



Campus Connexion

West Africa Advanced School of Theology ❖ www.waast.org
September 2021

Events on Campus

This Semester

August 9–September 17
BTh/Diploma Sessions
First & Second Year

August 9–November 5
BTh/Diploma Sessions
Graduating Class

October 7
Entrance Exam - BTh &
MA (must preregister)

Upcoming

November 13
Graduation

November 13–14
Board of Governors
Meeting

December 2
Entrance Exam - BTh &
MA (must preregister)

Please Pray

- that the academic year might continue uninterrupted and the 2021 graduation be held.
- that God would encourage and strengthen students; some have faced unexpected challenges.
- for provision for those struggling financially.
- for the new resident missionaries as they settle in, and for the WAAS team as we learn to work effectively together.

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Second Semester 2021: Full Campus, Full Classrooms, Full Hearts

WAAS has welcomed its largest enrollment ever to the central campus, with 195 students registered and several more coming for courses later in the semester. Due to the pandemic, many were unable to attend last year and are now completing their studies with the Class of 2021. Ninety-five students have come from six of the extension centers: Burkina Faso (5); Cameroon (16); Kinshasa, DR Congo (27); Gabon (15); Ghana (29); and Sierra Leone (3). Others come from Benin, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, and Togo. Thirty-six professors from 10 nations are teaching courses and/or guiding students in their thesis projects. Along with their studies, their intercultural experience on the campus both enriches and challenges students as they seek to be more effective for the Kingdom wherever God leads them. (Photos: <https://tinyurl.com/sem22>)



WAAS President Mark Turney prays for the new student committee. (L. to r.): Samuel Amegboe (Ghana), Francis Nedule (R. Congo), Emmanuel Morgan (Ghana), Serge Musha Galusa (DRC), Samuel Nsanyuh (Cameroon), Ted Gnala (Gabon). Not pictured: Komlavi Gadosseh (Togo)

Spiritual Emphasis: A Challenge to Missions in the Sahel Region

Rev. Jonathan Ballah (BTh 1999, MA 2011), general superintendent of the Assemblies of God-Guinea, addressed students and faculty in three services, September 7-9. Speaking from Luke 3:1-4, he drew parallels between the calling and the ministry of John the Baptist and of African believers called to reach the Sahel region—Africa's buffer zone between the christianized South and the Islamic North. He challenged us to look at our "wilderness," the Sahel, with 667 unreached tribes and rife with problems from corruption to terrorism. Like John, those who respond to God's call to this area must have a ministry that is visionary, disciple-making, and prophetic, drawing people's hearts to God. As one crying in the Sahelien wilderness, they must cultivate their relationship with God before going forth boldly in the power of the Holy Spirit. As their lives model humility, courage, and willingness to suffer, the Spirit will use them to change others.

In response to this challenge, the student body and faculty presented Rev. Ballah with a generous offering to complete the purchase of land and to build several shelters at a new lay-training Bible school in Guinea. This school will be led by Wandjog Daba (BTh 2003, MA 2008), Togolese missionary to Guinea.



Construction Update

The shell of the new dormitory was completed and roofed in July. In answer to many prayers, in August the building passed the required inspection. The interior work is progressing well: plastering, placing door and window frames, and installing electrical boxes. Paint and tile are being selected. Please pray that the project will continue smoothly.

Welcome to New Campus Residents!

“More workers!” has been an ongoing need and prayer request for both WAAST and Pan-Africa Theological Seminary (PATHS). Praise God for these three families who arrived in July and August to serve these programs.

Dr Jonathan Bersot and his wife, Anne, have been sent by the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada. Jonathan has come to WAAST for the past 12 years to teach, and this year they responded to the call of God to join the resident staff. After serving for 9 years with the Assemblies of God of France, the Bersots moved with their three daughters to Quebec, where they served as senior pastors of the Pentecostal Church of Drummondville for 14 years. The Lord then led them to work at the French-language Christian TV station EMCI TV, where Anne co-hosted the program *Parole de Femmes (Women’s Voices)* and the morning program *Bonjour Chez Vous (Welcome Home)*, while Jonathan served as EMCI TV’s executive director. Dr. Bersot has also served for 11 years at the Quebec Bible Institute and continues in his role as president. He holds a Master of Education degree from Sorbonne University and a PhD in Biblical Studies from the University of Montreal and will teach Master’s-level courses for WAAST and doctoral courses for French speakers in the PATHS program. Anne has master’s degrees in theology, specializing in Bible translation, and in management. She is already at work helping to mentor students in their thesis writing.



Romuald and Miriam Hanss both spent their childhood years in West Africa, Romuald in Côte d’Ivoire, and Mariam in Guinea, where her parents participated in the planting of the first Assemblies of God churches in this country. As a couple, they served in pastoral ministry in France, then in Senegal for six years, Romuald in the training of pastors at the Bible institute and the WAAST extension center, and Miriam in writing curricula for Christian schools. Romuald holds a Master’s degree and a DEA in theology; he is currently writing his thesis. Miriam holds a Master’s degree in Applied Foreign Languages. Romuald will serve the developing French program of

PATHS, and WAAST’s Master’s program. Their three children, Ruben (14), Abigaëlle (13), and Naomie (9), are happy to discover the vast green campus, which is a big change from Senegal!

Israel and Esther Kombaté have been sent from Switzerland by the Federation of Revival Churches in collaboration with the Missionary Organization SMG (Serving Missions Globally). Esther is of Swiss-German origin and Israel is Togolese. They served together as missionaries on the Mercy Ship *Anastasis*, and Israel then served in Switzerland as a pastor and professor of theology. After completing Bible school in Switzerland, Israel earned a BA in Theology in Belgium and the UK, and an MA in Theology in Belgium. He has just completed his doctoral thesis (PhD in Missiology) with the University of South Africa (UNISA) and in Germany with GBFE and is awaiting his graduation. Esther is an emergency nurse. For 7 years Israel has been coming to WAAST to mentor undergraduates in their thesis projects. Now, as resident missionaries, Israel serves in teaching and administration and Esther as the campus nurse and mother to their children: Johëlle (10), Anaëlle (8), and Raphaël (5).



Extension Center News: Training Seminar

July 30–August 3, the secretaries from six francophone extension centers—Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d’Ivoire, DR Congo, Gabon, Senegal—met for training sessions. Led by Academic Dean Douli Flindja and the registrar’s team, they considered procedures for smoother running of the centers—and enjoyed getting to know each other.

