



Issue No. 5

May 2010

Friends of WATS Prayer Letter

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[William Carey is black.](#)

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William Carey is black.



"Jerusalem, Antioch, North Africa and Constantinople were all once at the center of Christianity, and today three of them are Muslim centers, and one a Jewish center. Now places like Lagos and Seoul--once unimaginable as Christian centers--are center stage. Fifty years ago we expected the rise of secularism and atheism, but virtually NO ONE anticipated the rise of Majority World Christianity."

(Dr. Timothy C. Tennent, *Invitation to World Missions: A Trinitarian Missiology for the Twenty-First Century*, 2010)

In his most recent book, Timothy Tennent, cutting-edge missiologist and president of Asbury Theological Seminary, speaks authoritatively about seven megatrends characterizing global Christianity. They include the collapse of Christendom, the rise of western post-modernism, and the loss of the "white man's burden" mentality that peaked in the Nineteenth Century. Our own question is when western Christians will adequately absorb what is happening and shed their "the West is Best" or "West to the Rest" missions perspective and also when more African believers will see that the baton of global missions has definitely been placed in their own hands. If truth be told, William Carey is now black, and he's riding in an Airbus 380 and translating scriptures on his computer.

Praise Notes

1. April was a great month at WATS. The unquestionable highlight was our spiritual renewal week,

under the ministry of Pastor Richard Usenu. It was definitely too short, but for give intensive days (April 19 - 23) we touched heaven as we gathered twice daily for two to three hours in the WATS chapel. We heard soul-stirring messages of a type that reminded us of the by-gone days of revival. Pastor Usenu spoke about not removing ancient landmarks, and repeatedly called us back to biblical foundations of repentance and holy living. Thank God for many among both student and staff who sought the face of God and made clear spiritual progress.

2. Dr. Mark Leavell (Jonesboro, Georgia) was back at WATS for two weeks in April, working with a triple focus on internet issues, library upgrading and records systems for the admissions/registrar's office. This was his third visit to WATS in six months, and part of a larger effort to bring WATS computer and internet access into the Twenty-First Century. Thank God for the great IT team in the Atlanta area (from several churches) working with WATS under the leadership of Mark.
3. Masters modules continued in April and included OT Introduction, led by Dr. Zamani Kafang (provost of ECWA Theological Seminary in Kagoro, Kaduna State, Nigeria); Johannine Literature, led by Pastor Kalu Okechukwu, Survey of Church History, led by Frederick Luogon, Graduate Level Teaching, led by Dr. Emmanuel Ogunyemi, OT Theology, led by Dr. Offiong Ibok, and Spiritual Life of the Minister, led by Rev. David Njoku (WATS Deputy Provost).
4. On April 16 the WATS family dedicated our new 26-passenger TATA bus donated by Drive-In Ministries of Alabama, especially for the use of our Christian Ministries department. We thank God for the generosity of Mike Jones and his people! This bus will enable WATS to multiply its evangelistic outreach, especially after it is equipped with a large screen for showing evangelism films.
5. At the end of April and beginning days of May Gary Maxey and Mark Leavell spent six days in Houston breathing new life into our WATS base there. Thank God for churches and individuals in Houston who are catching a strong vision for what God is doing at WATS!

Prayer Notes

1. Pray for the WATS graduation, on Saturday, May 22. After huge 20th anniversary celebrations last year things will be more low-key this year. Pray for the sixty-three students expected to graduate. Pastor Wale Adefarasin (Guiding Light Assembly, Ikoyi, Lagos) is to be the guest speaker. We will start at 10:00 am prompt, and YOU ARE INVITED! Pray for many friends of the seminary who will be with us, including family members and close friends of graduating students.
2. Pray for the semi-annual meeting of the WATS Governing Council on May 21. Pray especially for guidance to both the chairman, Most Rev. Dr. Joseph Ajayi, and the provost, Pastor William Udotong.
3. Pray for last-minute preparations and funding to bring our new chapel into adequate shape for our graduation on May 22, including roof insulation, carpet and ventilation needs.
4. Pray for our fantastic IT team preparing to send 100 computers to WATS very soon and for several planning to travel to WATS by July to help with installation.
5. Pray for Masters modules coming up in May, including Dr. J. D. Gwamna (University of Jos) teaching NT Introduction, Dr. Russell Lovett (Africa Nazarene University, Kenya) teaching Biblical History and Criticism II, and Professor Yusufu Turaki (Jos ECWA Theological Seminary) teaching Doing Theology in Modern Africa.
6. Pray for major plans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible next year. WATS is working with several other sponsors both inside and outside of Nigeria to delcare 2011



YEAR OF THE BIBLE, including the conducting of Bible conferences in several Nigerian cities and hopefully also in Ghana, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Stay tuned for more details.

7. Pray for a WATS fund raising dinner planned for June 6 in Lagos, as well as for a meeting of strategic WATS alumni set for May 20.

Finally, pray for the reinvigoration of our WATS support base in the USA. Pray especially for Dr. Mark Leavell in his new role as Friends of WATS office manager and for fund raising events this month in Memphis and South Carolina.

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 for giving online using your credit card or checking account. (Note: we now accept American Express, Discover, MC, and VISA.)
 - (2) We need Bibles and other Christian books! See us about getting them to Illinois for shipment to Nigeria.
 - (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

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

EM: GMAfrica@aol.com

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