

THE EVANGEL VOICE

KENYA 2024



Students engaged in Joyful Worship!

Monday Aug. 12th dawned sunny and warm. It was 7 a.m. and in one hour we would begin a 10 day School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) training with 45 pastors in Diani, Kenya. Steve Sill (the current President of Evangel) and I were excited for this fresh opportunity to interact with these wonderful men and women.

When we stepped onto the

property where

the SOPM was being held, worship floated out of the building where the training would take place. It was vibrant and joyful and we were soon immersed in this jubilant atmosphere of praise as we walked through the open doorway. What a great start!

This would be our second time to be in Kenya in a 9 month period! We had a strong expectation of God moving in our midst as we began this intensive training journey with these brothers and sisters. They came from a wide spectrum of the Body of Christ (6-7 different denominations represented) and a wide geographical area of Kenya. (Some came from as far as 700 miles away).

Cont. p. 4



Understanding the Bible - module, being taught by Steve

CONTENTS

- P. 1) Kenya 2024 SOPM
- P. 2) "Abundance" Fall Banquet
- P. 3) Liberia First Time SOPM
- P. 3) New ETS Web Site
- P. 4) Testimony-Changing Lives
- P.4) Connection with Evangel



Kenya SOPM class picture, with 5 of the 6 instructors seated in the front row

Kenya graduation 2024 - students celebrate



ABUNDANCE FALL BANQUET

The Fall Banquet for Evangel is almost here! This year's theme, ABUNDANCE, is taken from the words of Psalm 1:3...*They (people who delight in God's Word) are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit in each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*

The Psalmist, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, recognized that meditating on and delighting in God's Word would not only produce good fruit, but the fruit would be abundant, as His Word became a constant supply of nourishment.

As we walk in this new season at Evangel, we are so grateful for the foundation that was established in this ministry over 40 years ago; a foundation that focused on the finished work of Jesus and the permanence of His Word as the only authority for a believer and certainly for a student in the Seminary.

In this new season, we sense a divine urgency to train as many pastors as possible in the days ahead. It has become abundantly clear that the Lord's mandate on Evangel to do this is stronger now than ever before. Already 3 Schools of Practical Ministry have been completed in developing nations and there is at least one more scheduled before the end of the year. (see related SOPM article)

Now, we are extremely pleased to welcome Rev. John Kisamwa as our ABUNDANCE Banquet speaker. John and his wife Habona oversee Ray of Hope Ministries in Kenya, and they are our ministry partners in that nation. Recently, John became the regional coordinator in the nation of Kenya for The School of Practical Ministry.

He has been in ministry for over 4 decades as a missionary and as vice president for YWAM, overseeing the continent of Africa for that ministry. His heart is to train and disciple a new generation of pastors and church leaders, which is the heartbeat of Evangel as well.

Now you can come meet him in person and hear the powerful message that God has put in his heart for Evangel's Fall Banquet. If you live within driving distance of Harrisonburg, you should have recently received an invitation in the mail for the Banquet. If you live outside of the area, we hope to capture the Banquet on video so you can see and hear all that occurred during this special event.

As one of two major fund raisers for the work Evangel is undertaking overseas, this Banquet is especially important to our ability to say YES. We not only covet your prayers, but we would invite you to make a special gift to ETS, especially if you are unable to attend. God has clearly called us TO GO, and we are ready and willing to say YES as we have provision to make commitments in developing nations pleading with us to bring the SOPM to them.

Want Your Gift to be used for a Specific Need?

- > Unable to come to the Abundance Banquet? Share a gift in advance to help us meet our goal of \$15,000
- > Sponsor a pastor for a gift of \$150. Evangel does not charge these men and women to take the SOPM program
- > Your gift of \$100 or more will help us translate the SOPM material into Swahili and French for greater access
- > Help with the cost of printing the SOPM Manuals in each country. These cost approx. \$10 ea. to print

Liberia SOPM on the Horizon

This year alone, we have held Evangel's School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) in Kenya, in Cameroon (2 times) and now, we are planning for a school in Liberia in November. This will be our first SOPM in Liberia, and we are thrilled to have this opportunity.



Liberia borders Sierra Leone to the south and plans are currently underway to have 80 pastors and church leaders involved in this first SOPM in that nation. Our ministry partner in Sierra Leone, Geth-semame Evangelical Ministries, has church plants in Liberia, so we will partner with them to hold the School of Practical Ministry in Monrovia, the capital of Liberia. (see map)

Evangel does not charge these pastors for taking the School of Practical Ministry. For instance in Liberia, one of the poorest nations throughout Africa, the annual income is under \$450 a year. As is true in all of the other nations God has opened up to us, they simply don't have the resources to pay for such training.

This SOPM will also include a 3 day outdoor Evangelistic Crusade that the pastors in the program will participate in. We are excited for this opportunity to also be a small part of leading people to Christ and then connecting them with these pastors!

As was shared in the article about the ETS Fall Banquet, we continue to sense God accelerating these vital training opportunities. When we look back at 2024, we see four different SOPM programs occurring in developing nations, which is the most we have ever had in one year. By year's end, we will have had the privilege of training over 200 pastors and church leaders in 2024.

New Improved ETS Web Site

For the past 3-4 years we have known that our web site needed a major overhaul. The software used to create the site 10 years ago was outdated and no longer being supported. While we could still change information, we could not make it

more user friendly or easier to navigate, especially on a mobile device (read cell phone), which is the main way younger people access information.



Realizing the very real need, we began praying about finding the right resources; people to do the actual work along with the financial provision, to move forward. Thankfully, the Lord provided both. We found someone who was local and who charged a very reasonable fee to build a new site for us.

After a few months of work, we are now pleased to invite you to check out the new improved Evangel Seminary web site on your computer or mobile device and tell us what you think. (www.ets.edu)



Pastors praying in small groups together

Our consistent plea before the Lord had been, Father, please help us engage their minds with the things we are teaching, but please impact their hearts as well, so they will leave refreshed, encouraged and changed by the presence and work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Throughout that Monday and the days ahead, it was clear God was answering that prayer! He was meeting them in very personal ways, revealing more of His nature through the things they were learning, but also helping these pastors release burdens they had carried with them.

What a privilege and joy it was for us to participate with Him in this life-changing opportunity for all of us.

It was also clear that they were hungry to learn, which was evident in their attentiveness and their excellent questions throughout the 10 days. They worshiped, prayed, fellowshiped, ate and even studied together. It was a beautiful reflection of the diversity of the Body walking in unity with one another.

While in Kenya this time, we also learned that the government had passed a law requiring pastors to have some type of formal certification. This law was designed to put an end to “charlatan preachers” who are teaching bizarre things while trying to “fleece” people for money, but it obviously affects all pastors.

As is the case in 95% of our “pastor students”, these men and women in the School of Practical Ministry had never had any formal Biblical training, because the opportunity just isn’t available or affordable. So after 10 days of intensive, yet practical and applicable training, each one of these pastors received a School of Practical Ministry certificate from Evangel, which we understand satisfies the requirements set by the government. Thank you Lord!

SOPM—Changing Lives



George from Kisumu, Kenya traveled for 20 hrs. to come be a student in the SOPM in Kenya. Here is part of what he has shared about that experience:

“The course was Biblically based, sound and very interactive. I felt being renewed and refreshed by the Holy Spirit... When I left home, my heart was heavy and cold as a result of ministry burden(s), but as the SOPM continued, I felt like the baggage was being lifted off, one by one. I was even able to have an effective communication with my wife, as I had left home when we had strained relations.

I thank the School so much for the transformation it has brought upon my life and family. I continue to share these principles with our church community and marriages are being rectified.”

(More testimonies and vision for the future of the SOPM program will be shared at the Fall Banquet)

Connect With Evangel



www.ets.edu



facebook.com/EvangelSeminaryVa



info@ets.edu

36 Southgate Ct. • Suite 201 • Harrisonburg, Va 22801 Ph. (540) 433-7760