

## M.A. NEW TESTAMENT: PROGRESS REPORT

I am pleased to inform you that my Master's program in New Testament with FHU is going on well, though with some normal and expected challenges. I started the program in August last year with a short course which lasted for two weeks. Thereafter a full semester for Fall 2021 started with three registered courses. The courses I registered for last year with the grades I scored are as follows:

1. 1 & 2 Peter and Jude – A
2. Introduction to Graduate Studies – B
3. Elementary Greek I – A
4. New Testament World – B

I registered for another short course for two weeks which just ended on January 12, 2022, though the major term paper and the final exams will be due this coming February. The number of courses I registered for, for this spring 2022 semester which have already commenced are:

1. Text, Inspiration and Canon (two weeks short course – already taken)
2. Synoptic Gospels
3. Elementary Greek II
4. New Testament Theology

The major challenges I am facing with my studies include among other things, lack of access to recommended and /or required textbooks for my classes and sometimes electricity or power failure (for now internet access is more stable than before). I'm in dire need of the following books for my assignments and learning:

1. *The SBL Handbook of Style 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. For Biblical Studies and related Disciplines* (Atlanta: SBL Press, 2014).
2. Craig L. Blomberg, *Jesus and the Gospels: An introduction and Survey. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed.* (Nashville: B&H; Nottingham: Apollos, 2009).
3. Carl R. Holladay, *Introduction to the New Testament, Reference edition* (Waco: Barlor Press, 2017)
4. H. Jagersma, *A History of Israel from Alexander the Great to Bar Kochba* (Philadelphia: Fortress Press, 1986).
5. William D. Mounce, *Basics of Biblical Greek* (3<sup>rd</sup> ed.; Zondervan, 2009). etc.

These books are not available in SBS Jos Library and all effort to get them in some major bookstores in the city of Jos was still not successful.

I am glad that I have this rare opportunity to learn under highly intellectual, experienced, and humble servants of God. FHU is blessed with erudite scholars of great repute. This training is really helping me to have better perspective and understanding of the word of God. I'm grateful to Steve Worley and family, Dr. Tom, and family for the admission and their support, FHU management and staff for free tuition offered to me, and the church/brethren who continue to send their financial support for us in SBS to be trained. May God reward each and every one accordingly in Christ name. Thank you sir. **Bala Lafa Turgong**

Editor's note: We hope to carry the requested books to Brother Bala on our flights to Nigeria.

## CHRISTMAS IN THE SAHARA DESERT

At the end of the year I was privileged to go for visitation from Tera to Boundou-Dalo. It was on Wednesday, December 22<sup>nd</sup> that I went to Niamey to meet with Brother Francis Anaki, and Brother Harouna to go to the region of Maradi, then to a village call Boundou-Dalo to visit with the brothers and sisters over there. Three of us left Niamey on the December 23<sup>rd</sup> to Maradi, and slept there to continue the next day with another brother called Innocent, who lives in Maradi, with his family. He is a Chadian. The next day we left Maradi to another town call Dakoro before we finally reached our destination safely in the night.

Then on Saturday, December 25th, we used the day for evangelism and in the night, we made a projection to present the film of Jesus to the people and make some explanations to them at a given time and continued. There we had about forty persons in attendance, even though most of them are not members. But they were at least listening to the gospel. The next day, Sunday, we worshiped around 5:30 AM. We had an attendance of 36 persons both members and non-members. The members that were present at the worship were about 15 members including four of us that went there, but according to brother Francis there were others that could not come. Then after the worship we left around 7:30AM. We came to Dakoro and continue to Maradi in the same day. Reaching to Maradi was around 6:45pm, where we took a bus over night to Niamey. We arrived in Niamey the next day in the afternoon. It was very stressful, but the Lord really strengthened us in all our journey until we returned. Brothers Francis and Harouna got to their houses as I continued to Tera the next morning.

We really thank God for His loving kindness and His protection which He granted us to go and come back safely to the glory of His name. Amen! In the cause of our Evangelism we had four persons who wanted to give their lives to Christ. But the lack of water has been the cause of not being able to baptise them. We dug a hole like a pool in which we would baptize, but the well from which we hoped to draw the water was empty before we got there. We hope that they have a borehole with time to make the work easier to the glory of His name. Amen! Sir, I and my family have sincerely wished you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and mommy and The family at large especially, to the church,

Thank you very much for your love and support towards us and the work in Niger Republic. May the Almighty Lord bless you and reward you with all your heart desires, here on earth, and eternal rest in heaven. Amen!

In faith, **Aliou Souley**

Editor's note: We need to supply a borehole for this village.



We last reported in the November issue that we had begun a mission work with the church in Concord NH. It has been wonderful to be back in New England and we are enjoying the winter season. Along with our duties here, we have been putting out newsletters and canvassing the local congregations in this area to promote the work in Nigeria. There is much interest, and we hope to begin making presentations in the coming months toward this effort. Initial response has been very encouraging as the brethren gladly provided \$1000 toward helping Bro. Jacob Hundu put a roof on the new church building. We hear often from the students at SBS and are encouraged by their dedication to their studies and

commitment to the serving the Lord. We miss all our brothers and sisters there and hope to return for the fall 2022 semester.

**Chuck & Marci Cordon**

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