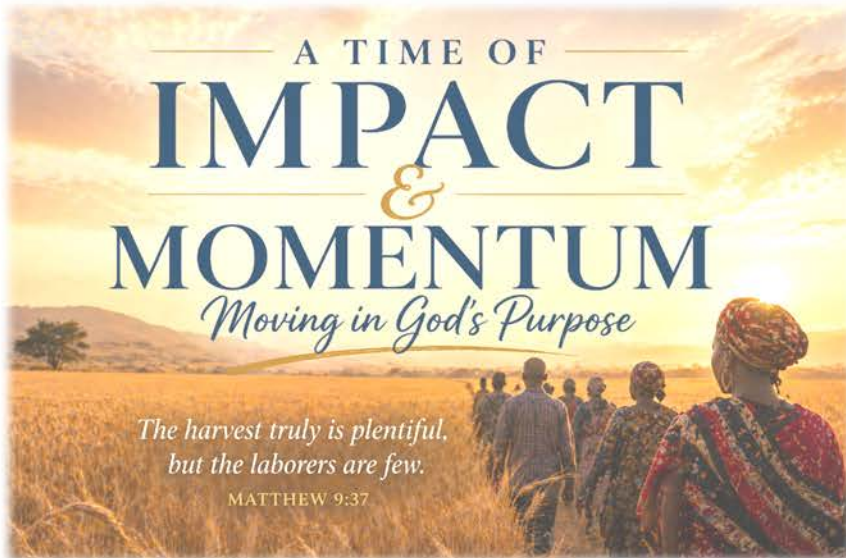


THE EVANGEL VOICE



At Evangel Theological Seminary (ETS), we are seeing the Lord of the Harvest provide those laborers in record numbers. Our School of Practical Ministry (SOPM) is continuing to experience an unprecedented season of growth in Africa.

On the heels of spiritually impactful sessions in Kilifi, Kenya and Freetown, Sierra Leone, (*see related articles*) we are now preparing for upcoming schools in Cameroon and Kenya later this year. As well, we sense that the Lord is leading a strategic roadmap for 2027

and beyond that includes new territories and partnerships. **The momentum is tangible, and the impact on local ministry in Africa is eternal.**

We recognize that this work is a collective effort of the Body of Christ. To keep pace with this divine acceleration, we need your continued partnership through fervent prayer and/or sacrificial giving. Your investments enable ETS to directly empower African leaders to transform their communities with the Gospel.

Please prayerfully consider how you might support ETS during this critical expansion. We are deeply grateful for your heart for the Kingdom and your enduring commitment to the mission of Evangel Theological Seminary.

Gratefully,

Steve Sill - President, ETS

12 for 26

To further highlight the thoughts Steve expressed above, Evangel and our ministry partners in Sierra Leone, Cameroon and Kenya currently have plans to hold a dozen (12) Schools of Practical Ministry in 2026, Lord willing. That is a 33% increase over last year, which to that point was our most ambitious training year to date. This is such an amazing acceleration and it is all being driven by the Lord. He alone deserves the Glory!



It was a very warm humid Saturday night in late Feb. as we landed in Sierra Leone, Africa. After a boat ride across the harbor that took us from the airport to Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, we made a joyful connection with our ministry partner and our indigenous instructors from that area.

This would be the start of a very full two weeks with these wonderful brothers in Christ as together, we prepared to begin Evangel's School of Practical Ministry (SOPM). Although we have held numerous SOPM classes in Sierra Leone since 2011, this was my first time to this welcoming, yet extremely poor nation.

Sierra Leone was tragically once a slave trade hub for England and the U.S. Their capital of Freetown was founded in response to returning freed slaves in the late 1700's. Today the predominant religion is Islam, yet the government allows Christian ministries and churches to freely meet and share the message of Christ without hindrance.

On Monday Feb. 23rd, Steve Hay (a retired pastor) and myself along with our 2 certified indigenous instructors, Gilbert and Tucker met with 50 pastors and church leaders (3 of whom were military chaplains). This was the start a two week journey of discovery and application of God's Word while going through the 7 Learning Modules and 3 Learning Projects that comprise the School of Practical Ministry.

Approximately 65% of the pastors and church leaders were 35 yrs. old or under and they were all eager to learn. Before we went and while we were there, we continually asked the Holy Spirit to move on our hearts and bring understanding to our spirits and He was faithful to consistently do that.

When it was time for Steve and I to leave, our hearts overflowing with gratitude for what we were privileged to be a part of and for the precious brothers and sisters we met during our time in Sierra Leone.

Before leaving, we agreed to return to this same region of Sierra Leone within a 12 month period to conduct another SOPM. (Tom Watson)



L to R: Gilbert, Gilbert's wife, Tom, Tucker, Steve



GOLF For A Cause



For the past 19 years, Evangel Seminary has hosted a Benefit Golf Tournament to help raise funds to carry out the essential training for pastors and church leaders we are privileged to undertake in developing nations. Because we don't charge pastors for this life-giving training, we must raise sufficient funds in the U.S. to carry out this important ministry.

Why a Golf Tournament: By its very nature, golf is a game that provides ample opportunity for fellowship mixed with outdoor activity and capped off with fun. In other words, it's a great way to draw in people who may not otherwise be familiar with Evangel, so they can rub shoulders with golfers who love the Lord and who love the work Evangel is undertaking overseas.

Over the years we have found that this approach has helped us not only widen the circle of friends and donors to Evangel, but it has allowed us to raise over \$60,000 that has been allocated for this training initiative.

When and Where: This year's Benefit Golf Tournament will be held on Thur. Morning June 11th at Heritage Oaks Golf Course in Harrisonburg. This will be a Captain's Choice tournament where teams play the best shot from tee to green on every hole.

Features of the Tournament Include:

- Free driving range privileges
- Additional contests on the course
- Great Prizes and Awards
- Raffle
- Delicious BBQ lunch

How You Can Help:

- 1) If you play golf, please consider joining us for this event.
- 2) If you know people who play, please let them know about this wonderful Benefit Golf Tournament.
- 3) For those who know business owners in or around Rockingham or Augusta counties let them know they can be a sponsor for the tournament.

You can find more details on our web site: www.ets.edu or you can email us at: info@ets.edu.

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K Two months ago, as the end of February came into sight, Evangel was already gearing up for not 1, but 2 Schools of Practical Ministry (SOPM) to begin 2026. As it turned out, both Schools were being held at the exact same time, in Freetown, Sierra Leone (see related article) and in Kilifi, Kenya. This was possible because of our generous supporters and our strong indigenous Instructional teams in both of these countries.

I Kilifi is a region on the coast of Kenya that is approximately 80% Muslim. This SOPM class would be marked by two distinct characteristics. First, this class in Feb./March time frame represented the 2nd time we have been able to conduct a School in Swahili, the native language of Kenya. (This was made possible through the translation of our SOPM material into Swahili in 2025).

S The other distinguishing characteristic for Kilifi is the fact that the class in Feb. would then be followed by another SOPM in that same area in mid-April. **UPDATE** - This SOPM class has just finished with reports of a very eager group of 21 pastors and church leaders soaking up the opportunity to be a part of this transformational training. These men and women simply do not have the resources or opportunity to receive any form of solid Biblical education, so being able to go through the School of Practical Ministry is something they only dream about.

P Between the two SOPM classes in Kilifi this year, 41 pastors and church leaders have been trained, thank you Father! This is such a wonderful opportunity to partner with the Lord and with you, our faithful partners, to magnify the Lord, focus on His Word and allow the Holy Spirit to bring insight and understanding that would otherwise be lacking.



Recapping, in the first 4 months of 2026, Evangel has already held 3 SOPM classes in 2 different nations in Africa. This is a wonderful blessing that is only possible because many of our donors have caught the vision to help train up the next generation of pastors and church leaders in developing nations throughout Africa. Thank you for helping expand the Kingdom on the African continent.