

A MESSAGE FROM STEVE

This issue of our Jos Journal is dedicated to the need for us to become our own Christian Bible University in Nigeria. This will be the first Bible University sponsored by the churches of Christ for the 218 million people of Nigeria. The name we chose is the SonLight University. Raising the funds to put us over our first hurdle looks like an impossible task. We are asking for your private contributions and that you give the enclosed letter to you elders. Most important is our request for your prayers that our God will bless this effort. Please make your checks payable to the Savannah Church of Christ, Attn: SonLight University, and send them to the Savannah church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 28372. Thank you for your love and support. To our Lord and God be the Glory, **Steven L. Worley**

We are the only accredited Bible institution of the Churches of Christ in Northern Nigeria. Becoming a full-fledged university will enable us to:

1. Train young people in the Bible and other disciplines for God's use.
2. Introduce Bible to every student irrespective of his or her discipline.
3. Provide affiliation to other Bible institutions that may come up later in the Country.
4. Reach out to different classes of people within the host community and the country as a whole with the gospel of Christ.
5. The Church will be stronger to enable it to weather the storm that is coming its way in the form of persecution by the Islamic groups.

SBS JOS FOREIGN STUDENTS: PAST AND PRESENT

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, has been a place of sound biblical learning that attracts people from different countries who are desirous of God's unadulterated Word. From 1989 to 2023, SBS, Jos, had graduated 51 international students who came from eleven (11) countries in Africa, and are preaching the Gospel in their various countries. To the best of my knowledge, out of the **51** graduates, four (4) have gone to be with the Lord – 1 from Cameroon, 1 from Chad, 1 from Zimbabwe and 1 from Liberia. They have passed the baton of preaching the gospel to those alive. Hopefully, the number of foreign graduates will increase by two in May, 2024, with two students from Chad who are in their final year.

Presently in the school, we have **seven** (7) international students from three (3) different countries in Africa, namely; Chad (5 students – 2 in their final year, 1 in 200 level, 1 in 100 level and 1 in the final year of Master's program of the school), Uganda (1 student – in 100 level), and Cameroon (1 student – in the final year of Master's program). We are grateful to all our sponsors. May God continue to bless and reward them abundantly in Jesus' name, Amen! **Emmanuel Egyegini, Dean of Students**

THE STATE OF THE SCHOOL OF BIBLICAL STUDIES, JOS.

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos is located in the central region of Nigeria, classified as Northern Nigeria. Islam is the dominant religion in this area, but since the establishment of the School of Biblical Studies, the gospel of Christ has continued to spread and the Church is growing. Our students embark on vigorous evangelism outings every week, an effort that has led to the establishment of many congregations in many states of Northern Nigeria. One of the challenges the congregations face is being able to pay their preachers because of the early stage of their growth.

In a bid to provide training that will help our graduates get jobs with the government or public organizations, while preaching for the local congregations, the School of Biblical Studies got affiliation with the University of Jos in 2004. Since then the relationship has been good, our certificate has been getting recognition, and many of our graduates are teaching with the Government and private schools. This, in a way, has sustained the preachers while they continue to work with the congregations in the North.

As we all know, Islam is determined to take Nigeria completely for Mohammed. They are working through the government agencies, like the Nigerian University Commission, a body that regulate the awarding of degrees in Nigerian Universities. This body wants to curtail the spread of Christianity in Northern Nigeria seeing that some seminaries are getting affiliation with the Universities in the country. The University of Jos, being a Federal university, came up last year to disaffiliate all Christian schools who are affiliated with them.

After meetings upon meetings affiliation of some schools were restored, and ours was among the schools restored, even though till now we have not received any official information to that effect. They warned us to dissolve any postgraduate programs we have started ,if we want to remain with the university, as the registered universities in Nigeria are the only institutions allowed to run postgraduate programs. Sad enough we had started the Master's program to develop a teaching force for our school and other Bible colleges in Nigeria. They are now demanding we close down all such programs. If we cannot get

independency, the future of the degrees awarded by School of Biblical Studies is in sight. As it is now, the university has ordered that the current students in enrollment will get certificates from the university, without the name of the School of Biblical Studies appearing any way on the certificates.

The Vice Chancellor, who understands the power from above, told us to start the process of being an independent degree awarding institution, if we really want to continue awarding degrees in the future. He advised us to take advantage of the open door now, because the policies may change sooner than we think. Most of these regulations are affecting us in the North, and particularly the University of Jos, since it is the only school in Northern Nigeria that accepts to affiliate Christian schools.

Our need for an independent awarding school is an urgent attempt to secure the future of the gospel in Nigeria and in all of Africa. While the government policies on establishment of an independent university look outrageous today, it may change for the worse tomorrow since denominations are taking the privilege to start their own universities. The government will want to make it more difficult for independent degree awarding schools to be established in the near future. It will be difficult for us to affiliate with the private universities since these denominations are trying to enforce their doctrines on their students. We will not be able to accept false teaching or destructive heresies in the name of getting affiliation with denominational schools.

Being independent will equally help us to award a degree in Ministry that will be accepted throughout Africa. This will strengthen the pulpit for effective preaching and strengthening of the church in Africa. At the moment, we have 148 students on our enrollment list. Out of this number, 103 are on campus while 45 students are in from our extension centers. We have 10 students enrolled for the MA in ministry, giving a total of 158 students.

Dr. Tom Udoh Ekpot,
President of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos

GOD IS SO GOOD!

Steven L. Worley, was born in Gastonia, NC. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1958 at 17 years old. After serving in five ships and as a military advisor in the war in Vietnam, Steve Worley was baptized at the Ocean Springs Church of Christ in Mississippi. He then spent the rest of his career repairing nuclear submarines, preaching the gospel, and starting congregations in Italy and Scotland. He retired after 22 years of service in 1980 and graduated from Heritage Christian University in Florence, Alabama in 1984. Steve, his wife Delores, and their two children moved to West Africa in 1985, and became the first full-time missionaries of the Church of Christ to live and work among the 52 million Moslems in Northern Nigeria.

In his 25 years as the coordinator of the World Bible School Follow-up Program in Northern Nigeria, Steve has seen thousands baptized into Christ and the number of congregations in the north grow to over 350 plus the Church of Christ started and registered in the countries of Chad and Niger Republic. Brother Worley also helped start the School of Biblical Studies Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria in 1998. SBS is an accredited institution with 133 full-time students, under the oversight of the Gadsden Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama. They have graduated over 600 preachers and teachers. After 17 years of educating Ugandans that traveled to Jos, Nigeria, for the Bible education, the Uganda Christian Bible College opened in August of 2011, in Kigumba, Uganda, East Africa. They have continued to provide preachers for the congregations in Uganda. In the country of Chad, which had no churches of Christ

when the Worley family went to Nigeria, we now have 35 preachers and a primary/secondary school with over 1,200 students.

Steven L. Worley, 15 White Oak Circle, Savannah, TN 38372, 731-607-6603, is under the over sight of the Elders of the Savannah Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick St. Savannah, TN 28372. Steve works with Brother Adam Cox of Walnut Grove, TN, and Brother Randy Baker of Rogersville, AL. Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Uganda are the countries these men help to co-ordinate the Lord's work in Africa. Some of these works are the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, Plateau State Nigeria, the works of two native preachers in Niger, the works of 35 native preachers in Chad, and various works of preachers in Uganda. The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria is overseen by the elders of the Gadsden Church of Christ, P.O. Box 967, Gadsden, AL 35903. Our Unity Primary/Secondary School of over 1,200 students in Chad is overseen by the Petersville Church of Christ, Florence, AL.

During his 22-year career in the U.S. Navy, Steve started and preached for 2 years on the island of Sardinia, Italy, then for 3 years in Dunoon, Scotland. After his retirement in 1980 the Worley family moved to Africa in 1985 for two years and have worked there for over 38 years. Lord willing, Steve and Dee will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary in April of 2024 in Jos.

GREETINGS!

Dr. James Ikwulono writes, "Greetings and love to you, Mama Dee, and the Savannah church of Christ. Mimi and I are doing well. Debbie and Clarise have gone back to school. I want to start by thanking you and the congregations that supported me for my Ph.D. program. I have completed my Ph.D. Program in New Testament with the University of Jos. I made the final defense on the 20th June. The final approval was made by the Senate of the University on the 29th September. I thank God for his blessings." Our heartfelt thanks to the Lord's congregation at Riverchase, in Birmingham, Alabama.



STEVEN L. WORLEY SAVANNAH CHURCH OF CHRIST

THE GOSPEL TO NORTHERN NIGERIA

September 26, 2023



My Dear Brethren,

In our 38 years of working together in Northern Nigeria, I have come to believe that a majority of Nigerians are primarily concerned with their relationship with their God. Their next major concerns are finding water, food, and electricity for their families. With a population of over 200 million, it is imperative that mature Christian leadership, with an understanding of the Bible, be available to the over 10,000 congregations of the churches of Christ in Nigeria.

When Brother Solomon Aguh and I, with our Lord's help, decided to start a Bible School to educate northern preachers in 1989, we decided on two major goals for the school. Number one was to educate men with the best education in Bible possible, and number two was every student had to have the ability to teach the person on the street the gospel. The first program we developed for our students was a Bible curriculum and the second was a program to assign them to teams of evangelism on the weekends.

Brethren, it is time to become our own university. The first qualification is to own 100 hectares of land for a permanent site for our future campus. We plan to continue at our present location also. We have located the land and now need to find the funds to purchase it. The cost is Seven Hundred and Thirty-Three Thousand Dollars (\$733,000.00). The first thing we need is your prayers that our Lord will allow us to find these funds. Our plea is that you will consent to send us your total collection from the fifth Sunday of the month of December 2023. If fifty congregations consent to do this, we believe we can reach this goal.

Since 1985 when my family and I announced plans to move into Northern Nigeria, people have said:

- "If you move into the north, the Moslems will eat you." *We have converted 13,000 people on our Weekend Evangelism Program at SBS.*
- They said, "If you start a school in Jos, you will not be able to find students." *We have graduated over 600 students.*
- They said, "Foreign students will not come to Nigeria." *We have graduated 51 foreign students from 11 different countries.*
- They said, "If you bring Nigerians to the states for their Bible education, they will not return to Nigeria." *We brought 13 students to America for their Undergraduate and Post Graduate Degrees and ALL have returned to Nigeria.*
- They said, "You will not be able to find teachers for your school." *All our 12-teaching staff have Master's Degrees or above and seven tribes are represented.*
- They said, "You will never be able to buy the land required to make application for your university." *We say, "With our Lord, all things are possible!" Will you help us?*

Please commit to sending us your fifth Sunday of December contribution and notify us as soon as possible. All funds will be overseen by the elders at the Savannah Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 38372. Checks should be payable to the Savannah Church of Christ, marked "for property". Please email me at sworley98@yahoo.com or phone me at 731-607-6603. Thank you for your consideration of this request. May our Lord be glorified!

In Christian Love,

Steven L. Worley
Steven L. Worley

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EVANGELISM DATA (1989-2022)

Evangelism is a key program of the School of Biblical Studies training. Right from inception we have taken this aspect of training as a key for the growth of the church in Africa. We have not only trained students to go out, but to see evangelism as their commission by Christ into the world. At the beginning, there were only two congregations in Plateau. We started working with these 2 congregations. Today there are over 25 congregations in Plateau, the newest one being established in 2022. This is also true of the inner Northern States. Through evangelism outings, we have established many congregations in different states of the country. Our graduates are working with these congregations to grow them. The north, being predominantly Muslim, is now having congregations in all the states in the Northern Nigeria. The statistic below shows that since inception to 2022, we have set up not less than 126,160 studies with over 398,997 people being involved. Out of these huge figures, 3,720 people were baptized within that span of time. About 65 congregations were established across the country, and beyond, through the effort of this program of the School. We have to do the work of the Master while it is day, because night comes when no man can work.

Naphtali Dagasamah

UP-GRADING TO AN INDEPENDENT BIBLE INSTITUTION

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, was established in 1989 for the purpose of training preachers, Bible teachers, and church leaders for the churches of Christ in Africa. Initially, the school offered a two-year diploma in Bible, but after two sets of graduations, it was realized that the two years did not provide the students with enough studies to meet the demands of the church. Hence, it was upgraded to a three-year Diploma Program in Ministry. Several hundred people were baptized and congregations established both in rural and urban areas. The need for an accredited Degree Program in Bible came up as a result of the fact that some of the congregations in the urban cities needed preachers who would stand the test of time educationally, and be able to discuss the gospel with all classes of people freely. Additionally, since most of these congregations, being small in size, could not pay the preachers to keep working in the church, those who had degrees could teach in schools to make a living while working with local congregations.

To offer an accredited degree that will afford the graduates recognition by the Nigeria Government, the School of Biblical Studies obtained affiliation with the University of Jos in 2004. This affiliation has helped us to penetrate society better. With the recognition of the accredited certificate from the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, many African countries have been sending their evangelists for training. To date, we have graduated 679 preachers into the field, and most of them, who are alive today, are serving the church faithfully. Today our graduates

are in 12 different countries in Africa and Asia. Out of the 679 graduates, 52 are foreign nationals from Africa and Asia.

Islam is exerting its negative influence on the Church in Nigeria. Recognizing the influence of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, they are attempting to annul our affiliation with the University of Jos. The University of Jos is the only university in Northern Nigeria that is willing to affiliate with Christian schools. The Muslims, recognizing this, are working through top government officials and policy makers to retard our progress. As it stands now, our affiliation may be terminated at any moment. If we keep quiet and allow this to happen, the church in Nigeria and even in Africa will suffer. The University has even advised us to consider being an independent university, as the pressure on them to disaffiliate Christian schools is getting stronger every day.

Hence, for the School of Biblical Studies to remain, and continue to train men and women for the progress of Christianity in Africa, it is necessary that we take this opportunity to becoming an independent university. This opportunity will not be opened for long, as Islamic leaders are working hard to block all the avenues Christians are exploring to sustain Christianity in Nigeria.

For us to be an independent university, we must meet the conditions provided by the National University Commission (NUC). Part of the conditions is that we must have a land space of not less than 100 hectares.

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. 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 _____
