

GLOBAL EDUCATOR



PURSuing MINISTERIAL EXCELLENCE

It's Time to Advance Educators: James Poitras

What makes a great Bible school? Is it the curriculum? The facilities? The quality of the students? All these make a Bible school great *only* if you have a qualified faculty strong in character and competence. To advance Bible schools it is crucial

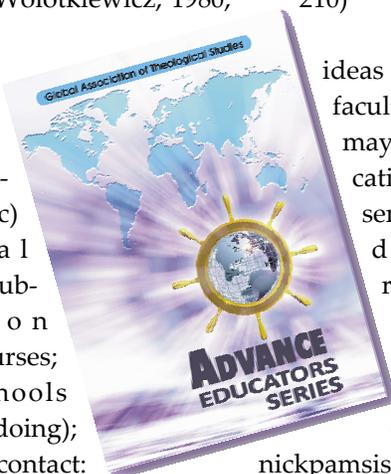


we advance educators. Missionary Bennie DeMerchant commented on the value of faculty education, "This is a good solid move for the future of Bible schools. The trained teachers produce great

students who develop into great leaders. The leaders in pulpits know how to teach and develop great members and families, so training faculty starts dominos falling in the right direction."

Ongoing faculty development is a priority. Continuing education produces faculty that are experts; content specialists who are effective and on the cutting edge of theological education within the culture. Our goal is to better train the trainer. In faculty education, we ask: (a) What are we doing? (b) How well are we doing? (c) How can we improve what we are doing? (Rita J. Wolotkiewicz, 1980, 210)

Need some approachment? These distance education retreats; (c) professional days; (e) sub-education (d) mini-courses; other schools they are doing); newsletter (contact: samples); (g) taking



ideas of how to faculty development may include: (a) cation; (b) faculty seminars; (d) pro- development regional faculty programs; (e) visits to (to learn what (f) a monthly nickpamsisco@aol.com for courses at local institutions of higher

learning; (h) discussions and brain-storming; and (i) articles, cassettes, or books—anything that promotes continuous improvement. Not all of these are practical or affordable in your situation so pick one or two and try it out. To lend a hand we are developing an eighteen lesson *Advance Educators* course to assist Bible school teachers everywhere. Six of these lessons were completed as of the end of 2007. They can be downloaded from <http://gatsonline.org/advancementforfaculty.html> or requested from advance@gatsonline.org or jim.poitras@gmail.com. You will also find translations in Spanish and Portuguese. Our goal is to provide one new lesson each month. Initially, lessons will be in print format only. Knowledge Presenter e-lessons will be developed for online education. These can be exported as Power Point presentations. Other media formats will eventually tag along. Each session contains clearly outlined lesson

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objectives, the lesson text, as well as an evaluation. At the end of the eighteen lessons, we will provide a certificate for successfully

completing the course. GATS intends providing other courses in the future.

In translating the lessons our Portuguese translator, Sister Alcina Lima wrote: "It is a great privilege for me to work on these lessons and have them firsthand. I'm a teacher and have been teaching in Bible school since 2001. I'm a lawyer and worked for the Brazilian Government for many years...Believe me, I learned a lot with these lessons I've just finished translating. They really are in a very high level."

Here's a closing word from Lloyd Shirley, Director of Education: "Congratulations. I think you have done it. You have awakened the interest in Bible school training and assisted the faculties around the world with this dynamic material. I foresee a revolution of education on the horizon. Let it rip! It's time to advance educators!"

GUATEMALA IMPLEMENTS GATS: Brad & Regina Thompson

The TL Craft Institute of Pentecostal Ministries in the country of Guatemala has begun the exciting process of implementing the GATS program. In 2008 the GATS curriculum for the Diploma and Certificate levels have been implemented into our school programs, and we plan to have the Associate Degree level implemented for the 2009 school term!

In January we held our annual training session with our thirty-two Bible School teachers. During this session the GATS program was enthusiastically embraced by our entire faculty. The first lesson in the Advance Educators Faculty Education Program was introduced to our teachers. They were thrilled with the lesson on "The Teachers and Core Values" and are anxious to dive into the next lessons. The exciting part is that GATS has awakened a desire in our faculty to be better trained and to strive for 'Excellence in Teaching.' We have set



in motion a program to enable our faculty to complete their secular education. Already we have several teachers enrolled in Adult Educational programs to realize this goal. The Bible School Administrative Committee has agreed to eventually make this a requirement for all faculty members.

The entire faculty is excited about the Bachelor Degree Program and they have all agreed to enroll in this level of the GATS program. This will take our Bible School to an entirely new level!

Already in 2008 we have taken advantage of some of the resources of GATS. Not only in teacher training, but we are using two new text books that were made available to us (in Spanish) thru GATS! All of this and GATS is barely off the ground! I cannot wait to see what is in store for the Bible Schools of the UPCI! Fasten your seat belts as our training programs are about to be radically transformed!

GATS has lit a fire in Guatemala! We are anticipating a total enrollment of around 250 students in the 2008 school year! GATS has already made a difference in our Bible School, just imagine what it can do in your country!

Download *Advance Educators Series* @...
<http://gatsonline.org/advancementforfaculty.html>

Or contact: jim.poitras@gmail.com

THREE COUNTRIES UNITE TO ADVANCE EDUCATION

"He who learns, teaches." (ancient Ethiopian proverb) Thirty-two instructors from Ghana, Ivory Coast and Togo came together for Faculty Education from January 21-25. Most of the material came from the *Advance Educators Series* and covered topics such as The Teacher & Creative Impact; The Teacher & Classroom Excellence; The Teacher and Overcoming Temptation; The Teacher & Priorities. The entire training program was taught in English and French. Each instructor left encouraged, enlightened, and empowered to make a difference in the classroom.

