

THE JOS JOURNAL

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School of Biblical Studies

SEPTEMBER 2025

THE DIFFERENCE

I am often asked, "What makes your school at Jos different from some other Christian schools?" My answer is our emphasis on evangelism. We agreed before we started SBS that we would graduate preachers who were evangelists, equipped with the communication skills, the Bible knowledge, and the practical experience to enable them to expand the borders of our Lord's kingdom. Men who were comfortable talking with people in their work-centers and on the streets.

Each weekend, during the semester, students are assigned by twos to go out to villages or cities. There they knock on doors and set up Bible studies. When people are baptized in those villages, or towns, a local church is organized. Through this effort over 15,000 people have been baptized from 1989 to 2024. We are very thankful to God for the dedicated men and women who continue to preach and/or teach God's word. The women who graduated from SBS are teaching children's classes in local congregations, Primary, and Secondary Schools. This enables our students to apply their bible knowledge and teachings to the adventures of everyday life. This program has enabled us to increase from approximately 30 congregations in the predominately Moslem Northern states to 350 since our beginning. Our goal continues to be to train preachers/evangelists to spread the saving gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Please continue to pray for the school and especially our wall projects.

Steve Worley

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK

It is with great pleasure that I bring you an update on the resumption of the new academic session at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, Nigeria. The school officially resumed on August 11, 2025, and activities commenced smoothly with staff and students returning in high spirits.

We are especially pleased to welcome our newly admitted students, who represent a significant addition to our academic community. This year, we have an additional foreign student from Uganda joining the others from Nigeria. Their orientation program and evangelism seminar were successfully conducted, introducing them to our schools values, culture, academic expectations, and core program of evangelism. The enthusiasm they have demonstrated assures us that they will contribute positively to the life of the school.

Classes are now fully underway and teachers are engaging students in line with our commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. Extracurricular programs have also resumed, providing opportunities for students to grow beyond the classroom. We are now preparing for our 2025 Annual Preachers/Leaders' workshop that starts on September 25.

On behalf of the faculty, I wish to extend our heartfelt appreciation to you all for standing with us. Your unwavering support continues to make it possible for us to maintain high educational standards and provide the resources necessary for our students success and the expansion of the kingdom of Christ. Together, we are sharing the Gospel, helping congregations to grow, shaping lives and training people who will help train others for the message of Christ to continue to grow. Thank you for walking this journey with us. We remain committed to accountability, excellence, and the shared vision of preaching the Gospel in season and out of season. Thank you for your partnership.

Tom Udo (PhD)

MEET OUR STUDENTS' PRESIDENT

Mr. Emmanuel Omoruyi Esefo is the current Students President at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, for the 2025/2026 academic session. He hails from Edo State, Nigeria, and is in his final year (400 level) of the B.A. CRS program at the institution.

At 25 years old, Mr. Esefo is not only dedicated to the things of God, but also gifted in creative and technical fields. He is a fashion designer specializing in pattern drafting and works as an industrial sewing machine operator. In addition, he is a poet and scriptwriter who uses words to inspire and impact lives.

He runs the ESEFO EMMANUEL PODCAST, where he shares messages of faith and truth. He also produces a daily Bible verse encouragement series and creates gospel-focused videos across social media platforms, preaching the word of God and addressing false teachings to uphold sound doctrine.

One of his guiding quotes in life is: *"Don't let the pressure and pleasure of this world take you away from God."* Looking ahead, after receiving his certification as a preacher, he aspires to serve as an evangelist in a local Church of Christ, spreading the gospel with sincerity and devotion.



Bro. Emmanuel O. Esefo

MEET OUR FEMALE LEADER

Miss Mary Etim Okon is the female leader at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, for the 2025/2026 academic session. She hails from Oduoenin-Oro village in Urue Offong/Oruko Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. She is currently in her final year (400 level) of the B.A. CRS program at the institution.

At 23 years old Mary lives with her family in Abuja. She has a great passion for learning and teaching others. After her graduation from SBS Jos, she intends to pursue a Master's program in Philosophy and Religion to deepen her knowledge and inspire others.

Sisie acknowledges that her upbringing was shaped by many people who taught her valuable lessons about life. One of the things she developed from that experience is her love for cooking, a passion she continues to cherish.



Sister Mary Etim Okon

WOMAN'S SEMINARS

After many years of traveling to Jos, Nigeria, and teaching classes from youngest to the oldest, I have for a long time left these teachings to our wonderful sisters over there. Sister Florence Kasse has done a wonderful job organizing & preparing sisters to go all over Nigeria to carry on this good work. She picks different ladies to go with her & other sisters just go to support this work. We have gotten support at times to have women & young women's seminars. They send money ahead to the sisters whose congregations can't afford to supply the needs: transportation; food that has to be prepared for the days of meeting; & water is also made available. Now we are asking some of the biggest congregations in Nigeria to plan these seminars in their own cities. God is great & to give all the glory to Him is our honor.

Young ladies' seminar:

Sister Florence Kasse

SBS MASTER'S PROGRAM

The SBS masters program has twenty students that are already on the program. We have students from different states of Nigeria. Some of our students are preachers of the gospel who want to increase their potentials. Others are employees with the government and are interested in increasing their knowledge of the Bible. Some others have retired from their jobs and want to increase their knowledge of the word of God. The SBS Masters program is increasingly drawing attention because of its flexibility and our qualified lecturers. We have eight lecturers with six having Ph.D's and two with Masters degrees. We offer both online lessons and physical contacts. The first semester 2025/2026 session has just resumed this week and we expect to have up to six new enrollments. With this we will have about twenty-six students in the program.

Dr. James E. Ikwulono P.G. Coordinator

THE WALL (AN INVITATION)

In 445 BC the Persian King Artaxerxes sent Nehemiah with the third wave of Jews to help rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah accomplished his goal by assigning individuals and tribes to take responsibility for sections of their assigned portions of the wall. By everyone pitching in and joining the work, the wall was completed. Fast forward with me to 2024.

In 2024, our Lord gave His church the task of building a security wall around the site of the future Sonlight University located in Plateau State, Nigeria, West Africa. Our first task was to manufacture the 260,000 eight-inch cement blocks using only 2 block making machines.

In the last issue of the Jos Journal, I wrote, *"Soon after my arrival in March, I visited our permanent site. We continue to manufacture 8" cement blocks for our main gate house and security wall. We now have approximately 114,500 of the 260,000 we need to start the projects. We hope to build the gate house first to allow our wall crews to live in for comfort and security while building the security wall. Presently, our block crews live in one room we rent in the nearby village. That is nine men sleeping in one room. They sleep on mattresses on the floor.*

The Vice Air Marshall we bought the land from owned 300 hectares. We bought and took possession of 100 hectares which is 247 acres. He had previously rented it out to local villagers for farming. Until we are able to wall the land I requested the board of SBS to allow me to farm approximately 200 acres for two years to prevent the local villagers from encroachment. With your prayers and support, I believe we should have our land walled by 2027."

We plan to have the manufacture of all our 260,000 blocks completed by late September. This will allow us to start construction of our gate house and security wall by October. Our construction engineer sent me the estimate of the construction of the security wall. He estimates the total cost of construction of the 3.33 miles of security wall to be One Hundred and twelve thousand dollars (\$112,000.00)!

To reach this goal we are inviting everyone who receives the Jos Journal to help us by contributing an amount of One Hundred and Five dollars (\$105.00). There are three ways to contribute: (1) mail a check to the Savannah Church of Christ, 1175 Pickwick Street, Savannah, TN 38372. Please mark the check, "The Wall". (2) On your computer go to savannahchurchofchrist.com, click ONLINE GIVING, fill in the amount and in the Memo space, type "the wall". (3) Instruct your bank to transfer your contribution to the CB&S Bank, 325 Main Street, Savannah, TN 38372 account, number 8141273774.

Nehemiah shows us that a tremendous task can be accomplished, if many brethren help. We pray that everyone receiving the Jos Journal will be able to become a part of this project.



Land view of permanent site



Block manufacturing on site

MEDICAL CLINIC IN FULL OPERATION

After its official opening in April 2025, the clinic began admitting patients. Between June and August approximately 86 patients were given medical attention. The clinic is open to both SBS students and residents of the surrounding community. It conducts various medical tests, and SBS students are privileged to carry out their required student medical entry tests and undergo general check-ups, plus they can receive treatment, if they become sick.

Our clinic is blessed with qualified nurses and a doctor. Shortly after its opening the clinic recorded its first deliver on July 1st, 2025, at about 1:00 a.m. She was a beautiful baby girl weighing 7.28 pounds. The proud parents are Mr. Chollom Bulus and Mrs. Damaris Chollom Bulus who expressed their gratitude to God and to the clinic staff for the safe arrival of their daughter. The baby was named Yeipyeng Ivana Chollom.

In addition, God blessed the Clinic with the birth of another baby on August 30, 2025. A boy was safely delivered, through the skilled assistance of our nurses, weighing 7.72 lb. at birth. Both mothers and babies are in good health. The parents expressed heartfelt appreciation to God almighty, to the clinic doctor, and staff for the safe arrival of their babies. The baby boy had not yet been named at the time of writing this article.

Our clinic at SBS is now equipped with an Ultra-Sound machine, an important tool that greatly enhances the quality of healthcare services provided to both students and the surrounding community. With this machine our medical staff can conduct safe non-invasive examinations that help in diagnosing internal conditions and monitoring patients' health with accuracy.

One of the most significant benefits of this machine is in maternal care where expectant mothers can now undergo ultrasound scans to monitor the health and development of their babies. Having the ultra-sound machine within the clinic saves patients the stress and cost of traveling elsewhere for such services, while also ensuring timely medical attention. This advancement not only strengthens the clinic's capacity, but also reflects the commitment of SBS Jos to holistic care, addressing both the spiritual and physical well-being of those it serves.

Dr. Emmanuel O. Egyegini

KIDNAPPED

Brother Akowtyo Meshack Odafe is a Christian Brother who completed his third year of study at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, in May of 2025. I commissioned him to visit eight preachers working in five different states controlled by the Boko Haram, which is an Islamic terrorist organization in Northern Nigeria. He spent one week with each preacher in June and July. The last week of his school he planned to visit his family in Ozoro, Delta State.

Soon after he arrived home, while attending a Bible class, gunmen entered the church building with guns and knives and kidnapped him. The local preacher was later contacted by the kidnappers. They demanded a ransom of Three Million Naira for his release! It took six days of negotiations, a collection from the local church, and friends, to collect the One Million Three Hundred Thousand Naira finally agreed upon to obtain his release. We are overjoyed that our Lord, and our local brethren accomplished this feat. Brother Meshack has returned to Jos and plans to complete his fourth year and to graduate in May 2026.

Our elders at Savannah have provided the funds to replace Meshack's phone and other items he lost through this ordeal. Here is a copy of his recent report of his kidnapping. Brother Meshack wrote:

"This was what happened to me, I went to church for Bible studies on Friday 1st of August 2025, I met some young men in the church premises and their faces were not familiar, so I wanted to ask what the problem was so on reaching there one of them came out from a hidden place and pointed a gun at me from behind, and the rest came towards my direction and then they collected everything I had on me (phone, money, Bible, and all my belongings) at the moment and they took me to a nearby bush. They carried the bicycle I came with and when we got to the bush they blind folded me and asked me to wait with a young man that was among them, so they went to the town and in about 30 minutes time they came with another person and they took us to a far bush, we were with them throughout the night of Friday and on Saturday morning I was asked to call whoever can help me and so I told them I was a student and my father was late and my mother was sick. After much beatings and bruises I sustained I called Dr. Emmanuel Egyegini, a lecturer with the school of Biblical Studies, Jos, and some brethren in Delta State whom I knew could be of help to me. On Sunday, when they saw nothing was happening the beatings was increased and on Monday, they said to me if my people fail to reach out to me they will have to kill me. When they discovered the people I called were not giving them good response they saw an international number of Bro. Steve Worley, they called him for me to speak with him, but we were unable to talk because the network was poor.

Then on Tuesday morning they said that was the last day and they said if they didn't get what they were asking for they will have to kill us, but to God be the glory the brethren in Delta State, some staffs in the school of biblical studies, Jos, and the Alumni body, were able to raise 1.3 Million Naira and they asked them to come with the cash, they came with it and after emptying my account in addition with the 1.3 Million Naira, that was what certified my release from them."

Please join us in continuing to pray for Brother Meshack's complete recovery from this unfortunate experience.

Steve Worley

NEW STUDENTS



The New Students (2025/2026 Academic Session)

The School of Biblical Studies, Jos, has admitted **25 new students** (18 male and 7 female) for the 2025/2026 academic session. Out of this number, **17 students** enrolled in the Degree and Diploma Programs, while **8 students** were admitted into the Certificate Program.

The new students came from **8 states across Nigeria** and include **one international student from Uganda**. The states represented within the country are: **Plateau** (5 students), **Nasarawa** (1), **Benue** (8), **Taraba** (1), **Gombe** (5), **Cross River** (1), **Delta** (2), and **Abia** (1)

As these students commence their studies at the School of Biblical Studies, Jos, may we continue to lift them up in prayer, that they may grow into what God intends them to be, to the glory of His name. Amen! Our total number of students this session is approximately one hundred and twenty-three students.

– *Dr. Emmanuel O. Egyegini*
Dean of Students, SBS Jos, Nigeria.

FORTY YEARS IN NIGERIA

My wife, Delores, son Jason, and daughter Heather, moved to Northern Nigeria in the summer of 1985. We decided to start our work in the city of Jos, Plateau State, and work with the World Bible School follow-up program. In those days the World Bible School was Bible correspondence courses teaching the gospel by mail. We would place an advertisement in the local papers asking if anyone wanted to study the Bible with an American teacher. Soon we had thousands of students studying with hundreds of American teachers. Someone needed to contact the students when they requested baptism. For years I organized two one-week Bible seminars calling students to designated locations to meet with American preachers. We would host American Christians and WBS teachers to Nigeria to study at these seminars. ~~One year~~ we hosted ten one-week seminars and baptized 800 students! Those were busy years requiring a lot of travel throughout Nigeria. Congregations were planted in many cities.



We were required, by the Nigerian Government, to return home after just two years in Nigeria. Soon after our return home, the Central Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama, agreed to help us start the School of Biblical Studies in Jos. We began working with the Rainbow Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama, who supported me to travel to Nigeria for two months twice each year. The work of the school continued to grow drawing students from 12 different countries. We found working among over 100 million Moslems very challenging and productive. The future of our work in Africa continues to grow far beyond our expectations.

Time has a way of passing fast when everyone is busy doing the Lord's work. Looking back over those 40 years is both pleasant and rewarding. Please keep this great work for the Master in your daily prayers. Our thanks go out to all of you for your support and encouragement you gave and continue to give to us in this work. May our Lord richly bless and keep you.

Steve and Delores Worley

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The School of Biblical Studies is located in Jos, Nigeria. SBS began in 1989 and is under the oversight of the elders at the Gadsden Church of Christ in Gadsden, Alabama. Dr. Solomon I Aguh is The President of SBS. SBS has a 4, 3, and 2 year curriculum in Bible, plus a 4-year degree program. We have recently added a 2 year Extension Program and a 2 year Agricultural Program. The student body presently numbers 137 full-time students. SBS has more than 600 graduates now in the field.



School of Biblical Studies Jos

*Training to Serve
Since 1989*

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Editor of the Jos Journal

Steven L. Worley



Mission: To train men and women to teach and preach the Gospel and be responsible citizens and effective leaders in the church of the Lord, in order to aid the spread of the Gospel to the entire world.

YOU ARE INVITED TO BECOME A JOS PARTNER !

Our goal is to have 500 Christians giving \$10 monthly to provide a stable operating income for the School. If you or your Bible class are thinking about becoming a Jos Partner, we urge you to do so! The small amount of just \$10 monthly, when combined with that of others, will make a huge difference. Just fill in the coupon below, and mail it with your check to:

Gadsden Church of Christ
P.O. Box 967
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