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Uganda Christian University Partners

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Humble Vicar Becomes Bishop

As an alumnus of Uganda Christian University (Bachelor of Divinity 2000), newly consecrated Bishop Wilberforce Kityo Luwalira speaks with gratitude about his experience as a scholarship recipient. His desire to serve God in His Church began as a young lad, the youngest of fourteen children. His parents were devoted Christians and set good examples of how believers should live. He has served as a lay-reader, deacon, priest and Canon of St. Paul's Cathedral, the Mother Church of the largest diocese in Uganda, Namirembe, for many years. While it seems he was a natural choice for the position as Bishop of the Mother Diocese of the Province of Uganda (which serves nearly three million people), he, by his own admission, seemed the least likely among the impressive list of candidates selected by the House of Bishops.

Everyone who knows him recognizes that he is a very humble and soft-spoken man, a devoted family man. And after hearing his "charge" to the Diocese, one begins to understand God's wisdom in choosing a man of great vision, depth of faith, and devotion to God, his family, and his Church. He says, "A simple situation analysis indicates that there are numerous challenges that Uganda, the Church, and individual persons face. It is within this context that we have been called to serve God and his people". His vision for the

Diocese is impressively detailed and sets out challenges that will promote spiritual and family health.

It was thrilling to be able to attend the consecration service at the Cathedral on May 31st of this year. Back in 1994, the saintly and much beloved Bishop Misaeri Kauma invited my husband and me to come and visit Uganda and to attend the consecration of the bishop succeeding him in Namirembe Diocese. His chaplain (and our driver for the two week visit) impressed us with his humility and gentleness. We have kept in touch over these past 15 years and become close family friends. We were full

of joy when we heard the news that Wilberforce had been elected (frankly, we didn't know his name was being considered since he was too humble to tell us!).

Bishop Luwalira is pursuing a Masters of Divinity from UCU School of Theology and while we know that God chooses bishops and other leaders, we can't help but feel pleased that his education has prepared him for the knowledge that he needs to lead such a large and challenging diocese.

We are proud of the successes of our UCU alumni!

By Diane Stanton
Executive Director



BISHOP WILBERFORCE KITYO LUWALIRA and Bishop James Stanton, preceding Bishop Luwalira's consecration as bishop of the Diocese of Namirembe in Uganda.

He is my refuge in time of need

by **Abraham Nhial**
M.Div. Student from Sudan

“I believe that the truth of the gospel through missions is the only hope in the world”

“I am a member of a group of Sudanese war orphans known as the ‘Lost Boys of Sudan’. I found myself separated from my family at nine years when my village was attacked by Northern Muslim extremists. Though God’s blessings and love for me, I ultimately survived a journey that took 1000 miles, through three countries in East Africa. On this journey, we ate tree leaves and roots to survive, sleeping on the grass and drinking dirty water. We were attacked by wild animals which had eaten many young people among us, but God saved some of us to be witnesses of what took place in Sudan. Most importantly, in 1989, while at one of the camps in Dimma, Ethiopia, I gave my life to Christ. In my suffering as a child in civil wars in Sudan, I came to know Jesus better because He was right there with me. And I never felt abandoned by Him.”

Abraham has been studying at UCU as part of his Master of Divinity degree from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, where he will return after this year. He says, “I have enjoyed making friends there because Americans are so friendly. When I finish my studies, I hope to go back to Sudan and plant churches. I feel God has called me to mission work not only in Sudan, but also in other places around the world. I believe that the truth of the Gospel through missions is the only hope in the world and especially in Sudan. The people and the church of Sudan have a history of prolonged suffering. In the civil war, two million lives (mainly Christian) were lost and millions more forced to become refugees. The good news is that the Episcopal Church of the Sudan is committed to proclaiming the gospel and promoting reconciliation, justice and peace among themselves and even their enemies. For many years, the church is the only Sudanese voice heard clearly and consistently inside and outside Sudan. Christianity in Sudan is not easy, but the Gospel is our hope, not just for the forgiveness of sins but for the power of God available to help us live and endure with joy even as we have hardships in life”.

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Please help with a donation to the Theology Fund at UCU. Students like Abraham and Beatrice know that education is one major source of hope and will change the face of Africa with the life saving news of the Gospel. This is real mission ... helping one life at a time!

Beatrice Aber Graduates from Trinity

By **Peggy Noll**

UCU Alumna Beatrice Aber (Bachelor of Divinity '06) graduated on May 16 from Trinity School for Ministry in Ambridge, PA, earning a Master of Arts in Religion with research honors. In addition to her degree, Beatrice received the John Guest Award in Evangelism and Mission at the graduation ceremony at Trinity Cathedral in Pittsburgh.

Representing UCU in support of Beatrice were former residents at the University, Dr. Charles and Mrs. Rosanne Herman, who drove from Chicago to be present for the graduation. When they were at UCU, Beatrice escorted the Hermans to an Internally Displaced Camp in Kitgum, northern Uganda.

Beatrice’s thesis considered the question of true and false prophecy as found in Scripture (Deuteronomy 13, 15 and 18) in the light of the prophetic movement in Northern



Uganda beginning with Alice Lakwena, whose successor Joseph Kony has claimed that the spirits have told him to kill and mutilate thousands in that region.

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UCU ALUMNA Beatrice Aber receives her Masters hood at Trinity School for Ministry.



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10th Graduation at UCU

By Peggy Noll



Another beautiful day and orderly graduation brought ululations and spontaneous dancing from the 900 graduates and crowd of several thousand parents celebrating the tenth graduation ceremony on June 27.

The Guest of Honour on the occasion was the Very Rev. Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, an ordained Anglican, scholar of Islamic Studies, and International Director of Barnabas Aid and Barnabas Fund.

Dr. Sookhdeo, who had spoken earlier to a retreat for Church of Uganda bishops and wives, was impressed with the university, which he saw for the first time on the morning of graduation. In his address, he charged the graduating students to “Deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow Jesus” as they go out into the world and into the workplace.

He recounted a personal story from his first day of work as an engineering graduate when he put his Bible on his desk and was warned that it must go, or he would pay a price. He refused to move the Bible and was docked some pay but did not lose his job.

Flavia Amayo was the overall top student in her class with a 4.97 GPA. The overall top male and female graduates received awards from the Alumni Association of UCU to recognize their achievement.

Thirty-six students, 19 ladies and 17 men, earned First Class Honors degrees and received a special plaque of commendation from Stephen Noll, the Vice Chancellor. Steve initiated this award in his first term as Vice Chancellor to encourage academic achievement in the student body.

The pioneer class of the degree of Bachelor of Public Administration and Management, started three years ago at UCU, carried a banner to announce their presence. In addition, the first three Master of Divinity students graduated. The M. Div degree is open to those who already have a bachelor's degree in another subject and is aimed at preparing pastors.

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UPdates

Nolls' Tenth Anniversary

In late June, Steve and Peggy Noll marked ten years since their first visit to UCU. “We did not know what God was up to,” Steve comments, “but looking back, we give thanks for the opportunity He presented us.”

Doctor of Ministry Students Study On-site

In June 2008, five parish priests, four Ugandans and one Kenyan, spent the month in the USA at Trinity School for Ministry and visiting parishes as part of a TSM-UCU joint Doctor of Ministry course, focusing on Congregational Development. One year later, they spent another month at Mukono with a tag team of teachers, including Grant LeMarquand and Edison Kalengyo, on African Biblical Interpretation and Stephen Noll and Christopher Byaruhanga on Ecclesiology. One student, Patrick Kyalagonza, has become a bishop (Rwenzori Diocese) since the program began.

Note on the ACNA

In June, the Anglican Church in North America was formally constituted and was immediately recognized by the Church of Uganda. We at UCU appreciate the potential of the new Province, with its commitment to global mission and ministry. At the same time, we have many ongoing relationships with Episcopal (TEC) churches and individuals who have stood firm in the faith. We look forward to fruitful relations with both branches of the Anglican vine, as well as many from other non-Anglican branches.

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THE GUEST OF HONOUR at the 10th UCU Graducaton was the Very Rev. Dr. Patrick Sookhdeo, scholar of Islamic Studies, and International Director of Barnabas Aid and Barnabas Fund.

Library Campaign Report

By *The Rev. Dr. Malcolm Reid, Chairman
UCUP Library Campaign Steering Committee*



In the spring 2008 issue of Update, Vice-Chancellor Stephen Noll wrote a letter to the many wonderful supporters of Uganda Christian University that began with these words: "As I look ahead to the next two years, one vision above all catches my imagination: that of a new

University library." He went on to point out that the main need for the library was not shelf space for books but seat space for the 4000 students in any semester to study. He ended by saying that "a great university requires a great library. So let's build it."

A year later, after much hard work, we are close to having those fancy shovels in the ground. In recent months we have had presentations in Los Angeles, the North Shore of Boston, Virginia and Atlanta, with others planned. We began the campaign with 100% participation of the Uganda Christian University Board. Now, from churches, foundations, and especially many faithful Christians like you, from all corners of the US, we have raised \$475,000 toward the goal of \$750,000 by the end of this



PASTOR RICK WARREN meets with Archbishop Henry Orombi and Diane Stanton to discuss the new Library.

year. We are not unmindful of the economic downturn but we are more mindful of the way the people of God have been faithful and generous with their gifts.

We know too that we have a long way to go to reach our goal of \$1.5 million by the end of next year. Our indefatigable Director Mrs. Diane Stanton has written several grant proposals to foundations and requests to individual donors and we trust that they will respond generously.

I can think of no greater cause than the building of this library for the education of young Ugandan and other East African Christians with moral integrity for leadership in the Church and the nation.

We would be glad to visit your church, or with you individually, and tell the inspiring story of the rising and maturing of this great Christian university in the heart of Africa.

A great university deserves a great library. So, let's build it.

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Newsletter of Uganda Christian University Partners



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bulletin board.**

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The University Prayer

Almighty God, in whom we live
and move and have our being, make
this University a real community, and
may whatever is just, pure, lovable and
gracious abound here. Keep for the
University an unspoiled name; develop
it for wider usefulness; and may we
value it as an instrument for bringing
glory to your name: through Jesus
Christ our Lord. Amen.