

School of Biblical Studies
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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. Tom U. Ekpot is President at 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 133 students with more than 600 graduates now in the field.

School of Biblical
Studies
Jos

Training to Serve
Since 1989

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Mission: To train men and women to teach and preach the Gospel; 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.

A Personal Appeal

After reading this edition of the Jos Journal I hope you are convinced that the works in Africa are progressing in every area. We know our Lord puts his treasure in earthen vessels and we realize that someone who is trained will be more effective in spreading His word. Please consider joining us, both in prayer and financially, so we can continue to grow. We ask you to consider becoming a Jos Partner and ask your congregation to support the school monthly. Thank you for your consideration of this appeal.
In Christian Love, Steve and Dee Worley

BECOME A JOS PARTNER TODAY!

Our goal is to have 500 Christians giving \$10 monthly to provide a stable operating income for the School. Through regular support from a bigger number of Christians who provide this small amount monthly, School leaders will be able to spend more time on improving curriculum and utilizing resources wisely and less time on fund-raising.

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 and mail the coupon below and mail to:

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

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____

New ICT Training Center

The Internet and Computer Technology (ICT) Training Center of the School of Biblical Studies has officially opened with 12 computers and one ICT staff member. The purpose of this center is to introduce students to the use of the computer to facilitate their research exercises and to promote scholarship within the brotherhood. Additionally, the ICT unit is also setup to enhance the practical skills of students in the school as well as young people in the neighborhood in computer appreciation.



Our new classroom

At the moment, two programs have been designed for our students. The first is the regular work in the course, "INTRODUCTION TO ICT". This course requires a 2-hour class per week for all new students. The second course is the practical or vocational class, "INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS". This will consist of a two-hour class, three times each week and will be one semester in length. This course will lead to the award of a certificate in computer for the student. Subsequently, graduates from this program can progress into acquiring a Diploma in computer application to be designed next year.

However, at this take off point, the unit still has some vital needs. It is intended that the unit would have at least 20 students in each of the class sessions, considering the available space. It is expected that since it is a vocational or practical class, each student should have access to a computer. There is need, therefore, to increase the units of computers to meet the number of students. A projector, screen, photocopier, and a printer are also needed to facilitate the training. We request your prayers as we embark on this new adventure for our Master. *Sandra Ekpot*

The Campus

The campus of SBS is a "beehive" of activities in August of each year. Over 130 students arrive on campus in three days! This year they come from 8 different countries all having very hot weather. The climate in Jos is cool because of two different factors. It is the Rainy Season and Jos is located in the mountains of Nigeria. Most of the students have not experienced cold weather before!

This year we have 75 males and 32 females with 26 students choosing to live off campus for a total of 133 people desiring to study God's word at the feet of our teachers. Ladies from the local village cook and sell food while everyone is trying to find their dorm and classrooms. It is one of the most exciting times of the year at SBS!

On behalf of the school faculty and staff, I want to thank all who sacrifice to make this institution what it has become these last 25+ years.

New Construction



On April 8, 2019, we ordered 600 bags of cement. The next day Titus started our tractor and began leveling the ground for our Chapel/Activities Building. I was tempted to take a rest after the completion of our new male dormitory and the remodeling of our female dormitory recently. Lord willing, I hope to take a rest as we celebrate our 35th year of working in Africa next year.

As you can see we have made excellent progress while experiencing no personal injuries. All the contracts for roofing, plastering, windows and doors, electrical, plumbing, toilets, and the terrazzo floor have been negotiated and the price agreed upon. The total price is \$66,827.97 to finish this project!

The building measures 60' X 90' with a roof that is 40' high. This building will allow us to host our graduations, seminars, lectureships, banquets, and daily chapel sessions in comfort. We hope to include basketball and volleyball courts for our students to enjoy. Will you help us finish this work for the Master?

African Farmer

Isaiah Adikwu was a World Bible School Follow-up evangelist working in Benue State in 1995. He was in the second set to graduate from SBS. He and his family owned a carpenter shop and started a congregation at Highbank in the city of Makurdi. Isaiah is still a preacher and leader in the church. Patricia, one of his daughters, finished university and was required to serve for one year in the National Youth Service Corp. She chose to work with us at SBS in our Farming Program. It was my pleasure to do some farming with Isaiah's daughter.



American Gothic Parodied

Our Foreign Students



Our foreign students on campus continue to increase in numbers. This year we have a total of seventeen students from seven countries. There is two from Serra Leone; four from Zimbabwe; two from Cameroon; two from Uganda; four from Chad; two from Guinea; and three women from Liberia.

A Wedding

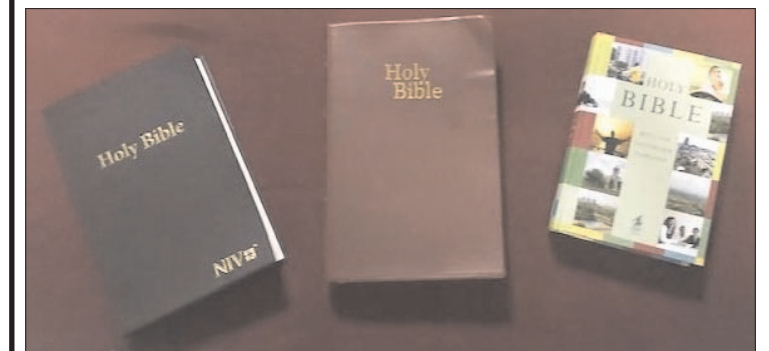


*Gerald
&
Cynthia
Dzuwanani*

Our Valedictorian for the graduating class of 2019 is Gerald Dzuwanani from Harare, Zimbabwe. He is our 40th foreign student to graduate at SBS since the school started in 1998. During my return visit to Jos last August, I learned that Gerald plans to take more than a valuable education in Bible home with him from Nigeria.

Gerald and Cynthia Kaase, the lovely daughter of Brother and Sister Kaase who work at SBS, fell in love and married last week. Cynthia plans to accompany her husband back to his country. Please keep this Christian couple in your prayers.

Bibles for Students



When Brother Cordon started teaching his class of first year students, he noticed many came to class without a Bible.

We would like to make a good study Bible available so a student could purchase one then add the cost to his school fees. This would require our purchasing Bibles in bulk for our book store.

A New King James Version Bible cost \$6.50, a small pocket RSV \$2.50 and an NIV \$5.00. Would you help us provide this much needed blessing for our students?

First Impressions



Sunday Worship with the church in Foron

When I enlisted in the Navy in 1984, the recruiting slogan was, “Navy, it's not just a job... it's an adventure.” Well, it was for a good number of years, but after 33 'em, it was wearing thin and time to move on. In 2017, I “retired” (what is that anyway?), and took a welcomed turn onto a different path. I started the two-year preacher training program at the Memphis School of Preaching (MSOP) while still on active duty (terminal leave), completing in June 2019. On July 25th the Lord provided another opportunity by way of the Savannah, TN, and Gadsden, AL, churches of Christ to begin work with their Africa Missions Team. Presently Marci and I are visiting lecturers and missionaries with the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, Nigeria. Our first time around we will be here through the first semester, departing in early December. Once back and settled in Savannah, TN, we will then learn the stateside aspect of the work. Herein is our first report.

It's been a whirlwind, eye opening, and absolutely amazing experience. Deep immersion of another kind...although essential in that respect as well! Thankfully, Steve was with us for a month and got us well settled, providing much needed mentorship and indoctrination in culture, who's who, logistics, security, to shopping, where to go for this and that, where not to go. Marci and I are indebted to Steve and Dee Worley, the elders of the Savannah church, and the congregation at large beyond measure for their generosity, kindness, support and love in taking us on and getting us here. We are blessed and grateful in every way. I also want to mention those who have well paved this road before us such as Greg and Sheila Hamlin, Randy Baker, Adam Cox...and so many others in the 30-year history of this school.

First thing when you step off the plane is wonder, am I safe? Three planes and about 22 hours after leaving Nashville, we were met at the airport by the school's driver, Titus, who does a great job at putting you at ease. Next morning, we took the four-hour ride from Abuja to Jos. The guest house is well beyond anything we expected, a 5-bedroom two floor home, fully equipped and essentially, a fortress. It sits on the top of a hill on the school grounds, on a plateau, offering an amazing view of the surrounding area. If I had to pick a single striking feature of the topography, it would be the large rock formations that are everywhere about the land. It is the rainy season, and you can count on that, hard driving rains, but they don't last long. The school compound and facilities are guarded, gated, and secure. Our water is purified and sanitary. We purchase and prepare our own food and have also

gradually welcomed select restaurant food, and participated in a number of social and fellowship functions, enjoying the local dishes. We have both experienced mild gastro-intestinal issues, nothing severe...but hey, it's to be expected and part of the acclimation process. It was a good idea to have two weeks to acclimate before the school term started. One of the early highlights was a faculty-staff reception at the guest house, which served as a welcome aboard for Marci and I, and also a great kick-off for the school year.

Our days are full. The school, the faculty and staff have been wonderful. The SBS President, Dr. Tom Epkot, and his wife, Sandra, have been so welcoming and appreciative of our desire to serve the Lord in this capacity. The school too is a busy place, with busy, determined, humble, and God centered students from age 17 to over 40. I am teaching Romans with a third-year class and Acts with the first-year class. Straight out of MSOP myself, this is an incredible opportunity and humbling in itself. I spend a lot of time preparing for these three-hour classes. The library resources contain many of the commentaries and references I was introduced to while at MSOP. To say that we are forever grateful to MSOP, the Forest Hill church of Christ, and the many who support that work, is an understatement. Of course, we couldn't bring much over with us than our clothing, so I'm glad to have my laptop and bible software. English is generally spoken and is the classroom language. Proficiency varies, there are some students that are from neighboring French speaking countries, but Marci and I have not found language to be a substantial barrier. Nonetheless, the students keep us sharp and on our toes.

One of our favorite parts of the day is attending chapel. The singing is uplifting and brings glory to God. The sermons delivered by both the students and faculty are edifying and sound in doctrine. I recently was given the opportunity to preach a sermon at chapel and have also been welcomed to preach on Sundays while visiting local congregations. This past Sunday, Marci and I visited a rural congregation with Tom and Sandra.

Another aspect of the school which is apparent right away is that along with preacher training and biblical studies, evangelism is at the very heart of what they do. As part of their curriculum, every Saturday the students are assigned in teams to various congregations and meeting places (markets, homes, etc.) to share the Gospel. It is encouraging to hear their post mission reports in chapel. Marci and I have been fully embraced here. Marci teaches women's and teen classes and we are always a part of the various social functions and fellowship gatherings.



If you can't tell, we love and are thrilled to be here. If you're reading this and think I'm encouraging you to come out for your next evangelism campaign, then you've caught the drift. Please support the work by whatever means you can. This is not just a job, it's the life! To God be the glory.

Chuck and Marci Cordon