



SOW News Update – October 2023

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.

Last year's students completed their course in early July and the new intake recently arrived at Tubakuta in September. There are 4 students enrolled for the full-time preaching course, 6 for the new tailoring school, and 15 students continue with part-time studies at the Fajara site. We would love to have more, and there is still time for them to enroll for this academic year.



Over the summer the Tubakuta campus hosted a series of training courses and conferences, continuing to bless not just SOW but also the wider church:

A 5-day compressed training in Animal Husbandry was conducted from 17th to 21st July 2023 as a follow up of the first session held in 2018. There were 23 participants from five communities (Tubakuta, Jidah, Basori, Jeboro, and Omorto) in our district of Kombo East. For the way forward a Network of Farmers has been formed and registered with the Gambia Government as an Association (Local Agriculture Rural Association for Communities). This training was facilitated by Shepherd, Farmer and Vet Dr Diane Dickenson, and her husband, David Dickenson from the USA.

Part-2 of the Training for Children and Youth Workers was conducted from July 31 to August 4th at the Tubakuta campus with AMOR EUROPE (formerly known as Urban Saints). There were 34 participants from various churches and Christian ministries. The Network that was formed following the Part-1 Training last year was further strengthened with the appointment of a leadership team of 5. The network is committed to running Children's Bible Clubs monthly for non-church children, with effect from October 2023. The first will be held in a village near Sotokoi on October 28th, 43 children are expected to attend.

A number of church groups used the facilities too: Omega Church Youth group (28th June – 1st July), New Harvest Inter-Continental Youth (13th – 20th August), Abiding Word Ministries Youth (20th – 27th August), Truth Gospel Mission Church (28th August – 3rd September).



SERVANTS OF THE WORD

The Tailoring school is intended to be one of the bridges that SOW is building to the community, as well as equipping Christian students to generate income. Equipment was previously donated by a supporter of SOW. Mama Donkor, a former SOW student and wife of a local pastor & SOW trustee, has stepped in to help teach and get the school up and running.

We praise God for former students who in their different ways are actively supporting SOW and its programmes.



The tailoring school students, also attend corporate prayer, morning devotions, discipleship Bible study, weekly fasting and Farming God's Way.

Finally, a quick update from the farm: You may remember that one of the objectives of the farm project is to feed the students.

Wednesday 27th September was another milestone - everything eaten by the students and staff that day was harvested from the farm, including cassava, beans and onions. We hope and pray that from January 2024, SOW will not need to buy vegetables and the farm will be able to supply all the vegetables needed each week!



Please pray with us:

- Thank God for good numbers at the one-off and special events, and pray that SOW will have a broad impact on the church in The Gambia and beyond. Pray for more students to enroll on the core courses this term.
- We are developing a 5-year strategic plan, focusing on preparing for the time when Steven plans to step down as Director of Training – currently aiming for 2028. Please pray for wisdom with appointments, training and development, that God would graciously continue this work of training faithful gospel preachers & teachers.

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).