



Responding to God's calling is the happiest thing in life. By doing so, you will find yourself in a position where you can experience God's greatness and might! Just as II Chronicles 20:22 states, God has sent ambushes, angels, advisors and mentors to make this concept of the Africa Career Training School (ACTS) into reality. In the second half of 2017, God once again sent surprises and angels to help ACTS grow into maturity! Let us introduce these God-sent opportunities and messengers to you.



Meeting with Mayor of Lomé AWATE

1 Angel of Government: Invitation from Mayor of Togo's Capital Lomé

We were truly flattered! In May of this year, an invitation letter from the mayor of Togo's capital appeared on Pastor James's mobile phone screen. Lomé is the capital of Togo, while mayor Hodabalo AWATE is the political leader in the entire Greater Lomé area. Such a special invitation pushed Pastor James to start thinking of one thing: "What exactly is in the hearts of these African government authorities? What dreams can we build together with Mr. Mayor?"

Finally, at 8 A.M. on August 21, 2017, Pastor James, along with the ROLCC mission team and ACTS leaders, gathered at Mayor AWATE's office. Mayor AWATE was previously a general in the army, so we were nervous thinking that he will be stern and serious. But, the smile on his face made us feel his friendliness and acceptance. After a brief introduction, Pastor James began to share his dream for ACTS; he condensed and refined it into two main points.

First, ACTS is a platform for Africans to help fellow Africans. "We the foreigners will never be the center of focus of this project. Togo has all the potential. With some assistance, Togolese are

surely able to become self-sufficient and even become the blessings for many nations." When Mr. Raphael the interpreter communicated this phrase with Mr. AWATE, he nodded and expressed his gratitude. Pastor James continued, "As of the second point... in my mind, ACTS is far more than a school. It is about 'LIFESTYLE.' It is not good enough if young folks just get a good degree or find a good job through ACTS; what I long to see is that the young people who graduate from ACTS will not only achieve personal success, but transform it into a lifestyle where they are devoted to their families, passionate about building up their communities, and willing to work with national leaders to develop their homeland." What Mr. Mayor replied was overwhelming: "I appreciate your sharing, Pastor James. The Lifestyle you're talking about touched my heart! In fact, Togo does not really lack in schools, but what we lack is a school that is devoted to changing our youth, the next generation of our nation!"

Mr. AWATE's response surprised us! He anxiously expressed the urge of his concern towards the next generation. Little did we realize that the heart of the authority is identical with



Gift of Friendship from Mission Team



Ghana team



Interview at GoodTV Taiwan

the Great Commission - Make disciples of (all) nation(s)! No wonder the idea of "lifestyle" caught Mayor AWATE's attention. He then shared with us the needs of his beloved nation, and his dream for the next generation. The "lifestyle" Pastor James mentioned is, in fact, the noble characters that Christ Jesus is deeply passionate about and emphasized in all his teachings. What an unforgettable conversation with such a respectable leader!

2 Angel of Expansion: Potential partners of ACTS - Ghana

"One hundred schools in Africa" is the topic of the previous issue. What an ambition, isn't it? In fact, since the establishment of ACTS-Togo, there have been many voices from different countries hoping to also establish career training schools. Hence, in July 11-14, Pastor James went to Ghana to investigate the feasibility of building the second ACTS there. Ghana is an Anglophone (English-speaking) country whose infrastructure (aspects such as: education, technology, economics, cyber-systems, etc.) makes it a leading player in Africa. In Ghana, Pastor James met a group of mature and well-rounded people. This team includes experienced entrepreneurs, computer-science professors, seasoned media professional from Ghana TV Station, and an IT specialist who has international working experiences. The most important thing is that all of these professionals share this same patriotic spirit towards the younger generations of their nation. They are eager to see the life of young people transformed so that they can become self-sufficient one day and serve as channels of blessings.

It seems like God has prepared a group of angels to help with the expansion of ACTS! Hopefully ACTS will be able to set up a second school in Ghana soon!

3 Angel of Media: Interview with GoodTV, Taiwan

"We hope to be able to create a report on your cross-cultural project, so may we have an interview with you?" In early July, Pastor James was invited by GoodTV, a Taiwanese TV station. They asked him to share on the topic of "The new mainstream of Cross-Cultural Mission: African Career Training School." We are thankful for this opportunity for more people to learn about ACTS through multimedia! Thanks to GoodTV, our angel of media, the story of ACTS was presented so vividly! When the producer suggested the name of this interview to include the words "new mainstream," Pastor James realized that the journey of this African experience with ACTS is truly turning out to be a "new" stream of cross-cultural missions. In fact, not only is it just a "new" form of mission work, but actually it is becoming a sustainable and replicable approach, hence the description "new mainstream"! Of course, only God knows and decides whether or not this ministry can be called "new" or "mainstream." Nevertheless, we hoped that wherever the stream flows, there will be "the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations." (Revelation 22: 2)

4 Angel of Guidance: A Special Engagement in Paris

In August, Pastor James had the opportunity to visit the Every Home for Christ (EHC) Francophone (French-Speaking) Director, Monsieur Pierre. Pastor James took a 45-minute train ride from downtown Paris to an office in the city of Courbevoie, a suburb where the unforgettable engagement was held. Monsieur Pierre, a French gentleman, has been the Director of the EHC Francophone sector for decades; therefore, he is very familiar with the nation of Togo where ACTS is located. In fact, he has been the mentor of Pastor Edoh since the first day Pastor Edoh was given the position of Director of EHC West Africa.

"In the past we went to many Togolese towns and cities with medical teams, so I had the opportunity to become friends with President Gnassingbé, the father of the current Togolese President." What an influential man of God I am talking to! But, what was more overwhelming was how patiently he shared his African experience and how generously he shared all his French resources that have been accumulated over the years with us! He even selflessly connected his ministry partners with Pastor James. God made Pierre an angel of guidance for the ACTS project and certainly for Pastor James too!



Meeting with Pierre



Mission Team with Togo ACTS Team

5 Angel of Prayer and Offering

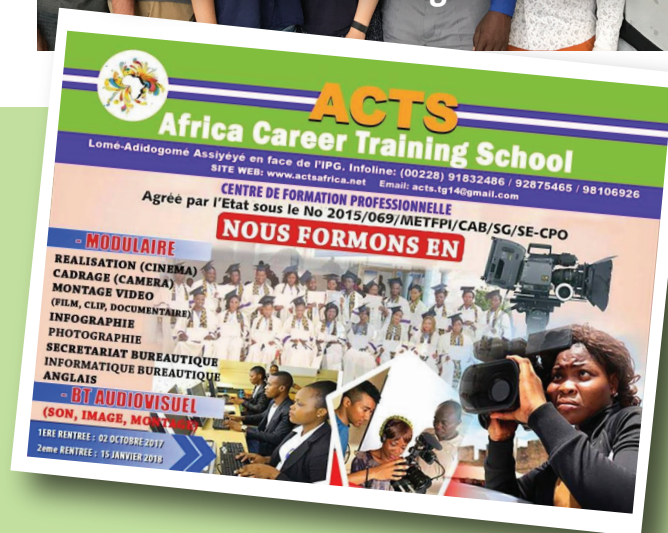
Every African trip reminds us of all the intercessors and donors behind the scene: "Without money, we couldn't make the trip happen; without prayers we couldn't make the trip back." Indeed, the project ACTS wouldn't have been possible without every penny and prayer offered by generous supporters. Therefore, YOU are also a heavenly surprise, an angel that God sent to us!

In November this year, a generous donor came to us and expressed willingness to make a 1 to 1 matching contribution up to \$28,000. This is a great opportunity to double the value of your donation!

We once again thank you for joining God's calling for ACTS! As we marvel over the dreams of Mayor AWATE and Monsieur Pierre, we believe that through humble collaboration between you and I, this dream of seeing African families, churches, communities, and even nations become self-sufficient shall come to pass!

Finally, I wish everyone a

Merry Christmas
& Happy 2018!



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