



## SOW News Update – March 2022

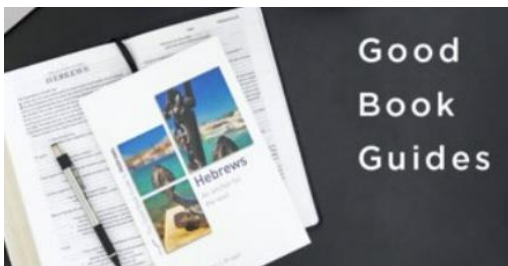
Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ, we are delighted to share with you some brief news from The Gambia, and to ask for your continued support in prayer.

The new term started in January 2022 with the Fajara campus hosting Explore the Bible and Discipleship training two evenings each week, and the residential Tubakuta campus hosting five full-time students. They have been studying: Acts, Isaiah & Mark's Gospel; Explore the Bible, How to Understand the Bible, Theology for Preachers, Discipleship, Principles of Preaching and having regular preaching practice opportunities.



*Students at the Fajara campus taking their 'Explore the Bible' exam in February.*

In general English is not the first language for the students, this year a few are struggling, so there are also English classes on Wednesday evenings. Farming God's Way training continues for the students and the local community.



We are delighted that the Good Book Company has generously agreed to provide the pdf files for their 'Good Book Guides'. These have been tried out already, and whilst there is some contextualisation required in the area of application, they are a great resource for the both teachers and students alike.

Three new teachers (JJ, Oliver and Edrissa – all Gambian pastors) continue to be involved in teaching the course. They are a huge encouragement: they are humble, intelligent and have some training already. They have differing degrees of familiarity with expository preaching (although none are completely new to it either), however they have been very good at teaching the Bible books and our 'Theology for Preachers' course. They understand the students and context well.



## SERVANTS OF THE WORD

The graduation in December 2022 included the official opening of the new library block and the official naming of some rooms. One of the rooms is going to be used as a tailoring school for the local community (a partner in Ireland provided 11 sewing machines for this purpose). A tailoring teacher from the city has just been found and he will live here during the week to teach tailoring.



And a further encouragement has been the initiative of one of our students, Goodluck, who has started going into the village by himself on Thursday evenings to teaching the children in the village. He does this both for the few Christians families who are there, and also does some youth outreach to the Muslim Mandinka tribe.

### **Please pray with us:**

- Please pray for the health of SOW Director of Training Steven Musa-Kormayea who is still unwell, hoping to recover enough to travel to the UK soon. He also intends to move back to 4 days per week on campus next term, but with a reduced teaching load.
- Thanks that the current group of students are committed, faithful and godly young men. 3 of them have adequate literacy to do well on the course, but 2 others are struggling. 1 of these will be taking the course over 2 years to help him.
- The Algeos will be moving back to the UK in June. Please pray that in their final months they would handover well and give good training where required.
- A missionary from WEC (Sophie) will be moving to Tubakuta to help from September onwards. In March she is heading home to Germany for furlough then will return. She speaks fluent Mandinka and will live on one of the Christian compounds. Please pray that her accommodation gets built well and on time and that she would be able to serve SOW and the village well.
- For wisdom with respect to how the school relates to the church in the village
- That the good Lord will have mercy on the land of The Gambia, and turn many hearts and lives to faith in Jesus.

*Praise God for your continued prayer and financial support for gospel work in West Africa - thanks from all the staff, students and directors of Servants of the Word, The Gambia*

*"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).*