

# Uganda Partners

“Thankful for your partnership in the Gospel from the first day until now.”

Philippians 1:3-5

Newsletter of Uganda Christian University Partners

Issue 11:1

Winter 2011

## Jesus Began, You Continue

**“Now a confirmed atheist, I’ve become convinced of the enormous contribution that Christian evangelism makes in Africa: sharply distinct from the work of secular NGOs, government projects and international aid efforts. These alone will not do. Education and training alone will not do. In Africa Christianity changes people’s hearts. It brings a spiritual transformation. The rebirth is real. The change is good.”**

*Matthew Parris, English Statesman, Journalist and agnostic.*

I have just changed jobs. This is my fourth position at Uganda Christian University. From September 1, I took over from Rev. Prof. Stephen Noll as the new Vice Chancellor.

The first two months have been turbulent and fast paced as I have never experienced before. My common quip has been “the higher you go the hotter it becomes.” Adrenalin will either keep you sleepless or it will make you restless. For me it has been a bit of both.

So what has sustained me through this time of stress? It is the conviction so well captured in the words of Matthew Parris, “Christianity changes people’s hearts,” and I should add it changes their lives.

Mr. Parris summarizes well my conviction in the viability of education as mission. The University setting affords us an opportunity to influence the leaders of tomorrow; and in many ways the leaders of our day. Uganda Christian University is blessed to attract students from most of the East and Central African countries, and from as far afield

as Nigeria in West Africa. Africa is on our doorstep; an investment for change into the future.

There are events that happen at Uganda Christian University whose impact on the life of a student will become evident long after they have left the institution. I am an example of how University Christian life shapes a student. It was at university that I gave my life to Christ and was nurtured into a leader.

Recently the University Chaplaincy conducted a University Mis-

sion at which sixty-nine students made their first time commitments, and one hundred seventy four recommitted their lives to Christ. Discipleship groups of not more than twelve each have been formed for their spiritual nurture, to establish them in the faith. What will they be in their future? We do not know. But they are not what they were.

Mark begins his Gospel with the words, “The beginning of the Gospel of Jesus Christ ...” (Mark 1.1). Jesus’ first act of mission was to choose the twelve. This guaranteed sustainability of His mission.

Continuity is sustainable only if it is regenerated. Therefore it must be planted in the young lives

– the next generation. That is precisely what our University education is all about. It passes on the baton of leadership to the next generation. Jesus began; you and I continue His mission.

*Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi  
Vice Chancellor*



**THE NEW VICE CHANCELLOR SAYS GOODBYE TO THE OLD.** *The Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi thanks Stephen and Peggy Noll for their friendship, faithfulness to the Lord, and ten years of service to Uganda Christian University.*

## Trustees Visit UCU Leaders

by Sam Young Garrett, UCUP Trustee



**UGANDA PARTNERS TRUSTEES VISIT UCU: Left to right, Perez Onvoit-Odeke (founder of Friends Helping Friends), UCU Financial Aid Director JoEllyn Fountain, UCU student body president Rodney Bamusede, Uganda Partners board chairman Sherman White and Erika Hanson.**

In August, Executive Director Diane Stanton returned to Uganda with a group of Uganda Partners trustees and donors, to meet with some remarkable students and administration leaders.

Stanton's team learned of a new student-driven program called Friends Helping Friends, led by Perez Onvoit-Odeke, who is himself a scholarship student. Friends Helping Friends encourages UCU students to donate what little they can toward an emergency fund for fellow students who lack the final funds needed to graduate -- in some cases, as little as \$50. Gathering hundreds of small donations, Friends Helping Friends has assisted 14 students so far.

The Board of Trustees also held its first-ever board meeting in Mukono, location of UCU's main campus. During their meeting the trustees were glad to hear the remarks of the Rev. Dr. John Senyonyi, UCU's newly selected Vice Chancellor. The Rev. Dr. Senyonyi has been active at UCU as Deputy Vice Chancellor and in several other capacities over the years, and will be officially installed into his new position on October 29, 2010.

In his remarks to the board, Dr. Senyonyi stressed the gratitude of UCU, its students and faculty for the support of Uganda Partners and its donors, and looked forward to many years of future partnership and cooperation. The Vice Chancellor also reviewed various projects for the greater development of UCU, including the Ham Mukasa Library under construction.

This trip to Uganda also afforded the opportunity to celebrate Dr. Stephen Noll's ten years of service as the preceding Vice Chancellor. Dr. Noll also addressed the board of trustees, affirming his pleasure at the Rev. Dr. Senyonyi's selection as the new Vice Chancellor.

In addition to the main campus at Mukono, the trustees also visited Bishop Barham University College in Kabale (southwest Uganda), and Uganda Martyrs Seminary in Namugongo (outside Kampala, Uganda's capital).

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Combined Federal Campaign #11888



# Uganda Partners

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"The Board of Trustees and Staff of Uganda Christian University Partners resolve to continue our support of Uganda Christian University with pleasure and as a privilege for the glory of God and as a fulfillment of our vision to help develop a *Center of Excellence in the Heart of Africa.*" -- As adopted by the Board



# Be doers of the word

Executive Director's Report:  
by Diane Stanton



*"Be doers of the word, and not bearers only, deceiving your selves" James 1:22*

What good is it to hear words that inspire you to want to take action, but do nothing about it?

Recently, I was asked to speak before a group of young women in Uganda. As I was considering what I could say that might be helpful in the context of their culture, I remembered some valuable words that my father said to me.

First, he told me to seek excellence in whatever I did: "always do your best." He instilled in me a strong work ethic and a desire to achieve. This reminds me of the verse from Deuteronomy 6:5 that states "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength". As Christians, we know that whatever we do should be for the glory and honor of God. We should pour ourselves into our work, our relationships and our desire to serve not just to "feel good" about ourselves, but out of our love for God.

Second, he told me not to say anything unless I had something good to say. Surely, we have all heard this advice at some time. But there is a deeper meaning here: Words matter! Jesus, the Word of God made flesh, did not fail to challenge the complacent or to encourage and strengthen the weak and needy. Not only are the words we speak important, but they can be the building blocks God uses to develop character and hope.

Finally, my Dad would say "make choices for good; choose the right way." Some wise man has said that the opposite of faith is not doubt – it is despair. It is giving up! In a world that is so beset by problems and fewer and fewer resources, we may think that our choices really won't make much of a difference. Giving up is a constant temptation. But nothing can be further from the truth. Paul would say, "Offer yourselves, your souls and bodies, as a living sacrifice unto God." (Rom 12:1) Everything we do, when dedicated to God, is an act of faith. It is an investment in God's future. And God is faithful! Our Father can take what we offer and multiply it in ways that will amaze us!

As Partners, your words and actions matter to us at UCUP. But more importantly, they matter to the many students that you support by

- providing education with a Christian worldview
- creating an environment that nurtures and deepens faith
- encouraging them through your care and interest in their lives
- being a living example that bears testimony to the risen Christ

Your love for these students is yet another way in which the Word becomes flesh.

Thank you for hearing their needs and doing something about it! We are grateful for your support!

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## My Hopes Rejuvenated

by Laura Corley, Scholarship Coordinator

*A university education remains a distant dream for many Ugandans as they face the barriers of poverty and despair. Your donation of a Uganda Partners scholarship removes these barriers and provides a qualified, deserving student with an opportunity to pursue an education. Daniel Omayya is someone who could only hope that his life might be better. Read his note below to see how God helped him to prosper!*

Dear Uganda Partners,

My name is Daniel Omayya, a beneficiary of a Uganda Partners award from September 2009. When I completed secondary school in 2005 amidst all hardships, I knew but never concluded that it was the end of my academic career. I had no way out to join any university; although my academic transcripts were good enough to enable me to access a degree course. I had to look for any kind of job to help me meet my needs. I succeeded and chose to save for school. I worked for two years, earning an average of \$70 a month. I tried to save, but each year that went by, I would see fee structures for different universities being hiked. I wondered if I could ever make it.

My sister urged me to apply for the university, though we did not have the fees to sustain me for a whole course. Some of my friends urged me to refrain from the idea of joining the university, unless I had money readily available for the three-year course! I was in a dilemma: what if I joined and failed to continue to the end, would I not regret the time and money that would have been spent? My sister Sophie cautioned me to pray and that if God would like to see me through, He will.

My hopes rejuvenated when I successfully qualified for the Uganda Partners award. I had the confidence that my academic career was being prospered by God! I cannot explain further how I felt. The scholarship is one essential thing that has helped me reach where I am! Many a times, I look back and wonder if I would have actually made it to where I am at the moment, without the supporting hands of Uganda Partners! I cannot imagine how you think – but one thing I should confess: your deeds impact lives. I am moved. The best thing I can do to pay you back is to support others in the near future. I pray that you receive my letter and treat it as a special gift of my heart to you – my sincere appreciation for your support! I cannot write out my heart, but rather, what my heart feels for you! May God Bless you!



Yours truly,  
Daniel Omayya

**Scholarship Opportunities:** *If you want to help a student like Daniel, we would be happy to help you select a student who would be grateful beyond words. All scholarship donations to Uganda Partners go directly to help the students and are tax-deductible! Thank you in advance for your help!*

*THE MISSION UGANDA TRIP this year was especially enjoyable with a great team including many UCUP Trustees and supporters, beautiful weather, an enhanced deluxe coach, interesting venues, and smooth traveling.*



The main focus for this trip was to participate in the farewell events for retiring Vice Chancellor Stephen Noll and his wife, Peggy. The event itself was held on August 21st at the Greenwood Academy (a private school) in Kampala and lasted nearly five hours. It was extremely well done with much ceremony, appropriate speeches, and a lovely buffet dinner.



*IT IS EXCITING TO SEE SOME OF THE ALUMNI FROM UCU using their educational skills at work in many different occupations throughout Uganda. We visited Sanyu Babies Home orphanage in Kampala where the Director and several of the staff are recent UCU grads.*



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Vice Chancellor Rev. Canon Dr. Stephen Noll





John Senyonyi and his wife, Ruth.



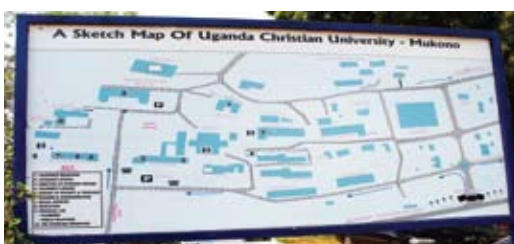
*THE NOLLS HOSTED A WELCOME DINNER upon our arrival at UCU on the beautiful grounds of their home. William (Bishop James and Diane Stanton's 10 year old grandson) enjoyed helping serve the beverages displaying a "missionary heart" already for Uganda!*



Peggy Noll enjoyed serving cake to the many honored guests. The cake was a lovely replica of the main Administration Building. Archbishop Henry Orombi looks on with delight.



*CHILDREN DANCING for the farewell event at Greenwood Academy in Kampala.*



*THE UCU MUKONO campus continues to grow to meet the needs of a growing university.*



# A Treasure of Great Value

by Megan Summers

*“I treasure the love here. It’s so beautiful to be loved.” Having never had a place she can truly call home, Brendah smiles and says of her friends here, “we are like a family... brothers and sisters.”*

Before coming to UCU, Brendah resided at a mission house. She couldn’t see any possibility of university level education, let alone a Christian education. She even met some girls at the mission house who spoke highly of UCU which piqued her interest, but she was sure the financial burden was too much.

However, God had a different plan. At the same time she was considering this, one of the Uganda Partners’ donors arrived at her mission house for their regular travel to Uganda. They graciously managed to help her acquire the means of attending UCU. Thankful and excited, Brendah began her first semester here with a major in Economics and Management, specifically Trade, Policy and Law. Now, two and a half years later, she is currently in her final year. She reflects that “this place has changed my passions to something I didn’t know I was interested in before.” She proudly says of UCU that it “is not like other universities, because the professors here have an academic integrity that forces me to work and study very hard.”

And Brendah’s experience here thus far has exemplified true engagement of the opportunities available. After an excellent performance in her first semester, Brendah was accepted into the Honors College program, became a Residential Assistant of her dormitory, consistently attends Fellowship and Bible study with her peers, and now actively serves in her local church as Warden. She is happy to admit that UCU has played a large part in developing her character and leadership skills.

Lindsay is an equally eager and motivated student who came to study abroad here through the Uganda Studies Program... an opportunity that she has been looking forward to for a very long time. Originally from a small rural town in Pennsylvania, Lindsay exhibits a passion for hometown and family that most people don’t ever come to know. With that kind of background, it may seem surprising that Lindsay would leave the familiarity of it all for an experience in Africa. Nevertheless, as a current Sophomore Elementary Education major, Lindsay knows that her choices do not reflect the normal responses of her other classmates. She has purposefully engaged in study, friendship and volunteer work as a means of enhancing her understanding of the world. She has a passion to take what she has learned (whether it be in the States or overseas again one day) and faithfully live it out. Most importantly, she says, “I’ve realized I can go anywhere



**BRENDAH AND LINDSAY** have more in common than first appearances might imply.

and find people of all types of backgrounds that I connect with.” Living in the same dormitory with Brendah, she recognizes how great it has been to meet friends that give her a new perspective on life.

At first glance, Brendah and Lindsay actually seem to have many more differences than similarities. Yet seeing them laugh and talk together, they obviously decided not to let these limitations stop them. They have embraced a level of friendship that widens their worldview and unpacks the meaning of being a part of the family in Christ. Although their paths might only cross for this short amount of time, the unique opportunity both these girls have been given at UCU will never be forgotten.

“I treasure the love here. It’s so beautiful to be loved.” Having never had a place she can truly call home, Brendah smiles and says of her friends here, “we are like a family...brothers and sisters.”

*This article was written by Uganda Studies Program intern Megan Summers, a 2007 Geneva College Graduate in Sociology. Megan’s hometown is Richardson, Texas.*

# Bite Size News

## Visit of the CAPA Bishops

The Church of Uganda hosted the Council of Anglican Provinces of Africa (CAPA) conference, August 24th-29th, 2010. It was attended by more than 400 delegates, most of whom were bishops. On August 28, the delegates were given an opportunity to tour interesting sites in Uganda. More than 80 of the bishops chose to spend the day at Uganda Christian University. They were treated to an excellent menu of interesting activities and information about the genesis, growth and success of the University to what it is today. Foreign primates and bishops who visited have continued to talk about what they saw and many have indicated they want to send their students – both theology and others - to Uganda Christian University. As a result at least three students from Nigeria have joined UCU for study.

## Graduations and Installation

One of the most exciting times in university life is to see young people graduate and be commissioned to go out into their various vocations. Two graduations have happened recently; one at the UCU constituent college called Bishop Barham University College (BBUC) on October 1, and another at Uganda Christian University on October 29th. Over 300 graduated from BBUC while more than 1200 graduated from Main Campus. The Guest of Honour at the latter was the Primate of the Church of the Province of Kenya, the Most Rev. Dr. Eliud Wabukhala.

At the latter graduation the Chancellor and Archbishop of the Church of Uganda also formally installed the new Vice Chancellor, Rev. Canon Dr. John Senyonyi. Thousands of friends and well-wishers turned up to witness the colourful ceremony.



**UCU PROFESSORS MURANGA AND NOLL at the Graduation and Installation.**



**NEWLY INSTALLED VICE CHANCELLOR SENYONYI awards the highest GPA certificate to a graduate.**

## The Lausanne Congress

Uganda Christian University was represented at the historic international Lausanne Congress for World Evangelisation, 2010 in Cape Town in October. The new Vice Chancellor attended it with his wife, and five other staff and students. The congress participants were over 4000. The UCU team who attended have vowed to bring to bear on the University the lessons learnt and the vision for evangelism caught while at Lausanne. They are working on a strategy for this.

## The University Mission

Each year Uganda Christian University conducts an evangelistic mission during the September semester. So the Lausanne delegates came back to practice the very thing they had been challenged to do in Cape Town! The result was 69 new conversions and 174 commitments including nine staff members. Among these were:

**Jeremy Akin** (USA Law student on internship in Uganda). He grew up in a Christian family but longed to know Christ personally. When he came to Uganda, he drifted even further away from God due to the more independent life he was living in Uganda. On the last day of the mission week he was moved by the message: "Experiencing absolute freedom". He prayed for God to show himself to him. To his surprise, he felt someone tapping his back; it was one of the counselors. He was further astonished when the preacher said that "you shouldn't hold back what you feel". At this point he believed that it was God's encouragement. He rose up and walked to the front.

**Viany Kyarimpa** is a Business Administration student from a Roman Catholic background. She had never had the opportunity to hear the Gospel clearly proclaimed. But when she heard the message of Jesus, the source of total freedom, she felt it was what she needed. She surrendered her life to Christ. She says that Jesus has now given her a new focus on the essentials, hope and peace and her parents are happy with the new direction of her life.



## The Chancellor's visit to the University

The Chancellor of Uganda Christian University, the Most Rev. Henry Luke Orombi, visited the University on November 12th and spent the whole morning interacting with the community. He met and interacted with student leaders, the University management team and then preached a moving sermon at the midday community worship service. In his sermon he gave parental counsel to the young people against the sinful lifestyle they often value to their detriment. Drawing from both his own testimony and from the scriptures he urged them to seek God. His 30-minute sermon left the congregation wanting more!

# Uganda Christian University Partners Proposed Budget 2011

## University Fund

Scholarship Support .....	\$213,000
Academic and Spiritual Support .....	\$15,000
Leadership Initiative .....	\$250,000
Infrastructure Initiative .....	\$1,250,000
Regional College Initiative .....	\$20,000
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$1,748,000</b>



## Multiplying Talents Fund

Salaries .....	\$84,000
Administration .....	\$44,100
Development .....	\$32,500
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$160,600</b>

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**Uganda Christian University Partners, PO Box 38333, Dallas, TX 75238 USA**

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*All donations are tax deductible. Bless you for your support!*

## UGANDA PARTNERS



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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.**