

ICM - ATS Graduation Issue June 2010

~ *Special Edition* ~

ICM - ATS Graduation Newsletter

4 June 2010

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ATS Mt Elgon, 3rd Graduation, 10 April 2010



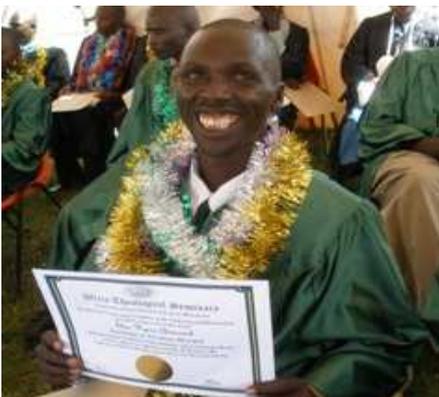
10th April 2010 was a historic day on Mt. Elgon for this was the 3rd graduation of Africa Theological Seminary, Mt. Elgon campus. The day was brilliantly sunny and, though it is rainy season, God held back the rain. It felt like God was also celebrating with us.

Why was this graduation so special? The 34 students graduating with Certificate in Counseling and Certificate in Bible and Theology pursued their education as soon as possible after the land clashes of 2007-2008. During that time, most of the villages of the Kopsiro area were demolished.



Kopsiro is the home of ATS ME (Mt. Elgon). Many of the people were displaced from their homes at the height of land/ethnic clashes. Many others were maimed and killed. But 6 months after the clashes ended, people began moving back to the area, and ATS ME began holding classes in

the safer area of Kapsokwony, several hours away. It was a great day when the Kopsiro campus was reopened in August, 2008 and the students returned to their beloved campus.



During the graduation ceremony, we rejoiced with the students and faculty as the program unfolded. Speeches by local Christian and Government leaders affirmed the value that International Christian Ministries and ATS has added to the community. The Mt. Elgon District Minister of Parliament was present and confirmed that the Kenyan government is giving ATS Mt. Elgon an additional 10 acres of land next to the campus to allow us to expand our ministry there.

Since ATS trains people “in the ministry,” there have been testimonies that these 34 trained men and women are already making an impressive impact for Christ on the mountain and beyond as they are pastors and church leaders. Several of the students traveled to the mountain to study from the lowlands, a number of hours away. Graduation day was truly a celebration and all of the thanks went to our faithful God. The student representatives spoke impressively even delivering their speeches impeccably in English. The students testified to the value their training had added to their lives and ministries. After the program ended, people remained around to visit with each other and proud family members.

ICM Seminary Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 1st Graduation, 25 April 2010

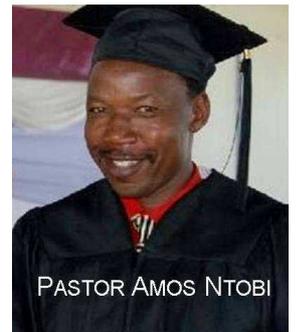
In 2001 ICM Kenya tithed two of their best as Rev. James and Mary Kamau answered the missionary call to Tanzania. We are very proud to say that they are both alumni of ICM. God called them to Tanzania to start the work of ICM there. They moved to Tanzania in 2001. Then, after several years of ministry in refugee camps, God allowed them to start the ICM seminary in Dar es Salaam in 2006.



ICM staff Greg Snell, reports on the recent ICM Seminary Dar es Salaam graduation. “25 April this year, ICM Seminary Dar graduated their first class of 19 certificate and BA students. John Nkanda, 66 years old, was among the 11 BA graduates. At the dinner the night before graduation John testified to what his training over the last four years at ICM Seminary Tanzania has meant to him. “It truly transformed my ministry, I now know that in the past, with the way I was leading, teaching and preaching, if I had been a doctor I would have killed my patients.” Those words did not come easily nor did they come from some young buck just starting out; they came from a man of years, a man chosen by his fellow students to lead them, who when he speaks, people listen.”



Rev. Kamau shared about Pastor Amos had already had training for ministry at his post-secondary Certificate and Diploma levels. He was leading a church before enrolling in ICM Seminary Dar es Salaam. The real motive behind enrolling in the seminary was to earn a BA so that he could get a teaching job at a Bible school in his town and so make more money. By the end of the second year he told his wife, “Never again will I serve God for money, and wherever He sends me I will go.” (Amos’ wife Matilda shared this at the Graduation dinner prior to Graduation Day.)



PASTOR AMOS NTOBI

ATS Kitale, 15th Graduation, 1 May 2010



The 15th Graduation at the ATS Kenya, Kitale campus was held on 1 May. Although it is rainy season, God held back the rain until the ceremony and well-wishing was finished. What a celebration of God's faithfulness for the 43 BA graduates, the 2 Diploma in Christian Counseling graduates, the 4 Certificates in Christian Counseling graduates, and the 1 Certificate in Christian Ministry graduate!



As you see on the left, at ATS graduations, along with the graduation award, each graduate receives a white towel symbolizing that, like Jesus, they are to be servant leaders.



During Graduation, graduates reflect on their time at ATS. Let's listen as BA graduate Pastor Victor Mose shares. "ATS has been a good place for me. Being here with my fellow students and faculty has boosted me spiritually. I really like the "in service" program because we take training and after a few weeks of course work, we go home to immediately apply and implement what we have learned. I like that!



My time here at ATS has really shaped my life and ministry. I appreciate the servanthood emphasis expressed by washing our plates and the plates of fellow students. I have appreciated the accountability that was built into the program.

I feel that my acceptance to ATS years back was God's timing for me and I am ready to live my life passionately to know Him and make Him known to others."



Listen to our eldest and highly respected graduate. "I am a Teaching Pastor by the name of Nathaniel Mwachoki Mosi. I am a retired civil servant and I began my ATS BA pursuit when I was 68. In May, at age 72, I graduated with my BA in Bible and Theology. I was raised in a Christian home, but didn't realize my need for salvation until 1995, when I was 57. I was living a drunkard life and God saved me. Since then, I have pursued learning all I can about the Lord and His Word.

21 years ago, my wife died leaving me with our 8 children. I decided not to remarry because when I was a child, my father remarried, and that was a bitter experience for me. Therefore, I chose not to expose our children to that possibility.

I should have gone for my degree in 1960, but because of our unhappy family experience, I didn't score well on my exams. 50 years later, I am happy to say that I now have my degree. I am happy. And I thank my children for helping me get through. They are proud of me.

As far as the future is concerned, I would like to pursue my Masters studying Corruption And the Church and I would like to write a book on that in the later.

(An editorial note, Mosi's classmates testified of his bright mind.)

Report from the Alumni Transformational Leadership Seminars, 30 April 2010



The alumni gratefully welcomed back ICM founder, Dr. Walker as he shared during the recent ICM/ ATS alumni Transformational Leadership Seminars held in 4 locations around the country. The attendance was as follows: Nairobi 21, Kitale 78, Eldoret 38, and Kisumu 17 with a total attendance of 154.

Director of the Alumni Services, Greg Snell reports "It was clear that our graduates really want to continue their relationship with ICM/ATS and many want to continue their education as well. Some of the grads even attended two of the meetings and they were very hungry for what Dr. Walker had to share as well as for the fellowship. Many testified that 'transformational leadership'



helped them become just the kind of leaders they want to be and just the kind Kenya needs. One grad wrote this to me, 'I am writing to appreciate for the alumni meeting organized in Eldoret. I was enriched by our dear Daddy Walker. We are praying for ATS/ ICM.'"

In addition to the excellent and motivating teaching from Dr. Walker, the alumni greatly enjoyed renewing friendships with those they had studied with at ICM/ ATS.



Thank you to the Chairman of the Alumni Committee, Pastor Gideon Wanyama and Director, Greg Snell for their good work with the alumni. If you have not been receiving alumni information, contact Greg Snell at snell@usa.com. The alumni are "on the move." If you're an ICM/ ATS alumnus, join us!

Visit our very new website!

We invite you to our new ATS Kenya website by clicking and visiting us at <http://www.atseminary.ac.ke/index.html>. Check here for up-to-date information on ATS Kenya as well as application information. Invite others to have a look.



~ ATS is a ministry of ICM Kenya ~

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