

Newsletter March - FBS to Benin and the Andaman Islands!

Dear Mission Friend!

For nearly four years, a few of us have been praying together every Wednesday and Friday morning via Zoom from 6:00 to 7:00 AM for FBS. We are now experiencing breakthroughs in ways we haven't seen in a long time. Many new locations are emerging, and translations that have been hard-fought are either completed or nearing completion. If you are not involved in FBS, it is hard to imagine the spiritual struggle over each individual translation.

In February, we conducted two teacher trainings: one in Benin and one in India. I'll let our colleagues Kent Deivard and Bengt-Åke Svensson share a few words about the trainings:



FBS Teacher Training in Benin

FBS training began in January 2023 at the Rut Training Center, a refuge for vulnerable and at-risk girls. They receive warm Christian care and rehabilitation, along with training mainly in textile-related trades. In Sweden, vocational training often leads to employment, but that is not the case in Africa. Here, FBS becomes a crucial part of their career preparation. The graduating students need to stand on their own after their training, with many planning to set up their own workshops. FBS knowledge thus becomes an important part of their career preparation. A limited version of FBS was conducted for the girls at the center in January 2023. The pastors running the center and the national coordinator for the women's organization actively participated in the course.

The Pentecostal movement "Assemblies of God" in Benin has over 200,000 members, more than half of whom are women. They are led by the women's department "Association Servantes de Christ" (Servants of Christ). The movement is divided into regions and districts, each with a responsible pastor and corresponding women leaders. These women are primarily involved in helping vulnerable girls in the country and sending some to the Rut Center. During a week in August 2023, about 40 leaders were trained in FBS. 35 of the

course's 48 lessons were covered during this time. Lessons were delivered using projectors and PowerPoint, as well as just paper manuals for each participant. Many lessons were clarified and illustrated with sketches and role-plays, which the participants enjoyed.

The period between the first and final parts of the course in February 2024 allowed enough time for homework, exercises, and especially to apply the knowledge in their real-life situations. In February 2024, the final parts of the course were delivered. Each participant shared their experiences applying the course material. All had developed their work in various ways and come up with new ideas. Their experiences provided valuable lessons and inspiration for everyone. The remaining lessons were taught with active participation from the participants, some of whom taught parts of the course. At the course conclusion, with the diploma ceremony, the national leader of the denomination and a delegation from Sweden were present. The participants are now FBS teachers in Benin and will spread it further in their network.

Kent Deivard



FBS in the Andaman Islands

The Andaman Islands belong to India and are located in the Bay of Bengal between India and Thailand. The archipelago consists of 574 islands with approximately 800,000 inhabitants. To the south, near Indonesia, are the Nicobars, and there are 6 different tribal groups in the archipelago. The city where one lands is Port Blair.

We recently started the first teacher training there at the invitation of our Norwegian friends, who run schools and aid projects there. FBS has just been translated into Hindi, which is their local language. We met with about 15 very interested and motivated students. We will return to complete the teacher training as soon as possible and start an online FBS course in English again. Previously, we had 8 nationalities in the course. Now we have Indonesians, Indians, Nepalese, and people from the Andaman Islands who want to get started. Many open doors need our help to be utilized.

Perhaps you have a calling to work on spreading God's kingdom through FBS in Asia?

B-Å Svensson



Prayer Requests:

- Teacher training in Thailand in March
- Teacher training in Romania in March
- Teaching in Shanghai
- Plans to start FBS in Judea, Samaria, and Gaza among Arabs
- Plans for teacher trainings in Central America in Honduras, Belize, and El Salvador
- New training in Egypt with representatives from the entire Middle East and North Africa
- Pray for more teachers to assist in the work
- Pray for all the resources needed
- Pray for God's grace over the work

God's blessing!

Marco Strömberg