



...the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you. Phil 1:7



FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

As we close the year of our Lord 2024, we are thankful to God for sustaining us over the last year. As President of MINTS, I am thankful to report MINTS has had a busy year. We continue to teach courses, open new centers throughout the world, work and translate materials into new languages, help church plants and continue ongoing training and development of existing ministers. I know all the staff and teachers in MINTS feel it is a lot to keep up with.



ON THE ADMINISTRATIVE SIDE OF MINTS



In 2024, we added a new database, a new registration system for students and a new system for submitting grades. We started our MINTS English Online program for students who cannot study in existing centers. And now we have started our fund-raising and recruitment drive in earnest. Although often not thought about, proper backroom administration is essential so we can operate as a professional seminary properly.

Viewing the 2024 preliminary numbers, we project we will graduate just over 400 students worldwide. In Africa, we have 269 graduates as highlighted in the chart below. In addition to the numbers from Africa, we had 14 students graduate from the Houston (US) center and another 30 students from the Seminary-In-Prison program (see page 3 for more on this program.) We have similar preliminary numbers on the Spanish side that we will share in next *Refresh*.

COUNTRY	CTS	AATS	BATS	MATS	Mdiv	Total
S. Africa	11	8	7			26
Cameroon	14	8	9	2	8	41
Kenya		5	6	2		13
Zambia	1	37	34			72
Malawi		2	47	2		51
Tanzania			16			16

In the following pages, I would like to put some context on the figures above with some stories to show what they represent in practice: men raised up to preach, teach, and pastor, in *Africa and more!*

AFRICA AND MORE

In **Uganda**, we have trained a village pastor (photo page 1.) He lives with 25 other families in huts, without electricity or water. Within a hundred yards from his house is the grave of his 16 year old son, hit by lightning while out looking after the cows. In sight of his house are two witch-doctors leading the people further and further from the light into darkness.

Even with all the challenges, he is the MINTS center coordinator for the area and trains others even as he is being taught. He has been strengthened in his faith and he is better equipped to preach the gospel, reach the lost, and shepherd the flock God has given to him to minister. It is wonderful to see a man, who has so little of this world's goods, grow in the grace and knowledge of Christ. When I was there, we taught together on the book of Revelation. This humble pastor understands the nature of the war, the need to persevere, the hope of the victory of Christ, and the great promise that in the end, "God will wipe away every tear from our eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away" (Rev. 21:4) and "He will dwell with them, and they will be his people." (Rev. 21:3) In this training he is ministering to others, helping their lives and their faith as they wait for the coming of the King.



MINTS class in Addis Ababa

In **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**, *Covenant Theological Seminary* now teaches Reformed Theology in four centers and in two languages. The main center is in Addis Ababa and we are now expanding out of Addis into the more rural areas. In Addis we can teach in English, but as we move further out we have translated nineteen courses into Amharic. We hope to add a third language, Oromo. At this time we are the only Reformed seminary in Addis Ababa. It is an important inroad in a city where most are Orthodox. As we translate and give away our training materials into those languages, we hope the Lord will use them to bring many in the Orthodox church to the Reformed faith. In a loose connection with Shadow Servants, we are church planting. We now have five churches in Ethiopia. We need help in finding more lecturers for teaching and training leaders of these new Reformed churches.

In Africa we are working with a number of independent churches, even as we work with whole denominations training men for pastoral ministry. These works include the *Christian Reformed Church* in **Sierra Leone** and *Reformed Presbyterian Church* in **Liberia** (with a combined student body of 70 men.) We also work with the *Free Presbyterian Church Malawi*. These men will lead the church in their countries forward for the next 30 years and so it is imperative they are well trained in the faith and Reformed traditions.

In **North Africa/the Middle East**, we have connected with New Geneva's seminary in **Egypt** where we are translating MINTS materials into Arabic. We are also training DMin students to write



You never know where you will find a MINTS class in Africa!

Continued on page 4



Kenya MINTS class students



MINTS class Addis Ababa

FROM OUR GUY IN NEPAL

Greetings in Christ's name from the very top of the world, the Everest Land, Nepal. My name is Suraj Kasula. I am a minister at Shekinah Evangelical Church. We also have a church plant in Easter, Nepal.

I live in Bhaktapur, Nepal with my wife Roshani and with two daughters, Hadassah and Esther. I studied my bachelors and masters in theology at Edinburgh Theological Seminary, Scotland. I am the founding president of Bhaktapur Theology Seminary. The seminary was established in 2017 with the affiliation of MINTS International Seminary. We have had 3 graduations so far and more than 50 students have graduated from this seminary. They are now serving the Lord in many ways in different ministries. Our new academic session started a few months ago. We have around 20 students in this session.

I am a Mints coordinator for South Asia. I travel throughout South Asia to establish MINTS centers and promote its vision in many ways. I am also involved in Reformed Books House where we translate and publish reformed books and literature. Our three recent publications are the *Westminster Confession of Faith*, *Three Forms of Unity* and *The Pilgrim's Progress*.



SEMINARY-IN-PRISON

We have MINTS study centers in more than twenty prisons in Florida, two in Georgia and two in Mississippi and we continue to expand. We are currently making efforts to get into some Texas prisons but we need volunteers that are willing to give us one day a week to teach inside the walls. That said, we also need volunteers in Florida!

In 2024 we will graduate 30 students with a total of 229 men since 2014. We encourage our master graduate students to write courses, or if they have graduated with a masters to continue with the Doctor of Ministry program where they will write four more courses. Thirty-three "prison commentaries" have been written by the inmates and over 30 have been assigned to be written. We still have a handful of Bible books, mostly from the Old Testament, that need an author.





AFRICA AND MORE ————— *Continued from page 3*

MINTS courses. *Local men writing courses in local languages for the local church.* This is a new work for us and in translating our courses we can now train the next generation of men for the Presbyterian church in Egypt. And we have a second center that is also reaching Arabic speaking refugees in middle eastern countries. These are both exciting new works.

Across the sea, in Sicily, we are now working with *Istituto Evangelico Riformato Giovanni*, <https://istituto diodati.org/> to provide online MINTS training in Italian, another new language for us. We now have four centers in Europe: **Albania, Italy, Serbia, and Bulgaria.** Each run by locals in their native language.

AIDING THE PERSECUTED CHURCH

We continue to work with the persecuted church in **Asia, Cuba and Russia.** Even though things are difficult, we have a very low profile so we can still reach the men. The groups are smaller, but they are still faithfully preaching and teaching the gospel in 2024.



This is just a snapshot of the influence off MINTS. As you can see, God has been extremely gracious to MINTS and the students we serve, in *Africa and more.*

In His blessings,
Julian

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED —————

All this is only possible with your help. Thank you for supporting our work. For those of you who would like to help we have great needs. Please consider supporting us in the following ways:

1. **We need people to work/volunteer with MINTS:** we have academic registrar, database entry, grant writers and bookkeeping positions open in the US.
2. In the field **we need REs and TEs** who are interning in developing a particular part of the world. For example West Africa or Southern Africa. We need men willing to write and teach in various academic areas, and to physically go and teach and in many places to possibly help church plants. MINTS does not plant churches but as Reformed Theology is best ministered in practical models, we can exemplify the Reformed Faith to many of our students who may intern with us.
3. **We need financial support.** We are a very low cost ministry but in order to meet all the teaching training, translating and church planting needs, we do need funds. Also, all of our workers are self-funded. Please consider supporting us in the work both overall and individually. All support is used very carefully and judiciously. We are accredited ECFA and are held to their high standards.
4. **Prayer teams:** We would like to develop prayer teams for various areas of the world. Would you be interested in hosting a team in your area?

Your partnership is appreciated in support of the MINTS global seminaries as well as MINTS individuals and administration. Go to www.mints.edu/give for support information.


