



## SOW News Update – January 2025

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.

We are praising the Lord for the encouragements he provided last term.

Our full time Preaching course at Tubakuta has grown to 9 students. Here they are sitting end of term exams on Exodus and Explore the Bible (Bible overview):



- ❖ Thank you for your prayers for increased student numbers, please keep praying, we can accommodate more!



The annual Preaching Seminar was held jointly with the Evangelical Churches of The Gambia in November, with 42 people attending from a variety of churches.

The overall number attending was less than last year, but we were encouraged by those who participated.

- ❖ Please pray that each of them would stay committed to growing as a faithful teacher, correctly handling the Word of God to build up and equip their churches for every good work.



Following the success of the first Computer Training Week in September, SOW ran an ICT (“Information and Communication Technology”) course with 42 people attending some classes, 36 completing all classes, and 33 sitting the exam.

Certificates were awarded in a ceremony and presented by a representative of the SOW Board, a Tubakuta village elder, and three fellow students on the course including the village chief (“Alkalo”), and two CID officers from the nearest Police station!

- ❖ Thank God that this initiative seemed to meet a real need in the community and resulted in so many people coming to the campus to participate.
- ❖ Please pray for increased engagement with the local community so that SOW would have opportunities to share the good news of Jesus with those who haven’t yet heard it.





## SERVANTS OF THE WORD

At the end of term ceremony many students shared beautiful testimonies, with some being very emotional:

Sarjo Dampha: *"I did year one of Tailoring School last year. I started and then stopped. I did not think I can do it. A member of staff went to my house to encourage me to come. I complained that I have a baby and I cannot do the course. I was encouraged to come with my baby. I don't know of any school in Gambia that will allow that. SOW does not only care for students, but the whole family. In September this year I did not intend to continue. Staff members continued coming to my house until I resumed school. Now I am able to do most of what I missed last year. Now I can sew men's shirt and ladies dress. I am forever grateful to this school"*.

Mary Mendy: *"I thank God for the friendship I have enjoyed in the school this term. I have such joy and happiness that I don't experience even at home. I feel more comfortable and at home here on campus than with my family. I have learnt to read my Bible every day. My faith has grown and now I can even preach to others without been afraid"*

- ❖ Please pray that the Lord will strengthen, equip and mature these young servants of the Word!

Other ongoing activities include the 6 students being trained as part of the Farming God's Way program; 9 students on the part-time Explore course at Fajara, 15 students at the Tubakuta tailoring school who also participate in discipleship Bible studies and benefit from experiencing life in a Christian community; and of course the monthly children's village outreach which usually welcomes around 40 children at each event.

### **Other items for your prayers:**

- ❖ Please pray that the increase in student numbers will be sustained this school year and in the following years to provide a generation of strong and faithful Bible teachers for the church.
- ❖ Pray for SOW in the area of staff development, with one key teacher moving on to further theological training at George Whitfield College.
- ❖ Pray for the Lord of the harvest to send us a Coordinator for Children's Work in rural Gambia.

*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).*

