Global Schools of Biblical Studies

United States • Zambia • Uganda • Ghana



NEWS AND NEEDS

BIM:

We are now in the process of forming out next class that begins in August of this year. We need students who desire to know God's Word and hopefully proclaim it to the whole world. If you know of any prospect, please give them this newsletter, and encourage them to contact or give us their name and we will contact them. Two students have shown a great interest in coming. Call me if you have a prospect in mind. Jerry Sullins at 417-619-8197 or email me at jerryrsullins@yahoo.com.

Zambia:

We are always in need of additional support for this school each month. However, you can help will be greatly appreciated. We run around \$1,000 per month. Some of you have already helped since the last newsletter. Thank you for your continued support. A onetime gift can be used to supply the monthly needs. Please send all funds to the "Zambia Mission Fund."

Uganda:

The famine relief effort continues for Uganda and Kenya. We have raised \$23,000 or the \$30,000 goal. Remaining is \$7,000 to complete the six months assistance of \$5,000. A minimum of 27 congregations are being helped but we could do more if we had the funds. The last money to be sent will be in August. Please send all contributions to the "Uganda Mission Fund" (Memo: "Famine relief")

Ghana:

We still lack \$300 of monthly support to meet our full operating budget at this time. Please send all contributions to the "Ghana Mission Fund."

- General Information:
 *Two-Year Program

Brent Green, (417) 536-5260, <u>kofibgreen@gmail.com</u> Ray Sullins, (417) 818-7426, <u>raysullins@att.net</u>

* Mission Opportunities Classroom Hours

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- Church - School

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FOUR SCHOOLS

June 2020

ONE NEWSLETTER

"Global News"

Jerry Sullins

Greetings in the name of Christ! We are thankful for the opportunity to send you this report of the "Global Schools of Biblical Studies." At present, our schools in Africa are on shutdown due to the virus that is plaguing our world today. Individual reports of how it is affecting each school will be given in this newsletter. In the history of our schools in Africa, this is the first time that our schools have been shut down due to an international crisis since 1988. But the work will continue soon, and we may be able to graduate our students in all African schools near the end of this year and begin our new classes next year.

We are happy to announce that we were able to graduate our studies at the Bible Institute of Missouri on schedule on May 23, 2020. This was made possible by our ability to have our classes with them online. Three students graduated this year. Two have already accepted positions to work fulltime with congregations in Missouri and Indiana. One is continuing his secular education and will be preaching part time. Their names are Dylan Chaney, Casey Rice and Dante Villarreal.

Our next class will begin in August. We need your help in finding men who will come for training. Please contact us if you know of anyone who might be willing to come and learn the Word of God. At present, we have two full scholarships available for qualified students. Thank you for your continued interest in training faithful men to proclaim His Truth to "all the world."



Since 2003

Springfield, Missouri

Despite the difficulties caused by the corona virus, we persevered to finish the school year. Over half of our final quarter was completed by using a video conference program. This allowed us to continue all our classes and complete all the course work as schedule. Though it was surely a different way to teach, we were blessed to have the technology and means to do it. Thankfully, we were able to resume classes in person at the school building for the final two weeks. At least this allowed us to spend some final time with the students and encourage them in chapel before the time expired.



After two years of study, Michael Dylan Chaney, Casey Rice, and Dante Villarreal successfully completed all their coursework and graduated on May 23, 2020. Altogether, our graduates

completed 48 different classes, totaling over 2000 hours of classroom time. That does not include all the time they each spent doing homework, studying, and preparing outside of class. It takes a lot of hard work and dedication to complete a preacher training program such as this, and we are certainly proud of them for being such diligent students.

At this time, they each have different plans. Dylan and his family have moved back to Indiana where he is from. He will be working with the Steuben County Church of Christ. Casey is in negotiations with a congregation in Missouri may work with them very soon. Dante plans to continue to do fill-in preaching locally while he continues his education. We are confident that each of them is going to be a great asset to the kingdom of God.

This year's class was the 14th graduating class from the BIM, totaling 41 graduates to date. God has continued to bless this work since its beginning in 2003. Now after 17 years of operation, we are still training preachers and teachers for the work of God. We are working right now to solidify the next class for the next intake in August 2020. We are currently

talking to four men right now, one of which has already committed to coming. Now is the time to sign up to be a part of our next class. Scholarships are available for those you are interested, and many congregations and individuals are willing to help support those who dedicate themselves to train to be preachers. Contact us today if you are interested. May God continue to bless this good work, as we continue to do our part to train another generation of faithful men to preach the gospel.



The last two months have been very stressful in Zambia as well as around the world. On March 17, 2020, after our last newsletter was published, Zambia's schools were closed due to the "virus" that has infected the world. Although the number of cases was very low in Zambia (14) and at that time no deaths, the whole country was shut down. Even now, the amount of cases has really not increased that much and there have been four deaths countrywide, the virus seems to be under control. Good news! The President of Zambia has now announced that all schools in Zambia can reopen on June 1, 2020. So, for a month and a half, ZSOBS has been closed. The students are ready to return. We are rescheduling our graduation of this class which was to take place this November and we hope to graduate this class by the end of the year or the first month in 2021. Our next class will be able to begin not too far beyond schedule.

At present we have 16 students at ZSOBS made up of 15 Zambians and 1 from Malawi. Our prayers are that they all will be able to return and finish their last two quarters at the school.

Due to the "virus", no one has been able to visit Zambia this year. The group that Ron Gilbert leads annually to Zambia was also unable to go and it looks like they will continue their work in Zambia next year. We also were not able to go and look forward to being at the graduations of all three schools in Africa at the end of this year or early next year.

I am happy to report that this year the crops in Zambia were

not damaged by drought in most areas and there is no widespread hunger. The schools in the Ngwezi Valley and Siamafunga are in session and gospel preachers are being trained.

I want to extend to all our faithful supporters a sincere appreciation for your continued support throughout the years. I cannot believe that our effort in Southern Africa has now being in existence for over 31 years. Some of you have worked with us and supported the work from the beginning. May God richly bless you all. Call me sometime at 417-619-8197 (Jerry Sullins).



Since 2003

Uganda

Greetings in the name of Jesus! You may remember from our last newsletter that because of flooding in East Africa at the end of February and early March, an appeal was made by our brothers



and sisters in Uganda and Kenya for food assistance. Because of the appeal, I began a fund for food relief to assist a minimum of 27 congregations in both countries associated with the school. After communication with the brethren at EASOBS they told me that it would take \$5,000 per month for 6 months to assist our brethren until the next harvest. \$30,000 was set as a goal. To date over \$23,000 has been raised. Three installments of \$5,000 each have been sent from March through May. We remain with only 3 more months. Some may be willing to help us reach the goal. Could you help? We only lack \$7,000. Of course, the more we receive, the more we can help others who are requesting the help. Our sincere thanks to all of those who have responded to this need.

Here is a letter sent from one of those congregations who have been receiving food relief. This letter is from the Butema church of Christ in Bugiri, Uganda. "Dear brethren in the USA. On behalf of Butema church of Christ members, I hereby send to ou warm greetings. So to all our brethren in the USA we are so happy and grateful for supporting our church in locust and famine relief which we received more than one time. Though you have COVID-19 cases in the USA you are supporting the needy in Uganda. We are praying with you. Therefore may the Almighty God heal and bless you abundantly. Thanks, yours in Christ. Kisachi Moses, on behalf of Butema congregation."

As of yet, no date has been set for the reopening of our school but we believe it will reopen in early June. Continue to pray for the famine relief and the opening of EASOBS. If the school opens in June, we will either graduate at the end of 2020 or in January 2021.



Since 2017

Ghana

The work of the Lord continues to go well in Ghana. However, the school in Ghana and the brethren there have been faced with the restrictions of the COVID-19 virus, like other African countries. The government in Ghana shut most of Ghana down, including all schools and churches about a month and a half ago. Several weeks ago, businesses and other activities began to reopen slowly, but churches and schools were still locked down. At this time, we are in hopes that next month, restrictions might be lightened to where we can resume classes again. Please keep these things in prayer that things will return to normal soon. Overall, the COVID-19 virus has had little effect on Ghana as far as infections or deaths.

During these difficult days, many brethren continue to assemble in small numbers in people's homes for worship. Some students have been using social media to preach and teach God's word on a daily basis. But overall, our greatest prayer is that the school can resume soon and that things will get back to normal. Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for this great work. We know that God is in control of all things and everything will eventually work out for the best. May God continue to bless His good work in Ghana.