

Subject: ICM - ATS news 18 April 2011

ICM - ATS Newsletter

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ATS Kenya, Kitale Campus Graduation, 26 March 2011

Did you notice a different picture above? Why is there a stack of towels on the table? Well, at every ATS graduation our graduands are given 2 things: their certificate, diploma, or degree and a towel. The towel symbolizes servanthood. The towel is every bit as important as the academic award. Our graduands are aware that their valued education is incomplete unless it is permeated by servanthood, with Christ as our great example. Graduands are to use their education to serve their people as Jesus taught His leaders.

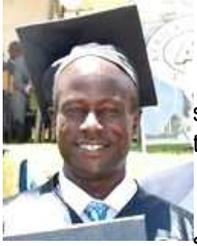
As they were preparing for the ceremony, I asked the graduands, "Why is your ATS graduation so important to you?" Several of them answered in the following ways:



BA Bible & Theology graduand Jonathan Aramis says, "My heart has been trained, my mind has been instructed, and my hands have been empowered from the beginning of my training until this moment. Now the practical part of it is fully taking the stage.

It is actually good to harvest what you sow, the end of the season is joyful. The Bible talks about sowing in tears but harvesting in joy.

I do thank ATS greatly and God bless all of the staff.



"I now know what God requires and desires in me. The skills that I have acquired can help people surrender their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ, not for transactional purposes, but for transformational purposes.

After toiling and working hard for all this time, I look forward for that day when I will hear that sweet and comforting voice saying, "Well done, My servant for whatever you have done for these little ones, you have done for Me!!"

I now know that "we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."
Kefa Omenyi Ochieng, Diploma in Counseling



"This is the greatest day that I have looked forward to since I started in 2006! And it has become real to the dreams I had."
Jacob Chumo, BA Bible & Theology



"My graduation testifies of the faithfulness of God. The good work He began in me 4 1/2 years ago has come to accomplishment. Also, my graduation is important because it officially releases me to the work of God in ministry, whereby, all the training I have received is diligently put into practice. Lastly, my graduation is important as it open doors for further education."

Samuel Kakuko, BA Bible & Theology



Diploma in Counseling graduand Agnes Wanjiru Keiria says, "My graduation has marked a new beginning in my life both physically and spiritually. The going has been very tough but God has seen me through. It is through special support from my spouse, relatives, and friends that the day of graduation has come. I have an endless testimony to give as pertains to my salvation, learning, and family. It seemed like decades to me, but at long last God has made it to hours before I

receive my Diploma.

This graduation will empower me to be a tool and a servant to serve the people of God. I'm now being given a mandate to walk outside all corners of the world to proclaim the Word of God and with my Diploma in Counseling, lives of many will be restored. Thank you, ATS!"

Diploma in Counseling graduand Millicent Mdeva Were says, "My graduation signifies the great and marvelous works of our Almighty God. It marks a rest from the academic struggles and the beginning of the long and hard task ahead of us.



For me to complete my studies here, it is God and that is why this graduation is so important to me for it seemed a dream to me, and now, that dream has come true!"



"It has taken God's hand and His faithfulness to complete my 5 years at ATS. When I started learning here, many people from my place were discouraging me, but due to the call from God, here I am today graduating and making me the second person in my home area to hold the first degree.

This graduation also has made me to see many people from other places which reminds me of Revelation 7 where John saw people from every tribe and nation gathered in the presence of Christ to glorify God. All that I can say is "Glory be to God for His mercies do not have an end."

William Katana Nyawa, BA Bible & Theology

BA in Bible & Theology graduand Judah Tanui says, "Today I'm terminating my 5 years of study at ATS, that's why this weekend is so important to me. In addition, God has proved Himself to be the Provider for I did not have fees to study, but He provided.



This day also reminds me of the ability to overcome a journey once begun, even the spiritual journey. More so, the study has helped me to personally grow spiritually, and drawing near to Jesus, I am challenged to humble myself, and exercise servanthood to everyone. He has been a faithful God!

ATS is a good environment to grow spiritually, mentally, and physically."

"My graduation is a milestone in my purpose in life. My desire is to become the best teacher of the Word of God. This requires training and equipping. Training at ATS from start to finish is an accomplished goal in itself. So this graduation is a celebration of God's faithfulness and my effort in achieving my dream. This graduation is also an encouragement to me that I can make it to the end by faith.

There were moments when graduating seemed like an ever-distancing horizon. Finally, I've caught up with my horizon. All the glory goes back to God our Strength!

Kenneth Lidahuli, BA Bible & Theology

(Photos are courtesy of Greg Snell.)

Visit our website!

Visit us at <http://www.atseminary.ac.ke/index.html> for up-to-date information on ATS as well as application information.



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