



GATS Regional Representative's Report Fourth Quarter 2008

Working Regionally to Raise the Standard of Bible School Education Globally

Africa, Nick Sisco

A total of twenty-four African nations have pledged intent of being involved with GATS. Four of these have submitted applications, two have been approved. We are now processing the GATS applications for South Africa and Zambia.

Brother Sisco recently promoted GATS in the sub-regional conference in West Africa.

Asia, Prince Mathiasz

Missionary Allan Shalm writes: On behalf of the United Pentecostal Church in Pakistan and New Life Theological Seminary in Lahore, I want to thank the Application Review Committee for the approval of our GATS application. We feel honored to be the first College in Asia to become part of the GATS program.

Central America/Caribbean, Brad Thompson

Brad Thompson writes: I have been in contact with all our countries and the dates for the (regional faculty development) seminars in October 2008 are fine with EVERYONE! We promoted the seminars at the Central American Seminar...and sent flyers back with the teachers and administrators. But I wanted to make sure that everyone was still on board. I am excited as I feel this will be a big blessing to the schools and will be the spring board for GATS in many of the countries. I have the filled out GATS applications from Guatemala and El Salvador. I will have them in the mail shortly. The other countries in Central America have all pledged to begin the process ASAP.

Europe/Middle East, Roger Buckland

Continue to pray for the Sister Buckland's father. He suffered a slight heart attack, his heart is extremely weak, and he has cancer.

Quoting Jesus, Brother Buckland writes: "...that your fruit may remain..." indicates how important training and mentoring were to our Lord. Bible School endeavors are one of the principle means in which we invest in the harvest. A worthy goal is to provide Bible School education opportunities in each nation of our region. The EME Christian Board of Education is pledging itself to assist you in this invaluable ministry.

They have recently established scholarship funds for EME Bible School students.

Brother and Sister R. Kelley and Harvest Bible College report: We have just received some excellent news! We have passed the first stage of the accreditation process! We are both shocked and excited. It is just hard to believe we have actually made it thus far. Now we will be subjected to on sight inspections.

Following are recent regional stats provided by Brother Buckland:

- This school year, there is an average of fifteen students per school.
- Nearly 400 students have graduated from these schools within the past 12 years.
- One hundred and eight former graduates and students are presently in the ministry (25%), resulting in one of every four entering the ministry.
- Two hundred and ninety are now working in a local church ministry resulting in more than half of those who graduate actively involved in the local church.
- To date, eleven national district officials and three regional missionaries have been trained in our Bible
- Schools. Two more applications have been received for Regional Missionary Status from former EME Bible School students.

Pacific, Kevin Vacca

Kevin Vacca reports: In the Philippines, I was able to make a presentation to the Board of Christian Education which was well received with all the Bible school presidents expressing enthusiasm for the program. The chairman of the Board of Christian Education recommended that I make a presentation for GATS at the February 2009 Executive Board meeting. At this meeting we scheduled Bible School teachers training for two days (sixteen total hours) during the month of May. This will involve forty teachers from the five schools. We will use the GATS *Advance Educators Series*. We presented GATS at the Micronesia West General Conference. I will be traveling to Samoa, American Samoa, and Tonga in March to introduce GATS. We also have a regional retreat next year in October, and we can do more promotion there. And perhaps start a Pacific Bible School Association.

South America, Lonnie Burton

Our thoughts and prayers are with the entire Burton family at the loss of Brother James Burton.

GTI Instructor, Brother S. L. Poe was able to promote GATS with Brother R. Cervera, Superintendent of Peru and he plans to sign a letter of intent soon. They are finishing a building to house the Bible school across the street from the church in Chiclayo. When the building is completed Brother Poe is invited to return to teach the faculty for GATS.

Among other subjects, Brothers Poe and Reynolds were able to teach a couple of the *Advance Educators* lessons. They were able to promote GATS to two groups of people.

While there our GTI instructors were able to meet Brother and Sister Hildago, the parents of Sister Zee Warren, our Spanish translator for GATS. Sister Warren is doing a tremendous job. Her parents must be proud of her.