

GOOD NEWS & SAD NEWS - EDUF April 2026

Dear Friends of Nazarene Education in Africa,

As EDUF greets you today, we say – “We have ‘good news’ and ‘sad news’ - which do you want first?” You’ve heard that before, right? That question seems always to be difficult to answer. The good news is indeed very good and, you at EDUF are a part of it, so we’ll start with it.

Official Announcement of Election of the new NTC-South Africa Principal



On the 13th of March 2026, Rev Mathapelo Mabizela was elected principal of Nazarene Theological College, South Africa. The vacancy of the principal’s office came with the resignation of missionary Dr Rhonda Carrim as principal at the 2025 Board of Trustees meeting. In a duly called 2026 meeting of the Board of Trustees, Rev Mabizela received the necessary votes of members of the Board present and voting in an overwhelming show of support.

Rev Mathapelo and Rev Nkululeko Mabizela joined in marriage in March 2025.*

*Do you remember from other EDUF newsletters that God called Rev. Lisa Morrison, who is a full-time pastor, part-time online instructor, and EDUF trustee, to be “mother” to this young woman, Thapi, when Lisa was in South Africa teaching years ago?

Rev Mathapelo received her MA(TS), Master of Arts in Theological Studies** from Nazarene Theological Seminary (NTS) in 2021...

**God directed Rev. Lisa to make Thapi her priority so that this degree could be completed.

...and her MIDT, Masters in Instructional Design and Technology*** from Trevecca Nazarene University (TNU) in 2024.

***Many of you from EDUF made donations for the first cohort of this specialized degree from Trevecca for four African leaders.

Rev Mathapelo is currently pursuing an EdD, Doctorate in Education****, from TNU.

***Again, many of you from EDUF have donated to EDUF scholarships at Trevecca.

As the academic dean of NTCSA during the time of Dr Carrim’s principalship, she has worked diligently with others to develop the new, innovative curriculum under the Quality Council for Trades and Occupations (QCTO) in South Africa.

Please pray for Rev Mathapelo and her leadership team as they continue to develop the new curriculum, begin to develop NTCSA Learning Centers across the Africa South Field, and forge the future of NTCSA, writing a new chapter in the life of this institution.

May the sacrificial and consecrated success of this unique mother-daughter relationship continue to bear fruit and inspire ot



EDUF MEMBERS ZOOM MEETING WITH AFRICAN LEADERS, January 17, 2026

Top row: Hugh Friberg, Margaret Scott, Ken Walker, Carol Rotz; Second row: Mark Mann, Gary Waller, John Haines, Sharon Bull; Third row: Dhariana Balbuena, Lisa Morrison, Marg Stahlbaum, Tom & Lauralee Nothstine; Fourth row **Cosmos Mutowa**, Daryll Stanton, Pat Crane, Dave Boblitt; Fifth row: Jeff Hitchcock, Jr., Randy Craker.

In preparation for our April EDUF Newsletter, I was studying the Zoom snapshot above. The people in the screen shot are located in the following places: Idaho, Massachusetts, Indiana, Idaho, California, Idaho, Missouri, Canada, Africa, Massachusetts, Canada, Indiana, Africa, Kansas City, Washington, Indiana, Massachusetts, New York. I was wondering how many years the people in this group would have if we added together the years of missionary service or ministry. How many trips would this group of people have made to Africa? and other interesting numbers like that.

I was collecting info for that calculation when BAM! came the news that Rev. Cosmos Mutowa had passed away. In days that followed, there was a flood of texts, digital posts, then memorial services to honor the life and ministry of this wonderful, kind servant of God. This is the sad news we have to share. Christian death, of course, has two sides to it – gain for the person departing, loss for those left living. It is sadness wrapped in our eternal, shared hope. The suddenness of his passing affected all of us who knew him and his family. We echo the quote in this official announcement:

“He was a true partner in ministry,” wrote Mario Martinez. “A kind-hearted man who left a lasting impression on those of us who had the privilege of walking alongside him. His life was a sincere testament to his love for God and for others.”

Cosmas Mutowa, 62, of Roodepoort Gauteng, South Africa, passed away 10 April 2026. He was the strategy coordinator of the Africa Southeast Field and served as a missionary on global assignment since 2007.

Born 28 June 1963 in Zimbabwe, Cosmas recognized God’s call to serve in ministry at the age of 19. He then moved to Swaziland, where he began his theological education. He earned a Bachelor of Theology degree offered through Canadian Nazarene College (now Ambrose). He graduated in 1988 and returned home to Zimbabwe to minister. He was ordained in 1990 and joined the faculty at the Nazarene Bible College in Swaziland, also serving as the college treasurer. In 1993, Mutowa was appointed vice principal of the Bible college, serving in that role until he left to pursue his master’s degree at Africa Nazarene University in Kenya. He earned a Master of Arts in Religion in 1999.

He would go on to further receive a second master’s degree in Compassionate Ministry and Humanitarian/Development Practices from Nazarene Theological College, Manchester.

Since 2008, Mutowa served as the Africa Region Coordinator of Nazarene Compassionate Ministries, and as the executive director for Helping Hands Africa. He was appointed FSC of the Africa Southeast Field in 2024.

His ministry impacted many over the years. A Facebook post from the Church of the Nazarene Africa Region garnered nearly 500 comments, many filled with stories of Cosmos.

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Cosmos is survived by his wife, Andronica Mutowa, and his children, Nomsa, Daniel and Panache.

The good and the sad news deeply affect our Nazarene leaders across Africa. There is more reason than ever to support them in prayer.

In Him Who is Lord of lords,
Margaret Scott, for Education Development United Fellowship

Here are a couple of things to consider as we end this month's newsletter:

How to connect with EDUF: [Join Us – EDUF](#)

There are several ways you can give to EDUF to support African education:

- Via the 'donate' button on our [website](#)
- Via [Tithe.ly](#) – just search for EDUF
- Via [PayPal](#)
- Mailing a check payable to EDUF to our Treasurer:
Lauralee Nothstine, 2412 Wildflower Cove Dr, Mishawaka, IN 46545

