

PRAISE & PRAYER



**THRIVING
TOGETHER**

These senior IFES staff will be working with colleagues to implement the new strategy. **L-R** Tim Adams (General Secretary), George Ogalo (Chief Operating Officer), Lena Welch (Head of Global Resource Ministries), David Bahena and Martin Haizmann (Associate General Secretaries)

A NEW IFES STRATEGY

“Over the past 14 years, IFES’ Living Stones vision gave focus and a common language. It grounded IFES in the Word: Scripture engagement was integrated into events and initiatives. It kept students at the centre; we welcomed student representation into the IFES Board and held student events at three World Assemblies. It helped IFES to work globally on shared issues and strengthen national movements. These changes nurtured student initiative, energising IFES’ vision and connecting the Fellowship to the issues that students are facing.” – Septi Bukula, IFES Board Chair

After two years of consultation, discussion and prayer IFES has launched a new strategy to build on the successes of the Living Stones vision to take student ministry forward and overcome new challenges. Tim Adams, IFES General Secretary, introduces the new strategy:

“Like the tree in Psalm 1, IFES is intentionally rooted in God’s Word. Our hope for the 2020s is that, as we continue to draw from these life-giving roots, God will help us thrive together in

our calling as a global fellowship.

“We desire to thrive in our witness, seeing students as faithful witnesses to Jesus Christ, in word and deed. We aim to thrive in whole-life commitment, seeing students equipped to influence the university, the church, and society for the glory of Christ. We hope to thrive on new ground—to see strengthened Christian student ministry in cities, campuses, and countries and pioneer where there is no witness. We want to thrive into the future—to be a strong fellowship of national movements that are also healthy and resilient.

“‘Thriving together’ is not intended in a superficial or worldly way. We are well-aware of our brokenness, fragility and limitations. And we are living in challenging times, facing the COVID-19 pandemic, economic and political instability, and hostility towards the Christian faith.

“However, from this reality, we are called to serve and support one another towards our mission. We aim to be a fellowship that is “one in heart and mind” and to facilitate fruitful

INVESTING IN STUDENT LEADERS

Inconsistent quality of higher education, strikes and funding challenges, combined with political instability, plus opposition and problems with campus access for IFES groups are big issues facing Christian student ministry in Francophone Africa. These issues have made it harder for students to get involved and reduced their levels of commitment to local student groups. IFES national movement staff know that poor engagement with gospel truths and Christian community leads to shallow spiritual life and have been keen to find new ways to inspire and equip students.

In response, the IFES Francophone Africa regional team have worked with national staff to develop the ‘Common Minimum Program for Student Leaders Training’ – a leadership development program which national movements can run with their students.



IFES Europe's Passion for Evangelism Greenhouse mentors women wanting to grow their evangelistic gift. Nay Dawson (pictured) and her team have been working with the latest cohort on how to share about the resurrection.

INVESTING IN STUDENT LEADERS continued...

Emmanuel Bagumako from the regional team is responsible for this program and has been pleased with what he calls the “hesitant but reassuring” start in 2021.

The pandemic season is not the best period to launch a new training program in a context with poor connectivity. It was very encouraging to see national leaders having courage to begin this program though some are still struggling to put things together.

As the team expected few student leaders to sign up in its first year, they were surprised by a large number of

who registered in Burkina Faso. Trainer Moustapha is covering many miles to meet students to make sure their training is effective.

Another wonderful surprise was to see a large number of graduates committing to invest in training students. More than 200 registered for three virtual seminar sessions to be equipped as trainers. In addition to these online seminars, the team was able to organise a four-day in-person training for facilitators in Rwanda, where GBU Rwanda were able to host an event to provide further training for their graduates.

These strong beginnings in two movements and online are a great encouragement for those movements yet to launch this training program. We ask you to hold the students and staff across Francophone Africa in your prayers as this program develops and expands during 2022.



GBU Rwanda training facilitators

A NEW IFES STRATEGY continued...

connections across our global network. We want to share our gifts, resources and experience with each other, enhance our partnerships, strengthen our creativity, and—by God’s grace—help one another to thrive together.”

Pray with us that, as this strategy is implemented across the fellowship, student ministry would indeed thrive. You can find out more about IFES new strategy online at ifesworld.org/thrive



GBUST Togo have been keen to make small groups the centre of ministry. Training in leading groups happened around the country and student leaders in Lomé were presented with certificates after completing training and starting a small Bible study group at their university.

IFES PERSON: DAVID BAHENA

ASSOCIATE GENERAL SECRETARY



David Bahena (formerly IFES Regional Secretary for Latin America) has moved to a global role in IFES as an Associate General Secretary. He explains his vision for his new role working with Tim Adams to support regional secretaries and their ministry.

“My dream is to see IFES Regional Secretaries and teams strengthen national movements and leaders in three core areas. 1. Putting God’s Word at the centre for mission, training and theological reflection. 2. Cultivating genuine spirituality in student leaders and staff that emerges from an encounter with God, caring for and investing in them and modelling servant leadership. 3. Making a renewed commitment to the university, witnessing holistically in every sphere of university life, strengthening discipleship, responding to the challenges of mental health, creation care and students’ passion for justice, as well as exploring new methodologies that include the digital world.”

David met the Lord in his first year studying Chemical Engineering at university. He was part of Compa Mexico, as a student leader, staff worker, board member and served as General Secretary from 1998, before joining the IFES regional team in 2007. David and his wife Claudia have three children. David enjoys walking, good barbeques and supports Rayados de Monterrey football team.

He ask for our prayers for the regional secretaries “since they exercise a very responsible, demanding, and lonely leadership, let us pray for their physical, emotional, and spiritual health. Pray for continued growth in the sense of community and collaboration between them. Pray too for wisdom and direction in the work of rebuilding, revitalization, and reactivation of the movements after the pandemic.”

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