



GIVING ANNUAL REPORT

International Fund Comes to Life



In August 2018, Paul A. Silwamba traveled over 7,000 miles from Zambia to start studying toward a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at Moravian Seminary. But his journey to Moravian Seminary started long before August.

Paul grew up in Nakonde, Zambia, a rural village at the border of Zambia and Tanzania. He and his family walked across the border weekly to attend a Moravian church in Tanzania. He thought he might grow up to be a pilot, a popular vocational choice inspired by a story in a Grade 3 English Reader! But his teachers channeled him toward other work. When he finished his assignments early, as he often did, they asked him to correct his peers' work. There the notion that he could teach others started.

After going through school in Nakonde, Paul moved to the city of Ndola in the Copperbelt Province to further his education. There he went to the sister church, United Church of Zambia. In 1996, the Moravian Church was established in Ndola, and he heard there was an urgent need for ministers in Zambia. He felt he had a passion for the church and decided to apply to Moravian Theological College (MOTHECO) in Tanzania, which was the nearest college where Moravians could be trained. He was accepted and began studying for a Bachelor of Divinity degree. He graduated from MOTHECO in 2006, was ordained as a deacon in 2007, and later ordained as a presbyter.

While at MOTHECO, he heard about Moravian Seminary in Bethlehem, PA, in 2002. He developed an interest in coming to the US, particularly after Dean Frank Crouch and Dr. Audrey West visited MOTHECO. As a black African, he wanted to “experience an intercultural approach to the gospel” in America. He applied in 2013 and was accepted in 2018. The five-year gap had nothing to do with his academic abilities. It had everything to do with financial hurdles.

In 2017-18, Moravian Seminary received generous funding for its International Scholarship Fund, which covers Paul's tuition, fees, housing, and books. Edgeboro Moravian Church stepped in to sponsor Paul to help with the day-to-day experiences of living in the US. Members of Edgeboro give Paul rides to church and the grocery store and provide him with a social network he can depend upon. Because Paul cannot be employed on a student visa, Edgeboro also provides financial support for daily living expenses, such as groceries and a cell phone. Edgeboro members also receive the gift of Paul's being in their community—the stories he shares of his culture and the personal connections that have developed have been priceless. Rev. Dan Miller '16 MDiv, pastor of Edgeboro, shares, “both Paul and Edgeboro have talked about getting him involved in preaching or teaching a class at the church.”

continued on page 11



HAPPY THANKSGIVING

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF SEMINARY ADVANCEMENT

In late September, I joined the Moravian Seminary family as the new Director of Seminary Advancement, and I couldn't be more pleased to be a part of this vibrant and welcoming community. I have met and spoken with a number of alumni, friends, and family of the Seminary, and I look forward to getting to know each one of you as we work together to provide for the Seminary now and in the future. I want you to know that my door is always open for you to share your hopes and ideas for MTS.

This edition of *The Common Thread* highlights the ways in which your support strengthens MTS and provides for the financial needs of our students. This past year, your generosity allowed us to:

- Completely renovate the **Genadendal classroom** over the summer. The improvements included updating the technology with new AV equipment, adding acoustic panels to improve sound quality for distance learning, removing the stationary tables and replacing them with movable tables and chairs to allow for more flexible use, and, of course, installing new carpet and paint.
- Replace the old, very-well loved picnic tables on the patio. By gathering contributions made over a number of years, MTS students and alumni purchased **three octagonal tables with built in seats** (one that is wheelchair accessible) and **four Adirondack-style chairs**. This furniture extends the space that our community can gather for studying, class, meals, and conversation.
- Raise **\$151,371 in endowment**, primarily for student scholarships.
- Make significant progress toward our goal of funding two international students each year, a program that is the focus of this issue. As the fall semester began, Moravian Seminary welcomed Paul Silwamba to campus thanks to the **International Student Scholarship Fund!** You can read about Paul's journey on page one.



Lindsey Bell MACC, Meagan Ackerman MDiv, and others enjoying the new patio furniture.

We are thankful for every member of the Moravian Seminary community. We could not be the community we are without the support of alumni and friends. Gifts of every size make a difference in sustaining and strengthening the Seminary. Thank you for all that you do!

As we move forward in the year, embracing traditional, expected joys and welcoming new opportunities and challenges, please consider making a financial gift to support the continued growth and accomplishments of Moravian Seminary.

Regards,

Jannette Saeger, Director of Seminary Advancement

2017-2018 GIVING ANNUAL REPORT

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Evangeline Bahnson Smith Society is comprised of alumni, trustees, friends, Moravian provinces, faculty, staff, and foundations who are committed to the mission of Moravian Seminary in equipping students with the knowledge, skill, and being able to engage in vocations of ministry, chaplaincy, counseling, spiritual direction, and other settings. Gifts of \$1,000 or greater comprise the Bahnson Smith Society.

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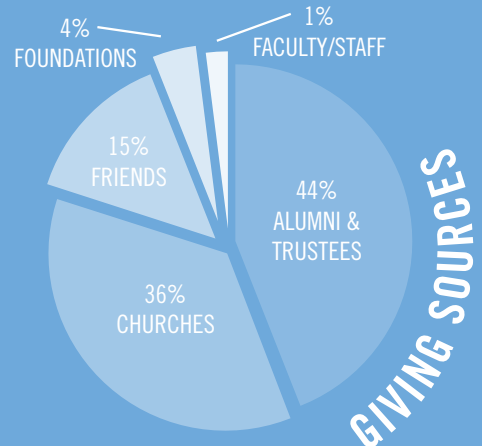
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Is Paul surprised by anything he's experienced in the US? Paul shares that he expected America to be very different from Zambia—so, in that way, nothing is surprising: “Of course, many things are strange but they are not a surprise to me. I expected to find many new things, and I have found them.” He pointed out that coffee in the classroom is new to him as is the practice of calling everyone by their first names. Zambia is more formal, using last names more frequently. Paul shares that he tries to get involved in as many activities at school and at church as he can so that he can learn about American culture, develop relationships, and get the American accent in his ear and on his tongue, which he is finding quite different than the British English he was taught in school.

In his daily phone calls, Paul shares his new environment with his wife Beauty Mwewa Kasali and their four children ages 14-23. He plans to take all that he learns over the next two years back with him in order to prepare church pastors in Zambia and to lead seminars and workshops. Not only will he take the classroom learning, but he is excited to “be equipped with multicultural knowledge.”

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- CROSSROADS**
- FORMATIVE SPIRITUALITY**
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JAN. 3–FEB. 21 UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES: DISCIPLESHIP

Thursdays, 6:00–9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 12/20)

Instructor: Pam Weiss

JAN. 7–FEB. 25 UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES: TEACHING

Mondays, 6:00–9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 12/24)

Instructor: Rev. Roberta Kearney

FEB. 9 CROSSROADS INFO SESSION 10:00am–Noon, FREE

FEB. 26 MTS INFO SESSION On campus, 7:00–9:00pm, FREE

MAR. 7–MAY 2 TRAVELING MERCIES

Thursdays, 6:00–9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 2/21)

Instructor: Rev. Maggie Wellert

MAR. 9 MTS INFO SESSION On campus, 10:00am–Noon, FREE

MAR 11–MAY 6 UNPACKING THE SCRIPTURES: PREACHING

Mondays, 6:00–9:00pm, \$240 (early reg. \$220 till 2/25)

Instructor: Rev. Dr. Sue Pizor Yoder

MAR. 21 MTS INFO SESSION Virtual/Online, 6:30–8:00pm, FREE

APR. 9 MTS INFO SESSION Virtual/Online, 6:30–8:00pm, FREE

APR. TBD MACC/PC ALUMNI WINE & CHEESE GATHERING

APR. TBD MATS ALUMNI GATHERING & THESIS/PROJECT DAY

APR. 24–MAY 22 CHRISTIAN & MUSLIMS TALKING TOGETHER

Wednesdays, 7:15–9:30pm, Location: Respect Graduate School, \$20 Suggested Donation

MAY 10–11 COMMENCEMENT WEEKEND

MAY TBD CROSSROADS GRADUATION & 10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

JUL. 28–AUG. 2 WISDOM SCHOOL: THE DIVINE EXCHANGE

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