



Campus Connexion

West Africa Advanced School of Theology ♦ www.waast.org
December 2018

Events on Campus

Upcoming

January 2019
School Offices Closed

February 22 & 24
Registration
BTh/Diploma Students

February 25–April 26
BTh/Diploma Sessions

May 3 & 5
Registration
MA Students

May 6–July 23
MA Session

June 6
Entrance Exam for BTh
& MA (must
preregister)

Please Pray

- for wisdom and the guidance of the Holy Spirit for Rev. Turney as he serves the school as President.
- for more qualified professors, especially for the MA concentrations.
- for the various extension centers holding sessions in early 2019.

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Torchbearers of the Gospel from WAAST to the World

The “Torchbearers to the Nations,” WAAST’s largest class to date, received their diplomas on November 10. Fifteen were awarded the Post-secondary Diploma in Theology, 97 the Bachelor of Theology degree, and 17 the Master of Arts in Missiology degree—a total of 129, coming from 13 nations. WAAST alumni Marcel and Cécile Bomboko received the PhD degree and Jephthé Sawadogo the DMin degree from Pan-Africa Theological Seminary. Rev. Emile Adoté, general superintendent of the Benin Assemblies of God, encouraged these Torchbearers to take the Light wherever God sends them. (Photos: Graduation ceremony: <https://tinyurl.com/2018remise>; Banquet: <https://tinyurl.com/2018banq>; Second semester: <https://tinyurl.com/sem2-2108>).



Welcome to Incoming WAAST President Rev. Mark Turney



On November 24, 2018, Rev. Mark Turney assumed his duties as WAAST president. Rev. Turney and his wife, Victoria, began their work in Equatorial Guinea in 1992. There they helped the newly established Assemblies of God, evangelizing, planting churches, and opening the first Bible school campus, in Malabo, in 1996. In 2003 they moved to Namibia, where they reopened the Bible school and planted churches. They arrived in Togo in 2012 and, from their base on the WAAST campus, worked around the continent with the Acts in Africa Initiative and served the school. Rev. Turney’s appointment as president was approved by the Board of Governors in November 2016.

Rev. Turney holds a BA degree from Central Bible College, Springfield, MO (1990). While serving in Equatorial Guinea, he completed the MA in Missiology at WAAST (2003). He is currently working toward his PhD through Pan-Africa Theological Seminary.

New Master of Arts Program Format

As of May 2019, the Master of Arts in Theological Studies will be offered over a three-year instead of a four-year period. Sessions will continue to be held from May through July, but will be more concentrated. The first year, students will complete seven core courses. The second year, they will take six courses and do a field-based practicum. The third year is dedicated to thesis research and writing. The academic requirements and number of credit hours needed to complete the program remain the same.

Due to the increased number of courses given per session, costs during those two years will be higher, and students should plan accordingly. The 2019 fees are available [here](#).

Pray for Us in 2019: WAAST Prayer Guide

The 2019 WAAST Prayer Guide is now available online. Weekly topics help intercessors pray for WAAST’s central campus, its extension centers, the nations it serves, the ministries of students and alumni, etc. Access the Guide at <http://www.waast.org/pray-for-waast/>.

Thank you, Mama Ballenger!



In 1967, Mary Ballenger, a young schoolteacher from the State of Montana (northwestern US) landed in Senegal, West Africa. She served the Senegal Assemblies of God faithfully as a teacher of both children and adults and as the Bible school director. In 1995 she arrived at WAAST, where she filled the roles of professor, registrar, academic dean, and, from 2010 to 2018, president of the school. Always a student herself, in 2005 she completed her doctorate in missiology.

During her 23 years at WAAST, Dr. Ballenger saw more than 1450 students receive their diplomas. To many of them she was and remains “Mama Ballenger,” as these alumni testify:

- Our mother, we love you! Thanks for being a yielded vessel and for molding change agents that are positively affecting Africa today.

~ Nigeria

- God will continually bless Rev. Dr. Mary Ballenger. A Mother, Mentor, Encourager and Honourable Servant of God ~ Sierra Leone

- You are an epitome of humility, selfless service to God and humanity. You have raised many sons and daughters in Africa and beyond. Thank you ma, God bless you for your immense contribution to missio Dei in Africa. ~ Nigeria

- Students have found a caring mother, an inspirer and an uncompromising leader... “Mommy,” your children are saying, “well done, Servant of the Most High.” “Ayikoo!” “Akpe!” ~ Ghana

As Mama Ballenger leaves her family in Africa and returns to family in Montana, we echo the sentiment of Pastor Flindja, academic dean

“Long will she remain in our hearts and in our thoughts.”