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GLOBAL ASSOCIATION of THEOLOGICAL STUDIES 2015 Africa Annual Report

AFRICA FORWARD

AFRIQUE EN AVANT

HIGHLIGHTS:

- ◆ 32 membership nations representing 44 membership schools
- ◆ 2 countries applied for and became membership nations: Benin and Namibia
- ◆ 3 sub-regional representatives were appointed
- ◆ 6 faculty education programs
- ◆ 7 reported graduations took place across the continent

Pursuing Ministerial Excellence



**Excellence is not a gift or a talent. Excellence is a mindset.
Excellence is an attitude.**



FOCUS ON NATIONS

The following is a summary from nations who reported their activities in 2015.

Benin

- ◆ Had a part-time Bible school training program but made the transition to GATS. Classes begin on January 12, 2016.

Burkina Faso

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 8 students

Congo - Brazzaville

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 4 students
- ◆ 1 graduate



2 NEW MEMBERSHIP NATIONS

Benin
Namibia

Congo - DRC

- ◆ 2 schools
- ◆ Due to some church challenges, the Bible school was put on hold. However, plans are under way to start the school back up in September 2016. Pre-enrolment for the Kinshasa campus is already at 30 students.

Gabon:

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 8 students

Ghana

- ◆ 3 schools (1 main campus; 2 extension schools)
- ◆ 44 students
- ◆ 25 graduates (6 certificate; 10 diploma; 9 associate)

Kenya

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 15 students

Madagascar

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 171 students
- ◆ 55 graduates (local degree)

Malawi:

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ Due to some challenges, there were no classes in 2015. It is hoped that classes will resume in 2016.

Namibia

- ◆ 2 schools
- ◆ 16 students

Nigeria

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 12 Graduates (10 associate; 2 local degree)
- ◆ Plans have been made to re-open a second school in Lagos on January 18, 2016

South Africa

- ◆ 10 schools
- ◆ 92 students
- ◆ 25 graduates
- ◆ 5 faculty education programs with 51 completing their training

Swaziland:

- ◆ Desire to run the GATS program and have had instructors trained but are facing challenges in starting their Bible school program.

Uganda:

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 9 graduates (certificate)

Zambia

- ◆ 3 schools (1 main campus; 2 extension schools)
- ◆ 33 students
- ◆ 29 graduates (9 associate; 20 local diploma)
- ◆ Conducted one faculty education program

Zimbabwe

- ◆ 1 school
- ◆ 40 graduates (14 diploma; 26 certificate)

SUB-REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

During the Regional Director's and Area Coordinators meeting in September it was approved that three sub-regional representatives be appointed to assist with the GATS program in Africa.

- ◆ GATS West Africa: Gerry McLean
- ◆ GATS East Africa: Pamela Smoak
- ◆ GATS South/ Central Africa: Benjamin Daka

Each representative has a history of involvement in Bible school education, a passion for training and leadership aptitude.

REVIEW OF 2015 ACTION PLAN

- Finalize the GATS application process with Keith Ikerd for Namibia.
- Assist with curriculum material upon request as nations continue to develop.
- Get GATS membership certificates for at least ten membership nations.

2016 ACTION PLAN

- ◆ Get GATS membership certificates for at least ten membership nations.
- ◆ Train the three sub-regional GATS representatives.
- ◆ Encourage at least five membership nations to host a faculty education program with one being held in each sub-region.
- ◆ Assist Swaziland with re-opening their Bible school.



CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS

- ◆ Gabon could use some assistance for their GATS Bible school in the area of tables and chairs.
- ◆ Swaziland needs assistance to launch their GATS Bible school training program.
- ◆ Online education continues to be in demand from countries like Botswana, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria and South Africa.
- ◆ The need to equip Bible school administrators has become apparent and even requested as new membership nations join and pioneer Bible schools.
- ◆ We have several nations willing to begin the bachelor program. As such, there is the need to send them course objectives and documentation outlining the requirements for “real life” credit hours.

REFLECTIVE SUMMARY

Overall, there is a good understanding of the GATS program throughout Africa. our membership nations continue to increase; nevertheless, more work needs to be done in taking the concept down to the grass roots so that everyone involved in the Bible school training program understands the “why” behind GATS. Appointing three regional representatives will assist us in getting this information communicated effectively throughout GATS-Africa and help us rise to the next level of success and succession.

Serving with joy,