



Ambassador
Nurturing the life of the Institute

Ambassador Update

Institute for Discipleship

Ambassadors nurture the life of the Institute for Discipleship through their prayers, advocacy, and financial support, advancing the Kingdom of God worldwide.

August 2024: Impact

Making a positive impact in the world is a noble aspiration. However, the impact needs to be focused with answers to questions such as **who**, **what**, and **where**.

For the Institute the **who** has been people of faith with a desire to be closer to God and better able to serve their neighbor. The **what** has been highly relational experiences designed to enhance faith development and increased effectiveness in ministry. The **where** is on the Southwestern College campus, and wherever people of faith are connected to the internet.

As we continue to expand our impact, I hope you will see the value in our work and continue to hold the Institute, its mission, and all involved in your prayers. I deeply appreciate your support which makes our impact possible.



Joseph Kasongo is making an impact as a Bishop Scholar. Meet this Moundbuilder below.



Steve Wilke
Executive Director

P.S. We are progressing toward our goal of having 100 ambassadors!
[Information About Being an Ambassador](#)

Joseph Kasongo brings exuberance to campus, campers as Bishop Scholar

It's hard to predict where you might meet Joseph Kasongo if you're out and about in Winfield, but chances are you'll meet him somewhere.

One of six siblings, Kasongo traveled from his home in Lubumbashi, Congo, (population 1.8 million) to Winfield (population 11,701) when he was encouraged by his uncle, Kalaba Chali, to apply at Southwestern College. As South Central Kansas district superintendent of the United Methodist Church, Chali is well-acquainted with the college.

Here Joseph has thoroughly immersed himself not only in his computer science major but in the entire community. A talented musician, he plays keyboard and sings on the Worship Outreach team, is part of the First United Methodist praise team, and was a summer camp counselor at Camp Horizon, where he learned to love messy games. (Spray whipped cream is a favorite weapon.) Campers were impressed to hear he speaks four languages--Swahili, Lingala, French, and English.

With minors in Discipleship and mathematics, Joseph exemplifies the ability of Bishop Scholars to immerse themselves in the Southwestern experience. Eventually he wants to earn advanced degrees in computer science, but not at the expense of his spiritual life. "Faith is a major part of my life, and I want to make that part of everything I do," he says.

BeADisciple courses create links between adult learners nationwide

If you've never taken an online course, you may think this learning method would be an isolated undertaking. You would be wrong.

Johnette and Fran (showed at right) have made a lifetime friendship through our online courses. After taking a few courses together by chance, the two



began enrolling in the same courses by choice, and friendship blossomed.

Last year Johnette, her husband, and their two dogs traveled more than 1,300 miles to meet Fran and celebrate the friendship that spans the virtual, physical, and spiritual dimensions of time, distance, and faith.



[More Information on BeAD's Upcoming Courses](#)

'Best in Class' looks great on a shelf

When the BeADisciple Study App won a top award in the United Methodist Association of Communicators annual competition last fall, the press release was a nice boost to morale. When an actual physical award arrived a few weeks ago to take a place of honor in Steve Wilke's office, though, it became an every-day-of-the-week reminder that our staff does good work.

The app, now in full production and offering several studies, was named Best in Class in the Internet Communications category. This included websites, blogs, and social media entries as well as apps, and covered two divisions in each division.



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