

# THE JOS JOURNAL

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School of Biblical Studies

February 2019

## APPRECIATION

We are thankful to God Almighty for His love, grace, mercy, and protection over our lives all these years. As He graciously ushered us into this New Year (2019) we ask for His direction and guidance upon our lives and endeavors throughout the year. May He grant us His grace, tranquility, success, and wisdom to do our best for Him and His Church now and always in Jesus' name. Amen.

To our esteemed partners: we are grateful for your support towards the work of God here at SBS Jos. Your liberality is noted by God. It is our sincere prayer that God continues to supply your needs abundantly according to His will and to His glory even as you continue to support the noble work we do here at SBS, Jos, in Jesus' name! Please consider the information in this issue and decide to become a Jos Partner this year. I wish all of you and the entire brotherhood a happy, healthy, and prosperous 2019. Remained blessed!  
*Emmanuel O. Egyegini*

## 14 PRECIOUS SOULS

When the School of Biblical Studies started in 1989, one of Brother Naphtali Dagasamah's first collateral duties was to manage our Weekend Evangelism Program. He assigned each of our 12 students a section of Jos, or one of its surrounding villages to visit. The students had to travel in teams of two or more to that location and do street evangelism. Each team was required to keep records and report on their work during the chapel session the following week. Needless to say, their reports were interesting, inspiring, funny, enlightening, and sometimes tragic (one student was murdered by Muslims on his return to the campus). Brother Naphtali has kept records of this program as it has grown to include 137 students in the last 30 years. Those records are a testimony to Jesus, *"The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches,"* Matthew 13:31. Our students have documented **13,327** baptisms in this program!

For the last quarter of 2018/19 session, our evangelism report stands thus: We put in 159,593 man hours in conducting 3,439 studies with 20,513 prospects. Out of these figure, 14 people were baptized, 2 people were restored to Christ. We gave out 3,162 tracts and 8 copies of the Bible. We enrolled 51 prospects to study with us by correspondence. We are ready to begin this year's evangelism outing in earnest when classes resume on January 21.

## MALARIA

It has always amazed me how one tiny mosquito can wake me up and keep me awake in the middle of the night. Almost a half million deaths occur in Africa each year from these tiny creatures. I have had Malaria a few times in my life, and it is NOT an experience I would recommend to anyone, especially a baby. In a recent message from Dr. Tom, he expressed the tremendous need for screens on the windows of our new dormitory. A local contractor at Jos, a brother in Christ, submitted an estimate for construction and installation of screens for the 81 windows. The total cost is one thousand four hundred dollars (\$1,400). Our prayer is for your help. Please send us a check payable to the Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 38372, Attn: Screens  
Steven L. Worley

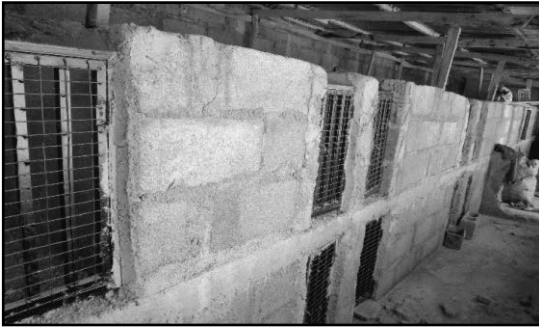
## SBS AGRIC UPDATE

During the year 2018, a total number of 91 students (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year) participated in the Drip Irrigation Program of the school. There were 44 students who cultivated peas, and the remaining 47 cultivated green beans. Just like some years in the past, there was acute water shortage for irrigation during the year, which lasted for about 3 weeks. This caused many to carry their water from the local stream and caused a reduction in the harvest. Yet an appreciable harvest was recorded and the students enjoyed the fruits of their labors.

In addition to vegetables and fish production which have been in place for some time now, SBS has just introduced the rearing of grass cutters (small animals) as shown in the pictures below. The production of fish and grass cutters became an essential part of SBS farming due to their friendly nature to human health when consumed. So far, we have 15 grass cutters for a start. We hope the weather at Jos will favor their production as we intend to add more as time goes on. Our aim is to train and encourage our students to work toward producing food after their graduation. They need sufficiency and to become self-supportive as they go into the world to preach the gospel of Christ. We truly appreciate every one of you for your untiring financial and moral support to SBS. Together we will touch many lives to the glory of God.

***Bala Turgong (HOD/Coordinator, SBS Agric Dept.)***

*Grass Cutter Pens*



*A Grass Cutter*



### UPDATE

After the first semester's examinations and our student's departure for their December break, eight members of our teaching staff traveled to three locations to conduct our Extension Training Program. This occurs in June and December of each year. The locations this time were Asaba City, Delta State; Kaltungo City, Gombe State; and Makurdi City, Benue State. The local congregations hosted our teachers and provided the venue. Our teachers successfully taught the assigned courses for a period of two weeks. The Asaba study center has two programs (Diploma and Certificate), while Kaltungo and Makurdi study centers have only our Certificate Program. These programs are designed to provide the local Christians, who cannot travel to attend classes at SBS with a formal Bible education.

***Simon Dabish (Coordinator, Extension)***

### FUTURE PROJECTS

This year our major construction projects include: construction and painting of the male dormitory and its kitchen building, refurbishing of the other dormitory and its kitchen building for our female students. We now find ourselves ready to meet other needs of the school. I wrote Brother Egyegini and asked him to ask the other teachers to tell us what was the greatest needs of the school. Their response was to name two projects. The primary project was a large building or auditorium in which to hold our chapel services and graduation ceremonies. The second was a small health clinic on campus for our students.

Lord willing, early this Spring, I plan to meet with our staff and our architect to contract for plans for our auditorium/multi-purpose building. I will also start searching for a nurse and a doctor to visit our campus a few days each week. If you would like to help us with these projects, please contact me here at Savannah or email me when I am in Africa.

Steven L. Worley

## STUDENT LIFE AT SBS

The School of Biblical Studies in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria, has graduated over 634 students in her 30-year history. From her humble beginnings that included one building among the rocks just off of the Ring Road, it has grown to include classroom and dormitory facilities adequate for over 240 students. Even though the surroundings and the campus facilities have changed, one thing remains the same—wonderful and dedicated students.

While on the campus in May, 2018, I was fortunate enough to sit down and speak to two graduating students. Ogbonna Onyekachi Vincent and Terna Lucy Doosuur agreed to give me a glimpse into student life. I asked them to give me details about their daily life, and I thought that you might also be interested in knowing what it's like. Because of space constraints I have summarized portions of this article. If you would like to read it in its entirety, you will be able to find it on our website <http://savannahchurchofchrist.com/missions-africa>.

All students are required to be up and attend a 5:20 a.m. devotion Monday–Friday. This is the first of 3 daily devotionals. Next there is morning “labor” in which the students are required to cleanup the campus. Following the morning cleanup, the students have from 7:30–8:00 to prepare and eat their breakfast. Sometimes the students' families or the local church will send money for rice and other staples, but most times the students are on their own to find food. The only means of cooking are small kerosene camp-stoves in the outside kitchens. The students form small groups to cook and eat together. The dining hall furniture consists of the rocky terrain of the campus. There are no tables, chairs, or dining areas available for them yet.

Breakfast must be eaten quickly. Classes begin promptly at 8:00 a.m. The academic load at SBS is heavy. Each student is expected to carry 19–24 semester hours to complete their elected Bible program. That means that classes last until 3:00 or 5:00 in the afternoon. During this class day, there is an afternoon devotional from 12:50–1:20 and a short break for lunch 1:20–1:50. On Wednesday all students are expected to attend Bible study at 5:00–6:00 p.m. Also, both male and female students attend a preacher's club meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Thursdays.

Every student is required to go out for evangelism every weekend. They go out by 3:00 pm on Friday afternoon and return by 6:00 pm for their devotionals. On Saturday mornings, they are up and out by 9:00 a.m. Those who are working locally are to be back on campus by 4:00 p.m. on Saturday. There are also other basic needs that must be met. Each student is responsible for doing their own laundry. There are no washing machines, so students hand wash their laundry and spread it out on the rocks to dry.

The heavy academic load requires many hours of study, but the dorm rooms contain only a few desks and chairs. They are lacking a place to sit and study in the dorms so most use the limited internet access to online study materials and scholarly materials in the library. These challenges become exhausting to the 4<sup>th</sup> year students who are required to write a project that ranges from 45–100 pages before graduation. Somehow, they manage.

I was very impressed by the dedication and discipline exhibited by the students. After reviewing their daily routine, I asked them what they would like to see for changes in the future. I expected to hear something related to the many comforts that are missing from their lives, but the first thing that Vincent mentioned was upgrades to the library and desks at which to work in the dormitory. Vincent also expressed a desire to have more Bibles and tracts to use in their evangelism outings. Dedication, sacrifice, and discipline to serve God are the defining characteristics of the students and staff.

As our conversation concluded, Vincent and Lucy were quick to mention that the disciplined and spiritually oriented lifestyle has prepared them for the rigors of service to God when they leave SBS. They are very appreciative for the opportunity to study at SBS and for the staff—who have their own challenges.

Adam Cox [coxadamh@gmail.com](mailto:coxadamh@gmail.com)



## OUR NEW PRESIDENT

Dr. Tom Udo Ekpot took over as the President of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, after the retirement of Dr. Solomon I. Aguh (former President, now Chancellor of the school). Dr. Ekpot officially resumed office as the President of SBS in August 2018. Dr. Tom Udo Ekpot hails from Nsit-Atai Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. He is a senior lecturer with the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, and has been working with the School for 26 years. Before his appointment as the President of the School, he served as the Academic Dean. Like his predecessor, Brother Greg Hamlin (the former Academic Dean), Dr. Ekpot discharged his responsibility with great zeal and commitment during his tenure from 2008 to 2018.

Dr. Ekpot is a member of the Ancient Manuscript Studies, University of Jos Center. He holds an Advanced Diploma in Bible (1987) from the Nigerian Christian Bible College, Abak Nigeria; B.Sc. in Microbiology (1992) from the University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State; M.Sc. in Applied Microbiology and Plant Pathology (2001) from the University of Jos, Plateau State; M.A in New Testament Studies (2004) from Freed Hardeman University, Henderson, TN, and a PhD in New Testament (2014) from the University of Jos, Plateau State, plus a PGDE from the University of Jos. He is happily married to Sister Sandra Ekpot, and their marriage is blessed with two male children named Goodnews and Godswill.



*Lt. to Rt. Goodnews, Dr. Tom Ekpot, Sandra his wife, and Godspeed*

Dr. Ekpot is a blessing to the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, because of his wealth of knowledge and experience. Like his predecessor, he is a humble, dedicated and a zealous servant of God. It is our sincere prayer that God will use him mightily for His glory in taking SBS Jos, to a greater height in Jesus' name, Amen!

**Emmanuel O. Egyegini**

## OUR CHANCELLOR

SBS Jos is indeed blessed with Dr. Solomon I. Aguh as her first Chancellor after his voluntary retirement. Dr. Aguh, although retired, never retired from active service to God; thus he humbly accepted the responsibility of being the Chancellor of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos. He will continue to support the institution to grow to the glory of God.

Apart from being the Chancellor of the School, due to his passion for teaching and humility, he equally accepted to go back to class and teach leadership and



*Dr. Solomon I. Aguh during the Book Launching in his honor in May 2018*

other courses in order to impart practical aspects of leadership qualities to the younger ones. Indeed, SBS Jos is blessed to have such a wonderful mentor, guardian, father, and leader par excellence.

**Emmanuel O. Egyegini**

## Freed-Hardeman & Heritage Christian

Before we started the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, we agreed that we wanted the best Bible educated teachers on our teaching staff. We also agreed their Bible education had to be coupled with a zeal for practical evangelism. That meant that all our teaching staff had to be willing and eager to work "in the fields" when not teaching in the classroom. This was to ensure that every student would have an extensive knowledge of the scriptures, coupled with extensive experience with evangelism.

Since starting the school, we have brought 10 students from Nigeria and one from Uganda to study in the U.S. One studied at IBC, now Heritage Christian University, in Florence, Alabama, because he already had a Master's Degree from a Nigerian University. The other 10 students received their degrees from Freed-Hardeman University in Tennessee. ALL the students except Solomon Usim have returned to Africa. Solomon plans to complete his Master's Degree at Freed, and join our teaching in December. Three of our teaching staff at SBS have their PhDs, one has his M.Div, and eight have their Master's Degrees. Six are currently enrolled in a PhD program at the University of Jos.

We wish to thank Heritage Christian University and Freed-Hardeman University for hosting and educating our teaching staff.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The School of Biblical Studies has resumed for the second semester of 2018/19 academic session. This semester is full of important activities to the school. During this semester we will have our campaign for Christ May 4 – 11, our annual Gospel Lectureship May 15 – 17, and our Graduation exercise, May 18. We plead for you to join us in prayers for a peaceful and successful semester. Our male dormitory takes a fresh look after the edifice was painted. Standing on the rocky elevated land of Jos above other hills, reminds me of Jesus' statement that a wise man builds his house upon a rock. God's kingdom on earth will continue to be raised above all the kingdoms of man and our 36 students who graduated last year will help insure this goal!

This structure accommodates men who constantly are involved in announcing the good news of the Kingdom of God. This edifice, apart from housing our male students, will also assist us with the accommodation of preachers during our annual programs, (Annual lectureship and the Annual Preachers'/Leaders' workshop). We really appreciate all those who have assisted in the construction of this beautiful dormitory. This will be used to the glory of God. May I plead that you help us finish this good work by contributing to the purchase and installation of mosquito screens on the windows. Malaria is endemic in Africa. We want to help our students to be protected against malaria as much as we can. Not having nets on the window will affect the students during the Dry Season.



## CLASS OF 2019/2020

Becoming a student of SBS is no easy goal to obtain. With over ten thousand Church of Christ congregations in Southern Nigeria, and approximately three hundred and fifty in the northern states, we have approximately 80-100 students each year who want to study the Bible as students at SBS. Each applicant has to meet health, education, and financial requirements, plus present a recommendation from their congregation. Each year we send out the following announcement.

### SBS JOS 2019 NEW INTAKE ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

The 2019/2020 entrance examination of the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, comes up on Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2019, by 8am prompt. All interested candidates for BA/Diploma programs are to get an application form from the school at the sum of **Five Thousand Naira (N5, 000)** from the Registrar's office on or before the slated date. **Degree Entry Requirements: 5 Credits** including Math and English language. **Diploma Entry Requirements: 3 Credits** including English Language. Candidates: Certificate in Ministry candidates are to obtain their form at the cost of **One Thousand Naira (N1, 000)** from the Registrar's office. Their requirements are a Primary School Leaving Certificate. All candidates must come with a letter of recommendation from his/her local church and 2 passport photographs with a file.

After the applicants take an examination and interview, the names are submitted to a committee made up of our teaching staff. Only 35 candidates are selected for the next class. Our hope is to increase this number in the future. This number does not include our foreign students.

Dr Joseph I. Azembeh (Academic Dean, SBS Jos)

## Your Invitation

Have you ever wanted to visit Africa for a few weeks? I believe that the best way to visit a country is to have someone that is living there meet you at the airport and take care of you during your stay. You have heard much about our work in Northern Nigeria, so why not make a visit. The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, hereby invites you to her 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Bible Lectureship and its 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduation Exercise. Our Lectureship is 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May, and our Graduation is on May 18, 2019. If you are interested, please contact Steve Worley, Adam Cox, or Randy Baker for details.

**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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Nigeria

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**The Elders**

**Gadsden Church of Christ**

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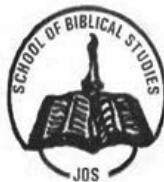
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**Editor of the Jos Journal**

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 \_\_\_\_\_

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