

The Barnabas Venture
for the development of theological education
in French-speaking Africa

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Bursary for the Spouses of French-Speaking African Scholars

The Barnabas Venture wishes to be holistic in its quest to help theological education in French-speaking Africa. Theological students and their families must not receive theoretical knowledge only, for they also benefit from the impartation of practical skills in business administration, home economics, and health care. It is recognized that the families of French scholars also are in need of education and that it is therefore helpful to come to the aid of the spouses of French-speaking theologians so that they too may serve in some useful capacity in the schools where the scholars are on faculty.

Definition of Eligibility

The recipient of a Barnabas Venture Spouse's Scholarship must be married to a French-speaking African scholar who serves or will serve in evangelical and orthodox theological school in Francophone Africa. The recipient must be enrolled in a program of studies which will (1) help the spouse to have a educational, administrative or health-care role in the French-speaking school of the scholar or (2) help the spouse to be able to qualify for such program (such as an English course in order to pass the TOEFL exam or a high school/GED/ Lycée).

Form of Funding

The applicant will provide a budget and will disclose other sources of funding. The Barnabas Venture will attempt to provide all or a part of the lacking funds of the budget approved by the selection committee. The budget will include tuition, supplies, books and other academic expenses, childcare, transportation and travel costs, and if need be, living expenses, miscellaneous and discretionary expenditures. Supporters will then be encouraged to give to the bursaries of the spouse.

Identification of recipients

There are three means by which scholars may be identified for proposal to the selection committee:

(1) The recipient may be identified by an individual, church or organization which has had contact with or some knowledge of the person in question.

(2) Recipients may be nominated by a French-speaking African faculty of theology.

(3) Recipients may be married to beneficiary of the Langham Partnership International (John Stott Ministries in the USA) or the Barnabas Venture doctoral scholarships.

Application process

The applicant must write to the director of the Barnabas Venture indicating the school, the program of studies and the purpose for pursuing the program. The applicant must also submit a budget for studies and reveal other sources of funding (if any).

Renewal Process

The recipient must send:

(1) A copy of recent transcript or report card to show good standing in the program.

(2) A revised budget indicating adjusted expenses and other sources of funding if any.

Selection Committee

The selection committee will be composed of at least three persons at arms-length who are of evangelical and orthodox Christian faith. They would ideally possess knowledge of the French language and an interest in missions. Persons who have expertise in education, administration, law, accounting, health care or home economics would be highly sought for the committee. Quorum will consist of at least three members of the committee. The selection committee will evaluate applicants to determine whether they meet the eligibility requirements as stated above. It will also determine the level of financial aid which the Barnabas Venture will (1) promise to the student or (2) attempt to raise for the student.

Agreement

Each recipient of a Barnabas Venture spouse's scholarship would sign an agreement stating the intention to return to French-speaking Africa with his or her spouse to serve together in a theological faculty for a minimum of ten years. The agreement will also be signed also by the director of the Barnabas Venture.