fair elections.

- Need for own premises for the future vision of the Seminary development.
- Availability of more scholarships for deserving needy students
- Funds for income generating projects.
- A vehicle to facilitate our evangelist drive, especially for students on internship.
- Protection of the vulnerable especially girls who in most cases are victimized during times of unrest and economic collapse.
- Substance/Drug abuse has been on the increase among youths who in most cases are not employed. Unemployment levels are very high in the country.



BA in Religious Studies & Theology students and staff members