



## SOW News Update – April 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.

All the students are on Easter break now. The Preaching class at Tubakuta finished on April 10<sup>th</sup> after exams and a one day special on the book of Habakkuk led by Mark Vernon, a former SOW faculty member, and trustee of our UK partner [Living Word International](#).

Mark & Mands worked at SOW between September 2018 and July 2020, and recently returned for their first visit since then. We've included some of their comments below (click the links to enjoy some short videos).

*"We had a really encouraging day at Tubakuta. It was lovely arriving in the cool of the morning [greeted by the gentle bird song](#) and the sounds of the students cheerfully going about their sweeping and cleaning duties. Our overall impression of the campus was that it is much more cultivated, established and developed.*



*It's great to see the three classrooms in everyday use, for the [tailoring school](#), [dining hall](#), and for the main teaching sessions. We really enjoyed being back for the [joyful morning devotions](#) and to spend the day working through Habakkuk with the current preaching class, and with all of the tailoring students also joined us.*



*Lots more of the campus land is being cultivated and is looking well cared for and well used. We remember the first lunch we ate with some herbs from the garden; now lots of onions, aubergines and other vegetables are used in the daily cooking.*

*It was the first time we had seen the new [Library](#). It's been finished really well and is a great additional facility for students, visiting pastors, and also a venue for computer training classes. It sounds like these have proved really popular with the village community – more than 60 have attended courses so far including village elders and local police officers - a great bridge building opportunity. SOW also have plans for next term to start inviting children from the local schools to come and use the children's area to improve their literacy skills.*

*It was pretty hot by the time we [walked over to the farm houses](#). They've benefitted from the addition of front and back porches, which will be helpful as extra protection from insects and the downpours of the coming rainy season. Behind the farm houses there's now lots of cultivation, thanks to the 14 village ladies who have taken up the offer of using the land and water, in return for sharing a percentage of their harvest with SOW.*



*And there's an amazing chicken coop with almost a hundred healthy looking chickens. Some of these are laying eggs, others are off to market soon, all helping to raise local funds to support the overall ministry."*



## SERVANTS OF THE WORD

- ❖ Praise God for all that He has done at Tubakuta, for students growing in their faith and their ability to teach the Word, being equipped for life and ministry, and for the development of the campus.
- ❖ Praise God for the many local people who now visit the campus, for farming, tailoring school or computer classes. Pray for all those who don't yet know Jesus to come to him in repentance and faith.

On Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April SOW hosted an evening gathering for some of the alumni at Fajara, including praise and worship, a one-hour seminar on Habakkuk, and time to share updates from various ministries.

- ❖ Praise God for all the different ministries now benefitting from the SOW alumni, please pray that these faithful men and women would continue to have opportunities to use and develop their teaching gifts.
- ❖ Some of the alumni contact details were lost when a WhatsApp group was corrupted, please pray for the reestablishment of a comprehensive contacts list and an effective network of those committed to faithful Bible teaching and training.



SOW has also embarked on a joint Mission Outreach in partnership with the [Indigenous Mission for West Africa \(IMWA\)](#), led by former SOW student Fadil Ceesay. Teams of students were recently sent out in small groups to five villages where they stayed and ministered to the people for four days. One group was tasked to apply the 'Luke 10' principle where Jesus told the disciples not to take food, money or extra clothing with them. This was Abraham Sanyang's group:

*"We drove half way through the country. After Soma, our car pulled off the main road and we stopped at a village. Our Mission Director turned round and said to us, 'Guys, get down. This is your place. Go look for someone who is willing to host you and feed you. Stay there until I pick you up on Sunday afternoon'.*

*We went to the first compound and introduced ourselves and our mission in the village. The head of that family told us that they are Muslims, and they cannot host us there. Disappointed, we went back and stood by the roadside, wondering where to go next.*

*Then I saw someone I thought I knew. I stopped him and we spoke. Yes, I was right. He was a former school mate, a Muslim. I introduced the rest of the team and told him our mission. Then I asked if he can host us. He took us to his house, but there was only one room available. However, he was able to make arrangements for two additional rooms for us in another compound.*

*We did not do a lot of preaching, but my faith grew a lot more when I experienced that when we trust God fully, he shows himself faithful to his promises. Luke 10 came alive for me. I thank God".*

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

*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).*