



# Global Education Committee Combined Regional Reports



2013

# AFRICA

## PRESENT AND FUTURE GATS COUNTRIES

*We were thankful for the two faculty education programs that took place. Swaziland had fifteen receive the Advance Educators Series certificate in June 2013. This is very exciting and we thank Brother Grosbach for facilitating this excellent program. Ghana also hosted a successful faculty education program that ran from January 28-31, 2013. Our resource person was Dr. Daniel Blash and he did an outstanding job connecting with our Bible school instructors. We had representatives from five West African countries. This year Brother and Sister Thompson will be our resource personnel for the faculty education program hosted in Ghana. The theme will be "Connecting". We are looking forward to participants coming from various West African countries.*

We currently have twenty-one countries that are part of the GATS program; representing thirty-six membership schools.

- |                                 |                  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|
| 1) Botswana                     | 12) Madagascar   |
| 2) Burkina Faso                 | 13) Malawi       |
| 3) Burundi                      | 14) Mozambique   |
| 4) Cameroon                     | 15) Nigeria      |
| 5) Democratic Republic of Congo | 16) Sierra Leone |
| 6) Equatorial Guinea            | 17) South Africa |
| 7) Gabon                        | 18) Swaziland    |
| 8) Ghana                        | 19) Tanzania     |
| 9) Kenya                        | 20) Zambia       |
| 10) Lesotho                     | 21) Zimbabwe     |
| 11) Liberia                     |                  |

We are excited for the Republic of Congo who, under the leadership of Missionary Gistophe, has submitted their application to become a GATS membership nation and are anticipating their approval soon.

We are currently working with Missionary Phelps in the country of Uganda and all indications show that they will be GATS compliant by the end of March.

We have eight countries interested in becoming part of GATS:

- |                |                      |
|----------------|----------------------|
| 1) Ethiopia    | 5) Republic of Congo |
| 2) Ivory Coast | 6) Seychelles        |
| 3) La Reunion  | 7) Togo              |
| 4) Mauritius   | 8) Uganda            |

## GATS GRADUATIONS

We rejoice with Equatorial Guinea as they completed their certificate level program and had twelve students in their first graduation program. This is a unique training program as they had graduates from five different nations (Equatorial Guinea, Cameroon, Congo, Ghana, and Nigeria).

It was an exciting ceremony, with a great attendance, including the Honorable Consular of the Republic of Congo and the General Secretary of the Minister of Justice of Equatorial Guinea. The service received coverage by national television and presented a very positive view of our church in Equatorial Guinea.

Other GATS graduations that took place in Africa in 2013 were in Burkina Faso, Ghana, Nigeria, South Africa and Zambia.

*We are all about pursuing ministerial excellence. All of these students walked down the aisle on graduation day knowing that the certificate they held in their hand was and is shared by hundreds, and someday thousands of GATS graduates all over the world! This is one of the benefits of being part of a global training program.*

*Nick Sisco  
Missionary to Ghana  
Africa Region*



# ASIA



Prince Mathias  
Missionary to Sri Lanka  
Asia Region



57 Teachers were in attendance at the seminar.

TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS WHO HAVE COMPLETED CERTIFICATE LEVEL ARE 55 AND WILL RECEIVE THEIR CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS IN FEBRUARY OF 2014.



*Started with 9 Students and ended with 12. After 3 months of teaching the students, the celebrated Christmas at the College as a unit through leading worship, skit, short message and having a pot luck dinner*



*Above pictures are of the HQ Church in Mount Lavinia and the Bible School Complex. Pictured below are the students at the Shelter Home for the HIV Positive Children Celebrating Christmas.*

**BESIDES THE HEADQUARTER'S BIBLE COLLEGE THERE ARE FIVE MORE BRANCH SCHOOLS IN OPERATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF SRI LANKA.**





**Convocation Ceremony**  
of the second Batch of Students of the  
Certificate Program was on May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2013  
Bro. & Sis. Allan Shalm were the Guest Speakers



### **RESULTS ACHIEVED BY GATS**

#### **TEACHING & LEARNING**

#### **Sunday School Ministry**

#### **BEFORE FNABC**

- In our church we had 6 Sunday Schools.
- Two Sunday Schools were at the main Church.
- Total Attendance was 70 Children.

#### **AFTER FNABC**

- Now we have 16 Sunday Schools.
- Majority are non Christians from various villages.
- Total Attendance is now more than 400 Children.
- 27 committed Teachers are involved in this ministry.
- We have Teacher Training Program every three months
- Every Sunday, the Director will visit one Sunday school and report the status to the Pastor.

### **GRADUATION CEREMONY**



### **NEW LIBRARY AT THE BIBLE SCHOOL**



At present there are 66 youth boys and girls in our church. 8 boys and 5 girls were newly added to our youth fellowship in this year. Every Monday we visit the youth at their home, observe their family relationship, spiritual growth, counsel them and also encourage them to take some responsibility in the church. We have Youth Fasting Prayer once in a month. Every Saturday morning 5 to 6 am youth boys will gather and pray for the nation. Every Wednesday at 6pm the youth girls have a prayer meeting. Daily Bible Verses are also shared. Every Sunday Evening, we go on open air Gospel Preaching in the streets of a small village in Thiruvellor. Following that we conduct gospel meetings in a believer's house residing in that area. Before the meeting we visit every house and call the people to attend the Gospel meeting. Special prayers are made for sick people.

## GATS takes Central America by Storm

Six Central American nations are now members of the Global Association of Theological Studies.

Like Hurricanes and Tropical storms that sweep through our region of the world on a yearly basis, GATS has sent waves of impact throughout the nations of Central America.

Contrasting to the paths of destruction left by storms of nature, GATS has produced refreshing winds of blessing and positive impact on the UPC of Central America.

Six of the seven Central American nations currently have GATS membership, and in each nation the Bible Schools have grown, developed and been blessed beyond what we dreamed possible.

GATS has produced a renewed vision for training, it has equipped our teachers to be more effective in the classroom, it is producing quality materials to impact the lives and ministries of the students, it has raised the level of education and instilled a sense of pride in both our faculty and student body. It has also opened the door for the construction of beautiful new Bible School facilities in several nations.

## Central America, Caribbean & Mexico

Brad Thompson  
Missionary to Guatemala  
Regional GATS Coordinator



## GATS Moving into the Caribbean

Doors are opening to the GATS program in several Caribbean nations. Due to limited finances during our last missionary term, I was unable to travel to the Caribbean to promote GATS, but thanks to a successful deputation I am now able to focus on the Caribbean islands. Jamaica, Haiti and Surinam are already membership nations and the Dominican Republic, Turks and Caicos and Puerto Rico have extended invitations for us to hold Faculty Development Seminars in their nations this year.



Above left to right: GATS Seminar and Honduras Students

### Faculty Development Seminars

One of the most effective ways to introduce GATS to a nation is to hold an introductory Faculty Development Seminar with their teachers and administration.

**The Impact** of the Faculty Development Seminars on the teachers of our region has been incredible. The lessons have put tools in their hands to take them to a new level of effectiveness in the classroom. The result has been greater confidence and quality in teaching and challenging the teachers to be better prepared, to teach with purpose and to be creative in their approach. As a result our Bible Schools are growing throughout the region, more ministers are being licensed and we are assured of a strong future.



*“Bible School Training has been the very heart of the UPCI of Guatemala. It has produced a church strong in doctrine, vision and consistent growth.”*

In our region we hold two day Faculty Development Seminars in which we combine GATS lessons and other practical lessons that meet the needs of the specific schools involved. Teachers pay a registration fee which helps cover the costs of materials, food and lodging. Teachers are tested on the classes received and must receive 70% in order to receive credit toward their GATS certification.

#### **Training in 2013**

The fifth annual GATS Faculty Development in Guatemala took place in March with 125 teachers trained from the nations of Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. Bro. Scotty Slaydon and a team from our region were the instructors. In November we held the first seminar in Haiti with 22 teachers present. It was impacting to the teachers and I was excited as it was our first French Seminar in our region.

#### **Who can be trained**

Faculty development is focused on the teachers and Administrators of the regional Bible Schools. Each nation can decide if they want to include student teachers and those interested in becoming teachers in the local Bible School. In some cases the doors are open for Bible School students who are about to graduate and will be potential teachers.



GATS Workshop



GATS Seminar in Haiti

## **Here is what Happened in 2013**

- **In Costa Rica 80 students were trained by nine teachers in a combination of day and night Bible School programs. The faculty has been participating in the GATS seminars for the past three years and excitement is high about their new membership with GATS.**
- **In Belize 40 students were trained in five locations around the country. Classes were taught by nine teachers in English, Spanish and K'ekchi. They will hold their first GATS graduation in February and have plans to add more extensions in 2014 and to add the second level of GATS training.**
- **In Panama a team from Louisiana recently spent a week repairing the Bible School complex. They had 4 ministerial students graduate in 2013.**
- **The Bible School in Honduras is holding classes on their new property in temporary structures and plan to begin construction in the near future.**

## **Regional Bible School News**

### **El Salvador**

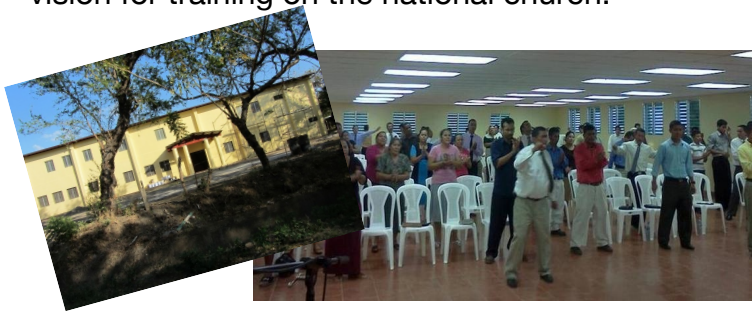
The Bible School now offers three levels of GATS. Last year they had 250 students being trained in 14 locations around the nation. They currently have 54 teachers, most of them are now certified by GATS. In December 2013

they held their first GATS Graduation with 38 graduates. They are remodeling a 18,500

sq. ft. property in the historic district of San Salvador. It's dedication will be in 2014. The goal is to train 500 students annually in the Bible School programs and an additional 3000 through seminars.

### **Nicaragua**

The beautiful new Bible School facility is now operational in Managua, and they began classes there in 2013. The school is now fully GATS compliant. Most of the teachers in Nicaragua are certified through the GATS Faculty Development seminars and we are anxious to see the impact of the renewed vision for training on the national church.



## **Where we are Going...**

**GATS Faculty Development Seminars will be held in the Dominican Republic this year, in Guatemala in March followed by one in Nicaragua the same week (impacting Teachers from seven nations). We are working on dates for a Seminar for the Indian Teachers in southern Belize, and have invitations to go to islands in the Caribbean later in the year.**

**We will continue to promote GATS in non membership nations and in our Regional and Sub Regional meetings. We are giving promotional items to leaders to keep GATS before them. I will continue to work as Coordinator of GATS Translations.**



## **Guatemala continues to raise the bar.**

**The Institute of Pentecostal Ministries of Guatemala continues to grow and set an example of the impact a strong training program can have on a Nation.**

If a student cannot come to the Bible School, than let's take the Bible School to the student! In Guatemala we firmly believe in making training available to every pastor and church worker that wants to reach their full ministerial potential. The Bible School ended 2013 with 386 students being trained in 8 locations around the nation. But we will be starting 2014 with classes offered in 17 places with an enrollment of over 500 students. Our five year goal is to have 1000 students trained yearly in 30 locations. The entire work is so excited. The results are clearly seen in 32 newly licensed ministers in 2013, plus the formation of 3 new districts. The strong leadership, clear vision and doctrinal strength of the UPC of Guatemala are firm testimonies of the impact of a solid training program. In 2013 we purchased two Bible School properties in the interior of the nation. They are both on main highways and central to the churches in their regions. Both areas already have successful programs and will be hubs for the opening of future extensions.

### ***Spanish Summit***

*The Spanish Summit offered a great opportunity to promote GATS among the Spanish speaking nations. A 30 minute promotion was made for the GATS program, promotional materials were handed out and digital copies of 34*

*Spanish materials was provided for each Bible School. Solid contacts were made for GATS.*

# EME REGION

## Pursuing Ministerial Excellence

Thanks to the vision and diligent labors of my predecessor, Brother Roger Buckland, EME has many fine GATS approved schools. His vision has and still is to see that each nation in Europe and the Middle East have a Bible School. He did much to promote that vision.

I also share that vision and I truly believe the EME region is well on its way in fulfilling that goal. In the past year we have seen several new schools come into existence and have several more nations desiring to part of the GATS team. With the Lord's help I will do all I can to see that all nations in Europe and the Middle East have at least one GATS Bible School.



*Bible School - Ukraine*

Years ago, Missionary Gary Sones opened the second full-time Bible School in all of Europe. The school in Madrid, as well as the more recent Bible School in Barcelona continues to grow.

Recently Brother Sones wrote an update to the great success they are seeing in training leaders to carry this gospel to other areas of their nation.

"At present, we have 5 different Bible Training programs in Spain. Our Full-Time school in Madrid has 36 students studying the Diploma and Technical levels. Our night time school in Madrid just finished and we will be graduating 18 students with the Diploma level. In early February, we will be starting night time classes in both Madrid and Barcelona on the Intermediate Diploma Programs with approx. 40-50 students in each school. Lastly, we have 18 students currently enrolled in our Correspondance Program. So in February, we will have approximatly 145 enrolled.



Madrid Bible School & Choir



## New Schools Open

### Greece:

Athens, Greece now has a GATS Bible School thanks to the vision of Missionary Sim Stickland.



### Kyrgyzstan:

Missionary William Turner how thankful he is that the nation of Krygyzstan now has a GATS Bible School in the capital City of Bishkek and also in the city of Talas. In spite of its wintry weather and mountainous roads the schools continue to operate and even grow!



Ray Nicholls  
Missionary to Poland  
Europe Region

# Pacific Region

## 2013 updates for the Pacific Region:



- Due to the Addingtons being on deputation, New Zealand GATS classes were not held this year.
- The Philippines graduated a number of GATS students in 2013.
- Singapore has expressed interest in the GATS program, however I was not able to meet with Pastor Lee in August as originally planned.
- Fiji still needs to submit a GATS application.
- Papua New Guinea is undertaking construction of a new school campus.
- Samoa, Tonga, and the Philippines need six more lessons to complete their advanced teachers training.

### Goals for this term:

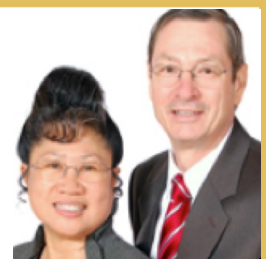
- Finish GATS Advanced Faculty Education in the following countries:
  - Philippines
  - Samoa
  - Tonga
- Institute GATS in the following countries:
  - Singapore
  - Fiji
- Continue the transition to the Associate Degree Level in the Philippines.

## We held a GATS meeting in Sydney, Australia on May 28, 2013.

I met with Brother Jacobsen, President, and Brother Morris, secretary, of the Bible School in Australia. The Australian church is currently completing the Certificate level course in a three year program.

- Self-paced
- Offered one night per week in the local church

**Kevin VACCA**  
Missionary to the  
Philippines  
Pacific Region



# SOUTH AMERICA

First of all, I want to welcome the new GATS Coordinator for South America, Missionary Shane Hayes. He will do an excellent job taking the GATS program in South America to another level.

**Argentina** has an excellent two year Bible School program with 1260 hours of study. They have been approved for GATS on the Diploma level. Missionaries Michael and Miriam Sponsler are the Directors of the Bible School. Pastor Elias Diaz leads the Apostolic Bible Institute while Brother Sponsler is on deputation. This year they had 22 graduates with Brother Ryan Crossley as the graduation speaker. They are transitioning to the GATS program and are anxious to move up to the Associate level. They are requesting a meeting with the GATS Coordinator to help them move up to this level.

**Brazil** and Missionaries Bennie and Teresa DeMerchant lead all nations and programs with nearly 100 Bible Schools and extensions and almost 3,000 students. This year they had 156 graduates in the main Apostolic Bible School in Manaus in November with General Superintendent David Bernard and wife Connie were their special speakers. They are approved for GATS and are transitioning to the GATS program.

**Bolivia** has shown interest in the GATS program. Vice-President Jimmy Prado and Secretary Johnny Kuane have voiced their interest in GATS. President and Regional Director Darry Crossley tried to schedule a meeting for me with their Bible School Director. I could not go because of a conflict of dates with a trip already scheduled to Peru. I am hoping that the new Coordinator for GATS for SA can make this a priority trip to Bolivia to meet with these brethren in the future.



**Chile** has been approved for the GATS program. They have a great two year Bible School program. The work in Chile has a tremendous interest in GATS and is transitioning to the GATS program. Missionary Shane Hayes, new Institute Director Alcides Alvarez and National Secretary Jose Daniel Poblete are spearheading the transition to have the Bible School up to date with the GATS program soon. We are expecting great things from our New GATS Coordinator Missionary Shane Hayes as he leads the South American region.

**Columbia** has a great two year Bible School program started by Missionary Sidney Perdue many years old ago that has produced many ministers. This past November at the Spanish Summit in the Dominican Republic President Marcotulio Oviedo and Vice-President Carlos Giraldo expressed their interest in the GATS program. The country of Columbia needs a visit to promote the GATS program.

**Ecuador** has a Bible Institute in every Department of the country. I have written emails to Ecuador but have never received a response to the GATS program. I have no idea what type of Bible school program they have. At the recent Spanish Summit in the Dominican Republic in November, President Leonardo Becerra was present for the GATS presentation. Missionary Brad Thompson did an excellent job of presenting the program to the delegates at the Spanish Summit and Brother Becerra expressed interest.

Shane Hayes  
Regional GATS  
Coordinator for  
South America

**Uruguay** has been approved for the GATS program. Bible School has been put on hold for the last couple of years for lack of candidates. Missionary Mike Walmer has a great burden for the GATS program and I am sure with the addition of the new Missionary couple, the Jacob Palmas, the work will be able to renew their Bible School efforts in the future.

**Paraguay** was the first country approved for GATS in South America. We are in a transition time in the work in Paraguay. Our three year accredited Bible School program by the Ministry of Education is not really working out and is not putting candidates into the ministry like we had anticipated. We are transitioning to the GATS Diploma program for our future ministers. We feel, because of the level of education here in Paraguay, that this will work best in the future for our work. Vlad Goodrum did a fabulous job of beginning the Certificate Program in the interior. Since his departure from Global Missions, the work that he started was basically put on hold. I regret this, but with my many trips as AC and missionary to Peru, I could not take up the slack. This will be a priority in the future. We miss Brother Goodrum and he was a very vital part of the work in Paraguay. No one can take his place.

**Peru** has been approved for the GATS program this year. They have a two year 600 hour program of study at the present time. I have meet with their board about the GATS program at least three different times. We are trying to transition to the GATS program. At this time we have Bible Schools in La Florida (Lima), Progreso (Lima North), Ica, Iquitos, Ayacucho, and Trujillo. This coming year, Bible Schools will be starting in Arequipa, Juliaca and Vitarte (Lima South). I have been trying to work with former President and Education Director Nicanor Salinas. Pretty much everyone does their own thing and it has been a challenge. But, I am seeing progress. Current President, Gerardo Yajo is very supportive of the GATS program. I was privileged to preach the Bible School graduation in the Northern District on February 1. We were thankful for 47 graduates in this District.



**Joseph Bir**  
*Missionary to Paraguay*  
South America Region

**Venezuela**, as I have said many times, has had one of the most successful Bible School programs on the planet. They have had tremendous revival through the efforts of their Bible school through the years. Recently, I received an email from Missionary Lonnie James Burton expressing their desire to know more about the GATS program. They are asking for someone to go in March to meet with them. I am hoping that our new GATS Coordinator for South America, Missionary Shane Hayes can make this trip.

# GATS Translations

## FRENCH

We currently have three French translators. During this past year the following is what they have done:

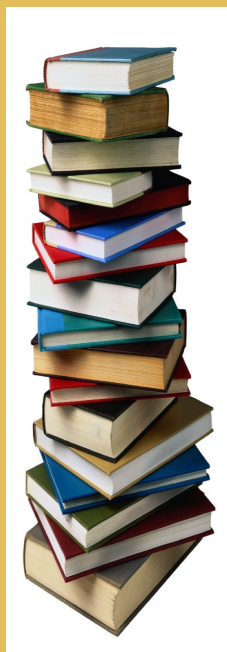
Fanny Cooney  
*French GATS Website*

Sharon Ritchie  
*Ministerial Development*  
*Major World Religions*  
*Faculty Development Lessons*  
*\*Major Prophets - Baughman*

Stephane Astolfi  
*Building Blocks of Spiritual Leadership*  
*Bios for GATS website*  
*\*Minor Prophets- Baughman*

We are working with missionaries to compile a file of all materials available in French.

\*current projects



## SPANISH

We currently have three translators working on Spanish materials. The following is what has been accomplished in 2013:

Z. Warren  
*Path to Righteousness*  
*Truth Shall Triumph*  
*Major World Religions*  
*Building Blocks of Spiritual Leadership*  
*\*Genesis OMTC*

Samantha Campbell  
*Major Prophets*  
*Minor Prophets*  
*Essentials of Oneness Theology*  
*Bios, Forms, Diplomas*  
*Faculty Development Lessons*  
*\*Spiritual Gifts (Bernard)*

Denis Gonzales  
*Christian Living/Seven Habits*  
*The Book of Acts*  
*\*Ministerial Ethics (Premphe)*

## PORTUGUESE

The death of Sis Alcina Lima was a great loss to our translation team. We are presently working to recover her Bible School files from her family.

The following is what has been done in 2013:

Alcina Lima  
*Christian Living*  
*The Apostles Doctrine*  
*\*Seven Habits (pending)*

Daniel Borges  
*Evangelism: Sowing & Reaping*  
*Bios and Web page basics*  
*\*Evangelism II*

Currently only Daniel Borges is working on Portuguese translation, however over the past month we have been working on collecting digital Bible School material from missionaries in Portuguese speaking countries.

## Curriculum Committee

As a member of the Curriculum Committee my main responsibility is in the Coordination of translations for GATS related materials and helping to attain already existing materials. At present we are focusing on translations from English into Spanish, French and Portuguese. We currently have 7 translators and my responsibility is to send to the translators the materials approved by Bro. Poitras, deal with any issues they have during the translation and then receive the finished product. Once the material has been translated, it is reviewed and formatted to be as close to the English version as possible, at which time it is ready to be posted to the corresponding GATS web site.

### AIMers to the Rescue

We have been blessed by the help of AIMers Theresa Blash, Amber Corey and Rachel Drost in formatting completed translations. New AIMer Heidi Williams will now be helping with formatting as well.

Sis Theresa Blash is serving as a GATS AIMer, working primarily on formatting materials to be web site ready.

**English** [www.gatsonline.org](http://www.gatsonline.org)

**Spanish** [www.agetenlinea.org](http://www.agetenlinea.org)

**French** [www.agetenligne.org](http://www.agetenligne.org)

**Portuguese** [www.notyetdone.soon](http://www.notyetdone.soon)