

# Global Educator

Pursuing Ministerial Excellence

February 2016

The following are some of the many reports received at the annual Global Education Committee meeting held in January 2016.



**GATS regional representatives serve a two-year term:** Ray Nicholls (Europe/ Middle East), Nick Sisco (Africa), Shane Hayes (South America), Jim Poitras (GATS director), Brad Thompson (Central America/ Caribbean), Kevin Vacca (Pacific), J. Prince Mathiasz (Asia)

## GATS HIGHLIGHTS IN AFRICA

by Nick Sisco

- ❑ Thirty-two membership nations representing forty-four membership schools
- ❑ Two countries applied for and became membership nations: Benin and Namibia
- ❑ Three sub-regional representatives were appointed
- ❑ Six faculty education programs
- ❑ Seven reported graduations took place across the continent

### Specifics:

- ❑ **Benin:** Had a part-time training program but has transitioned to GATS
- ❑ **Burkina Faso:** One school, eight students
- ❑ **Congo-Brazzaville:** One school, four students, one graduate
- ❑ **Congo-DRC:** Two schools. Classes scheduled to restart in September 2016
- ❑ **Gabon:** One school, eight students

(Continued on page 2.)

## EUROPE/ MIDDLE EAST



*Sergey Tomev translates for Dorsey Burk in faculty education course in Kiev, Ukraine*

by Ray Nicholls

The Bible school in Kiev, Ukraine, was blessed by the anointed teaching of Dorsey and Bev Burk. They taught the first-ever GATS teacher training classes in Kiev from November 5 to November 7, teaching several hours each day. The lessons taught inspired and encouraged Pastor Sergey Tomev and the teaching staff of the church. Pastor Sergey told me later that their classes impacted the church so much that he wants to schedule several more training sessions this year.

He said that since this training, he has had a desire to start a full-time Bible school in Kiev. He is wanting to make this possible by the end of 2016.

AFRICA, Continued from page 1

- ❑ **Ghana:** Three schools, forty-four students, twenty-five graduates
- ❑ **Kenya:** One school, fifteen students
- ❑ **Madagascar:** One school, 171 students, fifty-five graduates
- ❑ **Malawi:** One school. Classes expected to resume in 2016
- ❑ **Namibia:** Two schools, sixteen students
- ❑ **Nigeria:** One school, twelve graduates. The school in Lagos, Nigeria, re-opened in January 2016.
- ❑ **South Africa:** Ten schools, ninety-two students, twenty-five graduates, five faculty education programs with fifty-one teachers completing their training
- ❑ **Uganda:** One school, nine graduates
- ❑ **Zambia:** Three schools, thirty-three students, twenty-nine graduates, one faculty education program
- ❑ **Zimbabwe:** One school, forty graduates

### GATS OVERVIEW IN CAC

The Central America/Caribbean Region has eighty-three Bible schools in seventeen nations:

Sixty-four are GATS schools.

Six are in the process of becoming GATS members (Trinidad-Tobago, four, and Windward Islands, two).

Thirteen schools are not GATS schools (Mexico, nine, Cuba, one, and Guyana, three.)

# Central America/Caribbean Report

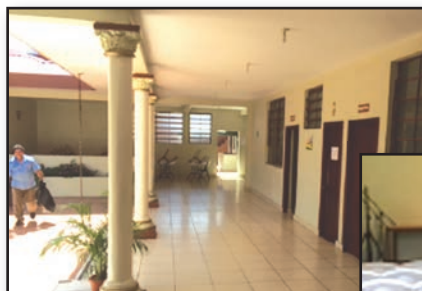
by Brad Thompson

## El Salvador Dedicates Beautiful Bible School Facilities



**The Bible school program in El Salvador is experiencing great growth and development.**

Beautiful new Bible school facilities were dedicated in the heart of San Salvador, El Salvador, the nation's capital, in 2015. Missionary Ken Burgess was instrumental in realizing this dream. During the past year, 315 students studied in nine locations around the nation. There are ninety teachers, of which seventy-five attended the GATS seminar in Guatemala this past year. Their goal is to expand to thirty-seven locations in 2016 with an enrollment of over seven hundred students. We are working with them to raise money to furnish the new facilities.



Corridor



Entrance



Chapel

# What's Happening in South America?

by Shane Hayes

**Argentina:** Sixty-five students enrolled for March 2016, up five from 2014. In their recent October graduation, twenty-three graduated. Missionary Mike Sponsler reports that the Bible school began an aggressive evangelism program where, twice a month, the students go to a local church for outreach then have an evangelistic service. An annex was started in Bahia Blanca.

**Brazil:** Now has 124 Bible schools! There were 427 teachers and 2,424 students enrolled in 2015. They are graduating approximately 60 percent each year after 700 hours of classroom time over two years. This is amazing considering the first Bible school was started in 1972. Theresa DeMerchant runs the Bible school program with an organized group of vice directors. Their goal is to have 5,000 students enrolled by 2020.

**Bolivia:** The nation was GATS approved in 2015! The Bible school is functioning in various districts throughout the country. Adolfo Arancibia is the national Bible school director and is currently attempting to compile statistics.

**Chile:** The program has been overhauled, including changing facilities. The Bible school is now a separate entity from the local church, and this has been met with overwhelming approval from the national work. There are currently thirty-five students and twelve graduates for 2015.

**Colombia:** Jim Poitras and I conducted a GATS seminar in Cali, Colombia, in May 2015. Thirty-eight instructors and faculty from around the nation attended. I was honored to be asked to preach their graduation with twenty-six graduating. The application for GATS membership was received on December 31, 2015.

**Ecuador:** We will be working with Ecuador in the future to roll out GATS. Missionary Guidry has been making trips to Ecuador and will assist in the process.

**Paraguay:** The Bible school has twenty students enrolled. No one graduated in 2015.

**Peru:** Missionaries Bir and Nix traveled to Peru in 2015 for a GATS seminar. Peru has bought into the GATS program wholeheartedly and had seventy-five participants in the seminary and currently has nine satellite campuses.

**Uruguay:** The nation's application for GATS membership was received on December 31, 2015. Currently five students are enrolled. I would like to plan a seminar for 2016, once the Walmers return from deputation.

**Venezuela:** I was unable to make the trip to Venezuela in 2015 due to political instability. We are hoping to be able to make a trip sometime in the near future.



**REMOTE SITE CERTIFICATE LEVEL TRAINING** was held in Northern Mindanao (above) and Northern Cebu in the Philippine Islands. One hundred three students graduated at the certificate level after completing forty hours a year for three years.

## PACIFIC REGION

by Kevin Vacca

### GATS STATISTICS:

- Three membership nations
- Twelve membership schools
- One nation is interested
- Two nations have applied for membership
- Two nations reported graduations
- Eight faculty education programs were conducted in four nations participating

**Advanced Faculty Education** is a vital part of the GATS program in the Pacific Region. Pictured below are groups in Papua New Guinea and the Philippine Islands.



## GATS Advances in Asia

by J. Prince Mathiasz



The Class of 2014 graduated from Global College of Ministries, Mt. Lavina, Sri Lanka. Work is ongoing at the Bible college complex in the mountains.

### GATS continues to advance in Asia Region. Future plans call for:

1. Signing necessary paperwork to bring all India under GATS
2. Open new branch schools in Sri Lanka
3. Introduce branch school concept to Pakistan and India
4. Translate, write, and edit material
5. Visit Myanmar to facilitate GATS affiliation
6. Conduct combined faculty training program for India, Northeast India, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka in one location (A new venture)
7. Planning a special teacher training course in Sri Lanka for prospective teachers and GATS graduates (over 100 classroom hours with workshops and practicals)
8. Translate GATS materials into national languages
9. Do more to promote GATS worldwide

