

Son: "Daddy, maybe one day you will have 100 schools in Africa!"

Me: "100 Schools? Wow, that sounds cool! Then you'll help me when the time comes?"

Son: "Sure!"

God often uses the simple faith, endless imagination, and out of the box thinking of a child to teach me of His valuable Truth. That morning at breakfast was no exception. Maybe, in order for us to experience the impossible, we need that kind of child-like faith.

Cross-Cultural Marketplace Missions is a custom designed plan for the Church of the 21st century. We need a practical platform for the Great Commission to be fulfilled, which requires leaving the confinement of the church and into the marketplace because the marketplace is the heart of the community. Cross-Cultural Marketplace Missions uses strategies tailored force the local marketplace and combines it with the local workforce to help families gain stability and sustainability in the home and in the community. And when the Christians bless the local marketplace, God can use such a platform to bring more people into His kingdom.

Sounds Cool doesn't it? This is the goal that ACTS (African Career Training School) has been striving for these years. However, some things are easier said than done. There are challenges - related to language, culture, values, education, and ways of doing things - must be overcome in order to effectively manage and distribute the resources so that the ultimate goal can be reached. The journey is strenuous and exciting. The miraculous part of it all is seeing things through with the same heart and passion for the great commission.

Nevertheless, through my son's simple notion of "100 schools", God reminds me of all the accomplishments we have made over the past three years, bringing hope for the growth of marketplace missions in Africa and a brighter future.



Through the countless effort and financial support of brothers and sisters ACTS African Career Training School has started to develop a positive influence and change within the community.

## Exciting recaps of ACTS in the first half of 2017:

First Graduation Commencement: In April of this year ACTS held its very first graduation commencement, which consisted of 25 graduates. On the day of, a total of 500 guests came to offer their congratulations. Among them was Jack, the Minister of Secretary of (Togo's Capital) Lome. ACTS has won great favor and acknowledgement within the community.

A Platform to Share the Gospel: On the day of the graduation the school's cofounder Pastor James Wang reminisced of how the West African Dream came to be over the past ten years in his commencement speech. "God urges us to continually return to his land because he loves the Togolese people deeply and has a glorious plan for them. 'Why not Togo, Why not you?'. God never intended for the Togolese to just achieve self-sufficiency; He hopes that one day the Togolese people will not only be a blessing for those in your country, but the world!" Pastor James encouraged the graduates to remain humble and true to their dreams to be courageous and fearless and live out and uphold the standards of God's kingdom. God will lead those who are faithful. Many of the guests that day were non-believers, but were still touched by the heartfelt message that day. The event was published in the Togo Daily Newspaper the next day. In fact, since the beginning of ACTS, many students have changed their view of Christian faith and even willing to know Jesus. Praise God for using ACTS as a platform to share the hope of His kingdom!

An Invitation from the Government: A few days later the Minister of Secretary of Lome Jack requested a visit with the leaders of ACTS. They specifically mentioned that he hopes ACTS could hold some classes about character building and ethical values. It seems like this leader would also like to see the nation become disciples of God's kingdom and strengthen the younger generation of the today. Hallelujah! In August, the West Africa Missions team will meet with Mr. Jack in hope to build new bridges and trust.

Educational Courses in the Villages: Last year ACTS held a vacation computer training course in the villages in hopes that the young people in the villages can gain some exposure to technology. Enrollment was not too hopeful in the beginning because many locals were cheated many times by schools offering courses of similar nature who later disappeared with their tuition. Praise God ACTS was not discouraged by the news, but ensured the integrity of the course until the very last class. The staff would also spend their after school hours with the students, playing soccer with them, taking them to the beach, and sharing life stories with them. The students loved the class and the villagers were moved. God used the Christian teachers to shine His love and light. This year ACTS will have a second vacation computer class in the village districts. We hope that these classes will empower students, help them gain the confidence, and expand their horizons. In addition, we hope to share with them the value of life.

Status of Alumni: Among the 25 graduates of ACTS, nine of them have already found jobs and another nine have found internships. Over the past three years, ACTS have helped a total of 68 people successfully find jobs. In addition to those who were hired as teachers, ACTS has helped over 75 people find jobs. The statistics have proven the effectiveness of the school's curriculum, which is a good start. We hope that more people can experience a breakthrough in their careers through ACTS.

A Healthy Financial Growth: The most exciting news is that according to the financial report, ACTS is headed for the right direction. Currently the school has good credentials and a solid reputation. It is expected that the school will produce 70% revenue, which was originally set based on a two year time frame to become self-sustaining financially.



I strongly believe that if ACTS in Togo can achieve its goal then opening a 2nd and 3rd school is not a problem. This way, ACTS can start to expand to neighboring cities and countries. With the help and support of the overseas brothers and sisters like you and I, West Africans are able to become self-reliant and self-sustainable. Together, we are fulfilling this dream of Cross-cultural Marketplace Mission! After partnering to build schools we can also partner with them to start to develop their hospitals, agricultures, industries, resources, even technologies. Why not Togo? Why not Africa? Why not You? Why not US?

After giving it much more thought, opening 100 schools, owning 100s of farms, or building 100 hospitals is not so impossible after all, endless families becoming self-reliant and self-sustainable, endless churches, communities, and even nations being blessed! Every marketplace unit is a platform for the Gospel to be spread and a portal to influence that generation because it can allow them to reach those places where the Gospel is not normally welcomed. At the same time those people can offer comfort to those who are currently suffering for the sake of the Gospel. This is the vision that drives Workplace Missions.

## A Dream from God is too great for one person to carry...

We invite you to join us on this amazing journey. Our current fund can sustain the school until the end of July this year. If you wish to see the continual growth of this ministry we invite you to support us through prayers, donations, or participating with your marketplace expertise.

## **Support Us**

Check Donation: Payable to: ROLCC, and Memo: ACTS
Mailing Address: 1177 Laurelwood Road. Santa Clara, CA 95054
Stock Donation: Please Contact Savina and mention ACTS
Savina: p: (408) 260-0257 Ext.103, e: savinakao@rolcc.net

Tax Deductible Donation Receipt will be provided

For more information please visit www.actsafrica.net

We also welcome you to contact us through email: acts@rolcc.net

