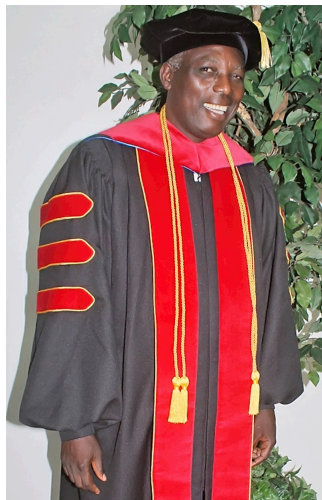




PAN·AFRICA
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY



Dr. Jephthé Sawadogo

*The things you
have heard me say
in the presence of
many witnesses
entrust to reliable
men who will also
be qualified to
teach others.*

2 Tim. 2:2

For a digital newsletter, send an email to:
Bill.Kirsch@agmd.org and ask to be
added to our eNewsletter list.



Africa Update

Bill & Judy Kirsch

Winter 2021
www.billkirsch.com

Who would have guessed that more than a year after COVID-19 first began to spread in the States, we would still be struggling with this virus? It has impacted our lives, as I am sure it has yours. Nevertheless, we press on with the work God has called us to do. We continue to deliver our courses at PATHS remotely, using the wonderful modern tools at our disposal, and look forward to July, when we believe we will once again be able to meet face to face.

The exciting thing is that COVID cannot stop the work of our graduates and students scattered all across the great African continent. I want to share the story of one PATHS graduate in particular.

Jephthé Sawadogo, from Burkina Faso in West Africa, illustrates how God continues to work through a trained leader to bring redemption to others.

Before Jephthé was born, his parents went to the local witchdoctor for help, since they had not been able to have children. When they conceived, the witchdoctor told them they must name their son Yoïro. But Issoufou, Jephthé's father, had become a Christian, and named him Jephthé instead.

That decision made it difficult for Issoufou to live in his village. He decided to move his family to the Bible school in Koubri so that he could follow God's call to ministry. Jephthé watched his father carefully, and accepted Jesus as a boy. Two years after accepting the Lord, while praying privately in the Koubri Bible school chapel, Jephthé was filled with the Holy Spirit. It was at that time that God called him to preach. However, he did not have the finances to study at Bible school, so he became a successful machinist. He saved money from this work so he could attend Bible college, eventually saving enough to enroll at the Koubri Bible school.

After Jephthé graduated, he planted a church in Kaya, a remote area in the north-central region of Burkina Faso. In time, the church grew to over 700 people. Jephthé enrolled for his Master's degree at the West Africa Advanced School of Theology in Lomé, Togo. He became my student when he enrolled with us at PATHS. It was during his studies at PATHS that Jephthé was asked to become the director of the Koubri Bible college. Today, he also serves as the general treasurer of the Burkina Faso Assemblies of God.

Every year, about 280 resident students are trained under Dr. Jephthé Sawadogo's leadership at the Bible school in Koubri. Entire families come to Koubri as the parents prepare for ministry. The students and their families, along with the Bible school staff, comprise a community of over 900 people. While attending Bible school, students plant new churches in the Koubri region. After they graduate, these church planters are sent throughout Burkina Faso and into the surrounding countries of Benin, Chad, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Niger.

Training is the foundation of all we do as missionaries in Africa. We have a saying at Africa's Hope: Healthy pastor, healthy church... Healthy church, healthy community. Thank you for enabling us to train Jephthé and so many like him. One student from PATHS can impact the continent of Africa, influencing multitudes of others like the ripple effect of a stone thrown into a pond. Thank you for your part. By sending us, you enable this Kingdom multiplication.

Sincerely,
Bill & Judy Kirsch

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