

Go Preach the Gospel



To the Whole World

“How Shall They Hear?”

Training Men to Preach in Their Native Lands
A Work of the Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver

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July, 2014



Southern Institute of Biblical Studies Dobro—Nsawam, Accra, Ghana

SOUTHERN INSTITUTE OF BIBLICAL STUDIES DOBRO – NSAWAM, ACCRA, GHANA

Just established in February 2014, the **Southern Institute of Biblical Studies (SIBS) in Ghana** provides sound Biblical training to gospel preachers. SIBS is a two-year full time school affiliated with Bear Valley Bible Institute that awards a Certificate in Biblical Studies.

SIBS provides a solid foundation for discipleship and ministry. Our students develop spiritual discipline and maturity through study and service. They participate in personal, mass, and media evangelism. Instructors provide knowledge and experience in nature religions, world religions and inaccurate views of the Christian religion. Students learn the faith of Christ and how to communicate it to people of diverse backgrounds.

Twelve students are in the first class. The staff is composed of dedicated preachers from throughout Ghana: Seth Osae-Larbi, Gyan Mante, E. O. Larbi, Teshie Main, Willie Gley and E Amoo-Gyimah. They are assisted by Kojo Acquah Beenyi, Joshua Aidoo and Ofofu Asamoah. American teachers include Steven Ashcraft (West African Coordinator), Gary Fallis, and Jerry Bates.

A Bear Valley Master's Program has also been established in Accra.

This involves extensive classroom work and guided research assignments. The primary objective of

In This Issue...

- ◆ Southern Institute of Biblical Studies
- ◆ SIBS Leadership
- ◆ Value of Master's Program
- ◆ Three Schools in Ghana

the program is to offer qualified preachers the opportunity to improve their knowledge of the scriptures and leadership skills. Applicants must have a bachelor's degree in the Bible or its equivalent. Experience is also considered toward these requirements. Recommendations of fellow Christians are also necessary. Twelve preachers began their studies in August, 2013. Others have chosen to audit the courses.

Classes meet twice each year in April and August. Twelve courses are taught over a three-year period. Students study Hebrews, John, Old and New Testament Theologies, Hermeneutics, Homiletics, Apologetics, Church Planting, Christian Education, World Religions and Leadership. Introduction in Graduate Research prepares them for their studies. The Accra Master's Program is valuable to much of West Africa, attracting brethren from the West African sub-region, particularly Nigeria. **Gary Fallis, Ralph Williams, Denton Landon and Jerry Bates are on the faculty.** Gary serves as the Bear Valley Director of the Master's Program. Students are thankful for the unique and valuable opportunity to study.

Seth Osae-Larbi, Director



Seth Osae-Larbi

Ennabuel Amoo-Gyimah

SIBS LEADERSHIP

I taught Seth and Emmanuel in the Master's Program in Takoradi, Ghana in 2011. Each of these men had begun their studies after the main class and were not able to complete the program at that time. They are now enrolled in the Accra Master's Program near where they preach.

Seth serves as the Director and **Emmanuel** as the Administrative Assistant of SIBS. Each of these men also preach at large congregations, as well as teach at SIBS, and are enrolled in the Master's Pro-

gram. They probably wish they were two people.

When I was in Accra in April, I visited the congregation where Seth preaches. Over the years, they have built their own building, making bricks, and doing the construction themselves. They have outgrown the present facility and are adding a new auditorium. When I was there, the foundation was poured and the walls were up. A native Christian is providing funds for the roof. **However, the congregations needs \$5,000 to help pay for the windows. (This is a worthy work for any congregation that can help. I can provide further information).** They do not ask others to do what they can do. They make special contributions toward the building on a regular basis.

Before I left, I visited the location of SIBS and met the twelve students. The space has room for a classroom, dormitory, offices and a guest room for the visiting teacher. Kojo, a graduate of the Master's Program in Takoradi, and a very good friend, was teaching that week.

Most of the Schools of Preaching are planned by native brethren. SIBS is no exception. They deserve our prayers and support.

—Gary Fallis

VALUE OF MASTER'S PROGRAM

The original Bear Valley Extension in Ukraine offered the only Master's Degree before 2007. However, Master's Programs were beginning in Arusha, Tanzania and Abakaliki, Nigeria. Because of my post graduate degrees, experience with the Brown Trail School of Preaching and five years with Bear Valley, I was asked to direct the Master's Program. **Master's Programs are now offered in seven different Extension Schools:** Arusha and Chimala, Tanzania; Kisumu, Kenya; Accra, Ghana, Visakhapantam, India; Guatemala City, Guatemala; Gorlovka, Ukraine.

The **primary purpose** of the Master's Programs is to train directors and teachers for the local Bear Valley Extension Schools. Whether students receive a certificate or degree from Bear Valley, these advanced studies have helped qualify both the directors and teachers. Teachers hone their knowledge of



Ralph Williams with Accra Master's Class

Scripture and gain academic preparation to help students do scholarly research, write Biblical articles and prepare accurate, effective sermons.

A complimentary purpose is to **expand** and **deepen** the knowledge of the Bible to all who become future church leaders (Heb. 5:11-6:11; 2 Peter 3:14-18). The church in America has grown and prospered most where dedicated men and women had a broad and deep knowledge of God's Word. This may come from self-study or organized study through a college or school of preaching. The Master's Programs as well as other degree and certificate programs are a means to that end.

Courses in Hermeneutics and Homiletics are designed to help students better understand God's word and prepare coherent, practical sermons. Apologetics helps students answer critics who question or denounce the inspiration and sufficiency of the Bible. They gain practical skills in beginning and developing local congregations through the courses of Leadership, Church Planting and Christian Education. A study in World Religions-Humanism acquaints them with false philosophical and religious views and strengthens their knowledge and commitment to the truth of God's Word.

The Master's Program in the foreign extension schools is patterned after that at Bear Valley in Den-

ver. Students who complete the program of study receive a **Master of Biblical Studies** degree from the Bear Valley Bible Institute.

God is glorified, Christ is exalted, and souls are saved because of these Bible Schools. The elders and teachers at Bear Valley in Denver, scores of churches and thousands of Christians make these Bible programs possible.

—Gary Fallis

THREE BEAR VALLEY EXTENSIONS IN GHANA

The **Southern Institute of Biblical Studies in Accra** joins two sister schools of Preaching in the nation of Ghana.

The **West Coast School of Preaching in Takoradi** began in 1997. In 2005 the students moved into a new administrative-educational building and a two story dormitory. The school of preaching is overseen by the elders in Howe, Texas. In 2009, TWCSOP and Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver (BVBID) joined forces in teaching faithful men to preach the gospel of Christ in West Africa. This new partnership has strengthened the Lord's work in Ghana. Each year eight students have graduated from the two-year program during its fifteen years' existence. The majority of students are from Ghana, but some

also come from Nigeria and Liberia.

I have had opportunity to teach at West Coast on several occasions. The teachers are capable, experienced men. The former Director, Daniel Ampadu Asiamah, had a severe stroke early this year and needs our prayers. I was able to visit him during my April trip to Accra.

In early 2007, two congregations in the city of **Tamale, Ghana West Africa** approached Steven Ashcraft, an American missionary living in Tamale, about helping them to establish a school of preaching. Tamale is a city in northern Ghana of 550,000 people and is predominantly Islamic. Classes began in May 2009. In late 2009 the school became a **Bear Valley Bible Institute Extension School**. Steven Ashcraft, who is a graduate of Bear Valley, serves as the coordinator. A building containing

dormitories, classrooms, a library, computer room, offices and guest housing for visiting teachers was recently completed. **The Tamale Institute of Biblical Studies** in Ghana is fulfilling their vision of strengthening the church in northern Ghana through the training of preachers, evangelistic campaigns, seminars, and work in the community. Tony Johnson, resident missionary, teaches and coordinates this Bear Valley Extension. The use of the facilities is being widened as a recent seminar was held there by a group of church of Christ university students near Tamale. They could sleep and eat on the premises while they studied the word of God together. **Tamale is being used as a spring-board for the work in Burkina Faso and northern Togo.**

—Gary Fallis

If you would like to help financially with Training Preachers In Their Native Land, please send your gift to:

Bridgewood Church of Christ, P.O. Box 8524, Fort Worth, Texas 76124

Please make a notation on the envelope or a note with the check "Gary Fallis Mission Fund." A gift of \$20.00, \$50.00, \$100.00 or more will help us in the training of gospel preachers.