

In the Midst of the Storm



With all the chaos at the Universities in the USA, many of you might not have heard that the protests and sit-ins at the various US campuses were preceded by a massive country-wide protest at all the South African Universities. Back in October, the students all protested because of an announced 6% - 7% fee increase for 2016. This happened to fall just before final exams, which gave the students an opportunity to cause a "slight" disruption in having the faculty be able to administer their exams. Needless to say, based on the pictures that you see most academic minded students were not encouraged to negotiate with the protesters about their need to attend final classes and examinations.

The protests started with some simple gatherings, but then grew to a "takeover" and they actually succeeded in getting the government to declare a 0% fee increase for 2016. Undeterred, and sensing weakness, the students have been pressing on (and are still burning cars to this day) and are now demanding "no fees" and forgiveness of all payments in arrears. It will be interesting to see how the Lord has orchestrated the outcome here in RSA.

Meanwhile, during this time of tension, the faculty of Christ Seminary have been busy penetrating the unusually "thorny" environment at the University of Limpopo (about 30KM East of Christ Seminary). I affectionately label this University as "The Berkeley of South Africa" because it is the hotbed of political activity (the ANC headquarters are here) and the students are particularly "expressive" in their communication.

For the first time in the history of Christ Seminary and Christ Baptist Church, we are now holding weekly Bible studies on campus with faculty, staff, and grad students. It is purely a result of the efforts of one of our church members, Dr. Kingsley Ayisi who is from Ghana. Dr. Ayisi offered to provide the "foothold" on campus by gathering a Bible study over the lunch hour in a special location that is reserved for Belgian visitors in the Faculty of Agriculture.



Every Thursday afternoon, we send two Christ Seminary professors to the University of Limpopo, and meet at a place called the “Vlir House” (pronounced “fler”) which is an obscure location reserved for Belgian visitors. Each week a group meets to

go over Fundamentals of the Faith. The session began with a group of about 12 people, with many questions about the Bible, faith, and true belief. Dr. Ayisi (in the foreground in the picture), gathered the group and participates in the discussions. He is a committed evangelist, and is well respected at the University.



The reason that this is special is two-fold. First, it is not really legal to hold “official” Bible studies on campus. If we did go through official channels, then we would have to open up to all other denominations and sects and submit to the campus leadership. Second, with all the campus unrest there is no message of hope being given to the young people of South Africa.

To date, we have committed PhD faculty, staff, and a number of Master’s and Doctoral students attending regularly. We are actually “legal” because we come during the lunch hour. So, for one hour the Word of God is taught to hungry people with “zero fees.” Praise God for the continuous ministry that He provides for us here in

Limpopo, South Africa, and for a strong national faculty committed to the Word of God.