



FACE TO FACE



GREETINGS FROM THE BIBLE TRAINING CENTER

by Adjayi Inoussa, BTC Director

I was born March 15, 1962, at Amou-Oblo in Togo of Muslim parents. I attended primary, secondary and high schools in Togo. After attending the Nigerian Christian Bible College, I worked with the church in Ilorin Kwara State from 1987 to early 1991 and moved to Lomé in Togo. From Lomé, I moved to a town called Tsevie in January 1995. I worked with the church there until 2013. When BTC began in 1995, I went twice a month to teach. I became a permanent teacher of BTC and the Deputy Director in October 2013 and Director in September 2019. I am married to the former Imaobong Tommy Akpan. We have five children, two girls and three boys. My personal goals include becoming an elder in the church and creating a non-governmental organization that will take care of orphans.

I thank God for His grace and mercy. The academic year 2020-2021 has come and gone. There were 14 third-year students. Their academic work went well. Their work included personal evangelism, Bible studies and worship services. They baptized about 60 souls and studied with many people. They established two churches in the year. Their teachings and exhortations helped the members of the surrounding churches to progress in their faith. These students have graduated and are now engaged as ministers of the church.

They worked hard to expand the borders of the kingdom of God.

We now admit students with their wives. For the wives, we started vocational training in hairdressing and sewing to increase their level of earning a living and helping their families become more self-sufficient. We also offer Bible classes for them, along with a kindergarten for the children. The women who received vocational training took the government professional examination in sewing. All of them passed the examination successfully. A second married dormitory and a kindergarten are under construction, so we will be able to accommodate 20 married students in the future.

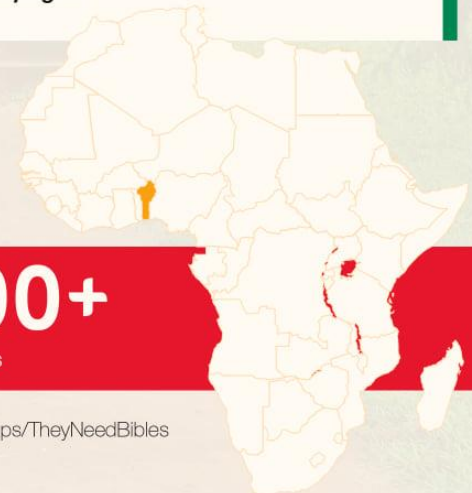
Thanks so much for your continued support of the work of God.

OH THE PLACES WE GO...

by Barbara England, Wife and Mission Partner
of F.A.C.E. Executive Director Richard England

I have a soft spot in my heart for Dr. Seuss books. I learned to read using his books, and I spent many hours reading them with my own children. In one of his inspiring books, "Oh the Places You Will Go," he gives advice and reflections about life that I believe are practical for everyone, regardless of the new adventure you are entering...graduation or retirement! "Onward up many a frightening creek, though your arms may get sore and your sneakers may leak. Oh the places you'll go!" That is a good description to introduce the next chapter of our marriage. In the spring of 2021, my husband, Richard,

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PREACHERS TRAINED

350+

CHURCH OF CHRIST
CONGREGATIONS PLANTED

15,000+

CHRISTIANS

SUPPORTING THE MISSION

Please consider including F.A.C.E. in your estate planning. If you are seeking to give to or partner with an established, effective mission program, email Richard England at richard.england@frenchafricanmissions.com.

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Make checks
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ED JONES: REFLECTING ON THE BTC'S BEGINNING — PART 1

Recently Ed Jones, a long-time elder in the church and one of the initial founders of the BTC in Benin, Africa, talked about his experiences when the BTC first began. The quotes below present a summary of many wonderful stories about experiences that shaped and influenced the BTC's early development.



I was born in Benton, Kentucky, in 1938 and baptized in the Benton Church of Christ in 1951. I married Judith McClard in 1958, and we have three children, Melissa, Jeffrey and Jason. They are all active in the Benton Church, and the two boys are deacons. I served as an elder there from 1988 until I retired in 2011.

Benton, always having been a mission minded church, began supporting George Akpabli, a native of Ghana, in 1992 to help strengthen our mission in Mauritius. Unable to stay there, he chose to locate in Benin, a French speaking country in West Africa near his home country. There were no known churches of Christ in Benin at that time. Bill Morgan and I went to Benin in 1994, hoping to encourage George and help him grow the small church that he had established in his rented house.

George was very happy with the small church that he had planted there, and he unveiled a much larger vision. He said there were no preacher training schools teaching in the French language, and he hoped that we could help him with a plan to begin one. We came home and discussed this with our congregation. As a result, with the support of many congregations and individuals, the Benin Bible Training center began with 18 students in a small, rented facility.

In 2007, we recruited members from involved churches and formed a board to oversee the work. We gave it the name French African Christian Education or as it is also known—F.A.C.E. This has been the most rewarding experience of my life's experiences. I have heard similar remarks from those who have accompanied me there and churches that participate as F.A.C.E. partners.

"Oh the Places We Go..." continued

began retirement after 26 years of teaching at Freed-Hardeman University. While we haven't been up any creeks yet, we have managed to get lost a few times (or as I call it, "detoured") because we were following the directions on my phone, and the map took us off the main road and through some small places with unique names — Symsonia, Kentucky; Folsomdale, Kentucky; Gates, Tennessee; and Halls, Tennessee — to name a few.

When Richard accepted the opportunity to become the Executive Director for F.A.C.E., I knew I would need to pack my bags, as we would begin to travel more to report on the work. Since March, we have made many wonderful visits to churches in Kentucky, Missouri and Tennessee. While COVID restrictions have limited our travel, plans have been made to visit Texas in September. We also have been to homes of members of the board, and they have been kind and hospitable. We have reconnected with people we went to college with and former students. While my husband has been doing his work with F.A.C.E., they have entertained me and taken the time to show me around the Benton, Kentucky area.

We recently met a very sweet lady who came by the Benton office to make a donation. She said she wanted to, "especially help the women." She told us her heart was touched as she thought about them possibly having to go work in the fields to help feed their families. She recognized a need for them to have sewing machines and hair dryers to open their own businesses. I was reminded of Proverbs 31 and how a beautiful virtuous woman in Benton, Kentucky was helping women in West Africa to become virtuous women through her donation.

Dr. Seuss also said in his book, "You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself any direction you choose. You're on your own. And you know what you know. And you are the one who'll decide where to go." I am excited to think of the many places we will visit and the new friends we will make.

