

## ICM - ATS Newsletter January Issue

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January 23, 2010

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### News from ICM Kenya ~ 2010 - 2019, The Decade of the African Leader ~



Happy New Year! We thank God for giving us another year. It is a gift from Him. As we celebrate this gift we are reminding of His mission for the world. There are many people around the world that need to experience His love. It is my prayer that God will use us all as His hands and feet to reach out.

As His Church we have to live for His mission. We are indeed honored in ICM to serve the Church by equipping and discipling its leaders. It has been our joy to hear the stories of individual leaders on how

God is

using them and their Churches in sharing the Good News and bringing transformation in their communities.

My prayer for all of us this year is that we will listen to God and allow Him to lead. In that way we will be following Him and experiencing what He has for us. There is great fulfillment when we do what God has directed us to. May God's presence overwhelm us as we serve Him this year.

At ICM we continue to offer several programs that we trust will add value to you and your congregation. Through the Christian Leadership Institute (CLI) we continue to offer seminars from our partners: Equip, Walk-thru-the-Bible, Purpose Driven Ministries and Global Leadership Summit .

Our office will soon be releasing the dates for some of these seminars and we encourage you to join. If you would like to have some of these seminars taught in your Church or denomination you can contact our office at +254 20 2737961 and we will be glad to arrange with you.

We are also glad that through Africa Theological Seminary we have the opportunity to offer In-Service Training for Christian leaders. We encourage you to send your leaders for training to ATS. We greatly appreciate your partnership and prayers.

*Rev. Stephen Mairori, Executive Director ICM Kenya, is married to Roselyne with son Seth and daughters Kathy and Gracie.*

## News from Africa Theological Seminary



### ATS LOOKS AT 2009 WITH PRAISES AND TO 2010 WITH HOPE!

It is with great enthusiasm and hope that we at ATS have ushered in the New Year, 2010. This is because 2010 is the year that launches the decade that will define new, unique opportunities for the equipping of the African Church Leader. ICM has declared this decade (2010—2019) as the “Decade of the African Leader” and we at ATS are gearing up to be the lead agent in making this possible. Beginning 2010, ATS will set the tone and shape the landscape for the making of the African Leader.

Join us in prayer and praises to God as we look back together to what God enabled us to accomplish in 2009. Among other things:

In April we graduated the highest number of graduates (98) since inception.

- ATS was registered with Kenya government’s Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology (MOHEST) and moved many steps forward in its accreditation process with ACTEA (Accrediting Council for Theological Education in Africa ) and CHE (Commission of Higher Education).
- The ATS Counseling Department offered Trauma Counseling to post-election violence victims and Consultancy services to Kenya Seed Company based in Kitale.
- Privatization of the Seminary’s Catering Services enabled the Seminary management team to engage in its core business of ensuring quality training of leaders.
- Kenya government’s newly completed intercontinental fibre-optic project promises to ensure efficient and fast internet connectivity which will expand e-learning options for ATS.
- The launch of ICM/ATS e-newsletter in August has enabled swift and efficient communication of Seminary happenings to all our partners and constituents.

Join ATS in praying and trusting God for its 2010 plans that will place ATS in the frontline of ushering in the new Decade of the African Leader:

- Launch of the new BA in Counseling Program in February.
- Create the Seminary website and a comprehensive marketing campaign of ATS programs.
- Launch the Seminary’s “Strategic Plan” and “Personnel Manual”.
- Complete the fund-raising campaign towards the construction of the “ Ministry Building ” to serve the growing administrative needs of ATS’ expanding staff and operations.
- Finalize the Accreditation process with ACTEA and acquire recognition of ATS programs with the Kenya government’s Commission of Higher Education (CHE).
- Enhance collaborative linkages of the various ATS Network Centers across Africa .

We at ATS look forward to 2010 with heightened joy and infectious hope as we play our part in discipling and equipping of the African Christian Leaders in this new Decade.

Pray for ATS and join us as a partner in transforming and empowering African Christian Leaders through provision of quality and relevant training for the transformation of Africa and the rest of the World.

*ATS Principal Dr. Rev. Emmanuel Chemengich is the enthusiastic principal of Africa Theological Seminary, Kitale. Dr. Chemengich is married with 2 twin boys and daughter, Subira.*

## **A Testimony from ATS Student, Mt. Elgon Pastor Eliud Psongoywo**



I grew up in a family which has a well-respected name, a good name. My grandfather and my father after him had the ability to see into the future. They are called Seers or Laibon. I grew up in a non-Christian home and under the influence of my grandfather and father. My father is deep into ancestor worship and in 2002, he became a Muslim because that faith welcomed him and his beliefs.

After school, I married and we had our first child. Life became hard with our little boy. He was constantly sick. According to our Sabaoth culture, we took the child to my stepfather who had the position of renaming children who had problems, including those who were sick. He gave him another name so that our son would be healed and blessed. Even though our son received a new name, he continued to be sick and we had no peace.

I met a servant of God, a Christian pastor, and indeed, he helped us. He directed us to Jesus. We believed and of course, God healed our son. The pastor told us to avoid using our son's new name. He opened our eyes to search more of Jesus. That is when I fully trusted Jesus Christ and became born again. That was in 1990.

In 1993, I became an assistant pastor and in 1995, we started a church under a tree. Did I have theological training? No, nothing of the sort. I enrolled in the Mt. Elgon Training Centre which God used to help me learn. In 2005, I was leading our church with 5 couples who were being trained to each pastor daughter churches.

Then in 2006, the land clashes on Mt. Elgon began. Those were difficult days. Our family was affected. We had to move from where we were living, houses were burned, and our church was damaged. We had to go to a new place quickly with no home, but we survived by renting a small room in Cheptais.

During the land clashes, my father was involved. Since my father is the Laibon (Seer), he was well-respected in the community and people came to him and he discouraged them from cooperating with the government regarding land vetting. My father was victimized by the government for saying that and was imprisoned for a while.

It is our prayer that the government will grant our family land in the former troubled area. During all of this time, my father and I have had a good relationship. He even asks me to come to meetings and pray. I want my father to live close to us so that he can see Jesus in us and give his life to Jesus. I invite you join me in praying for my father's salvation.

The future? I want to revisit my vision of planting churches in our communities. I love training leaders, working with those who are willing to be trained. That's why I'm here at ATS, to be better trained so that I can train leaders to serve Jesus to the glory of God!

*Pastor Psongoywo is married to Janipher and they have nine children.*

## **Interested in pursuing education at ATS?**

Are you interested in further education at ATS? ATS offers courses in Bible & Theology, and Counseling at the Certificate, Diploma, and BA levels. ATS is a semi-residential seminary offering courses 3 times per year for 3 – 5 weeks.

For Kenya teachers, we offer a BA Teachers' Track which meets during the holiday breaks of April, August, and December. If God is prompting you to apply, contact the Registrar's Office at the ATS address below. You may also email: [info.atseminary@gmail.com](mailto:info.atseminary@gmail.com),

You are welcome to visit us in person at Section Six Estate, Waterworks Road, 1 1/2 km from Kitale town Central Business District. Karibu sana !

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