

AUTUMN 2026

PRAYER ALERT

COMPLETED PROJECTS

KENYA

Training leaders in a war-torn community

MYANMAR

The library - heart of the campus

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Solar system solves power access



LOCAL LEADERS
INTERNATIONAL

THE GOODNESS OF GOD IN MYANMAR

JOIN US

You're invited to gather with a small group in your area to hear from Ronald. Most events will be planned around a light meal, such as afternoon tea or supper.

PERTH: 18-20 April

BRISBANE: 22 April

WOLLONGONG: 23 April

CENTRAL COAST: 24 April

SYDNEY: 25-30 April

BLUE MOUNTAINS: 27 April

MELBOURNE: 1-3 May

GEELONG: 5 May

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WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS!

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Local Leaders International is not required to hold an authority to fundraise in Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory or the Northern Territory.

COVER

Solar panels being installed at Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea. Read all about this project on page 15-16.

INTRODUCING REV DR RONALD LAL DINSUAH International Guest Speaker April and May 2026

For the team at Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST), focusing on the goodness of God is essential in times of great uncertainty. Through joys and challenges times, God has been their rock, refuge, and strength; gracing them with stability and providing them with confidence to continue their mission. Having eyes to see God's goodness inspires them to remain committed to equipping and training students to be Christ-like leaders for the church in Myanmar.

Rev Dr Ronald Lal Dinsuah 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.

CHANGE OF DATES (New dates differ from those published in the Summer Prayer Alert)

Our supporters will be gathering in small groups around Australia from **18 April - 6 May 2026** to meet with Ronald and hear about the transformative work of MEGST. These bespoke events will be a wonderful opportunity for you to hear about Local Leaders' strategy to support the training of effective Christian leaders in Southeast Asia. You're very welcome to invite your friends and introduce them to our ministry.

See our website for more information - <https://localleaders.org.au/get-involved/april-program/>

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PLEASE PRAY

Lord, please prepare the way for Ronald to visit with us in April and May this year. Please prepare your people in Australia to hear about the joys and challenges the church faces in Myanmar and the goodness of God in raising up effective Christian leaders. We pray for believers in Myanmar, that you would strengthen them with faith, love and perseverance. Amen.

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

‘COMPLETED PROJECTS’ – DULL?

As helpfully descriptive as this Prayer Alert title is, it may seem a little dull. Let me assure you however, there are good stories in here!

We thought it would be interesting to provide some information on some of the projects we have funded in the past couple of years. This is not all we’ve been doing, by a long way, but it gives a flavour of our work.

Of course, we focus on various activities such as student sponsorship, faculty study grants, Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS) which helps online education, and our many projects and programs.

A number of programs we support are so valuable we just keep rolling them over each year. Take, for example, the Master of Theology (MTh) program at Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea. We have been supporting that program for over 15 years. Under the leadership of Dr George Mombi, our Pasifika Director, it is making a huge impact on the competence of the Bible colleges, and therefore the churches, in PNG and beyond.

We hope you enjoy seeing some of the work we’ve been doing. If you have an interest in anything in particular, please send us an email or chat to your State Director. In the meantime, enjoy the update and keep praying!

SYDNEY DIRECTOR - TRISH DRISCOLL

I am pleased to announce that we appointed Trish Driscoll to be our Sydney Director earlier in the year. Trish and Scott have been supporters of the ministry for over a decade, often hosting our international speakers in their home and holding suppers for our supporters on those occasions.

Trish has a real passion for world mission and sees her new work as a direct way to help the church of Christ grow. We have joked quite a bit in the past month as she has begun with Local Leaders. She can’t help saying how ‘excited’ she is to be doing this work. I suggested she should mix it up a bit and say she is ‘thrilled’, but she’s gone back to ‘excited’! In the coming months she’ll be connecting with donors and helping to arrange our speaker’s program with Rev Dr Ronald Lal Dinsuah from Myanmar.



Stuart Brooking
Rev Dr Stuart Brooking
 Executive Director



Flashback 15 years! Here is the first Master of Theology class at Christian Leaders Training College (2010). We thank God for the success, longevity and impact of the program.

PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for the completed projects highlighted in this Prayer Alert and the way they have helped Local Leaders’ partner colleges to accomplish their goals. Thank you also for the many projects not mentioned here, that are ongoing around the world. Please bless every project and every college that is working to develop strong Christian leaders in their context. Lord, we also thank you for the appointment of Trish Driscoll as Local Leaders’ Sydney Director. Please help her as she settles into the role. Amen.

WE GIVE THANKS

“I will give thanks in the great assembly; among the throngs I will praise you.”
Psalm 35:18

This verse may seem a bit generic about praising God. Even if that were so, it would be a goodie. The context is actually deep strife and opposition from people plotting against the Psalmist David. At Local Leaders, giving thanks is one of our themes. I guess sometimes it is during trials, but we have so much good news and goodwill that we are often praising our Lord because we see his favour.

In some ways this whole Prayer Alert edition is an exercise in giving thanks. It records some of the projects that have been completed in the past couple of years. We hope it helps you give thanks to the Lord too.

ESSENTIAL ACTIVITIES THAT OUR DONORS SUPPORTED IN 2025

FACULTY STUDY GRANTS

We provide grants to 33 faculty members across the Majority World for their doctoral and masters studies, as well as another dozen in the Master of Theology program at CLTC, PNG. Through last year two of the doctoral students and half a dozen MTH graduated. We have a larger group whom we expect will complete this year. Over \$510k was donated to these faculty members.

LOCAL ONLINE: A GLOBAL STRATEGY (LOGS)

Our program helping hundreds of Bible colleges to get their online education programs off the ground and flourishing is in its final stages. Some elements of the strategy are winding up. That gives the wrong impression since it is a bit like a snowball gathering momentum in many places. The financial input needed is lessening, but the outputs are continuing and expanding in many places. Last year over \$1.13 mil was donated. We have received the last of five large grants (\$900k in October last year) and will continue the ministry seeking grants to maintain the gains that have been made.

STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Over \$600k was donated last year to support 260 future leaders of the church. They attend 17 of our partner Bible Colleges throughout the Majority World.

PROJECTS

Over \$680k was donated for various projects and programs. You can see some of the types of projects throughout the Prayer Alert.

We are grateful for the support of our donors. Our aim is to bring joy to each one as they consider where their funds are going and the good that their support is doing in the world.



Ashwath Kotian is an outstanding faculty member in South Asia currently being supported to complete his PhD via distance education while continuing to teach at his Bible college.



Sponsored student - Elya completed a BTh at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in 2025.



The smart classroom funded by LOGS at Sekolah Tinggi Teologi (STT) Torsina, Indonesia.

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you Lord for the faithfulness of your people to support theological education in the Majority World. The partnerships that you have developed through Local Leaders International allow for reciprocity in the body of Christ – both the Bible colleges and the donors are blessed to contribute to building your church throughout the world. Please strengthen and encourage every theological institution that partners with Local Leaders, and help Local Leaders to be sensitive to the needs in every location. Amen.

CHOOSING PROJECTS - AN ART AND A SCIENCE

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

How do we choose the projects we support? It's an art and a science!

AN ART - The 'art' element begins with relationships. We visit our partner colleges and spend time with them. We seek to learn about their context and their history, what the church needs and the constraints on training leaders in that place. Furthermore, we discuss their progress with our many international friends, so we get a broader perspective than just our own.

In all this we get to know what they do, and why they do it. Typically, we will have discussed a project before we get any official request.

When the formal request does come, we look for a range of important things.

1. We want to see that the proposed project fits in the bigger strategy for reaching the country for Christ. Mostly, the Bible colleges we support already have that vision, but it's important to see how the project fits the strategy.

2. We want to be confident that the timing of the project makes sense and that it will be sustainable. I was impressed by one college who said they rejected an offer from another organisation to build them a building, because they wouldn't have had the money for upkeep.

3. We also want to judge that this project will help the mission of the church by training better leaders. Of course, some projects are a bit prosaic, but when they are part of the bigger whole they take on a new meaning and so we're pleased to support them.



Dr George Mombi (Executive Dean Postgraduate Studies) in discussion with Stuart at Christian Leaders Training College, Papua New Guinea, August 2025.

PLEASE PRAY

God, we glorify you for the trustworthy and accountable partnerships that Local Leaders has with Bible colleges throughout the Majority World. Thank you for the deep consultation that occurs before a project is commenced and that the success of each project reflects this mutual partnership. Lord, please continue to help Local Leaders with the art and the science of initiating and completing key projects that meet the real needs of partner institutions. Amen.

A SCIENCE - There is also a more disciplined element to approving projects – the 'science'. This is where our operations and finance team come into play. They ensure we fulfill the expectations of the government as expressed in the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) standards.

We also fulfill a higher standard as laid out by Christian Ministry Advancement (CMA) which promotes a range of specifically Christian standards to which we conform. You will see their logos on our publications indicating our compliance.

These standards give rise to our procedures which we follow before remitting funds to any overseas body.

We also request photos and reports at the end of the project. When staff travel, they also verify the project's completion and review the progress of the work.



Dr Nancy Njagi (Africa Director) and Stuart visiting with the team at The Centre for Urban Mission in Kibera, Kenya, March 2025.



KENYA

Training leaders in a war-torn community

Testimonies supplied by Captain Simon Peter Waiti, Director, Centre for Urban Mission, Kenya

How does a church leader bring hope and opportunity to widows and children who have lost their husbands, fathers and livelihoods? People who have been devastated by war, lost their dignity as well as the very core of their communities? What sort of training can help a pastor to start growing seeds of hope to rebuild a community like this?

In 2024 Local Leaders was made aware of an urgent need to deliver bespoke training to church leaders in the Mt Elgon region of Kenya, west of Nairobi on the border with Uganda. This area has seen conflict since the 1970s. As is often the case, it's a battle over land rights. In 2008 alone, over 600 people were killed and 60,000 people fled their homes in fear of the local militia uprising. The Centre for Urban Mission had been involved with this community since 2023 when church leaders in Mt Elgon had approached the Centre to assist with training their pastors. Through our existing relationship with the Centre For Urban Mission, Local Leaders was able to contribute towards funding this project and the Centre implemented two of their training programs:

1. The Samaritan Strategy - A vision-shaping training program for pastors that encourages them to engage in integral mission.
2. Shepherds Institute Training- a grassroots theological training course tailor made to address emerging theological and pastoral issues for leaders at the very grassroots level.

“Supporting training programs run by The Centre for Urban Mission is an investment in equipping leaders who walk with communities, build dignity, strengthen the church, and restore hope where it is needed most. Your support becomes a bridge between need and opportunity...between despair and possibility....between survival and transformation.”

- Captain Simon Peter Waiti

THE DIFFERENCE THE TRAINING MADE

PASTOR MARTIN – LIGHT IN MOUNT ELGON

In a community scarred by decades of conflict, where widows and families have struggled to survive, Pastor Martin decided to ignite a spark of hope. He was trained in the Samaritan Strategy and Shepherds Institute training programs of Centre for Urban Mission together with other church members. After the training, he and some church members began gathering widows who were affected by the 2017 conflict in his community and gave them spiritual, physical and social space in his church where they can reclaim their dignity. Starting with just two women, he helped them plant crops, manage their harvests, and support each other through weekly meetings. The group is called ‘Mwanga’ (Light) for it is a beacon of transformation - uplifting families, rebuilding homes, and showing that even in the darkest valleys, hope can shine. This group that was a seed of the training has become a project that has turned into a movement of healing, resilience, and community renewal.



Pastor Martin on the left in front of the church building where widows meet.

PASTOR RONALD – SHARING THE BURDEN

The scars of war linger for generations, but Pastor Ronald is changing that story. In his local area, families suffered during the Sabaot conflict decades ago, but after the training by Centre for Urban Mission he mobilised his congregation to support widows whose husbands were killed. Through pooled resources - both financial and material - they rebuilt homes and created livelihood projects such as sheep-rearing.



Pastor Ronald and his congregation initiated the Toritet Group after being trained by The Centre for Urban Mission.

The ‘Toritet Group’ (Sabaot word for uplifting one another) demonstrates that healing and transformation happen when a community shares the load, and that small acts of care can ripple into profound, sustainable change.

Story continues overleaf

PASTOR ANDREW - THE MERCIFUL ONES

From fleeing violent conflict to rebuilding a community from scratch, Pastor Andrew has become a true champion of local development. With training from the Samaritan Strategy program and the Shepherds Institute, he mobilised 25 community members to form 'Huruma Group' (Swahili word for the 'The Merciful Ones').

Through farming cabbage, onions, and other crops, this group generates income to build churches, support orphans, and fund community initiatives. Beyond agriculture, it's a story of mindset change, resilience, and grassroots empowerment, showing how local resources and collective effort can overcome the scars of conflict.



Pastor Andrew on the right, standing on the farm where the Merciful Ones conduct onion farming.

WHAT WILL THE CENTRE FOR URBAN MISSION DO NEXT?

The Centre hopes to mentor the 60 church leaders who have been trained so far. Literacy training is also needed as most pastors struggle to read basic words even in their local language. The other area that needs to be explored is peace-building since the violence seems to recur after 10 years and there are fears that 2027 might be a bad year. However, this can be disrupted if the workers are equipped with the right skills and tools.

PLEASE PRAY

Dear Lord, you know all things. You know the devastation this community has experienced. Please give church leaders in Mt Elgon strength, resilience and wisdom as they work in sorrowful ground. Give the communities hope in you and in their ability to rise above their shame and sadness. We pray that the pastors will help to bring hope and courage to the upcoming generation, that they will learn to put their trust in you, their eternal hope for true salvation. We also pray that you would enable new training and mentoring programs to operate where needed. Amen.

6 - 12 APRIL 2026

MYANMAR

The library – heart of the campus

Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology:
Library Apartment

In the bustling city of Yangon, it's hard to find space for a Bible college campus! With a population of over five million people, the city is known for its chaotic traffic, vibrant street life and eclectic mix of architecture interspersed with pagodas. Yet this is where Myanmar Evangelical Graduate School of Theology (MEGST) has found space for its unique campus. MEGST is our key Bible college partner in this region, and the seminary has a vision to train and equip Christians to be Christ-like leaders who build up the church and the nation of Myanmar and beyond.

Housed in an apartment block, MEGST has some quirky features. Not least, the seminary library, which for many years was in two sections, divided by an apartment which the college did not own. Consequently, staff and students using the library found it burdensome having to navigate stairs and hallways simply to get around this offending apartment and access the other half of the book collection!

We are delighted to report that apartment 4E has finally been purchased! Working with our good friends, Beacon Partnerships in New Zealand, Local Leaders was able to contribute to this important upgrade. It means the college library is now all together in one continuous space and the students and staff at MEGST are thrilled!

Rev Dr Ronald Lal Dinsuah, MEGST principal, will be visiting Australia in April and May. See page 1 for details.

PLEASE PRAY

Dear Lord, we give thanks for the staff and students at MEGST who diligently and passionately study your word for the purposes of serving you in their nation. Strengthen their determination and courage to study and put their trust in you, for themselves and their families. We pray for deep understanding and growth in your word and their personal walk with you. We thank you for the improved library facilities they can now utilise and pray you'll give them an understanding of how best to apply their learnings to their personal, community and church situations in Myanmar. Amen.





TANZANIA

Critical need for urban mission training

Africa Mile Deep Strategy: St John's University Urban Mission Course Development

Urbanisation is a huge challenge in Africa, with people drawn to cities in hope of finding work, and even rural areas becoming increasingly urbanised. Cities across the continent are dealing with growing levels of urban poor, with infrastructure and support networks unable to meet the need. In Tanzania, St John's University is passionate about training church leaders to share the love of Jesus effectively and practically with those in urban contexts.

Local Leaders International wanted to help, so we established a project with St John's University to fund research, writing and course development for a national curriculum for eleven colleges in Tanzania. Local Leaders supports the university's desire to have a curriculum written by Tanzanian scholars for the Tanzanian context. Our Africa Director, Dr Nancy Njagi, has led this project from its inception.

In 2019, leaders from the eleven colleges were tasked to focus on the aspects of urbanisation with specific interest in the people, the local church, environmental issues, social changes, economics, spiritual life and the history of the community, including past and present labels within the community.

At that time, Prof. Emmanuel Mbennah from St John's University identified the need to accomplish four things during the Urban Mission Course Development meetings:

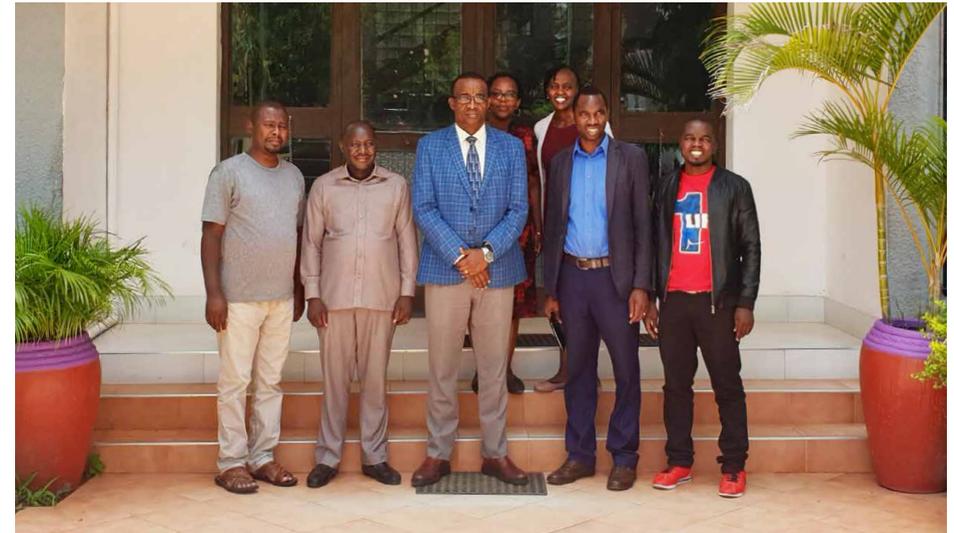
1. "Grow together in passion, in vision and in understanding of urban mission.
2. Seek to understand better about the heart of God about our times (for the poor, the needy, the times now, the context) and have the drive for mission.
3. Learn. (It's more than just acquisition of knowledge) by knowing better and transforming as you learn ... Take action steps towards what you have learnt.
4. Regain a fresh perspective of the great commission. This is the heart of what the church should do; the discipleship of all nations including the urban poor; do what is needed and undertake the due process until they become disciples of Jesus Christ - help the people to attain an eternal destiny."

After navigating the ups and downs of pandemic lockdowns, the cohort of eleven leaders visited five different urban communities in Tanzania; they saw first-hand the challenges and opportunities for the church.

They met together to write the curriculum and construct a theology of urban mission: an intentional and systematic process of understanding a city through the lens of God's word that is followed by a sustained process of engaging with the city.

WHAT'S THE PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT NOW?

The curriculum at St John's University is now developed and has been submitted for approval with the Tanzanian Higher Education Department. The plan is to then train trainers from the other colleges in Tanzania who can begin teaching the course at their institutions as well. We hope this will be rolled out by the end of 2026.



Writers workshop to construct the urban mission curriculum written by Tanzanian leaders for the Tanzanian context.

PLEASE PRAY

Oh Lord, you know the deep and urgent needs of the people in Tanzania and your church in particular. We thank you for the opportunity given for college leaders in Tanzania to reflect deeply on these needs. Would you give them insight, wisdom and creativity as they teach others. Please inspire church leaders about the importance of reaching out to the urban poor, to understand them, to love them and in your strength to help meet their needs. We ask that your Holy Spirit go ahead of these pastors, give them the energy, resources and support they need to do this important work and to be the hands and feet of Jesus to the urban communities. Amen.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Keeping the lights on - solar system installation

Christian Leaders Training College: Solar Project

The Banz campus of Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea has long needed a solution for its electricity production. The national provider's grid supply had become very unreliable, with frequent outages and power fluctuations that were not suitable for running an educational institution. Power surges and instability had damaged college equipment, and long outages meant the college had to rely heavily on diesel generators which are expensive to run, especially with the high cost and inconsistent availability of diesel in the area. The Banz campus sits on approximately 400 acres of land with around 600 people living on campus, so a good supply of electricity makes a huge difference to what is basically a small town!

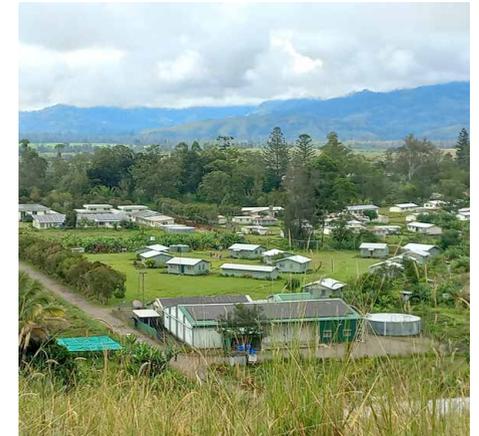
The college was spending up to 20 percent of its income on electricity, so reducing this ongoing cost was a major financial need. Local Leaders, together with Beacon Partnerships in New Zealand and other interested supporters, has contributed to some important infrastructure for the long-term sustainability of the college. Namely, funding the supply and installation of nearly 1,000 solar panels on suitable roofs at the Banz campus, inverters to convert the energy to be appropriate for storage, and battery units to store the electricity once produced.

This project was a major one for the college at the cost of several hundred thousand dollars and took several years to develop in multiple stages. The completed upgrades will result in significant savings for CLTC, as outgoings will be reduced by over \$200,000 AUD per annum. Being a complicated process, the college is still yet to have the full system up and running, but it's very close now. All the elements have been installed and each step of the journey has saved them in power expenses and dependence on the grid.

The solar system was celebrated and commissioned during CLTC's 61st anniversary celebrations in August 2025.

PLEASE PRAY

Gracious God we thank you for the work that has gone into this project at CLTC over many years and we celebrate with the college that it is close to full functionality. Thank you for all the supporters in Australia and New Zealand who have donated towards this project and prayed for the students and staff at CLTC. Lord, may this infrastructure upgrade be a great blessing to the community at the Banz campus both now and well into the future. Amen.



Top: Solar panels being installed on the roof of CLTC's library back in 2021.

Left: Don McLean, an electrical engineer from Australia, lead the design and installation of the solar system. Here he is in July 2025 with Emmanuel Titus and Philip Sparky completing the connection of the high capacity battery on the Banz campus.

Right: Banz Campus of CLTC.



RWANDA

Supporting the future of theological education in a remarkable nation

East African Christian College: Principal Support

Rwanda has transformed since the 1994 genocide into a nation characterised by strong economic expansion driven by diversification in services, industry, and agriculture. This growth has resulted in notable improvements in health, education, and life expectancy.

In this context of fast-paced development, the government put in place regulations to raise the level of training for church leaders, with all pastors required to be degree-trained. This means there is pressure on the church to provide excellent theological education institutions to train its leaders, pastors and church planters. To meet this need, the Anglican Church of Rwanda officially opened East African Christian College (EACC) in 2021. The campus is located in Kigali and has quickly become a leading institution in Rwanda's higher education scene. (The campus had a former life as Kigali Christian College, started by Rev Dr Richard Seed two decades earlier).

Local Leaders International began partnering with EACC in 2022, supporting the college with library resources and IT infrastructure, including the installation of fibre optic cables. Through deep dialogue with the college leadership team, Local Leaders also agreed to financially contribute towards the salary of the principal, and so a project was created with this commitment in mind.

WHAT WAS THE PROJECT?

The aim of this project was to aid EACC in securing a highly experienced leader with international credibility to be the third principal of this young college. It was a key appointment for the continued growth of the ministry.

Dr Papias Musafiri Malimba has adeptly stepped into the role of principal over the past three years. He is a highly respected leader, having previously served as the Minister of Education in the Rwandan cabinet and Deputy Vice-Chancellor of the University of Rwanda.

His keen membership of Local Leaders' Africa Mile Deep Strategy (AMDS) has been a valuable contribution to the group, and he hosted a successful AMDS annual conference in March 2025.

Dr Malimba's experience and connections with the Department of Education have made it possible for the college to expand its course offerings and gain government funding. For example, they are now one of three preferred training institutions for nursing in the country. As one of the supports for the theology department, this development in nursing is good for the country and the college.

HOW IS THE PROJECT BECOMING SELF-SUSTAINING?

EACC has been able to secure increasing funds from the government for the non-theology course, which contributes to the overall viability of the college. It is also absorbing more of the costs of the faculty, such as in the case of Dr Malimba. Local Leaders no longer needs to subsidise his salary, so the project is complete. The institution is in a far stronger financial and operational position than when it began and is able to continue to expand the physical campus, the faculty standard, and the course offerings for students.



Dr Papias Malimba (left) and Rev. Saano Stephen, Secretary General of the Anglican Church of Rwanda, presenting Dr Nancy Njagi (Local Leaders Africa Director) with a gift during the AMDS conference hosted by EACC in 2025.

PLEASE PRAY

Lord thank you for EACC and the high-quality training it is offering to pastors and leaders for the church in Rwanda. Please encourage and sustain every student, faculty member and staff member as they seek to serve you and minister effectively in their context. Thank you for Dr Papias Musafiri Malimba and the way he is guiding the college with Christ-centred leadership. Please help him in his role as he shoulders many decisions and responsibilities. Amen.



AFRICA

Boosting opportunities for women in theological education

Africa Mile Deep Strategy: Women in Theological Education

The incorporation of women in theological education varies throughout Africa.

Across the continent, women account for under a quarter of total faculty members in theological education institutions.

The challenges women face during their academic journeys include: difficulties for women in finding mentors; cultural and societal expectations; smaller networks; lack of access to speaking engagements, publishing, and collaborative writing; and a lack of access for women to established networks in their institutions.

Despite this, women are already contributing in myriad ways and, with strategic empowerment, can continue to increase their effectiveness while also paving the way for younger women to follow.

The church in Africa is often majority female in membership, so training women theologically strengthens the whole church's teaching, pastoral care, and witness.

In August 2023, the first 'Institute for Excellence' conference to empower female faculty was held in Kenya. Coordinated by OC Europe's Dr Verena Schafroth (Regional Consultant for Theological Education in Africa), the conference was well attended

by 60 female lecturers from 44 theological seminaries across 16 African countries. It was a powerful time for the women to learn, share, support and pray together.

The conference launched the 'Women in Theological Education Initiative' to boost research, leadership, and faculty development for women.

The initiative seeks to address the dearth of women with theological training in Africa and foster the development and involvement of female faculty to their fullest potential.

This led to a 2024 follow-up event to foster institutional support for female faculty hosted by the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). All the seminaries associated with ACTEA were invited to send their principal or a key leader (predominantly male) along with a female faculty member.

This second 'Institute for Excellence' was an impactful time of fellowship and learning, with 34 theological seminaries from 18 African and Middle Eastern countries sending male and female delegates, for a total of 135 attendees.

The initiative has established a thriving network of female faculty across the continent and will continue to encourage and equip them in their careers.

Local Leaders was asked by Mesa Global and Overseas Council Europe to contribute to a valuable project to help lift the capacity of women faculty members throughout various colleges in Africa. Local Leaders contributed \$6,000 to the start-up phase of this project.



Delegates at the April 2024 ACTEA 'Institute for Excellence' exploring institutional support for female faculty. Dr Verena Schafroth from OC Europe is on the right.



Scholars from across Africa attending the first 'Institute for Excellence' to empower female faculty in August 2023.

PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, thank you for the leaders in Africa who have recognised the need to empower female faculty. We praise you for the momentum that has been built over the last few years and the potential for further training that has been sparked. Thank you for ACTEA and the Bible colleges who have engaged in lifting the capacity of women faculty members. We pray that these efforts would bear fruit in the development of well-trained men and women in evangelical theological colleges across Africa. Amen.

You can read more about this initiative in the Spring 2024 edition of Prayer Alert. Go to localleaders.org.au/media-resources/prayer-alerts and select the Spring 2024 edition.



INDIA

Investing in internal mission growth

South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies: Indian Mission Leaders' Conference

India has a very large internal mission movement with thousands of local societies reaching out throughout the country. South Asia Institute of Advanced Christian Studies (SAIACS) is a national leader in promoting better mission thinking in the increasingly complex situation in India.

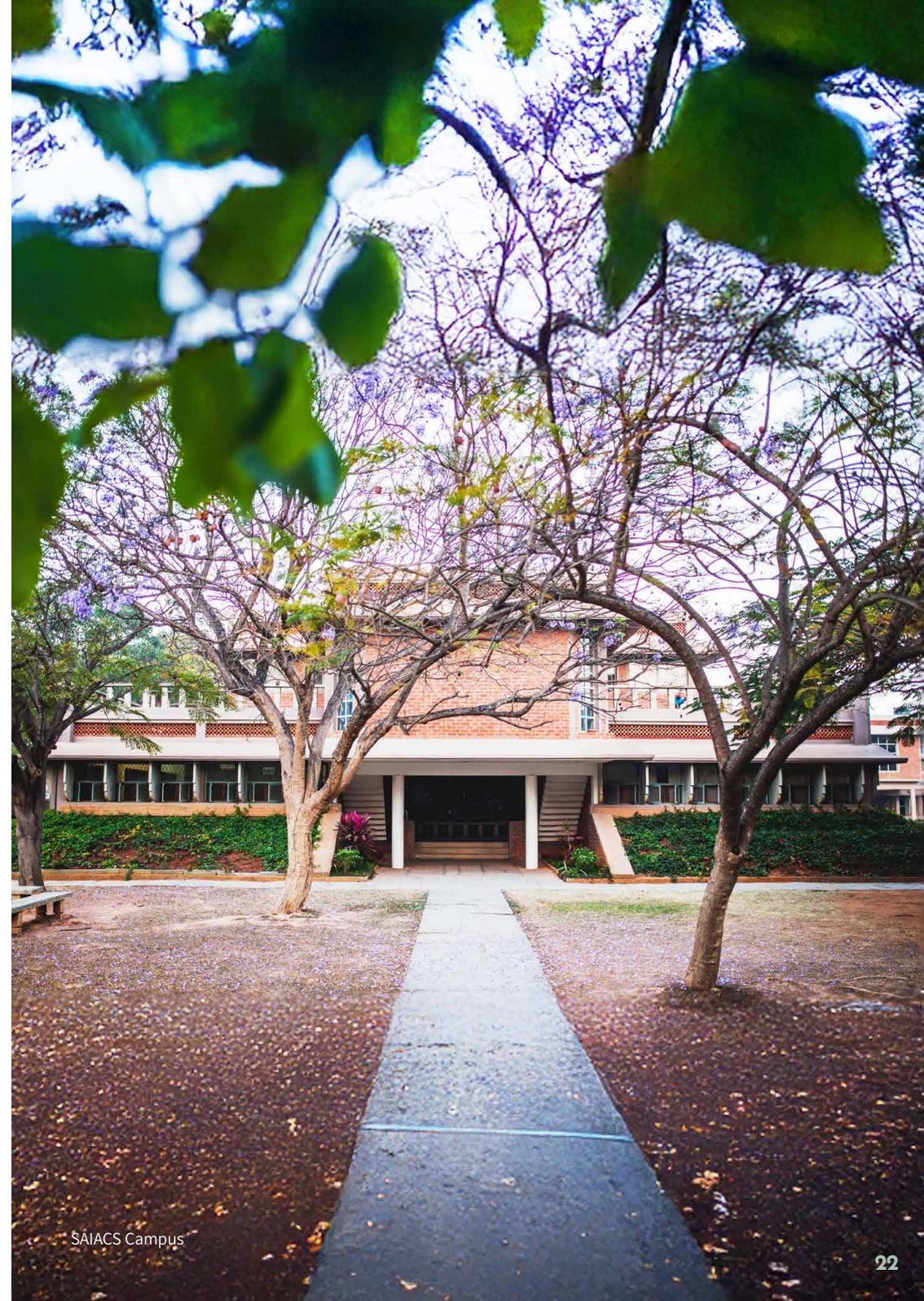
In 2022, 150 of India's top mission organisation leaders, representing thousands of internal missionaries, were hosted by SAIACS at the Annual Summit of India Mission Associations. These summits have been a major direction-setter for many coordinated outreach ministries around the country. Local Leaders International was privileged to partner with SAIACS to help fund the gathering. The funds subsidised each attendee for their accommodation over the 3-day summit (Due to the sensitivity of the meeting photos of the event were not taken).

Additionally, Dr David Turnbull, Director of our Local Online: A Global Strategy (LOGS) project, spoke on the difference between digital natives and digital immigrants, which for many was a new concept. At the time there was some push back on the concepts, but in February this year we heard of a college in Nagaland where the concepts were being taught to help reshape the curriculum of the Bible college.

Please join with us in praying for the internal mission movement in India.

PLEASE PRAY

Glorious God, we thank you for the mission movement in India and the many organisations working to spread the gospel across the country. We pray for your sustaining power to be evident in the ministries of all the mission organisations who met at SAIACS in 2022. Lord, please bless the team at SAIACS as they continue to develop the next generation of Christian leaders for South Asia. Amen.



SAIACS Campus



UGANDA

University buildings made fit for purpose

Uganda Christian University:
Mbale Campus Refurbishment

It's fair to say nobody enjoys working in a run-down, dilapidated building! For educational institutions, an inadequate environment can affect the engagement of students and negatively impact their learning and output.

Uganda Christian University's main campus is in Mukono, but they also have several locations around Uganda. One of those locations is in Mbale, with three campuses in that city. One campus for social science and information technology programs, another for education and business programs, and a third for theological education.

In 2019, Local Leaders heard from UCU leadership that the buildings on the Department of Theology's campus in Mbale were in need of an upgrade: the walls were cracked, the rooves leaked and the iron sheets were too old and rusty. The buildings no longer met the minimum standards required by the National Council of Higher Education in Uganda. Failing to meet minimum standards threatened the future of the college.

The campus is located in a region where people have limited resources. It means that many theology students struggle to

meet tuition requirements and there was no way the university could charge them extra money to renovate the department facilities. Additionally, the Mbale region is predominantly Muslim and receives considerable funding from Islamic groups for education and community activities. In this context it was particularly difficult for the Mbale campus of UCU that their standards were so low.

There were 3 blocks needing upgrading, with 4 rooms each (12 rooms in total). Eight of these rooms are used as lecture rooms, two are offices, one is a staff room, and another is a store.

Local Leaders' supporters gave funds to raise the height of the walls of the buildings, replace the roofing and guttering, replace ceilings, apply plaster and paint to the walls, upgrade flooring, replace windows and doors with stronger and safer options, improve toilet facilities and complete plumbing and electrical work.

These works greatly enhanced the comfort and useability of the campus and were a great blessing to the staff and students on site.



Renovations on the buildings at Uganda Christian University - Mbale Campus.

PLEASE PRAY

God of the universe, we thank you for the diligence and passion for learning from our brothers and sisters in Uganda. Thank you that Local Leaders was able to help them with their renovations, to bless the staff and students and support their learning journey. Please give them wisdom, clear minds, and unwavering courage to proclaim your truth in their region. Surround the students with supportive mentors and fellow believers who can equip them to minister effectively. May the Ugandan church grow stronger, evangelising boldly even while caring for the vulnerable. Amen.

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 sponsorships@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.



Bachelor of Theology Students at Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea.

INTERNATIONAL GUEST SPEAKER APRIL & MAY 2026

INTRODUCING
REV DR RONALD
LAL DINSUAH



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