

A PERSONAL NOTE

God made me **What** I am, then Jesus and the Holy Spirit helped me to become **Who** I am. As an American Caucasian male, I decided to become a Christian and start working on the fruit of the spirit in my life. I praise God for the life He has given me in Christ!

This year started off bringing major challengers into the lives of Christians traveling to foreign fields. I waited in line 5 hours at the airport in London to obtain Covid-19 clearance for my arrival in Nigeria. Even with all the restrictions in Nigeria, I was able to work from March through May at Jos and Abuja. We thank our Lord that many restrictions seem now to have lightened up here in America. Our work in Africa continues to grow beyond our expectations and abilities to meet every need. I hope you enjoy reading this issue and continue to support this great work.

Steven L. Worley (Director of Development)

GRADUATING CLASS 2021

Thank you so much for your prayers and financial assistance. With the help of God, we were able to successfully conclude our 2020/21 academic sessions. Though we had challenges in the first semester because of the Covid-19 lock down, the second semester, which ran from January – May, went well. However, we could not hold the graduation ceremony as it is our tradition. We are hoping to combine the graduation ceremonies of 2019/20, 2020/21, and 2021/22. We will be having a graduation ceremony for the three sets in May, 2022, Lord's willing. We have not done this before, but the situation has forced us to adopt this change. We hope it does not happen again.

However, for this year, we had 28 students who completed their courses of study for the award of BA degree, 2 students for Diploma in Ministry, and 3 students for certificate in ministry. Out of the 28 students graduating in the BA program, 3 were foreign nationals (1 from Zimbabwe, 1 from Chad and 1 from Sierra Leone). Two of them have returned to their countries and one will return this June, Lord's willing. Out of the 33 students graduating, we have 7 women. This is the first in the history of the school that we have so many ladies in a particular graduating set. Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

Tom Udo Ekpot President SBS

OUR EVANGELISM PROGRAM

It is really sad that till now we have not resumed our regular weekend evangelism outreach because of the spread of Covid-19. It is not in our character to waste precious time like this being without actively involved in soul winning exercise. At the moment, we are still distributing correspondence courses to some prospects who are literate. Brother Worley, during his stay with us, conducted a five-day workshop with 20 preachers. His theme was Covenants of the Bible.

We pray God will intervene and restore normalcy at His own appointed time. We are also planning in the coming weeks to organize workshops to strengthen our evangelism skills. Please, continue to keep us in prayer even as we pray for you all.

Naphtali Dagasamah, Evangelism Coordinator

GOD SPEED TO OUR FOREIGN STUDENTS

We are glad three of our foreign students have successfully completed their studies at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos. Two of them from Chad and Sierra Leone respectively have returned to their countries. The man from Zimbabwe is making preparations to return. Please, join us thanking God for seeing them through their studies, and pray with us that they will be practical instruments of use for the Lord in their respective countries.



Michael Triyoh
Seirra Leone



Jonathan Teradoum
N'Djamena, Chad

APPEAL FOR PARTNERSHIP

I thank our Lord for the opportunity to invite you to become partners in the work we do. To our partners, we say thank you for joining us in training men and women for the work of the Ministry.

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, started in August 1989. Its academic programs include:

1. B.A. Ministry
2. B. A. Christian Religious Studies (Affiliated to the University of Jos, Plateau State)
3. Diploma in Ministry
4. Certificate in Ministry

In addition to the above programs, the school also hosts the activities/events:

- (a) Weekend Evangelism Program
- (b) Annual Campaigns for Christ Evangelism
- (c) Annual Lectureship
- (d) Annual Leaders/Preachers Workshop
- (e) Extension Training in Leadership

Each of these programs cost money to operate. We therefore invite you to join us and become a part of the training. You can do this by:

1. Your congregation supporting us monthly with any amount you will choose.
2. Christians can become Jos Partners by supporting us with as little as \$10 per month.
3. Once you make the decision to help us please follow the instruction in the last article of this issue of the Jos Journal. Dr. Tom U. Ekpote (President, SBS Jos)

EXTENSION PROGRAM

Our staff have gone out for the extension program of June 2021. They have gone to Delta State where we have two centers (one Diploma and one Degree program respectively). The degree program in Delta has 100 and 200 level students. We are conducting a certificate program in Nasarawa State.

We thank God for granting them safe travel in our new van which helps to minimize the dangerous risks on our highways. Join us in prayers for the programs to progress successfully to their completion.

SBS STAFF WITH PHD IN VIEW

NAME	HOME STATE	TRIBE	AREA OF SPECIALTY
Joseph Azembeh	Benue	Tiv	Church History
James Ikwulono	Kogi	Idoma	New Testament Studies
Daniel Y. Boi	Akwa Ibom	Boyawa	Old Testament Studies
Sandra Ekpote	Bauchi	Ibibio	Entrepreneurship Research
Chika Onyimba	Anambra	Igbo	English Language
Benjamin Jukway	Benue	Etulo	New Testament Studies
James Onu	Kogi	Idoma	Library Science
Emmanuel Egyegini	Nassarawa	Alago	Interaction of Religions
Naphtali Dagasamah	Gombe	Cham	waiting enrollment - Ministry

Eight of our staff are in the PhD programs at the Universities of Zaria, Kaduna State and Jos, Plateau State. They comprise 6 men and 2 women from 7 states and 7 tribes. They are enrolled into the programs, in order to meet the teaching qualifications, set by the National University Commission (NUC). We are grateful for the assistance that is coming from the Lord's Church at Riverchase, Birmingham, AL.



L to R: C. Oniyimba, S. Ekpote, J. Ikwulono, E. Egyegini, B. Jukway, D. Boi, J. Onu

OUR PRESENT NEED

In December of 2020 we decided to expand our Agric. Program to include rabbits. Our rabbit farm started with two home-made cages in a facility we believed could accommodate between 30-40 rabbits, but we could only afford to start with 13 rabbits. Well, as we expected, the population of our rabbits grew very fast. We found we could have all metal cages manufactured that saved space and helped us keep every cage cleaner. A bank of 10 hutches (cages) cost \$80 each to manufacture. Can you help us teach our student this very productive business? Please send a check to the Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 38372, Attn: SBS Rabbit Farm



Our second campaign behind us now, we are ever so grateful to be a part of this work. To all who partner with us makes it all the sweeter. Jumping over, and navigating the international Covid hurdles, we settled back in Jos in early January. Marci and I were excited to be back amongst the eager students and the dedicated faculty at SBS. The days became full, the weeks flew by with classes, activities, and projects. I served as a lecturer in 3rd year General Epistles and Homiletics, and 1st year Pauline Epistles. Helping the students in sermon development and delivery made me wonder sometime who was teaching who!

Evangelism and social activities were hampered by Covid restrictions that were beginning to taper off as we prepared to return to Savannah, TN, at the close of the semester in early May. The work of the school, however, continues unabated, training young men and women in sound doctrine, that they may spread the Gospel in Nigeria and their home lands. One of the highlights to share was the opportunity to introduce the French speaking students from neighboring Niger, Chad, and Cameroon to the Back to the Bible Personal Evangelism program, produced by Rob Whitacre and the House to House, Heart to Heart team, under the oversight of the elder of the Jacksonville church of Christ in Jacksonville, Alabama. The HTH team provided the evangelism series in French, along with other resources that these men could take back to their villages to use in saving souls. They were so grateful to have these tools and we look forward to hearing of the fruit in its season.



Chuck studying with French speaking students, introducing the HTH “Back to the Bible” Personal Evangelism Series.

Venturing out from SBS, this time out also gave us opportunity to become more familiar with and involved with the work of the local church congregations. Space is limited here, but we look forward to updating you and giving progress reports when we come and visit. Be in touch soon! This summer we are joyfully focused on our daughter's (Rachel) wedding in Richmond, VA. In the later fall-early winter, and spring, as last year we did in Idaho, we hope to find a mission project for a few months here in the US. We really enjoyed our campaign last year and are again set on helping rural churches here in the US in their evangelism efforts between our trips to Nigeria. Again...more to follow!
 ~ Chuck and Marci Cordon, June 2021

Furaka Church of Christ both before and after roof, door, and window installation



INTERNET STUDIES

This Fall, Brother Bala Turgong Lafa, head of our Agriculture Program for many years, will start his on-line web conferencing sessions to pursue an MA in New Testament Studies at Freed Hardeman University in Tennessee. He will be hooking up to live web conferencing class sessions. We are working to ensure that he has access to our unlimited internet on campus. With the time difference, he will have to sleep on our campus some nights to attend the live class sessions. We are working to provide an apartment on campus and additional batteries to our inverter so that he will have a continuous supply of electricity. There is no need to leave his wife and two daughters for two years and come to America. We request your prayers for Brother Bala in this one of our pioneer efforts. Steve Worley, Director of Development



No need to leave his wife and two daughters for two years.

DOUBLE OUR WATER SUPPLY

Thank you for your help with our need to increase our water supply on campus. We manufactured a 33,000-liter (8718 liquid gallons) water tank, its supporting concrete cradles, security walls, along with the piping and gates required. We decided to place the new tank next to our other tank to make use of our existing water pump for both tanks. We did manage to save the tree. Please keep us in your prayers.

Steve Worley



MA PROGRAMS

Plans are in the advance stage for the commencement of MA program of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos. Many of our 600+ graduates have requested we provide this program. We have printed flyers to advertise the program, and admission forms are also printed. If we are able to have at least 5 interested candidates, we will start the program. Please, join us in prayers for the success of this program.

OUR LIBRARY

Over these last few years, we have increased our effort in making the library a modern one in terms of books and facilities. Presently, we have unlimited internet connection in the library, and we hope to make the network even better especially for e-library services. We have purchased some new books, tables, and gradually adding new chairs. We hope to make the library more conducive for learning and research by the grace of God. We are looking forward to the arrival in the near future of the 40' sea container from Healing Hands in Nashville, TN, and the thousands of books it contains.

James Onu, Librarian

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The School of Biblical Studies is located in Jos, Nigeria. SBS began in 1989 and is under the oversight of the elders at the Gadsden Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama. Dr. Solomon I Aguh is The President of SBS. SBS has a 4, 3, and 2 year curriculum in Bible, plus a 4-year degree program. We have recently added a 2 year Extension Program and a 2 year Agricultural Program. The student body presently numbers 137 full-time students with more than 600 graduates now in the field.

**School of Biblical Studies
Jos**

*Training to Serve
Since 1989*

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Editor of the Jos Journal

Steven L. Worley



Mission: *To train men and women to teach and preach the Gospel and be responsible citizens and effective leaders in the church of the Lord, in order to aid the spread of the Gospel to the entire world.*

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A JOS PARTNER !

Our goal is to have 500 Christians giving \$10 monthly to provide a stable operating income for the School. If you or your Bible class are thinking about becoming a Jos Partner, we urge you to do so! The small amount of just \$10 monthly, when combined with that of others, will make a huge difference. Just fill in the coupon below, and mail it with your check to:

**Gadsden Church of Christ
P.O. Box 967
Gadsden, AL 35902**

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____
