

SUMMER 25/26

PRAYER ALERT

STORIES OF TRANSFORMATION

**BIBLICAL
GENEROSITY**

Catalytic training in Kenya

**FROM RESISTANCE
TO ADVOCACY**

Building tech capacity
in Sri Lanka

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

Student reflections from Vietnam



INTRODUCING REV DR RONALD LAL DINSUAH



INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER MARCH 2026

The strength and endurance of the Christian community in Myanmar have been particularly tested since the military coup of 2021. With civil conflict continuing unabated, and infrastructure still recovering from the a devastating earthquake earlier this year, the whole society is experiencing extreme tension.

The urgency of sharing the hope of Christ is deeply felt by the Bible college community at Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST). Rev Dr Ronald Lal Dinsuah and his team are determined to train the next generation of capable Christian leaders for their nation amidst the extreme unrest.

Ronald is the principal of MEGST, one of our key partner Bible colleges in Asia. MEGST is an interdenominational college which operates for the whole body of Evangelical Christians, regardless of denominational background or ethnicity. Their vision is to train leaders who will be committed to the people of Myanmar, ready to reach the unreached and competent to impact society.

RONALD WILL BE VISITING AUSTRALIA AND SPEAKING WITH LOCAL LEADERS SUPPORTERS FROM 16 – 31 MARCH 2026. You will be inspired by his stories of perseverance and how the grace of God is impacting the nation. Stay tuned for dates that Ronald will meet with small groups in your area.

“Challenges are ahead, so we need your prayers and support more than ever. Thank you for standing firm and tall for us for nearly three decades. We are all amazed by God’s miraculous work in and through MEGST to serve our nation, which has been possible through your faithful and generous service.

Praise be to God!

- Rev Dr Ronald Lal Dinsuah

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, please prepare the way for Ronald to visit with us in March next year. May all the arrangements come together smoothly, and your hand be upon him and his team as he gets ready for the trip. Please prepare your people in Australia to hear about the challenges the church faces in Myanmar and the goodness of God in raising up leaders in such a turbulent time. We pray for believers in Myanmar, that you would strengthen them with faith, love and perseverance. Amen.

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COVER

Students praying at Phnom Penh Bible College in Cambodia.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TRANSFORMATION IS THE REAL GOAL

As is normal, when I meet people they ask what I do. My response depends a bit on who it is that is asking.

Sometimes I say: "I fly around Australia asking people for money, and then I fly around the world giving it away." They usually laugh and say it sounds like a great job!

Sometimes I say: "We support the training of leaders all over the world for the church and society."

Sometimes I say: "Local Leaders exists to transform leaders, churches and nations." That's one of the tag lines we use on our advertising.

Transformation is the real goal.

This edition of Prayer Alert is about transformation. We have stories of transformation at many levels: of people studying for ministry; of lecturers who have changed their teaching, and; of pastors who have changed their church. Changed churches impact the societies that they are in. That is part of the goodness of Christ – he brings about transformation which he describes as 'life to the full'.

We hope that as you read you will be encouraged, and be prayerful to the God who changes us, and others, and the world.

Thanks to Kerryn Baird, Sydney Director

After two years as Sydney Director Kerryn has felt the pressures of her other responsibilities and decided to finish up with Local Leaders. Kerryn has been a lovely member of the team, and we are sorry to be losing her. She still loves the ministry, and we are already looking at ways to keep her involved as a volunteer.

At the time of publication, we were in the process of interviewing for a new Sydney Director.



Rev Dr Stuart Brooking
Executive Director

Pastors and leaders attending Generosity Gospel training in Mombasa, Kenya, August 2025.



PLEASE PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the transformation that your word brings to our lives. We praise you for the students, lecturers and pastors who tell their stories in this edition of Prayer Alert. Bless each one as they seek to know you better and teach people with grace and truth. Lord, we also thank you for Kerryn Baird and her work as Sydney Director over the last two years. Please bless her and her family as they move into a new season and help the Local Leaders team to bring the right person on board as the new Sydney Director. Amen.

WE GIVE THANKS

“Since you call on a Father who judges each person’s work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear.” 1 Peter 1:17

Peter nails it – the attitude of a believer who knows the judge of all the earth is our Father. It gives us a different understanding of this world and this age – we are foreigners. The things of earth will grow strangely dim...

Thanks for LOGS funding – our five year strategy to help hundreds of colleges do effective online education will conclude in mid-2026. This quarter we received the last grant of \$900,000 from our key donor, making a total of \$6.8 million for the project as well as funds from other donors taking us over the \$7 million mark.

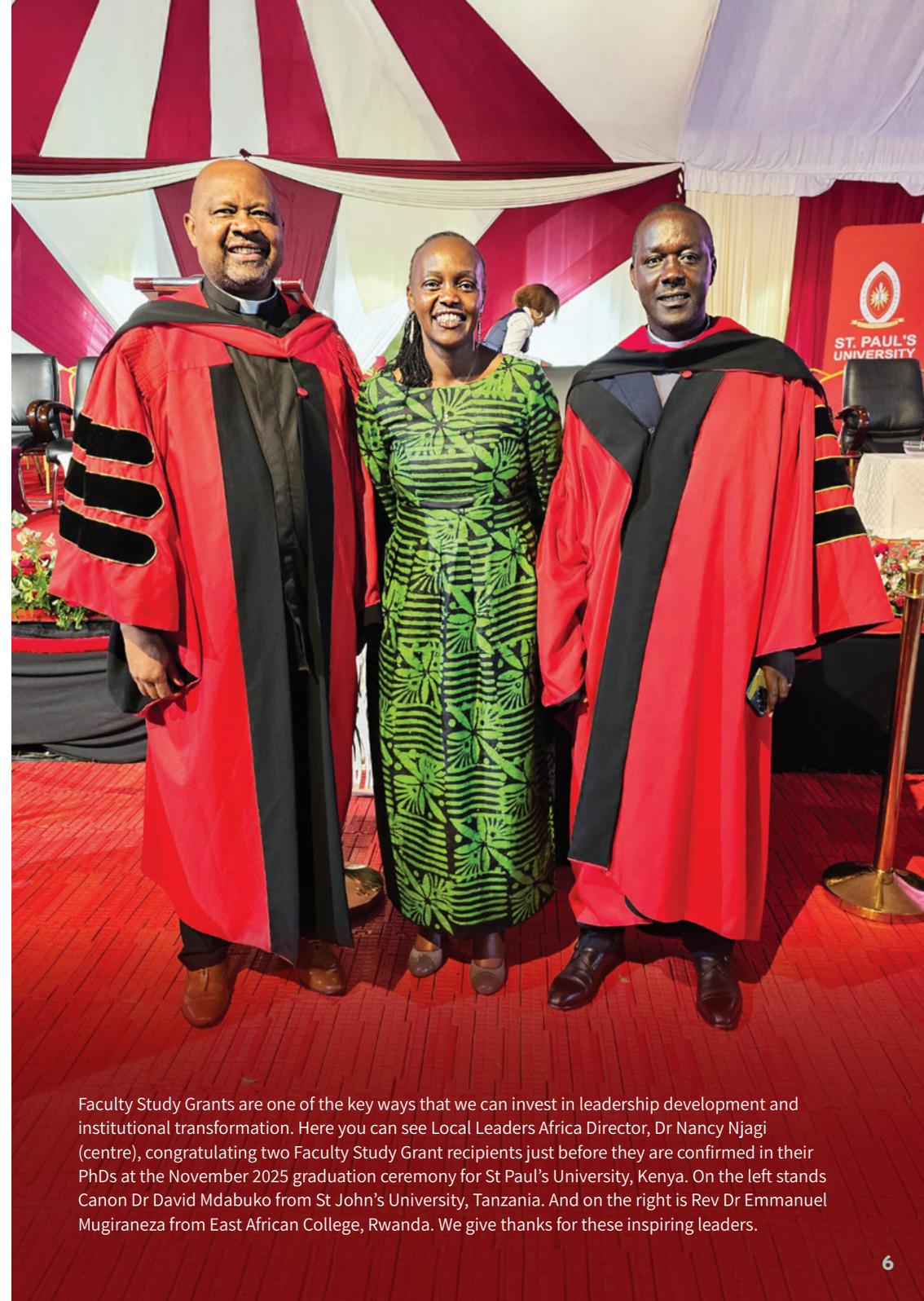
We are grateful to those who know themselves to be foreigners in this world. We are grateful that God has raised up such generous people and that he has helped Local Leaders to fulfil the expectation we had of the strategy. We have trained 3,000 faculty members in how to teach online courses and have seen 17,000 extra students studying online because of the tech provided and training given.

Thanks for bequests – in the last couple of years we have received three major bequests. The funds have been allocated between student sponsorships and faculty study grants. We take care about the interest of the donors so that we match their interests with the use of the bequest funds. Our practice recently has been to give the funds to recipients over a period of three or four years. This allows us to begin supporting students, or faculty members as they do their studies, and to see them through to graduation.

Thanks for risk-taking investors in the kingdom – We recently had one of our major supporters wind up his support to Local Leaders (and other organisations) because he has given nearly all his foundation funds away. One key element of his contribution was to help us start new strategies. Over thirteen years he worked to understand what we were doing with our Pasifika Strategy, Africa Mile Deep Strategy and others. He liked to help us get started! This risk-taking generosity has been an enormous help as we’ve sought to pave a new path before we have been able to ‘prove the case.’ Those of you who have followed the growth of Local Leaders will know that many of our strategies have become well embedded and we see the decades long return on these investments for the Kingdom of God.

PLEASE PRAY

Glorious God, thank you for the impact that the LOGS project has had around the world. Please bless the thousands of faculty members and students who have been impacted by this strategy. We also thank you for the generous bequests that have allowed Local Leaders to support extra students and faculty members as they upskill. And we thank you for the investors who have seen the vision and helped Local Leaders get started with key strategies over the years. Every contribution, big or small, makes a difference in equipping leaders for ministry around the world. We glorify you for the generosity of your people. Amen.



Faculty Study Grants are one of the key ways that we can invest in leadership development and institutional transformation. Here you can see Local Leaders Africa Director, Dr Nancy Njagi (centre), congratulating two Faculty Study Grant recipients just before they are confirmed in their PhDs at the November 2025 graduation ceremony for St Paul’s University, Kenya. On the left stands Canon Dr David Mdabuko from St John’s University, Tanzania. And on the right is Rev Dr Emmanuel Mugiraneza from East African College, Rwanda. We give thanks for these inspiring leaders.

TRANSFORMATION OF OUR OWN HEARTS

Rev Dr Stuart Brooking, Executive Director, Local Leaders International, Australia

The Bible uses several key metaphors for how God works in our lives.

Transformation is the idea that flows from the experience of Jesus on the mountain when his form changed. We usually call it 'The Transfiguration'. So many ideas are caught up in those short verses in the gospels. One key idea is that it shows who Jesus really is. It gives a heavenly perspective and hence the words of the Father from heaven that day. He leaves us very clear what the relationship is between the Father and the Son.

The idea of transfiguration is closely linked to Jesus' resurrection. The former is a glimpse of the latter. Furthermore, it points to his reigning over all the creation, and it reinforces that we should 'listen to him', just as the Father said.

That each one of us can change is a profound thing. It is a corrective to our anxiety over being stuck in sin and all its deathly outworkings.

PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, you have transformed our hearts and continue to take us on a journey of transformation. Thank you for the stories of change that we see in this edition of prayer alert. Please inspire us and make our hearts open to your voice as you call us to constantly evaluate our mindsets and rely on you. Amen.

That we can believe others can change is sometimes a challenge. It calls out our cynicism which may cut slack for ourselves, but not believe change is possible for others.

That we have the promise that the world will change is a comfort. It speaks to our despair of this world.

When we get glimpses of transformation, such as this Prayer Alert offers, it invites us to consider more. Each story will prompt us to think again about our anxiety, or cynicism, or despair. I invite you to let the stories help you to build the mindset of transformation – that it is normal.

Contrary to the world's view, resurrection is a thing to be expected not scoffed at as naïve. We know this because of the transfiguration of Christ, and his resurrection, and because of our own transformation of heart.

For all these things we praise the Lord.



Transforming hearts. A worship service in the chapel at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon.

CONFIDENCE TO SHARE HIS WORD

Giàng, student at Hanoi Bible College, Vietnam

I give thanks to God for His calling and for the blessings He has granted me - the opportunity to study His word and be equipped with the skills needed to serve in His work in the future. My name is Giàng and I am doing my third year at Hanoi Bible College.

During my two years at the college, under the teaching and guidance of pastors and professors, my life has been transformed. I have experienced God's love more deeply through His word. Many questions and doubts I once struggled with have now been answered. The last six months really touched my heart. The courses of study have strengthened my faith, deepened my understanding, and drawn me closer to the Lord. Because of this closeness, I have learned to trust Him fully with my life.

Before, I was afraid to share the gospel with others. Even when I wanted to, I did not know where to begin. Speaking about Christ in front of people filled me with fear, but through my training at Hanoi Bible College, I have been equipped with skills in public speaking, evangelism, and theology.



Local Leaders Board Chairman, David Brown, meeting with the principal and faculty members from Hanoi Bible College in September 2025.

This past summer, when I returned home, I was able to witness about Christ to those who do not yet know Him and to people who wanted to learn more about Him. I am no longer afraid to testify about the Lord or to stand before many people to share His word. I am truly grateful for the power of God's love that has changed my life.

Finally, I want to sincerely thank my sponsor for their faithful support and prayers for us students at Hanoi Bible College. I humbly ask that you continue to remember me and my fellow students in your prayers, so that we may persevere in our studies, remain faithful, and become useful instruments in serving in God's work. May we also have opportunities to bring Christ's love to those who have not yet heard of Him, so that His name will be glorified and many will be saved into His kingdom. Thank you so much!

PLEASE PRAY

Father, we love how your word transforms us and brings us into greater knowledge of you. Thank you that Giàng has learned to trust you fully with his life. Thank you that you have helped him to be confident in sharing the gospel and witnessing to people who do not yet know you. Please encourage him as he continues to study at Hanoi Bible College. May all the students persevere in their studies, remain faithful and become useful instruments to serve you and glorify your name. Amen.



MINDSET TRANSFORMED

Pastor Mark Kevogo, Pentecostal Assemblies of God, Kawangware, Kenya

I was so fed up with my church that I was on the verge of giving up! What troubled me most was seeing children playing outside, with no one to teach them the Word of God. There were no proper rooms for the children's ministry. For a long time, the church continued to rent office space, even though we had buildings under construction that were already halfway complete. I felt the church should be a place of purpose and growth.

Whenever I tried to intervene, I was met with rejection time and again (from the senior leader). There were no financial records or accountability. It was disheartening.

Then, I was offered an opportunity to attend the 'Generosity Africa' workshop at the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Kawangware in February 2025.

My mindset was completely transformed! I came to understand that I am the change I desire to see in the body of Christ, and that, by God's grace, He can help me fulfill that calling. The workshop, funded by Local Leaders International, ignited a renewed passion in me to rise up and put my faith into action.

Armed with the knowledge I had gained on leadership, resource mobilisation, and unwavering faith in God, I knew I was equipped to make a lasting difference.

After the workshop, I resumed normal ministry, choosing to trust God to lead me in where and how to serve. To my surprise, a new senior leader was put in place - a sign to me that my faith was already beginning to bear fruit. I kept referring to the teachings from the workshop for encouragement, and over time, I became firmly rooted in the Word of God.

One Thursday, I visited the senior pastor and asked for permission to raise funds from the congregation for the completion of our church offices. By March 2025, we had successfully raised KES 420,000. As a board, we sat down and carefully budgeted the funds. The following projects were completed:

- Plastered two offices
- Fully tiled both offices
- Painted the two offices
- Constructed an additional floor with four rental units

Today, we no longer rent office space. Our children's ministry now has a dedicated room where they are taught the Word of God every Sunday. Every financial contribution to the church is now deposited in the bank, and no expense is made without a well-analysed, board-approved budget. Seeing the church grow in this way brings me deep fulfillment.

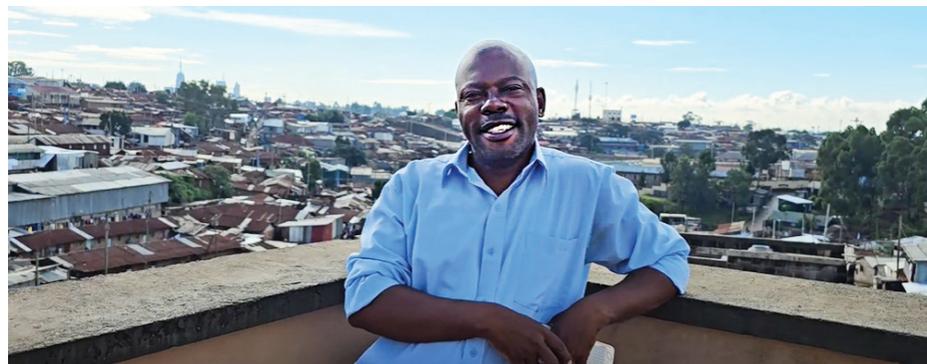
After completing the office renovations, we met again - this time with the youth department - and organised a fundraising initiative for a revival during the Easter holidays. We raised KES 120,000, which enabled us to hold a successful three-day revival weekend. This event gave us a powerful platform to evangelise to the youth and the surrounding community.

The 'Generosity Africa' training helped me grow deeper in the Word of God and gave me a renewed sense of focus. I have been able to put much of what I learned into practice, and this has also enabled me to reach out to young people - some of whom were struggling with drug addiction and other destructive behaviours - and lead them to Christ.

We have now adopted approximately 124 youth from the surrounding community. This group includes both teenagers under 17 and young adults over 18 years old. Together, they have formed a football club. We've already supported them with footballs and a first aid kit, and we are currently working on how to provide them with football jerseys.

Each week, I make time - together with the senior pastor - to meet with them, pray, and share the Word of God.

The 'Generosity Africa' workshop has been of great impact to our church and the community as a whole.



Top: Mark on the roof of the Tafakari Centre in Kibera near Nairobi, Kenya, 2025.

Bottom: The senior pastor of Mark's church meeting with some of the adopted youth from their community.

PLEASE PRAY

Gracious God, we love to hear Mark's story about transformation from discouragement to renewed passion. Thank you for the Generosity Africa training he received and the impact that it has had on his mindset and actions. It is a joy to hear that well-structured accounting and fundraising practises have been put in place at his church. Thank you for the way this training has transformed Mark's church and impacted the wider community. Please continue to inspire and encourage him in his ministry. Amen.

FROM CRISIS TO KAIROS

Dr Jaison Thomas, Theological Education Consultant for South Asia, Mesa Global

In 2018, Mesa Global (known as Overseas Council USA at the time) discerned a prophetic stirring and identified “Online Learning in Theological Education” as the theme for its Institute for Excellence - an idea initially met with deep scepticism. Many leading seminaries in South Asia resisted the concept, fearing that digital delivery would weaken the spiritual vitality, theological depth, and personal mentoring central to ministry formation. Accrediting bodies, too, questioned whether academic integrity and quality could be sustained in a virtual environment. I must admit that I was sceptical at the time and did not see the value in online education.

Then came the pandemic! COVID-19 and its sweeping lockdowns dismantled traditional systems overnight. Classrooms stood empty, campuses silent, and digital platforms became the only spaces where learning could continue. What had been dismissed as impractical suddenly became indispensable. Accrediting agencies urged seminaries to “jumpstart” emergency remote learning, while faculty and administrators struggled to preserve the essence of formation amid disruption.

In this moment of disorder, Local Online: a Global Strategy (LOGS) emerged as a divinely orchestrated intervention. Like a lifeboat tossed into a storm, it brought direction and stability—strengthening institutional **Capacity**, enhancing faculty **Competency**, and developing contextually relevant **Content** for the digital era. What began as a survival strategy soon matured into a movement of transformation.



South Asia - comprising India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka—is home to 1.68 billion people and over two thousand unreached people groups. Despite persecution, social barriers, and linguistic divides, the Church continues to grow at a pace that defies prediction. Opposition has only deepened discipleship, unity, and missional creativity. The region’s Christian youth, restless for purpose and open to change, are responding to the gospel with renewed faith and vigour.

Yet this vibrant growth poses a profound question: who will shepherd the expanding Church? Without biblically grounded and contextually sensitive leaders, the Church’s future vitality is at risk.

Here, online and hybrid learning have evolved beyond methodology into a movement. LOGS has opened new horizons for leadership development—bridging the urban and rural, the academic and grassroots, and uniting learners across languages, denominations, and cultures.

Today, resistance has faded. Nearly 90% of South Asian seminaries now embrace digital education. In partnership with the Asia Theological Association–India, Local Leaders International has invested significantly in training educators in digital pedagogy. Through LOGS, 6,371 leaders across seventeen seminaries and sixty-eight satellite centres (partnering with Mesa Global) are being equipped from diploma to doctoral levels, alongside hundreds more directly connected to LOGS.

The long-held pessimism concerning online training has transitioned into a critical and irreversible Kairos opportunity. LOGS stands as a living testament to God’s transforming grace, raising Spirit-formed, digitally skilled, and missionally vibrant leaders. These pioneers are bringing radical transformation to families, churches, villages, and nations across South Asia.



Left: Students accessing online content at Mount Zion Bible Seminary, India.



Right: The investment from LOGS has enabled colleges throughout South Asia to set up video recording studios and smart classrooms, allowing training to reach even more students online.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, thank you for the way that you prepared Mesa Global and their partners for the move to online education during the pandemic. And, as a result, thank you for building Jaison’s passion for online tools, platforms and delivery methods. God, please continue to help Jaison and the colleges he works with in South Asia to train biblically grounded and contextually sensitive leaders for the local church. May Jaison and his colleagues continue to use online education as an effective tool for expanding ministry and training in South Asia. Amen.

PINCHING MYSELF AT GOD'S GRACE

Paballo Tsoeu, student at Johannesburg Bible College, South Africa

I truly believe our first ministry starts with family. When I started studying at Johannesburg Bible College (JBC), my relationship with my family was very unhealthy. I am the only believer in my family, as such, getting along peacefully with them has been quite a challenge.

However, being exposed to God's word on a deeper level taught me to open my heart to forgiving my parents, no matter how much they hurt me. I have also hurt them a lot, yet they have never given up on me. JBC taught me accountability. My first call as a Christian is to honour them. My relationship with them is not perfect, but it has improved because I have changed as a person. Thanks to the teaching of the word at JBC.

Over and above that, the Lord has entrusted a ministry on WhatsApp to me. There are 67 members in the group currently, whom I have the pleasure and honour of sharing devotions with each morning. Studying at JBC has helped me be true to the word of God by handling it correctly and teaching it not only in truth, but in love as well. Members are growing closer to Christ and many have gotten saved through that platform. It is humbling to experience.

I also serve mainly as an intercessor, and sometimes as a counsellor, within my church through a Support and Recovery Program, and I serve my community as well. The modules I've studied have really helped me apply more of God's word in my counselling sessions, and I have become a witness to amazing testimonies. As I get to experience God transforming hearts that were hardened towards Him, to men and women who honour Him as they heal

from depression and unforgiveness through counselling that is Bible based, I have also personally grown in the area of building relationships and living at peace with others. I really struggled and am still growing in this area.

Finally, I strongly believe my life is now a ministry on its own. I used to worship idols (ancestors) and lived with depression for years. JBC has really extended a platform where I can now take accountability for my new lifestyle in Christ, and it has truly helped me know how to live as a person who has officially been delivered from depression. I pinch myself daily to check if I am awake and not dreaming as I get to enjoy a life free from depression and the bondage of idol worship, and a life without works.

I am grateful to God, my sponsors, JBC, all associates of JBC, my church and my family, so that through them I get to know how it feels to walk in the destiny God has always had for me.



The things that have touched my mind and heart this term are:

- How selfless JBC staff are in serving us as students, even though we sometimes hurt them.
- Growing in Christ daily through the truthful teaching I am exposed to daily at JBC. My life is no longer the same - ***I mean it!***
- Being able to actively work towards healthier relationships because of the gentle rebuke through God's word, support I receive from staff, classmates and friends who I now call brothers, sisters, mums and dads. ***I am grateful!***
- How I am growing as an evangelist through modules like Books of the Bible, Faith To Live By, Spiritual Formation, Biblical Counselling and Preaching Workshop. ***I love it!***
- I am more gentle and less condemning as a teacher of the word. I also extend grace to self, because I know about Christ's grace in my life.
- The evidence of my spiritual growth in how I serve at school, church, family, friendships and amongst society. ***What a privilege it is to be part of JBC.***



Growing in Christ daily. A chapel service at Johannesburg Bible College.

PLEASE PRAY

God, we are so grateful that you help us to restore broken relationships when there has been conflict. Thank you that, because of you, Paballo is rebuilding her relationships within her family. Lord, we also thank you for her ministry and that she is impacting many people with your message. Please help her to see even more men and women come to know you as they heal and learn to forgive. Thank you for Paballo's own healing and the way JBC has supported her in her spiritual growth and formation. Please bless the college as it trains many leaders for the church in South Africa and across the continent. Amen.

THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION MUST BE FORMATIVE

Dr Joshua George, Academic Dean, South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies, India

Theological education can sometimes feel caught between two worlds: the academic “ivory tower” and the practical, everyday needs of the church. As a faculty member in a theological institution, I have often wrestled with this tension. We are called to equip leaders with deep theological knowledge, supported by a diverse array of arguments; but we are also called to shape hearts and hands for ministry. At the South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS), we have long held that our highest calling is not merely to transfer knowledge, but to create an environment where students are holistically shaped for their calling.

This commitment to formative education—shaping the whole person, not just the mind—has always been our foundation. But how do we continue to champion this vision effectively?

This question was at the forefront of my mind when I received the Local Leaders International Faculty Study Grant to pursue my PhD at Malyon College in Brisbane. The grant was, on one level, an opportunity to engage with a subject area, Practical Theology, not yet widely offered in India. But the true transformation began when I interacted on a personal basis with my supervisor, Dr Ian Hussey. A professor who was not just a brilliant academic, but was an active, seasoned ministry practitioner. He embodied the bridge between rigorous scholarship and a seasoned, yet warm

pastoral heart. Like him, other faculty members I encountered demonstrated that academic depth and practical wisdom were not competing forces but deeply integrated partners.

This experience crystallised a purpose that has defined my work ever since: theological education must be formative, not just informative.

I was able to be part of a seminary in the opposite hemisphere that also considered their calling to not merely transfer knowledge but to create an environment where students are holistically shaped—spiritually, intellectually, and personally.

Recently, I was appointed as the Academic Dean of SAIACS. The grant from Local Leaders did not just give me a degree; it gave me the clarity and tools to champion the formative vision of SAIACS in a new way. I now have the privilege of helping to continue and deepen this commitment, ensuring our academic environment emphasises the transformation of the whole person.

Your support of Local Leaders is an investment that multiplies. It did more than fund one person’s education; it confirmed and equipped a vision for transformative education that is now being emphasised in new ways in Bangalore, shaping the next generation of leaders for the church in South Asia and beyond.



Top: Dr G. John Daniel (Head of the Department of Inter-cultural Studies and History) inducting Joshua (right) as the Academic Dean of SAIACS in August 2025.

Bottom: Faculty and students at SAIACS beginning the new academic year in June 2025.

PLEASE PRAY

What a blessing biblical mentors and teachers are to our lives, Lord. Thank you for Joshua’s experience with Dr. Ian Hussey and the profound impact his mentorship had on Joshua’s approach to training. Please bless the students at SAIACS; may they be shaped spiritually, intellectually and personally under the leadership of Joshua and the whole faculty team at the college. We thank you for the impact that the Local Leaders Faculty Study Grant had on Joshua’s life, and we pray that it would similarly impact all the faculty members around the world who are currently being supported to complete their Masters or PhDs. Amen.

SHAPED BY A LIFE-CHANGING, HOLISTIC INSTITUTION

Sulakshana Matthew, Student at Lanka Bible College and Seminary, Sri Lanka

Before I entered Lanka Bible College, I experienced a season of earnest prayer and fasting, seeking God's direction for my future. I reached out to many pastors and church ministers, asking for assistance to pursue theological education, but I faced obstacles and no immediate help was available. During that time, I had no funds to pay for college fees, and I felt overwhelmed by the uncertainty of my future. Yet, I remained steadfast in faith, trusting that God would make a way, and indeed, He did.

Through His divine intervention and your generous donations, I was given the opportunity to pursue my calling. Your contributions have gone beyond merely helping me academically - they have nurtured my spiritual growth and strengthened my faith. When I first came to Lanka Bible College, I had only a modest understanding of the Bible, but through dedicated teaching, mentorship, and personal study, I have grown immensely in my knowledge of God's word.

My time at Lanka Bible College has been a transformative experience - an opportunity not only for academic learning, but also for personal development. I have gained valuable leadership skills and practical ministry experience by participating in various outreach activities across Sri Lanka. These include preaching the gospel in different villages, translating biblical materials, counselling families, holding house meetings, and conducting leadership

training seminars. These opportunities have allowed me to serve others and share the love of Christ beyond the classroom.

Throughout this journey, I have felt God's calling more profoundly in my heart. I am passionate about reaching the broken-hearted, bringing healing to the hurting, and sharing the gospel of truth in a world filled with deception and falsehood. As Psalm 147:3 reminds us, "He heals the broken-hearted and binds up their wounds." It is my desire to be an instrument of His healing and hope. I believe that the gospel has the power to transform lives, and I am committed to proclaiming it with clarity, compassion, and conviction.

Looking towards the future, I am prayerfully preparing to continue my theological education by pursuing a Bachelor of Theology (B.Th). My desire is to grow even deeper in the word of God, equipping myself to teach, preach, and serve with greater effectiveness and integrity. I am convinced that the more I know Him, the more I will be able to impact others positively, sharing the love and truth of Christ in both local and global contexts.



Sulakshana (right) with other students in class

I also want to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt appreciation for several individuals at Lanka Bible College who have profoundly impacted my spiritual journey. First, I thank our college principal, who has been more than a mentor - he has been like a father to me. His guidance and mentorship helped me overcome personal struggles such as anger, overthinking, and insecurity. His biblical counsel and prayerful support have drawn me closer to God and helped me become a stronger person in faith. I am grateful for his wisdom and fatherly care.

Secondly, I want to thank Pastor Hermen, our college vice-principal and my growth group leader. His life experiences, wisdom, and gentle teaching have been instrumental in my spiritual growth. He exemplifies what it means to live out the gospel daily, and I have learned so much from his example. His mentorship has helped me better understand the importance of humility, service, and integrity in ministry.

I am also grateful for Lanka Bible College itself, which I consider not just a theological seminary, but a life-changing, holistic institution. It has transformed my perspective, sharpened my spiritual senses, and equipped me with the tools necessary for effective ministry.

It is truly by God's grace that I stand here today, grateful for the opportunities He has provided.



A transformational institution - Students at Lanka Bible College and Seminary.

PLEASE PRAY

We praise you, Father, that Sulakshana is being sponsored to complete his studies at Lanka Bible College. Thank you for his passion to reach the broken hearted. We pray that his ministry will continue to highlight your power to transform lives. Please help him to pursue his Bachelor of Theology, so that he can teach, preach and serve effectively. We thank you for the leadership team at Lanka Bible College and the way they are shaping future leaders for the church in Sri Lanka. Amen.

IMPACT ON LEADING AND TEACHING

Rev Isac Aladjé, Academic Director, École Biblique de l'Alliance Chrétienne, Côte d'Ivoire (Christian Alliance Bible School, Ivory Coast)

Training through Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS) has totally transformed me and revitalised the transmission of the courses at the École Biblique de l'Alliance Chrétienne (EBAC). Indeed, with the training delivered by the LOGS team, I am now able to lead in the distribution of e-learning devices and online tools for our Bible college located in Toumodi, Ivory Coast.

Prior to the LOGS training, I had computer skills but lacked competence in teaching and designing distance and online courses. For example, during and after the COVID 19 lockdowns, I was in charge of online courses through our website. But students had difficulty keeping up with the pace because they were not trained in the use of the learning tools intended for the courses. Thanks to the LOGS training (with access to ICETE Academy), I have been able to accurately transmit the courses and assessments to the students according to their context. Equipping them in this way means that they have been able to use the tools properly and meet their expectations.

The LOGS training made me excited about the tools available to us and gave me the skills to choose beneficial systems. I chose a learning management system for asynchronous learning, called Moodle. Plus, I have identified WhatsApp and Facebook as helpful applications to send information and host informal conversations.

Finally, I selected Zoom and Google Meet as our virtual communication applications for synchronous (real-time) learning.

Because of these updates, the interaction between EBAC's teachers and learners has occurred regularly and has had tangible results for the college. The digital tools have improved learning and interaction at our Bible School, motivating the students to follow the courses and to submit their evaluations within the defined time.

As a result of leading this revamp, I was asked by the University of the Christian Alliance of Abidjan (UACA) to deliver a teacher training workshop on online courses using the LOGS perspective. The objective of this workshop is to allow the teaching team of the FATEAC Bachelor's theology program to acquire the fundamentals of online courses (or distance learning) and to familiarise themselves with the MOODLE platform of the UACA. The paradigm shift, from traditional (face-to-face) to digital (online), has reformed teachers' approach to knowledge.

I am very grateful to the LOGS team for the training that has made such a difference!

A word from Dr Pauline Golder, Francophone Africa Director for Local Leaders International

Isac has been a wonderful example of how training the right people can be transformative for an institution. His enthusiasm sparked the complete revamp of EBAC's online courses, including adding the personal element of student follow up. He trained their teachers in preparing online courses and mentoring students.

The fact that UACA (one of the most prominent seminaries in Francophone Africa) then asked him and another LOGS trainer (Dr Hema) to deliver training to their faculty was a real testament to his leadership. The course was completely organised, run and funded locally. We only heard about it after the fact, at this year's ICETE Consultation in Albania. During a dinner with Local Leaders team members and college leaders from Francophone Africa, to our surprise and delight, UACA's dean of the Faculty of Theology, Dr Yacouba Sanon, expressed his gratitude for LOGS having trained Isac and Dr Hema so that UACA was able to call on them as a resource.



Isac teaching a LOGS seminar in Côte d'Ivoire.

PLEASE PRAY

Dear God, thank you for the way LOGS training has inspired Isac to upskill and lead in the area of online theological education. And even more, that his training has enabled him to go on and train others. Thank you that he has been able to completely refresh the online offerings at EBAC and that this has led to wider influence with key Bible colleges in Francophone Africa. Please continue to encourage Isaac in his pursuit of innovation and creativity in this space. Amen.

VISIT

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

IN APRIL 2027

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to join our Executive Director, Rev Dr Stuart Brooking, for a Connection Tour to Sub-Saharan Africa in April 2027.

The tour will feature visits to several of our key partner Bible colleges in the region, focusing on these three countries:

UGANDA - Uganda Christian University

KENYA - St Paul's University and Carlile College

SOUTH AFRICA – Johannesburg Bible College and George Whitefield College

You'll be blessed to see the significant work that each college is doing in raising up the next generation of Christian leaders for their nations. At each campus you'll have the opportunity to meet students and faculty and learn about the joys and challenges of strengthening the local church.

Of course, the landscape and wildlife are iconic, so the tour will include a visit to a game park, as well as immersive experiences at significant cultural and historic landmarks.

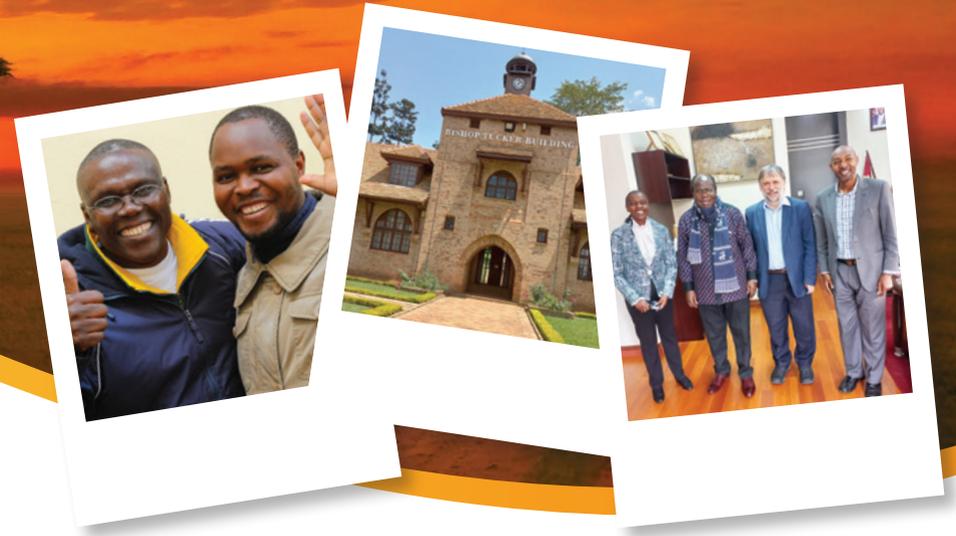
As the tour leader, Stuart will give insight into the history and traditions of each place. The experience will enrich your prayers for Africa and your understanding of the context.

Travel is always with a small group. We already have two couples who have expressed interest in this trip, and we would be delighted to include you as well!

Proposed dates are 10-23 April 2027. Full details and costs are yet to be confirmed, depending on the level of interest.

WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST FOR THIS UNFORGETTABLE AFRICAN ADVENTURE

Please email office@localleaders.org.au or call (02) 9635 4409.



PLEASE PRAY

Lord, we thank you for this opportunity to travel and learn more about your world and your people. Thank you for Local Leaders' partner Bible colleges in Uganda, Kenya and South Africa. Please bless their efforts to train dedicated pastors and church planters for each context. We ask you to help the Local Leaders team plan well for these tours so that the experience is transformative for all participants. Amen.

GOT A SUGGESTION FOR A CONNECTION TOUR?

Every year Stuart visits numerous countries and some of these trips are ideal for supporters to come along. Connection Tours are immersive and give rise to understanding the story of the church and the role of its leaders. In turn, this helps visitors to understand the training focus of each college and the way Local Leaders supports that ministry.

If you're keen to suggest a location for a future trip, please get the conversation started by emailing Stuart at office@localleaders.org.au or call (02) 9635 4409

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF LOCAL LEADERS

By giving through Local Leaders International you can be confident that your funds will go towards growing God's church and impacting communities as competent leaders are trained for ministry in their own country.

When you give to Local Leaders you can specify the partner college that interests you and the student or project you want to support. We do not operate a 'general pool' from which we give, but rather invite our supporters to nominate what God has put on their heart.

SOME PRACTICAL OPTIONS FOR YOU TO CONSIDER:

SPONSOR A STUDENT

There can be few greater causes than training leaders for the church; equipping and teaching individuals who will emerge as resourceful, indigenous Christian leaders in their context. Local Leaders supports men and women who preach and teach the redeeming love of Jesus. You can commit to finance a student's study needs yourself, or find a few friends who will join with you to fund the scholarship. The cost is \$2,600 per year. Sponsorship funds can be paid monthly, quarterly, six monthly or yearly.

For more information, email kmildenhall@localleaders.org.au

SPONSOR A FACULTY MEMBER

Local Leaders has identified that a key way to lift the learning experience of students is to lift the competence of the faculty. We support faculty members doing masters and doctoral studies in their region or by distance education, so they can stay at their college. This greatly reduces the cost compared to training in the West. Furthermore, their studies are more relevant and suitable for the context of ministry in the Majority World.

For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au

SUPPORT A PROJECT

Our partner colleges are constantly evaluating what resources are needed to make their institutions run at optimum efficiency. Sometimes a college will need funding to develop an outreach strategy, or to provide IT infrastructure to their campuses. Sometimes they simply need to purchase new, good quality library books. You can donate towards a project that will make a significant difference to our partner colleges. Latest projects are listed on our website:

localleaders.org.au/programs/latest-projects

SUPPORT A TAX-DEDUCTIBLE BUILDING PROJECT

Our College Building Fund provides another option for our supporters to receive tax deductions when they strategically invest in Bible colleges in the Majority World. We tend to have just one or two projects running at any time for this fund. Currently we are looking for:

- Building works at Christian Leaders Training College in PNG.
- Repair works at Lanka Bible College and Seminary after a damaging cyclone in December 2025.

For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au

CONSIDER A BEQUEST

We are thankful that in past years numerous people have included Local Leaders International in their will. The Board of Local Leaders invites you to join in this program. It is as simple as adding the following phrase in your will, or as a codicil to your existing will. It helps to have a lawyer involved and to explain your intentions to your family.

I bequeath [the whole/a percentage/something specific/residue] of my estate to Local Leaders International ABN 68 092 388 746 or any successor organisation of Local Leaders International (whether by way of merger, amalgamation, transfer of substantially the whole of its assets or however) for purposes that it shall determine, and this bequest will be free from all duties. The receipt of this bequest by any authorised officer of Local Leaders International or its successor shall form a valid discharge to my executor.

If you wish to make known your intentions to include Local Leaders in your will, please advise our Executive Director, Stuart Brooking. You can also let us know how you'd like your gift distributed.

For more information, email office@localleaders.org.au

Please pray that these areas of support would make a tangible difference to Local Leaders' partner Bible colleges.



Stuart Brooking (Executive Director) had the joy of connecting with students at Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea in August 2025.

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER MARCH 2026

INTRODUCING
REV DR RONALD
LAL DINSUAH



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