



2023 Year in Review



Tom Johnson

A glimpse at what your support made possible:

Because of your support, several French-speaking immigrants to the United States, plus one businessman in Congo, have an opportunity to pursue pastoral studies without the cost and disruption of residential formation.

For example, Pierre*, is a single parent in Ohio who was a Muslim and a veterinarian technician in Congo, who discovered that he had a passion for evangelism. After accepting Christ in his home country, he immigrated to the U.S., where he has worked in the meat and food processing industries because of his limited English skills. Because of his evangelistic gifts, he is often considered a confidant for many immigrants who have faith questions and are seeking more information on the Christian faith. Pastors who have worked with Pierre recognized his leadership qualities and have encouraged him to consider the ministry.

The Coram Deo pastoral training program in French allows Pierre to study when he's able. Our one-on-one mentoring on the Zoom video conferencing platform allows him to orally respond to most questions and assignments, which means he makes productive use of the little free time that he has. Yet, this individual approach also keeps him accountable to master the material in the lessons.

**Not his real name.*

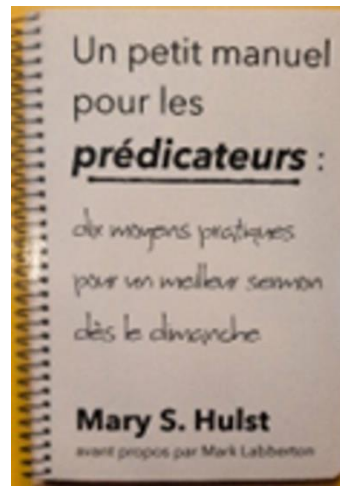


Above left: Coram Deo has trained U.S. immigrants to be pastors in Michigan, Ohio, and Iowa. Here is Thomas Johnson with one of our first students to graduate; above right: Aichatou Johnson of Niger became a U.S. citizen in August. She proofs all of Coram Deo's French course material for grammar and orthography.

Our challenges of 2023

We have had trouble keeping some of our immigrant students motivated to continue. Part of this is because they are very busy individuals—working full-time, physically demanding jobs and often sharing childcare with their spouses, who also work outside of the home. Often each parent works alternate shifts so that someone is always home with their kids. In some cases, we've learned that this is not the season the student should pursue pastoral studies, but we don't permanently close the door to them, as they are welcome to pick up where they left off at a later time.

This impacted the ministry in that I have added more video and audio content recordings so there is less required reading—which the tired students often have trouble getting through.



Above left: A Coram Deo pastoral student invited Marie Johnson and Child Evangelism Fellowship to conduct a VBS in their Cedar Rapids, IA, church; above right: Sometimes developing a curriculum in French requires that materials get translated from English to French. Working with Axis Ministries in Niger, with funding by Third Church-Pella, IA, we received permission to translate Calvin University chaplain Mary Hulst's book on preaching into French, where it can now be printed in limited runs with on-demand printing technology.

Please Pray

- Please pray for those students who are enrolled in the pastoral program, but are having difficulty in managing all of their different responsibilities to the point that they are unable to advance much in their studies.
- Pray that the Lord will lead more students to investigate and enroll in the Coram Deo pastoral training program for Francophones.
- Pray that the Lord will open more doors in 2024 for me to promote the program among new audiences.

Thank you!
Tom