



Issue No. 6

June 2010

## Friends of WATS Prayer Letter

# Overview of This Letter

["African Christianity, The shape of things to come"](#)

[Praise Notes](#)

[Prayer Requests](#)

Perhaps a friend sent you this.

If you like, you can

**Subscribe to This Prayerletter!**



Andrew Walls, [The Missionary Movement in Christian History](#)

"Modern African Christianity is not only the result of movements among Africans, but it has been principally sustained by Africans and is to a surprising extent the result of African initiatives"

Yale University historian Lamin Sanneh says Andrew Walls is "one of the few scholars who saw that African Christianity was not just an exotic, curious phenomenon in an obscure part of the world, but that African Christianity might be the shape of things to come." Scottish by birth, Walls has endeared himself to two generations of students in the West and in Africa, and is founder of the Centre for the Study of Christianity in the Non-Western World at the University of Edinburgh, Scotland.

Many Christians are not aware that for a long time the bulk of missionary work in Africa has been done by Africans. Three of the top ten missionary-sending countries in the world are in Africa, including Nigeria. We thank God that the global missions movement is no longer primarily "from the West to the rest," but now literally is "from anywhere to everywhere." As a result, Asia is the only remaining continent on the globe which is not majority Christian, and even there Christianity is growing exponentially.

---

### PRAISE NOTES:

1. May is [Graduation Month](#) at WATS, and this year May 22 was a high day, with the graduation of sixty-two students. [Pastor Wale Adefarasin](#), of the Guiding Light Assembly in Lagos, was the guest speaker and challenged us to greater depth in ministry. We met

for the first time in our new chapel - well-decorated, even though the final insulation, ceiling and floor covering has yet to be added. A sunny day meant that not only hearts but bodies were very warm. We thank God for the graduates of 2010!

2. On May 21 the semi-annual meeting of the Governing Council was conducted, for the first time chaired by Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Ajayi, and in the presence of the WATS provost, Pastor William Udotong. Certainly the most interesting decision of the council was the appointment of Rt. Rev. Dr. Emmanuel Gbonigi as WATS chancellor. An installation ceremony is anticipated in November.
3. WATS alumni are on the move! On May 20 an all-day special meeting with selected alumni was called by the Founder and Provost to discuss ways to engage, encourage and continue to work with WATS alumni both inside and outside of Nigeria. The annual alumni meeting the following day also registered further progress. Alumni president, Pastor Nureni Alabi, has worked to organize regional representatives and to get as many alumni as possible to become regular WATS supporters as a part of the Gideon 300 Vision.
4. Masters Modules in May included:
  - New Testament Introduction taught by Professor J. D. Gwamna (University of Jos);
  - Biblical History and Criticism II taught by Dr. Russell Lovett (Africa Nazarene University, Kenya);
  - Doing Theology in Modern Africa taught by Professor Yusufu Turaki (Jos ECWA Theological Seminary).Thank God for these men who excel in their fields and take time to bless our WATS Masters students!
5. Finally, we thank God for great interactions with a number of our US donors in May. Dr. Mark Leavell and I spent the opening days of the month in Houston, and later traveled together to Memphis. We thank God especially for our African-American partnering churches in those cities! I also spent three delightful days mid-month with our annual Maxey Men's Retreat (with my two sons and two sons-in-law, and this year added our oldest grandson)-hiking and camping in the Appalachians, and generally challenging each other to stay close to Jesus. Priceless!

## PRAYER NOTES:

1. June is Springboard month at WATS! This is the month that we conduct three days of "boot camp" before sending out our short-term missionaries all over West Africa. This project is always funded entirely from within the walls of the seminary, and this year there is a VERY EXCITING line-up of targeted fields where around twenty-five WATS missionaries will be working over the next two months:

- Burkina Faso/Mali [our first time in Mali!],
- The Gambia [for the sixth year]
- The Great Commission Movement in campus ministries at the University of Lagos
- Ghana
- Liberia, with Calvary Ministries (CAPRO)
- Another team in Liberia with the Pillar of Fire Church
- Niger Missions (pioneer Anglican diocese in eastern Nigeria)
- Abuja, working with CAPRO mobilizers (stirring up churches for support missions)

WOW! Please pray for these missionaries-in-training as they head out for these crucial assignments!

2. Pray for the advancing work of our US-based IT team. In May three pallets of computer equipment were sent to Illinois for onward shipment to Nigeria around June 20. Twenty-some computers are being sent over with mission team members coming at the beginning of next month. We are getting ready for our great COMPUTER MONTH at WATS in July! Pray for Dr. Mark Leavell as he leads this effort.

3. Pray for a very special fund raising dinner to be conducted June 13 at the Metropolitan Club in Lagos. This event is tagged, "What is God's agenda for Africa?", and we are asking God to complete the recruitment of our Foundation Fifty team to provide the ongoing backbone of our WATS funding, especially as we look toward future expansion. We thank God for the generosity of Engineer Ernest Ndukwe in sponsoring this dinner. Pray for God-appointed success.

4. Pray for our ongoing plans to make 2011 A Great YEAR OF THE BIBLE here in Nigeria and along the West Coast of Africa to Accra (Ghana), Monrovia (Liberia) and Freetown (Sierra Leone). Our kick-off meeting is now set for June 16. We are mobilizing to place One Million Bibles (1,000,000) in the hands of families who do not have any, and to do a number of other things to celebrate the importance of the Bible in Africa. Pray for God to make this all it should be for his glory.

5. In June we welcome: Dr. George Folarin (Awolowo University) teaching a Masters module on the History and Background of the New Testament; Dr. Danfulani Kure (Jos) teaches a module in Pastoral Theology and Counseling; Dr. Charlemagne Nditemeh (Tanzania/Cameroon) teaching Christian Family Life; Dr. Victor Reasoner (Southern Methodist College, USA)

teaching two modules back-to-back [his sixth time with us] in Systematic Theology. Pray for deep impact in each of these courses!

6. Finally, pray for our New Summer/Holiday Program for Undergraduates. This is new to us this year, and will involve three sessions of three weeks each. Eight courses are in the first session, and the second session takes off by June 21. Pray for this re-instituting of an older WATS tradition!

---

Thanks for standing with us during these exciting and promising days! Good things are happening and greater things are ahead. This is a great day for the Gospel progress in Africa, and WATS continues to play a very crucial role. Thanks for being a part of us!

Yours for the African harvest,

Dr. Gary S. Maxey  
Executive Director

Dr. Mark W. Leavell  
Office Manager, IT Coordinator

Pastor William Udotong  
WATS Provost

BULLETIN: (1) Go to [www.watsonline.org](http://www.watsonline.org) for giving online using your credit card or checking account. (Note: we now accept American Express, Discover, MC, and VISA.)

(2) We have some special projects in need of your contributions: Computers, Power Stabilization, Library and Construction. As above, you can go online to contribute, or email to: [leavellafrica@aol.com](mailto:leavellafrica@aol.com)

(3) This is a fantastic time to plan for work teams at WATS in the coming year. Let us hear from you.

---

**Friends of WATS**

PO Box 490306  
Lawrenceville, GA 30049-0006

**WEST AFRICA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

PMB 003, Ipaja  
Lagos, NIGERIA

---

Ph: 404-895-0018 or 404-784-4618

EM: [prayerletter@watsonline.org](mailto:prayerletter@watsonline.org)

Ph: +234-1-898-1676 or 1914

EM: [GMAfrica@aol.com](mailto:GMAfrica@aol.com)

Email Marketing by

