



## SOW News Update – October 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 third and final term of the academic year for the five fulltime students at Tubakuta ended in July. Please pray that these five will have many opportunities to teach and preach the Bible clearly and faithfully, for the glory of God and the growth of his kingdom.

With the regular students away for the summer the Tubakuta campus was able to host three camps: Harvest InterContinental Youth Ministries (15-22 Aug); Abiding Word Youth Ministries (25-28 Aug); Truth Gospel Mission (29 Aug-03 Sept). It is wonderful to be able to share our facilities and have the opportunity to interact with youth and leaders of the various churches and ministries.



Studies continued a little longer at Fajara for the part-time students who took their most recent exams at the end of August. All twelve students were successful in the three modules taken - Explore the Life of Jesus, Explore the Works of the Apostles, Explore the World's Creator. Praise God!

Fajara was also the location for 21 delegates to attend the second Workshop on Orality Learning (teaching the Bible through story telling) in early September. Two facilitators came from Togo and Burkina Faso from the Africa Offices of 'Simply the Story', to help prepare for the Oral Bible School we hope to launch in 2024.



In addition, SOW was able to support a discipleship program delivered at the Central Prisons in Banjul, where fourteen male inmates completed the Bible study series 'Why Follow Jesus?'. Four men were given awards for reciting all seven memory verses correctly.



## SERVANTS OF THE WORD



On the farmland, the Farming God's Way team has been planting cassava, ginger, groundnut, okra, sesame, and sweet potato, as well as the hard task of clearing more ground!



New walkways were built on the Tubakuta campus connecting the library and the classroom block, classroom block and dormitory, dormitory and kitchen - all of which will make a big difference, especially during the rainy season.

And volleyball, mini-football and badminton courts were laid out just in time for the summer camps to enjoy!



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

- **ADMIN NEEDS.** This is our greatest challenge at the moment. We really need a member of staff able to handle the administrative load of the school. The current arrangement means that several people handle portions here and there, and in the end much of that falls back to Steven, whose time and energy is divided between admin, students, and staff.
- **STUDENT NUMBERS.** We have excellent facilities at Tubakuta and continue to develop these. We don't want the structural development to be only an investment for the future, but we desire to maximize its use both now, and in the future. Student numbers have been low for the past three years, please pray this would change this year, we would love to have 15 students for this year.
- **FARMING GOD'S WAY.** Much effort is being made to develop this 100% ORGANIC farming method but the challenges are huge. We still have not succeeded in tackling the invasion of pests. Every time we deal with one, another one attacks. We are learning, but it's taking too much time, energy and capital. We have continued to resist the use of chemical pesticides, but this is proving costly. Pray for divine wisdom and help for a breakthrough in this area. The farm holds the key for future funding for SOW, and for the ministries we want SOW alumni to develop across the sub-region

*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).*