



# Faculté de Théologie des Assemblées de Dieu - FATAD

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Dear Friends:

I'm excited to be able to share our progress with you at the Gabon Advanced School of Theology, (a.k.a. FATAD-Gabon in French.) After a bit over three months of arduous foundation work, and in spite of record rains that kept taking us back a few steps, we have finally poured the slab on the administration building—one of the four buildings necessary for us to open the school.

The GBS (Gabon Bible School) video update No. 5 is now online. However, I wanted to give you the information a day ahead of its general release simply because you're, well, important!

This building will provide offices for the director and the academic dean, as well as a 15-person conference room and the office staff who will photocopy and collate the thousands of pages of French language texts, tests, reports, and exams. Here's the link to the YouTube video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGPetqr4HIQ>

Here are a few more photos, just so you can see the progress in case you aren't able to access the video:

## Admin Building Beginnings



**March 2013**, Bob Wilbers stands next to the original admin building shell that was torn down for safety reasons. It had been unused for many years. At right, just below the original shell, the tractor begins the site work to excavate the property.



In early 2014, Scott Atwood made the wise decision to demolish the building, and in the summer of that year, the site was excavated. Scott left us for greener pastures with the site completely leveled and ready for building.

## Gabon Advanced School of Theology Update



**December 29, 2014** the foundation excavation began. We were attempting to take advantage of a short, four-week dry season (which never materialized this year, probably thanks to Al Gore.) No sooner did we start digging than the heavens opened and doused the worksite regularly.



On the left, you see the scope of the excavation and the position of the admin building. The library is the grey building in the background and the rose-colored building in the far background is the PK8 church, which gave us the property on which to build. PK8 means Kilometer Post number eight (eight kilometers from the ocean on the national road number one.)

**By February**, we were fully invested, with the foundation walls beginning to take shape. The rains continued to pour down on the worksite and regularly filled up the foundation with water. When it rains here in Gabon, it pours! Many of you will remember the photo below from previous updates. That water is six feet deep.

Time and again we pumped the water out and began again. For this reason, we raised the foundation up nearly two feet above the surrounding ground.



Mid-March brought us to the point where we could begin pouring the slab. While final surface preparations were being applied to the cistern walls, we began laying out the rebar that would support the slab.

## Gabon Advanced School of Theology Update



During this time, we began forming up the cistern “roof” which later became the floor of the office for our academic dean, Rev. Yves Mamfoumbi. See photo at left.

April 3, 2015, which also happens to be my birthday... we finished pouring the slab.

In just the next few days, a tremendous transformation took place.

We'd like to say a huge THANK YOU to Dr. John Easter and Africa's Hope in addition to Pastor Darius Johnston and our dear friends at Christ Church, Ft. Worth, Texas for their help in getting to this point.

Thanks also to those who labored to prepare the relationship with the Gabon AG who invited me to come build this school: Billy Burr, Bill Kirsch, Carrol Deal and Pat Hurst.



And thanks to the one hundred churches and individuals that support us on a monthly basis so we can work full-time in the ministry here in Gabon.

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### April 6, 2015

