

Spring 2024



AFRICAN
CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

BULLETIN

TRAINING FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE SINCE 1959

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PROVES FRUITFUL**

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OF 2023**

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BY THE NUMBERS

IMPACT OF ACSF SCHOOLS IN 2023

The schools in Nigeria continue to thrive and serve the churches of Christ in Nigeria in fine style. As two of the biggest and longest-serving schools in Nigeria, we continue to make an eternal impact in Nigeria and beyond. In 2023, our schools were active in evangelism outreach programs in their areas. During the entire year, through the efforts of students or staff, we made a huge impact in Nigeria.

- Number of current students: 232
- Number of graduates in 2023: 50
- Number of evangelistic campaigns by students or staff: 367
- Number of baptisms in 2023 by students/staff: 348
- Number of church planted in 2023 by students/staff: 5

We are hoping that in 2024, God will continue to use us to His glory in Nigeria and beyond. Only God knows how big of an impact we will have in this country of 200+ million souls.

NUMBER OF GRADUATES **50**

NUMBER OF EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGNS BY STUDENTS OR STAFF **367**

NUMBER OF BAPTISMS BY STUDENTS & STAFF **348**

NUMBER OF CURRENT STUDENTS **232**

2023
KEY FIGURES

NUMBER OF CHURCHES PLANTED BY STUDENTS & STAFF **5**



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Estate Planning...

...Planning for Peace of

Mind

Treasures in the *Sand*

When we have no estate plan, our values and valuables are just like treasures buried in the sand. Our treasures rest there waiting for someone to discover them. We rely on a judge to figure out what we might have wanted if we'd had an estate plan.

When you plan, you receive many benefits:

Peace of mind – Know your loved ones and favorite causes carry your legacy

Tax savings – A common feature of many plans is saving taxes – leave more for loved ones and less for the government

More income – Discover ways of creating more income today while planning your estate for tomorrow

Your values, goals and ambitions are all part of your life's story – they are your legacy. You worked for it, now it should work for you. If you have ever planned a vacation, you can plan your legacy. We have simple and easy tools to help you.



Preserve Your Choices

You might think if you have no formal plan, your family and friends will know what you meant to do. Unfortunately, unplanned estates rarely result in happy family discussions. Save them hassle and give yourself peace. Contact us. We have tools written in easy-to-understand language that can help.



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MISSION TRIP

JANUARY TRIP TO NIGERIA FRUITFUL

In January 2024, I, Chad Wagner, arrived in Lagos on a Friday and directly went to West Nigeria Christian College, Abeokuta to stay at the school. The next day, Saturday, Biodun Owolabi (President of WNCC) and Chad Wagner went to the Church of Christ Owode Titun, north of Lagos, where we spoke on “Depression Among Us: In the Family and the Church.” I thought it was an odd topic for a church but the seminar was WELL ATTENDED! There were many people there in attendance who were very interested in this topic. I shouldn’t have been surprised but depression, anxiety, and mental health is not a problem only for the Americans. Due to the reception and interest of the topic, Biodun and I decided to hold our May preachers seminar at WNCC on a variation of this topic to help sensitize the brotherhood on this pervasive issue.

On Sunday, we attended the Mile 6 Church of Christ which is near the school at WNCC. I was fortunate to be asked to preach during the worship service. Following that service, we visited a new church plant called Church of Christ Obasa. This new church plant is notable because it is Nigerian driven – from planning, to funding, to leadership – all Nigerian based! That is good because it shows that Nigerians are standing up to take the responsibility of the church on themselves. Good work!

The next day, Monday, I drove to Lagos, Nigeria to meet Archer Honea from Broken Arrow, OK. He is a good friend whom I’ve known for several years from my time in Tanzania. Later that day, we flew by plane to Uyo, Akwa Ibom to travel to the Nigerian Christian Bible College (NCBC). It was at NCBC where we met with Brian and Sondra Davis for the Great Workshop. The Great Workshop is an annual event for training, fellowship, and service which is held in a different location in Nigeria each year. There were 570 attendees (we planned for 500) and the event netted 8 baptisms.

During the Great Workshop, I met with various WBS follow-up teams. This is always a good time to renew relationships and to catch up on the good work going on in Nigeria.

After the Great Workshop was over, on Saturday, we held the 70th anniversary Founder’s Day celebration at NCBC. Seventy years of service to the brotherhood is a good, long time! We are thankful to all those who attended as well as have helped bring NCBC to this point 70 years later.

On Sunday, I preached at the Ibom Avenue Church of Christ near the NCBC campus as well as had 1 baptism during the morning. After that, we had lunch again at Monday John’s house to prepare for a 1-day WBS seminar at the Two Towns Church of Christ. We went door-to-door by teams and then had the seminar later that afternoon. We had 1 baptism during the event. Personally, the trip was a good one overall and we are very thankful to God for the safe travels and productive meetings.

CHAD WAGNER



The ACSF Bulletin is published quarterly by African Christian Schools Foundation, a Church of Christ 501 c(3) non-profit ministry which began in 1959 and is overseen by faithful members of the Churches of Christ throughout the United States of America.

Please direct all comments to Chad Wagner, President and Executive Director at acsf1959@gmail.com and any funds to:

African Christian Schools Foundation
P.O. Box 41120
Nashville, TN 37204
www.africanchristianschools.org

VIOLET DINNER

BENEFIT DINNER AT HILLSBORO CHURCH OF CHRIST A SUCCESS

We are so thankful to all those who came out to our annual African Violet Dinner at the Hillsboro Church of Christ in Nashville. It was a successful night! During that night, we proudly announced that all of the proceeds would go toward our Founding Legacy Matching Campaign in honor of African Christian Schools' 65th anniversary. If you'd like to get involved in that fund, contact the ACSF office for more information: 615-542-6282.



NCBC EVENT

WORLD BIBLE SCHOOL GREAT WORKSHOP AND NCBC 70TH FOUNDERS DAY CELEBRATION

The last week of January 2024 witnessed series of events at the Nigerian Christian Bible College, Ukpom. It all began on the 23rd January with the World Bible School Great Workshop 2024. This is an annual gathering of WBS follow-up workers which was held at N.C.B.C Ukpom this year. The theme this year's workshop was "Focusing On Evangelism With World Bible School". It had the highest number of participants, 657 participants, great speakers such as Brian Davis and Sondra Davis World Bible School president, Chad Wagner, ACSF President and missionary, Archer Honea, Missionary from Oklahoma, Biodun Owolabi, President of WNCC, Abeokuta, Joe Obinna, Provost N.C.B.C, Monday J. Akpakpan, Godwin Isaac, Uyai Joshua and Mike Udam, the great Workshop Director. It was a time of many great lessons, fellowship, and interactions among Church workers.

The workshop addressed different aspects of evangelism with WBS. Topics range from exploring online WBS methods, strategies for increasing school enrollment, effective techniques for follow-up work and the art of writing comprehensive reports. Sondra Davis taught many lessons to the women who attended the workshop. Two open air lectures were conducted and four Baptisms recorded.

On Saturday 27th January 2024, history was made again as N.C.B.C celebrated her 70th Founder day. the college that was established in 1954 has reached an unprecedented milestone. The events was held in a grand style



and was quite unique, people from all walks of life attended the celebration including Comrade Iniememobong, the commissioner for information and strategy of Akwa Ibom State, Chad Wagner, Brian and Sondra Davis, Archer Honea and the Ukpom Traditional Rulers Council. Twenty congregations rendered praises to God for the gift of N.C.B.C. Joe Obinna, the provost of the college during his presentation of his address shared with the participants, the achievements, progress, prospects and some challenges facing the college, he announced that the second phase

of the platinum Jubilee celebration will come between August 6 and 9, 2024 during the annual lectureship. Some participants and well-wishers also made some donations to support the college. Fifty new students matriculated into the ministerial program of the college on that day.

May God bless our donors and supporters of N.C.B.C in Jesus name Amen.

Uyai S. Joshua

Director, Media and Public Relations,
NCBC

IN MEMORY

REMEMBERING FRIDAY ADIMA

I have known Late Friday Adima for over 30 years, he hails from Aba in Abia State. He studied at the Nigerian Christian Bible College (NCBC) and graduated in 1998.

When he was a student, he was the college electrician, he was active on duty and even after graduating still served the college diligently. As a student, he was so close to the missionaries such as Late Bob and Joan Dickson, Andrea and Roger Kondrup and Dr. Russell Fountain.

He led several mission campaigns with these missionaries and other NCBC students across Igbo land. Late Friday Adima helped to change the face of service to each other and especially in



the prison ministry, he worked tirelessly and baptized many prison inmates in places such as Port- Harcourt, Aba, Umuahia, Ikot Ekpene and Uyo prisons.

He conducted many classes and Bible Lectureships in the prison yards. He was the President of New Life Behavior International (NLBI), a program which has helped improve the

lives of many Nigerians. He encouraged many American missionaries such as Mike Biggers to come and conduct Seminars in Nigeria and Ghana.

He was a dedicated member of the NCBC Alumni Association and a member of Think Tank committee, he made a large donation to the Association to ensure its longevity. As NCBC Alumnus, he has been instrumental to the recruitment of many students from Igbo land into the Nigerian Christian Bible College. He was a member of the current NCBC Governing Board.

We pray for his wife Sandra, children and the work he left behind as he goes to his heavenly reward. Amen

Uyai S. Joshua

Director, Media and Public Relations, NCBC

FOCUSED EVANGELISM

AFRICAN INPUT CRUCIAL TO SUCCESSFULLY SPREADING GOD'S WORD

I n 2001, I was asked to do a little work with the faculty of the Nigerian Christian Bible College, Ukpom, in the east. Unhappily for me and others, that was when my friend, John Beckloff, had a tragic accident. I had not counted on participating in his funeral.

During my work, one of the teachers in the College expressed to me a sentiment I have read elsewhere, "We can evangelize Africa, but we need your knowledge of church history and other advanced studies to equip us." Happily, men such as Biodun Owolabi and other Africans are equipped now to provide much of that kind of information in the African context. Such information is imperative for a growing movement, but how does one proceed to achieve such goals?

Swiss Protestant Daniel Von Allemann taught many years in a seminary in Yaoundé, Cameroun, and from his

readings and training experiences he suggested components of rooting the biblical faith in local cultures. He proposed four stages: First is Proclamation, basic communication of the message, evangelizing. Nigerians do that easily and naturally. Second, Translation, both the oral biblical messages and Christian literature, including Scripture, must be translated into the local vernacular. Third, Poetry, by which he means emotional expressions of the faith, as in appropriate hymns and devotional material. Fourth, Theology, by which he means the ability to articulate the Christian faith in relationship to local needs and challenges. For example, how does the Christian faith speak meaningfully to a society in which witchcraft is prominent?

We know that brotherhood in various countries fare better when they have a few competent, spiritual thought

leaders who can give perspective on opportunities and challenges. The colleges in both the East and West of Nigeria can play a leading role in facilitating these kinds of developments. A "contextualized curriculum" was mentioned in the Fall 2023 ACS Bulletin (p. 6), and that is critically important. I was once asked to evaluate the curricula of six Preacher Training Schools in a large country and found that most of them had largely transplanted the curricula from USA schools. Only one school gave curriculum evidence that it was interacting aggressively with the local opportunities and challenges. Things are done differently in the two Nigerian colleges mentioned here. They deserve support in prayer, personnel, and funding as they participate in the stabilization and maturation of the vast number of our sister churches in that country.

C. Philip Slate



African Christian Schools Foundation

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Nashville, TN 37204



FOUNDING LEGACY MATCHING CAMPAIGN

DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT

The founding children of African Christian Schools want to use this anniversary year to build long-term sustainability for Christian education in Africa.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, GO TO:
WWW.AFRICANCHRISTIANSCHOOLS.ORG | 6155426282

WE HAVE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY!

African Christian Schools is turning 65 years old this year. What a great and rich history of missions and Christian education in Africa! There are many stories to be told of the heroic work of missionaries of years-past who have sacrificed and work diligently to see that the Lord's church is Africa is blessed and equipped with competent Christian leadership. Through that effort, we have the Nigerian Christian Bible College (celebrating her 70th year this year) and the West Nigeria Christian College (celebrating her 25th year this year). We have also just added a new partner school in Karonga, Malawi called the Kachi Bible School to enable those students to finish their preacher school education.

In celebrating 64 years for African Christian Schools, the children (and grandchildren!) of the founding members of African Christian Schools have setup a matching campaign this spring. Until June 16th, the "founding children" will double any gift you give! Yes, your donation of any amount will be doubled, dollar for dollar, up to \$150,000. So, with your gift, you can double your impact for Christian education in Africa!

This **FOUNDING LEGACY MATCHING CAMPAIGN** will run from now until June 16th. This matching campaign is intended by the founding children to build the long-term sustainability of African Christian Schools for another 65 years and beyond! So, to that end, 77% of the funds in the matching campaign will go directly to our long-term endowment and only 23% will go towards our capital campaign items.

With this matching campaign, you'll be able to help us build long-term sustainability to see that more preachers like Victor will be able to receive the education and training they need to be thrive in the Nigerian churches. So, please give by June 16th to see your gift do twice as much for Christian education in Africa.



Use your phone to scan
this code to give now!