



## SOW News Update – April 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are delighted to share with you some news from The Gambia, and to ask for your continued support in prayer.

The last term at SOW ran from January 11<sup>th</sup> to March 25<sup>th</sup> 2021. On the full-time preaching course at Tubakuta classes included Genesis, Acts, Colossians, Theology for Preachers, Lord's Harvest Discipleship course and Farming God's Way. In addition, there were final preparations to sit the Explore the Bible exam (an external paper set and marked by George Whitefield College, South Africa) in February, and we were delighted that four out of the five students passed, and two of them achieved excellent results, with marks over 90%.

The part-time courses at Fajara have struggled a bit during his term, with quite variable student attendance. We were also sad to say farewell to Rev Yohanna Turba, who has been leading some of the discipleship bible studies, but who has been recalled to Nigeria by his mission. We are grateful for his partnership and support.



Rev Yohanna with one of his classes.



A small farewell celebration.

It was wonderful to be able to run the [Kairos](#) mission mobilising course in February as a special one-week event. We aim to run this every year, but it was cancelled in 2020 due to the state of emergency restrictions. All the full-time students took part plus a good number of other guests from local churches.

Following a huge effort last year to develop a curriculum, SOW was able to run the first module for the first batch of trainee Christian Religious Education (CRE) teachers. This is an important development since negotiations with the Government Education Department over many years resulted in their agreement to allow access to schools for trained CRE teachers.





# SERVANTS OF THE WORD

Outside of the classroom there has been good progress on the library and reading room for the Tubakuta campus. The structure is now complete, the ceiling has been installed, and work is underway with electrical connections.



One of the two-room apartments on the farm site is also now being lived in by Leese Mendy, the Farm Manager.

And the school farm is benefitting from the new water tanks and watering system. Ten women from the village are working hard on vegetable beds on the SOW land, those who demonstrate enough commitment will be enrolled for training in vegetable gardening.



In January we were very happy to be reunited with Nick, Harriet, Phoebe, and Arthur Algeo, and to meet baby Olive, who has joined them.

Nick and Harriet are serving with [Crosslinks](#) on the SOW Faculty. Both are involved in training the SOW students, Nick has been developing the curriculum and course material and Harriet was able to use her professional teaching experience to help with the CRE teacher training.

## **Please pray with us:**

- The new term started on Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, pray for all the students to study hard, develop their gifts, and grow like Christ during their third and final term.
- We have received a few enquiries about next academic year, please pray for a growing awareness of the course, and a growing desire for Christians to seek training for ministry.
- Staffing for the part-time training at Fajara has been more challenging with Rev Yohanna leaving and Anna Mendy Gomez reducing her involvement due to financial pressures. Please pray for sufficient staff to provide valuable training at Fajara.
- That the good Lord will have mercy on the land of The Gambia, and turn many hearts and lives to faith in Jesus.

Many thanks for your partnership with us.

Steven Musa-Kormayea, Director, Servants of the Word.

*"I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now" (Philippians 1:3-5).*