



DACB News Link

For Friends of the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography*

DACB at Africa International University (AIU)

The 2011-2012 academic year is a time of transition away from the Overseas Ministries Study Center for the *DACB*. As a result, the Project Luke fellowship program has been suspended temporarily. In August of 2011, Project Manager Michèle Sigg moved to Nairobi with her family (husband Sam, son Johan, daughters Annie and Catherine) for a year. During this time, she is working to install a regional office at AIU (formerly Nairobi Evangelical Graduate School of Theology) and to create a network of institutions ac-



tively engaged in oral history research on African church figures. She is also using this time to do field research and write the thesis for her M.Th in World Christianity. Sam is translating and editing for the *DACB* on a volunteer basis, doing some commercial translation, and building furniture for a children's home. Johan, who graduated from high school in June 2011, has undertaken several independent film projects and is volunteering at AIU as a video intern. Annie (11th grade) and Catherine (3rd grade) are attending West Nairobi School.

At AIU, the *DACB* is under the umbrella of the newly inaugurated Centre for World Christianity (CWC) directed by Dr. Mark Shaw. The CWC recently installed Dr. Andrew Walls as research professor in their new Ph.D in Intercultural Studies program that includes three

cont. p.2, col. 3

From the Project Director

I am pleased to report that the process of moving the *DACB* from OMSC--where it has been since 1997--to Boston University and Africa International University is moving along smoothly. Last summer, the *DACB* database was relocated to Boston University Libraries, where it is now being maintained as the nerve center of an envisaged complex of DACB-Wiki centers across Africa. Preliminary discussions have been held with Africa International University, in Nairobi, to ascertain the possibility of its serving as the first such center—a model for many other such centers of biographical research and writing in the coming years. Project Manager Michèle Sigg is there now, with her family, completing course and thesis requirements for her Masters of Theology in World Christianity from the Nairobi Graduate School of Theology.

The research and writing of stories would be an integral part of each participating institution's curricular requirements. This will yield carefully edited and regionally approved stories which will then be entered into the *DACB* database at Boston University. I should mention that at Boston University, the *DACB* will be governed by a university approved editorial committee. I have agreed to chair the committee for the next five years. Michèle Sigg will be a standing member of this committee, along with Dr. Dana Robert (Truman Collins Professor of World Christianity and History of Mission and Co-Director of the Center for Global Christianity and Mission), Dr. Jack Ammerman (AUL Digital Initiatives and Open Access, BU Libraries), and at least one more faculty member.

We have been assured that 100 per cent of the funds raised in support of the

Oral History Workshops in Nigeria and Madagascar



In April 2010, the *DACB* offered two oral history workshops in **Nigeria**. The workshop in Lagos was attended by about 20 individuals representing ten different institutions and a variety of churches. In Jos, approximately a dozen people representing five institutions participated in the workshop.

In October 2010, Oral historian Jean-Paul Wiest and *DACB* Project Manager Michèle Sigg traveled to **Madagascar** to teach two oral history workshops. In Majunga, twelve people, mostly university students, took part in the seminar. In Antananarivo, the 25 participants represented 17 churches or institutions.



DACB Wiki Beta - www.DACB.org/wiki/

What is a "wiki"? According to the Free Online Dictionary, a wiki is a Web site whose users can add, modify, or delete its content via a web browser (...). Wikis (...) are often created collaboratively by multiple users."

Since April 2011, www.DACB.org has added a Wiki subsite to facilitate the collaborative contribution of biographical and his-



cont. p. 2, col. 1

cont. p. 2, col. 3

2010-2011 Project Luke Fellows at OMSC*



Kehinde Olabimtan is from Lagos, Nigeria, where he coordinates the educational ministries of Good News Baptist Church. He is an adjunct teacher at the Akrofi-Christaller

Institute of Mission, Theology, and Culture, in Akropong-Akuapem, Ghana; Baptist College of Theology, Lagos, Nigeria; and Cliff College International Learning Centre, in Nigeria. Kehinde coordinated the work of the DACB in West Africa from 2002 to 2004. He has served as a pastor in several churches and worked in the office of the general secretary of the Nigerian Baptist Convention in Ibadan. His wife, Bose, works in contract management with transnational corporations in Nigeria. They have one daughter, Tinuoluwa, nine, and two sons, Olumide, twelve, and Bolarinwa, fourteen.

Watson Omulokoli is professor of church history in the Department of Phi-

DACB Wiki, cont. from p.1

torical material to the DACB database.

How does it work? The first step is to create a user account on the wiki "homepage" at www.DACB.org/wiki/. All that is requested is some basic personal information and a working email address (necessary). Once the user is registered, the account must be activated either through the user's email or the administrator.

Once the user account is activated, the user can login to the wiki site and begin writing! It is important to start by reading the instructions on the homepage, the guidelines for writers, and the FAQs.

Before beginning a biography, one should check that the DACB does not already contain an article on that same per-

DACB News in brief:

Record number of stories: The Nigerian Baptist Theological Seminary (NBTS) in Ogbomosho holds the record for the most biographies contributed to the DACB: currently 73. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Dr. Deji Ayegboyan, NBTS organizes doctoral seminars under the supervision of Dr. Michael Leke Ogunewu which produce 20-30 biographies per year that they then send on to the DACB. Thank you, NBTS!

DACB/DIBICA Madagascar: Participants from the October 2010 oral history workshop have been holding regular writer group meetings to support those who

philosophy and Religious Studies at Kenyatta University in Nairobi, Kenya. His wife, Emma, is a lecturer in chemistry at Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology. Their three children, Barnabas, Paul and Esther, are university students.

In addition to his calling as an educator, Watson served for seventeen years as university chaplain at Kenyatta University. He serves outside the university as the patron for Bible Translation and Literacy, the Wycliffe International affiliate in Kenya; as chairman of the trustee board of the African Institute for Contemporary Mission and Research; as a board member of Africa Evangelistic Enterprise; as a council member of Pan African Christian University; and as the chancellor of Africa International University.

*Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut, USA.

son. For this there is a link to the Potential Subjects pages on the DACB. Carefully check the list for your subject. The potential subject pages are also good places to find ideas of biographies that need writing.

Biographies must have sources listed. The wiki software will prompt you to list sources. Oral sources, for example, are valid (interviews, casual or formal). Once your part of the biography is written, tell others about the site and have them contribute to your biography. Biographies on the wiki that meet DACB standards for format and content will eventually be transferred to the main DACB Web site.

are writing biographies. Plans for creating a DACB site in Malagasy are in the works.

DACB Nigeria: Zion World Missions, working out of Sokoto, headed by Rev. Martins Atanda, continues to promote the work of the DACB. Several ZWM staff have submitted stories and ZWM is creating a course to train writers for the DACB.

The DACB on Facebook: The DACB is on Facebook as a regular page and as a cause. Please look us up and let us know that you like us!

Web site news: Our biography count is now well over the 2,000 mark. Check out our new indexes for Photos and Women and our Guided Tour page.



AIU, cont. from p.1

tracks: World Christianity, Islamic Studies, and Missions. In the list of goals included in the CWC's five year strategic plan, the eighth goal is "to help take the *Dictionary of African Christian Biography* to the next level by facilitating a network of partner institutions in Africa (at least ten), establishing an annual conference on the DACB, initiating a student prize for best biography of the year, formalizing the partnership between AIU/CWC and DACB, and generating 100 articles per year." (<http://worldchristianityaiu.wordpress.com/>)

Two chapel services highlighting the DACB took place in the last week of January 2012. In addition, in April, an ecumenical, DACB/CWC co-sponsored history conference will take place at AIU, entitled "Telling our Story: African Christians, African Church, and African Society." Participants and presenters from about eight institutions are expected.

Director, cont. from p.1

DACB at BU will be available for DACB use, as directed by the Editorial Committee. These funds, as they become available, will be used to help support DACB operations in Boston, as well as DACB-related initiatives in Africa. Once various administrative and operational dimensions of the DACB have been identified, clearly articulated, integrated into the BU Libraries administrative structures, and provided with a written modus operandi, we will have more to share with you.

For now, with every good wish for a blessed 2012,

Jonathan J. Bonk
DACB Founding Director



Jon Bonk and Philomena Mwaura at the DACB dinner in Nairobi, March 2012.

Dictionary of African Christian Biography

Jonathan Bonk, Project Director
Michèle Sigg, Project Manager
Contact: DACB@OMSC.org
Mobile: +254712428020 (until 7/2012)
Web site: www.DACB.org