

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 9:1

Winter 2009

A Great Commission University

One Sunday early in September, I went to Sunday worship as usual at the University Chapel. The preacher was Dr. John Senyonyi and the topic was: “Created for a purpose: you are not an accident.” As is often the case, John’s sermon was compelling, by which I mean he concluded with a call to commitment. Over a dozen students came up onto the stage at the end to commit their lives to Christ.

What a way to start one’s college years!

Evangelism like this pops up spontaneously at UCU, but there are also scheduled events each semester. In September, we hold an eight-day all-University evangelistic mission. This October Archbishop Ben Kwashi of Nigeria was the missionary, and over the course of the week 174 students gave their lives to Christ.

The format is not only evangelistic. Last June Dr. Phineas Dube of Zimbabwe, who consults for the Haggai Institute, spoke to packed assemblies on principles of godly leadership. Dr. Dube is the ultimate wired evangelist. “Have Power Point, will travel,” could be his motto. Students love him. Missions like this are not just aimed at students. Dr. Dube addressed a special session for faculty members gathered in my garden on the topic, “Strategies for Mentoring Leaders”.

One annual event which sells out early is the Retreat on Relationships held at a local camp on Lake Victoria. In Uganda, “relationships” is the code word for romantic relationships. The theme



CHAPLAIN REBECCA NYEGENYE prays with students who responded to the Message.

for the retreat in September was, “Sexual Purity in an Immoral Generation.” Chaplain Frederick Baalwa reports: “About 60% of the participants responded to the call to abstain from sex till marriage.”

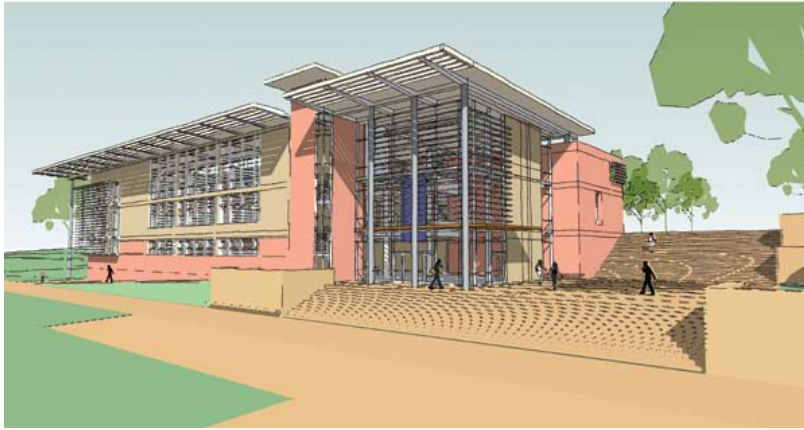
In February each year, UCU holds a “Missions and Ministry Conference,” where students are challenged to consider a call to the ordained ministry or the mission field. The need for educated clergy

is so great that UCU has offered “University Scholarships in Theology” for up to 100 candidates per year. Increasingly, we are seeing younger candidates coming forward. This is encouraging, because without good clergy, revival will not have a lasting impact.

We used to call Trinity in Ambridge a “Great Commission Seminary.” I think it fair to say that UCU is a “Great Commission University,” evangelizing and equipping young people for the work of ministry, according to Jesus’ command. The events described above are supported by a grant from the Encourage Foundation, solicited by Uganda Partners. It is one small way Uganda Partners is helping us to be a witness to Christ’s presence and power.

Stephen Noll
Vice Chancellor

UPdates from Diane Stanton



HAM MUKASA LIBRARY

• **USAID/ASHA** approved a second grant for the construction of the Library amounting to over \$1 million in assistance. This is great news! Watch for more news about the Library soon. In addition to the grant, our goal is to raise \$1.5 million over this next year.

• **We are pleased that the Rev. Richard Menees**, formerly of St. James, Newport Beach, CA has joined our team as a Development Consultant for the Library project. Fr. Richard has been a missionary to Zimbabwe and has been an active supporter of UCU for many years. Since he first left his native California, Richard's passion has been to combine his love of higher education with obedience to Christ's great commission to reach every people group with the good news.

He has taught at the seminary level in Zaire and Zimbabwe. With masters degrees in both divinity and missiology, Fr. Menees keenly appreciates the value of training leaders for Church and society.

• **Lord George Leonard Carey** (retired Archbishop of Canterbury) and his wife, Eileen, on their recent visit to Dallas as guest speaker at the "Bishop James Stanton Lecture Series" in honor of Stanton's 15th anniversary as Bishop. Honorarium was donated to UCU Theology Scholarship Program.



• **The 2009 Mission to Uganda** is being planned for next summer. This will be a 10-day trip leaving the USA on July 31st returning on August 13th. The approximate cost is \$3,500. If you would like to join us, contact me for more details. This is a great way to travel to Africa, see the UCU campus, meet the students and participate in mission activities!

UP

Uganda Partners

Newsletter of
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Encourage Yourself in the Lord

Executive Director's Report: by *Diane Stanton*



"But the Lord stood with me and He strengthened me, so that the message might be preached fully through me and that all the Gentiles might hear."

2 Timothy 4:17

Ann Judson was the first woman missionary to be sent out from the United States. She and her husband, Adoniram Judson, were missionaries to Burma back in the

1800's. Her experiences were beyond anything that most of us will ever have to experience in this lifetime! In her journals, she talks about how God was such a very real and present strength and encouragement in their troubles. In a letter to a friend she wrote: "our sorrows have caused us to weep and pour out our hearts in prayer to Him, whose direction we so much wish and need. We feel that we are alone in the world, with no real friends but each other; no one on whom we can depend but God."


After she and her husband wandered for one and a half years with no country that would allow her to preach the Gospel and many personal tragedies, she writes in her journal: "It seems as if there were no resting places for me on earth. Oh, when will my wanderings terminate? When shall I find some little spot that I can call my home while in this world? Yet I rejoice in all Thy dealings, O my Heavenly Father, for Thou didst support me under every trial and enable me to lean on Thee." *She strengthened and encouraged herself in the Lord.*

These are difficult days for many! We are all affected in direct and indirect ways and we don't know what the future holds right now. But we need not fear because God never fails. *We can be encouraged in the Lord for he is always faithful to us!*

In Uganda, life is a daily struggle for most just to survive! For Christians (about 80% of the population), their faith is visible and palpable for they have learned to rely on the Lord for everything. God is blessing them with hope for their future and education is one answer that will provide a way out of this cycle of poverty. *They are encouraged in the Lord!*

The great Bible commentator, Matthew Henry, states that "Those that have taken the Lord for their God may take encouragement from the relationship to Him in the worst of times. It is the duty of all godly people, whatever happens, *to encourage themselves in God as their Lord and their God*, assuring themselves that He can and He will bring light out of darkness, peace out of trouble and good out of evil to all that love Him and are called according to His purpose."

I hope reading the interview with UCU alumnus Roberts in this issue will encourage you, as it does me, that graduates of the university are not only in jobs where they can make a difference but that they value the education they receive at UCU and are proud of their university.

Thank you for being *encouragers* to so many young people in Uganda! And to us by your faithful support and prayers! 

UCUP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2009

SCHOLARS AND FRIENDS PROGRAM

Now in its eighth year, this program assists 60 or more Ugandan students at UCU in a given year. These students are chosen on the basis of academic performance during their first year, essays, and originating Anglican diocese. Sponsors pay \$950 for a Scholar for 2008-2009.

GLOBAL SOUTH LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIPS

The highest achieving secondary school students receive a tuition and fees scholarship for three years (four for Law). These students are part of an Honours College program at UCU.

UNIVERSITY DESIGNATED SCHOLARSHIPS

In some cases, individuals wish to support a student who is already known to them. Subject to particular rules, this may be possible by means of a "University Designated" scholarship. Standardized fees for all students make it easy for sponsors to help.

THEOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

In 2006, the Provincial Assembly of the Church of Uganda recognized the urgent need to train more clergy if the strength of the church is to be maintained or increase. This fund helps Anglican Theology students from each diocese in the Church of Uganda.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIPS (BNS PROGRAM)

The Bachelor of Nursing Science Program was launched in May 2006 and has recruited registered nurses to pass through a fast-track program to obtain their BNS. This program will help to meet the huge shortage of health care workers in Uganda.

GENERAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

This fund assists students who do not fall into other categories of Scholarship Programs but whose needs are great. One of the categories that this fund helps is Faith Scholarships given to students who have lost their US support for various reasons and would not be able to continue without this help.

For more information, contact:

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2008

A Year of Highlights



CHIEF TAX COLLECTOR, MRS. ALLEN KAGINA, head of the Revenue Authority, greets Chancellor Henry Orombi and other officials at October Graduation.



LIKE OTHER UNIVERSITIES AROUND THE GLOBE, organized and casual athletics make up a big part of campus life at UCU, for both participants and spectators.



SEMESTER-ABROAD STUDENTS in Uganda Studies Program lead Community Worship on November 24, 2008.

More Highlights from 2008



SCENES FROM THE MISSIONS. Bp. Zac Niringiye preaches on leadership (left), and students are disciplined after the session (right).



NEXT IN LINE. Vice Chancellor Noll follows the King of Buganda (Kabaka) to a cultural event on campus.



THE REV. CHRIS OCHALOI, a 2006 graduate in theology from UCU, bends over to wash his hands in the fresh water pumped by American visitor Martha Hoffman who visited the village in Soroti District in November. Chris, who received a Uganda Partners scholarship, is now a chaplain at St. Thomas Girls Secondary School, Church of Uganda, in Soroti Diocese. He partnered with Martha and Rotary Clubs and others to help get 5 wells installed in villages in his diocese. Clergy in Uganda do far more than preach and pastor, as they are often the resource people for development projects like this one. Of Chris, whom Martha met at his ordination, she said, "I was impressed with Chris when I met him two years ago. He was educated and intelligent, and I trusted him. It is a privilege to work with him."

See **Theology Scholarships**, page 3, to read how you could sponsor a current student in Theology at UCU.

Praise for His University

by Peggy Noll

“UCU has built a positive image out there. That’s a fact. I’ve recommended UCU to so many people. Professionals on interview panels are impressed by candidates with UCU degrees. They know they couldn’t have bribed their way to a grade but had to work for it,” reported UCU alumnus Nakibumba Roberts during a recent visit to Mukono.

Coming from the mouth of the Public Relations Officer for The Aids Support Organization (TASO), that endorsement means something. “Naki” Roberts, a pioneer graduate of the degree in Mass Communication at UCU, came in with Professor Noll in September 2000 and graduated in 2003. “I remember so many things Professor Noll said. He told our class he came in with us but we were leaving before he was. And the development that has taken place during his time as Vice Chancellor is truly amazing.”

When Roberts visited the Mukono campus on November, 20 he was impressed with the new dining hall, classroom blocks, residence halls, Principals’ Hall, and sports facilities. But he was particularly excited by the office of the *UCU Standard* campus newspaper, since as an undergraduate he had initiated and edited its predecessor, *The Anvil*, which was a positive experience even though only one issue was produced for lack of funds.

“When I was a student, we had dedicated and motivated instructors like Ben Bella (still head of the department). Our class was small, only 23 students, so they interacted with us and encouraged us. I wrote articles for *The New Vision* (one of the two Ugandan daily newspapers) even as a student and saw them published. So in that sense we got a practical and applicable education. On the negative side, we had no equipment—cameras, computers—and our curriculum was not streamlined. Clearly that has all changed for the better.”

“Two strengths of my education at UCU stand out and have helped me get to where I am at TASO: the hands-on chance to develop my writing skills, and the emphasis on integrity. The Christian values came through every time Professor Noll or Dr. John Senyonyi spoke to the students; they were expressed in the classroom with stories from Ben Bella about how to live rightly; and we got to know students studying theology who would talk with us. It was clear where UCU stood on values.”

Naki Roberts hopes to be a writer some day in his future. He knows he needs money to be self-reliant, but says, “I don’t want to work pegged on money. I want to offer a service with a passion. I have seen so much at The Aids Support Organization. Before I leave there, I would like to write about some of the things.”

“I tell people who ask me about universities that when they go to UCU, they will walk away at graduation with their transcript and certificate, with no hassle, the way I did. You can’t say that about most universities in Uganda. As my driver Christopher from TASO, whose son is a student at UCU, said on our way out to Mukono, “You can see where the money goes at the University: into the development of



UCU ALUM NAKIBUMBA ROBERTS shows TASO publicity to Mrs. Jemima Mutabaazi, Director of Nursing, UCU. TASO recently celebrated its 21st anniversary in Uganda. It is one of the largest and most well-respected AIDS support organizations in the country.

“The University represents a tremendous contribution to the whole country of Uganda.”

facilities. It is all going to build up the University and not into someone’s pockets.”

Roberts has no hesitancy in advocating for his alma mater: “Anyone out there who supports UCU, by giving a scholarship or helping with any of the projects, should know they are making a good investment,” he said. “The University represents a tremendous contribution to the whole country of Uganda.”

Roberts knows of one of his classmates now working at a radio station in Jinja, another at the daily paper *The Monitor*, and a third with bylines in *The New Vision*. But he is quick to point out that getting a job is not the only vindication for a university education. “I believe very strongly it is wrong to say that money is wasted when one gets an education even if one fails to get a job. An educated person has by far better opportunities in life than the other who has not had it. Investing in anyone’s education is one of the best things one can do in life. I know I will never regret my years at Uganda Christian University because of all that I learned inside and outside the classroom. And I enjoyed my time there as well!”

Ndizi News (Small, Sweet Bananas)

Save the Mothers Building Opens

UCU partnered with “Save the Mothers” (www.savethemothers.org) in Canada to build the Florence Mirembe Building, named after the Uganda medical researcher and patron of the Masters in Public Health Leadership degree at UCU. The building opened in September and includes offices and classrooms and 16 guest rooms, which are available off-session to other groups. The first visitors hosted were 38 bishops and scholars preparing a commentary on the Jerusalem Declaration of this past summer’s Global Anglican Future Conference.



MRS. JANET MUSEVENI, MP and wife of the President, and VC Noll, converse at the opening of the Florence Mirembe Building.

True Religion: To Visit the Widows

In November, the Vice Chancellor launched a UCU Chapter of the “International Justice Mission,” one of four in Africa (www.ijm.org). The chapter will investigate cases of widow’s property being illegally confiscated by relatives. “Be doers of the Word, not hearers only,” Prof. Noll urged the students who gathered for the meeting. Mrs. Sarah Taboswa, one of Uganda Partners’ first “Scholars and Friends” recipients, is the faculty advisor.

Science Labs under Way

UCU began several new science-based courses this year, one being “Agricultural Science with Entrepreneurship.” To support the science emphasis, Abp. Orombi broke ground for a new science lab. To be completed in mid-2009, the labs are being equipped in part by donations from Uganda Partners.

Stephen Noll receives Honorary Doctorate

Stephen Noll became a “double doctor,” receiving a Doctor of Divinity degree from Nashotah House seminary in Wisconsin. He preached at the ceremony from St. Jude on the theme of “contending for the faith once for all delivered to the saints.” By coincidence, the day was also the remembrance in the U.S. calendar of Bishop Hannington and the Uganda Martyrs.



PEGGY AND STEPHEN NOLL, at Nashotah House Seminary.



Graduations Galore!

UCU now has four graduation ceremonies a year (one at Bishop Barham College in Kabale). This year the Guests of Honour included Abp. Mouneer Anis of Egypt, Mme. Allen Kagina, head of the Uganda Revenue Authority, and Justice James Ogoola, Principal Judge of the High Court. Many have complimented organizers for keeping time and getting diplomas to graduates on the same day (some other universities take six months to a year to do so).

Uganda Christian University Partners Proposed Budget 2009

University Fund

Scholarship Support	\$357,700
Academic and Spiritual Support	\$65,000
Leadership Initiative	\$350,000
Infrastructure Initiative	\$1,940,000
Total.....	\$2,712,700

Multiplying Talents Fund

Salaries	\$80,000
Administration	\$46,500
Development	\$52,700
Total.....	\$179,200



Steve and Peggy Noll are missionaries with Global Teams (www.global-teams.org). To support them, contact; Global Teams 212 21st Street, Suite 2 Bakersfield, CA 93301 (Phone) 661-323-1214

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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.**