

WINTER 2026

PRAYER ALERT

GENEROSITY IN AFRICA

GENEROSITY

The antidote to a
prolific false teaching

HOMEGROWN APPROACH

African scholars writing
for the African context

PILOT PROGRAM

Training grassroots
pastors in Kenya



DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING TUESDAY 16 JUNE



The team at Local Leaders International recognises that our work is only made possible through God's abundant grace, which has blessed us with the privilege of supporting Bible colleges around the world in their mission. We love to bring everything we do before our heavenly Father, and our team regularly prays together for our partner Bible colleges and the strategies that we are supporting throughout the Majority World.

We invite you to join us on Tuesday 16th June for our annual DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING. Every year we set aside this day to intentionally pray with our supporters for Local Leaders' partnerships and long-term strategic needs.

It's easy for you to participate!

JOIN A ZOOM MEETING TO PRAY

You can join a Zoom meeting facilitated by Rev Dr. Stuart Brooking during mealtimes on 16th June. Whether there are few or many people in the meeting, you can participate by listening or offering your own prayer when the opportunity arises. Fasting for one or more meals will open up more time to pray in your day.

ZOOM PRAYER TIMES:

(AEST) – 7am, 12.30pm, 7pm (each will last about 30 minutes)

ZOOM MEETING LINK (FOR ALL MEETINGS):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81672423510?pwd=IT9n4acVUykrurQDY6kaY5s6Izq4RQ.1>

MEETING ID: 816 7242 3510 **PASSCODE:** 597538

Or join via phone from anywhere in Australia:

Dial **+61 2 8015 6011** then enter the meeting number and passcode.

If you are unable to join us on Zoom, you might like to consider these other ways to support the Day of Prayer and Fasting:

PRIVATE OR FAMILY PRAYER

Please schedule dedicated time in your diary to focus on Local Leaders' partner Bible colleges and our Australian operations. While it doesn't need to be on Tuesday 16th June, the date is significant as people across Australia, will be praying for the ministry.

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHURCH OR FRIENDS

You may like to meet with a few friends for a meal. Instead of eating, you could pray for the ministry. To encourage your church, ask Local Leaders International for resources like videos or PowerPoint slides.

PLEASE PRAY

Heavenly Father, please stir our hearts for leaders in training around the world as we gather to pray on Tuesday 16th June. Bless every Bible college leader, staff and faculty member, and every student and their family in the Bible colleges that Local Leaders partners with. Help each member to live for you every day and dedicate their work and study to you. Amen.

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WE WELCOME YOUR LETTERS & COMMENTS!

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COVER

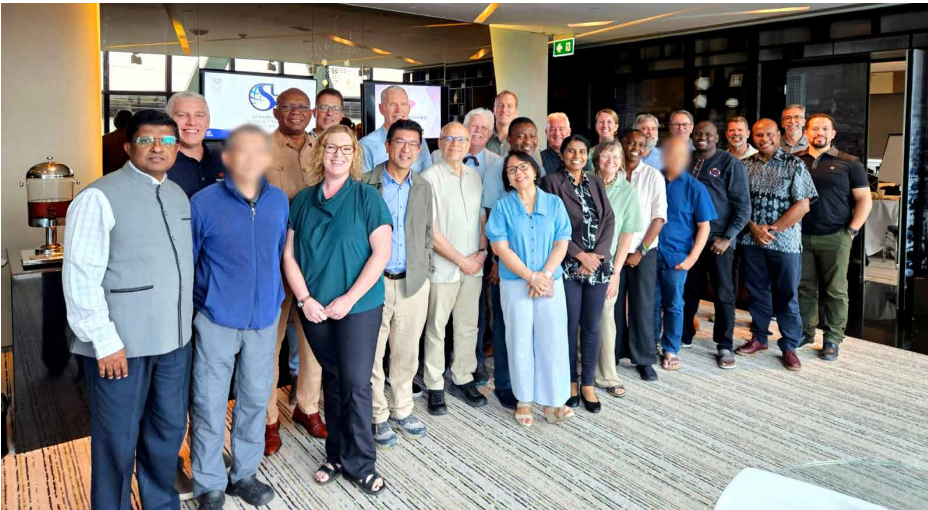
Ps Mark Kevogo completed the pilot training program for 'Developing Biblical Generosity and Stewardship in Africa' in 2025. He was part of the cohort of ministers and leaders who undertook the training in Kawangware Slum in Nairobi, Kenya. He was featured on page 11 of the Summer 2025-2026 edition of Prayer Alert, speaking about how the training totally transformed his mindset and brought lasting change to his church and community.

GLOBAL COOPERATION IS A GOOD NEWS STORY

People sometimes notice competition between mission agencies in their methods and activities. While many have a value of cooperation, it does not always work out that collaboration is possible in practice. That is why it's good to advise that, for international organisations working amongst Evangelical Bible colleges, there is a deepening cooperative spirit and activity.

Local Leaders International is part of a wider group, blandly called The Leadership Training Support Group. **It is made up of five organisations around the world that all do similar things, and we come together annually (and online more often) to learn from each other and to explore ways to cooperate.** When you try, it often works! We have many projects that we co-fund and we like to encourage one another to take the lead on different projects.

One major example of this cooperative spirit happened in May. Our US partner, Scholar Leaders, has been running a training program for Bible colleges called 'Vital Sustainability Initiative' to help colleges be lively and lasting. They have consultants who work with colleges over 12-24 months to help with analysis, governance, strategy and implementation. The problem is that in ten years they have only worked with fifty colleges, and many of those now need a second round!



International cooperation is a blessing! The Leadership Training Support Group meeting in Bangkok in May 2026. Representatives from Beacon Partnerships (NZ), Mesa Global (USA), Overseas Training (Europe), Scholar Leaders (USA) and Local Leaders International (Aus).

At Local Leaders, we work with a Hub and Affiliate model in many contexts (one large Bible college partnering with numerous smaller affiliate colleges). We want to make use of the material and processes that Scholar Leaders have developed, but for whole groups at a time. Scholar Leaders offered to train our international team, as well as those in the other three organisations. We all jumped at the offer! Consequently, 25 of us gathered in Bangkok in May to think through this type of structured consulting work. Of course, we have been doing consulting for many years, but this training was designed to bring the whole team up to speed with the concepts. After the three days, the Local Leaders contingent took another day as a group to process how we could adapt the material for our Hubs and Affiliates.

Our aim was to get a method which was much cheaper and adapted to a group of, say, ten Bible colleges all at once.

It was a great time of fellowship where people working in each region could mingle with others doing the same. **It was a great time of training** where the Scholar Leaders team passed on their insights to the rest of us. **It was a great time of planning** where the Local Leaders International staff thought through the next steps for us to adapt the material to be delivered a country at a time, not just a college at a time. We have more to do before we launch our iteration of this consultancy work.

We praise the Lord for the cooperative spirit which has led to this opportunity to serve our partner colleges in a new way.

Rev Dr Stuart Brooking
Executive Director

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for the cooperative spirit of the Leadership Training Support Group, and for the encouragement and support that the five organisations offer one another. Thank you for the 'Vital Sustainability Initiative' training undertaken in May, and the potential to expand this consultancy work to numerous Bible colleges. Please help the Local Leaders team to think through the next steps before launching. Amen.



Some of the group in Thailand: John Bonnell from Mesa Global (left) with Local Leaders team members Pauline Golder, Karen Roe, David Turnbull, Nancy Njagi and George Mombi.

WE GIVE THANKS

BUSINESS DEALINGS ARE ALWAYS CONTEXTUAL!

Ephron said to Abraham that Abraham could have the burial plot for free, but then we read a slightly different concept:

‘Ephron answered Abraham, “Listen to me, my lord; the land is worth four hundred shekels of silver, but what is that between you and me? Bury your dead.”

Abraham agreed to Ephron’s terms and weighed out for him the price he had named in the hearing of the Hittites: four hundred shekels of silver, according to the weight current among the merchants.’
Genesis 23:14-16

Abraham refused the ‘offer’ of free land and waited to hear the actual price Ephron wanted for it. They completed the purchase for the family burial plot.

Business dealings are always contextual. In Australia we work quite differently from other countries. Here, plain speech is the norm, rather than what we consider convoluted in other countries.

Hospitality, generosity and gratitude are always contextual as well. Understanding how to do those things well takes a lot of listening and clarifying as we cross cultures.

What is not convoluted is when we pray to the Lord and give him thanks for what he has given to us. I am sure it is in each of our routines to thank the Lord often, not least for our daily bread.

At Local Leaders we are thankful people. We take time to thank the Lord for what he has given to us. It is a long list:

The Bible colleges with whom we work.

The board, supporters and other organisations who contribute.

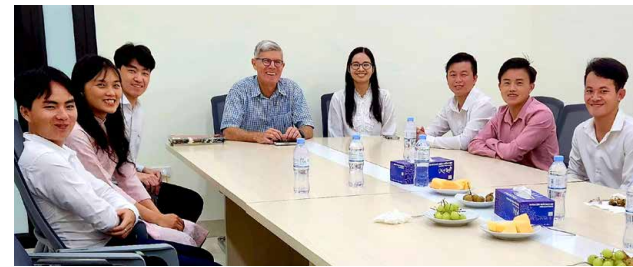
The staff - paid, volunteers and contractors.

The funds we can use to contribute to building the kingdom, one leader at a time.

The national and continental strategies we have developed with local leaders which help direct all our activities

We give thanks often.

Thanks to those who have contributed to our work this past quarter. We are grateful for the long term and many newer supporters who have got the vision of what we do.



Clockwise from top left: Student at George Whitefield College in South Africa, MTH class at Christian Leaders Training College in PNG, Loulwa El Maalouf sharing during a chapel service at Arab Baptist Theological Seminary in Lebanon, Local Leaders Staff, Board Chairman David Brown with students at Hanoi Bible College in Vietnam.

PLEASE PRAY

Glorious God, we praise you for Local Leaders’ generous supporters who are partnering with Bible colleges throughout the Majority World. Thank you for every Bible college in the network, please bless their endeavours as they train skilled ministers for your church in every place. We ask you to continue to guide Local Leaders’ board, staff and partner organisations as they implement strategies to enrich theological education around the globe. Amen.

VISIT

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

IN DECEMBER 2026



Ever been to a graduation service where the assembled family friends sit on the sloping lawn and watch their small kids play with machetes? Or seen a graduating class in their academic gowns be led into the covered area by spear wielding fellow classmates? Or joined in the celebrations where the lunch has been cooked in the ground the traditional way of Melanesia? That is standard fare for Christian Leaders Training College (CLTC) graduations.

Our Executive Director, Rev Dr Stuart Brooking, will be speaking at CLTC's graduation ceremony on Saturday 5th December this year. You'd be welcome to join him!

Activities - We will visit the Port Moresby campus and the beautiful main campus at Banz in the Highlands. We will meet students and faculty at the college, attend a local church service and, of course, join in the celebrations of the graduation ceremony and the lead up events with students.

Dates - The Connection Tour will depart from Sydney on Wednesday 2nd and return on Monday evening 7th December 2026.

Accommodation - We'll stay at the CLTC Guest House (2.5 star) and a Port Moresby Hotel (4 star).

Cost - Under \$3,000 per person. (Flight costs may alter price.)

INTERESTED? WE INVITE YOU TO REGISTER FOR THIS SHORT AND SWEET TRIP TO PNG

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 Christian Leaders Training College in Papua New Guinea. Please bless their efforts to train dedicated pastors and church planters for the Pacific region. We ask you to help the Local Leaders team plan well for this tour so that the experience is transformative for all participants. Amen.

GENEROSITY - THE ANTIDOTE TO A PROLIFIC FALSE TEACHING

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

One of the great theological errors alive in Africa currently is the widespread teaching known as the prosperity gospel. It is frequently observed amongst evangelical pastors and scholars that it is a false theology and is contrary to the teaching of the Bible. This is the teaching that says God wants all his people to be prosperous. If you want health, wealth and your heart's desire for your family, business and future, then have faith. Give me (the preacher) money as a sign of your faith, and claim it for yourself.

From a biblical perspective, problems are clear. First, it fashions our good Heavenly Father to be a cash machine to provide us with whatever we demand of Him. His fatherly love is twisted to our benefit and if he doesn't give, our faith is lacking and we need to pray and give more.

Secondly, it turns his children into greedy self-pleasers who turn the faith into a means to get what they want. All this is under the guise of teaching the scriptures

and showing God's desired way for our lives. **It is a distortion of the father-child relationship and diminishes us as well as God.**

This is a pernicious teaching, but what is to be done given that it is so widespread in Africa and other places in the world? The metaphorical use of hands-on-hips and a stomp of the foot does not impact many believers. Evangelical teachers can and should denounce this evil, but that is not sufficient to change the teachers, the teaching, and practices that so many people run to.

Like in the parable of Jesus, it is necessary not just to remove the evil spirit from the house, but to fill it with the aroma, truth, and joy of a new Spirit.

A true and comprehensive biblical teaching is needed to help false teachers change their way and thus deliver to God's people the goodness of the Bible's way.



Local Leaders Africa Director, Dr Nancy Njagi

SCAN HERE

Scan this QR code to watch a video update from Dr Nancy Njagi (Africa Director) on the progress that has been made in developing resources and conducting training on biblical generosity and stewardship.



The concepts of God's generosity and his call to us to be generous and good stewards is the starting point. What is also needed is to understand these concepts from an African mindset and experience. We thus assembled key scholars from around the continent who already work in this area of teaching. We have given their ideas wings and a strategy for taking the teaching to tens of thousands of churches in the coming years.

This edition of Prayer Alert will give you an understanding of some of the concepts we have been working with under the overarching framework of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy. The response is the work of our many partner institutions which we have coordinated to bring about good contextual theologising, and a strategy for rolling out the teaching around the continent.

We trust this Prayer Alert will guide you to pray against the false teaching of the endemic prosperity gospel, and positively for the great increase of a biblical understanding of God and ourselves. The problem is not contained, and it is not minor. It is a critical issue for the church of Africa to become 'a mile deep' in its commitment to God and witness to the continent.



Key leaders from the Bible colleges of the Africa Mile Deep Strategy gathered at St Paul's University in Kenya, March 2026. This was the ninth year of the annual AMDS Conference. The nine hub colleges of the AMDS are: Alexandria School of Theology (Egypt), East Africa Christian College (Rwanda), George Whitefield College (South Africa), Lake Malawi Anglican University (Malawi), St John's University (Tanzania), St Paul's University (Kenya), The Episcopal University (South Sudan), Theological Institutions of the Anglican Communion (Nigeria) and Uganda Christian University (Uganda).

PLEASE PRAY

Gracious Father, we pray for your people who are caught up in the harmful teachings of the prosperity gospel. Please reveal the truth to them and help them to embrace a biblical understanding of generosity. We praise you for the theological leaders in Africa who are tackling this problem, working hard to develop good teaching strategies to bring truth and freedom. Please encourage and inspire the leaders involved in this project as they see lives transformed by your word. Amen.

TIMELINE OF THE PROJECT SO FAR

Phase 1: 2022 – 2024

Local Leaders International, and several mission agencies with deep roots in Africa, launch the ‘Generosity Gospel Project’, partnering with leading African scholars to create a new set of courses and resources to counteract the harmful teachings of the prosperity gospel. Additionally, the project aims to launch an independent charity called ‘Generosity in Africa Foundation’ that will take the material produced and disseminate it around the continent.

Scholars take time to reflect and write

Local Leaders funds a gathering of five main and six ancillary scholars who were released from their posts around Africa to gather at George Whitefield College in Cape Town from Sept – Dec 2022. With their facilitators, they map out what will be needed to make a major impact in teaching Generosity in Africa. (Read the heartfelt reflections of the scholars on page 13 and 14).

The Book

The scholars write a book that can be used in Bible colleges across the continent to teach biblical generosity to faculty members (Masters level courses) and pastors in training (Bachelor and Diploma level courses). Once the chapters are completed, Dr Caroline Seed (Local Leaders’ Theological Education Consultant) and Rev Dr Julius Kithinji (St Paul’s University, Kenya) take on the editorial work. The book was submitted to Langham Publishing for review in 2024, and a publication date is expected in 2026.

Of the writing and editing process, Caroline said,

“... we’ve been exposing the deep roots of generosity in the African cultures. And we realised that the prosperity gospel has actually moved Africa away from its roots in hospitality. And in this project, we’re just bringing it back and giving it theological depth, theological foundation, and encouraging people to go forward with what is more natural for them.”

To get a feel for the content of the book, see pages 15 and 16.

The Pastors Workbook

The scholars also write a pastors workbook called ‘Biblical Generosity and Stewardship in Africa’. The workbook can be used for grassroots training of existing pastors (certificate courses and short training events).

Leading the development of this resource, Local Leaders Theological Education Consultant, Dr Richard Seed, said *“The authors were highly committed and contributed their time, skills and knowledge of the context to the creation of the workbook. During the process they formed a learning community for discussion and mutual encouragement, and this greatly capacitated the completion of the writing project.”*

Phase 2: 2023–2026

The Foundation

The Generosity in Africa Foundation is established. It is led by key members of Local Leaders’ Africa Mile Deep Strategy.

Pilot Program

A pilot program for training grassroots pastors is initiated. The program is led by Dr Nancy Njagi (Africa Director, Local Leaders International) and supported by her team – training facilitator, Judith Nyaga, and administrator, Mercy Wambui. Five cohorts of twenty pastors participate in the pilot program in Kenya. (For an encouraging overview from Nancy, see pages 17 and 18.)

A review of the pilot program is in progress. Recommendations for improvements will be funnelled into the program, and more training courses will be run in future.

Phase 3: What’s Next

We have a range of distribution methods easily engaged through the 70+ Bible colleges and many thousands of pastors already in our networks.

We want to connect with as many denominations, their training institutions, and their pastors as we are able. Our materials have been created in English, but we want to be able to respond to the need for translation, especially for the grassroots pastors and for training at the congregational level.



The pilot program dream team. From left: Judith Nyaga (training facilitator), Mercy Wambui (administrator) and Dr Nancy Njagi (project leader).

PLEASE PRAY

Lord, what a joy to hear about the work that has been done over the past four years! Thank you for the thoughtfulness, prayer, hard work and perseverance that has gone into every stage of the process. Please bless Nancy, Judith and Mercy as they review the pilot program and make recommendations for the future. May you have your hand on the expansion of the project throughout Africa. Amen.

AFRICAN SCHOLARS WRITING FOR THE AFRICAN CONTEXT

We thank God for the cohort of eleven African scholars who met together, prayed together, planned and wrote the book and pastors workbook. At the time of gathering in Cape Town, they were interviewed about the process. Key reflections from four of the scholars are featured here. These excerpts are taken from a suite of one-minute videos which will be used in conjunction with the launch of the Generosity in Africa Foundation's website.

People Have Been Deeply Affected

EARLY-STAGE CONTRIBUTOR: Rev Dr Lydia Kitayimbwa
Former Chaplain and faculty member at Uganda Christian University, now Chaplain of St. Francis Chapel, Makerere University, Uganda

"I have encountered a number of men and women who have been misled by self-proclaimed pastors and self-proclaimed prophets, misleading people with the message of 'when you give to the Lord, you get more'. In brief, the prosperity gospel. In our country, people will spend the whole day in church, and they'll go with their land titles, go with their cars, go with their property, and they will give their cars to the man of God, their property to the man of God. **And generally, it's like there is business in church. So, people have been deeply affected.**"



A Homegrown Approach

DEVELOPER AND WRITER: Rev Dr Zebedi Muga
Senior Lecturer, St Paul's University, Kenya

"**One important thing about this project is that it is coming from the Africans themselves, African theologians, African specialists...** it's like a homegrown approach, a homegrown theology - generosity from the Africans.

"Most of the prosperity gospel itself is from outside the continent. So, it will be interesting to note that generosity theology will be from the African soil. Many African people can identify with it, because it is so much linked to the culture, the language. We're empowering new generations of African theologians to come up and teach and preach this generosity gospel."



Not Condemning, but Educating

DEVELOPER AND WRITER: Rev Dr Emmanuel Mukeshimana
Lecturer and Head of the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies, Uganda Christian University, Uganda

"This project is now reaching out to help our fellow prosperity preachers to be aware. We are not condemning them, because some of them actually are not educated enough, are not grounded in the word of God. They don't have education. **So, we want now to go out and teach and help them so that they can embrace this kind of generosity:** that we are giving to God, and by the end of the day, God will bless you according to His will, not according to what the pastor wants."



Vision for Clarity

DEVELOPER AND WRITER: Rev Dr Alfred Sebahene
Dean, St John's University, Tanzania

"The church is growing tremendously. But we also have challenges in the body. One of them is the misinterpretation of God's goodness on the continent.

"**I would like to see the church grow with pure, clean, biblical theology, whereby people understand who God is.** I want to see people well-trained in the area of theology, so that when they preach, they can teach the Bible very well. That way we will see the church growing not only in terms of numbers, but in terms of clarity when it comes to theology... We can produce the material needed for Africa that clarifies our interpretation of the Bible around issues of prosperity, generosity and poverty."



PLEASE PRAY

God, we praise you for the scholars involved in this project and the expertise that they brought to the task of theologising and writing for their continent. Thank you that the resources produced through the Generosity Project are written by African theologians for the African church. Please use these resources to enlighten leaders in your church, from grassroots pastors through to faculty in theological institutions – thus blessing the whole body of believers. Amen.

THE BOOK

African Perspectives on Wealth and Prosperity

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

One key element of the Generosity Africa project is the publication of a book entitled “*God’s Abundance and Generosity: African Perspectives on Wealth and Prosperity*”. It forms the ideological basis of the different courses and curricula that have been developed for training pastors and churches.

By developing a sound theological and cultural basis for this project it gives robust guidance to all involved and provides a well-researched and lengthy resource (18 chapters totalling 500 pages by different African scholars) for theological students to be guided by, to build upon, and to critique in the future.

Here are a few highlights to give you a flavour of the book:

From the Introduction by Dr Julius Kithinji, Kenya:

The church has been inundated by torrents of books propagating prosperity preaching, its tenets, benefits and promises of material wealth through religious observances of giving. No end to this deluge seems to be in sight. Much of the publication in this area seems to come from renowned and influential televangelists and emerging influential pastors. Creative ways of preaching that entice unsuspecting Christians to subscribe to religious formulas of “trade” with God in the prosperity market have been devised. The Bible has become a site of struggle for this doctrine, as every verse is pressed to support the message of prosperity. A theological spin-off in support of prosperity has therefore become the inescapable reality in our time, and true to the promises of prosperity preaching, a cause and effect scenario seems to support this theology.



Dr Julius Kithinji during a writing workshop for the project.

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you, Heavenly Father, for this book and the way it will shape theological students and pastors over the coming years. We pray that a publication date will be announced this year and that the resource will be a great blessing to Bible colleges and churches across Africa and beyond. Amen.

Daniel Nocodemus critiques the Nigerian context of preaching:

Bible-anaemic prosperity preachers in Nigeria have turned preaching to monetization, commercialization, lust for materialism, exploitation and brainwashing of listeners with wrong doctrines. Furthermore, Bible-anaemic prosperity preaching is corrupting the minds of many Nigerians to pursue wealth at the expense of the things of God which have eternal value.

From Tanzanian scholar, Manase Lusega’s chapter examining prosperity gospel teachings which he then critiques from the Bible:

Prosperity teaching on sowing and reaping is understood by its adherents to be the amount of offering one gives for a proportionate return received as a blessing from God. The more money people give to the church, or to the pastor, the more God will give back to them. Using biblical passages such as Malachi 3:10, Mark 10:29-30, Luke 6:38, 2 Corinthians 9:6, and Galatians 6:7, prosperity gospel preachers teach that the principle of sowing and reaping is implemented by God through giving his people blessings according to their levels of faithful giving, especially in tithes and offerings. The offering is like a seed that is planted and the harvest comes in the form of receiving blessings in obtaining money, work, promotion, health, children, livestock and other similar things.

The Book proceeds to outline many personal and social implications of the two approaches to faith and ways to help the church develop a robust biblical engagement with the world. It is a major resource for the students and pastors of Africa.

We expect publication by the end of 2026 and it will be available from Langham Publishing. We’ll give further advice when it is out.



Some of the scholars during a writing workshop for the Generosity Project at Uganda Christian University in 2023.

THE PILOT PROGRAM

Developing Biblical Generosity and Stewardship in Africa

Dr Nancy Njagi, Africa Director, Local Leaders International

African churches operate within diverse and complex ministry contexts; urban informal settlements, peri urban neighbourhoods, coastal cities, and rural communities. They run congregations that face economic vulnerability, strong cultural influences, and a rapidly changing religious landscape. Across these settings, many pastors and church leaders are required to preach, disciple, manage church resources, and provide community guidance with limited preparation and limited systems of accountability.

To respond to the above realities, a pilot project dubbed Developing Biblical Generosity and Stewardship in Africa was initiated in Kenya.

In the pilot locations, a key pattern emerged: leaders often lacked sufficient theological grounding and practical ministry skills to navigate the pressures of ministry faithfully and sustainably. For example, in Kawangware Slum, only two out of ten leaders reported receiving more than two weeks of Bible/theology training. This gap in formation contributes directly to ministry weaknesses such as inconsistent sermon preparation, shallow biblical teaching, overly centralised leadership (where one pastor controls multiple departments), and strained pastor–congregation relationships that can lead to members leaving the church. In addition, many leaders minister among congregations that have become

accustomed to “prosperity-only” messages, making them at times hostile or unreceptive to corrective teaching, while other leaders are tempted to prioritise building “huge churches” through “big man of God” tactics rather than discipling believers in sound doctrine and faithful practice.

Within this context, the need for training in biblical generosity and stewardship is both doctrinal and pastoral. Where misleading theologies, especially distorted prosperity teaching, shape beliefs and expectations, giving and resource use can become transactional, manipulative, or fear-driven, undermining trust and eroding the witness of the church. The project, therefore, sought to equip leaders with sound biblical teaching that can correct error, rebuild confidence in Scripture, and nurture congregations toward generosity that is rooted in the gospel rather than in promises of material gain.

The training also intentionally targeted leadership character and systems: **helping leaders move from dependence on congregants as “sources of income” toward a shepherding posture that recognises believers as the body of Christ who deserve care, dignity, and a sense of belonging.** This shift includes strengthening transparent and accountable administration, shared leadership structures, and faithful resource management so that churches can model integrity and become credible agents of mission and service in their communities.

Theologically, the project was anchored in the conviction that Christian leaders are

stewards before they are managers, and shepherds before they are platform-builders. Jesus’ restoration and commissioning of Peter, “*Feed my lambs... Take care of my sheep... Feed my sheep*” (John 21:15–17), frames pastoral leadership as a sacred co-mandate of love, care, and responsibility for Christ’s flock.

In line with this mandate, the training emphasised:

- (i) Faith:** forming leaders who are grounded in God’s Word, able to defend and build their own faith and that of their congregations through conviction and sound interpretation;
- (ii) Mission:** cultivating biblical reflection that transforms leaders and mobilises congregations toward compassionate engagement with the wider community;
- (iii) Leadership:** strengthening effective, transparent, and accountable governance structures that support a biblically sound and generous church.

Aligned with the overall project goal, the initiative piloted a contextually relevant Pastor’s Workbook as a practical tool to equip and empower leaders with knowledge and skills in biblical generosity and stewardship. The pilot focus enabled the project team to test whether the workbook was relatable, effective, and applicable across varied socio economic and denominational settings, and to generate learning for improving both the content and facilitation approach for future scale up.

“Equipping churches in biblical generosity and stewardship unlocks lasting change – it inspires believers to give with purpose, steward with integrity, and sustain ministry from within. Your support makes it possible to nurture self-reliant, thriving faith communities that carry the mission of God forward.” Judith Nyaga, Training Facilitator.

PLEASE PRAY

Glory to you, God, for the success of the pilot program! Thank you for the pastors and leaders who received the training, who were open to deepening their understanding and sharing their challenges. We pray the training will bear great fruit in the lives of these pastors and their congregants. Thank you for the Pastor’s Workbook and the team who delivered the pilot training in Kenya. Please help them refine the training and expand the program to many more pastors. Amen.



Judith (left) holding the Pastor’s Workbook with Pastor Jane, who leads a small congregation in Kayole-Soweto slum.

A PASTOR'S TEST

Dr Nancy Njagi, Africa Director, Local Leaders International

Pilot Training Program Participant:

PASTOR ABRAHAM JUMA
Emmanuel Transformation Church
in Kayole-Soweto



Pastor Juma informed us that following the training on generosity and stewardship, he had been conducting training sessions on faith and generosity among church members and occasionally donating food to needy families. He identified the families from the slum, called them to church, taught them the word of God and sent them home with a food package.

This testimony is what drove my colleagues and I to visit his church and congregation on 11th of February 2026.

During our interactions, I asked him to share with those present what his greatest challenge was following the training conducted in May 2025. What he said shocked me.

Pastor Juma said, *“Right after the training that helped us to explore a biblical response to the false teachings of prosperity in Nairobi, a church leader who had not been at the training invited me to accompany him to visit an ailing woman and offer prayers for money. **I had the courage and knowledge to say no to this pastor and educate him on the challenges of demanding money for prayers, an expression of false prosperity teachings in Kenya.** My prayer is that more*

church leaders can receive the knowledge I attained during the training”

Pastor Juma also illustrated the challenges of both church leaders and congregation members serving and living in slums or resource deprived communities like Soweto Kayalo. Challenges of low income, unemployment, poor housing, sanitation, water shortage, congestion and other issues complicate the faith dynamics in the slums. Church leaders struggle to make ends meet. One leader is known to have fainted at the pulpit due to hunger, however the congregation thought that he had been slain by the Holy Spirit. Struggles at a personal and family level may push the church leaders to pick the short cut of extorting the congregation by taking advantage of their vulnerabilities. Phrases such as, “God has said that you must give an offering that costs you much, so that you can align to the destiny that He has in place for you” are common.

On the other hand, congregation members are struggling through life and are searching for hope in all places, including the church. This is a good thing, searching for hope in church. It would be expected that true hope

in Jesus Christ would be preached and taught. Unfortunately, some have been known to part with borrowed money for prayer. They end up putting their hope in the pastor, money or even witchcraft.

So, what is the solution? I asked Pastor Juma, and he said,

“Both the church leader and congregation members need knowledge and skills to overcome poverty. Poverty is what brings about the temptation to preach and consume false teachings of prosperity.

“Let us put attention to discipling the youth who need sound biblical teaching”.

“Let us work together to train more church leaders on the power of generosity and stewardship towards church growth”.



At Emmanuel Transformation Church in February 2026. (From left) Judith Nyaga, Ps Abraham Juma and Dr Nancy Njagi with Ps Juma's certificate of participation in the Generosity and Stewardship training.

PLEASE PRAY

Loving God, thank you for Ps Juma and the transformation you have activated in his life and ministry. We pray for him and his church family, please help them as they serve you in Soweto Kayole and continue to give them the courage to stand strong in your word. Please provide more opportunities for them to build their skills to overcome poverty and disciple the young people in their community. Amen.

DISCOVERING MY TRUE CALLING

A Journey of Generosity and Hope

Rev Alice Timbomei, church leader in the Anglican Diocese of Nakuru, Kenya

Choosing to serve God in the church remains one of the greatest decisions of my life. Yet, for many years, I wrestled with the feeling that preaching from the pulpit was not my true calling. Deep within, I felt drawn to a different kind of ministry - one that involved interacting with people, meeting their needs, and showing the love of Christ through action. I did not know how to go about this.

A Life-Changing Encounter

My turning point came when I attended a week-long training organised by the Generosity in Africa Foundation in Nakuru from 30th June to 4th July 2025. During the sessions on God's generosity, goodness, stewardship, and resource mobilisation (among others) I experienced a personal transformation. The teachings opened my eyes to the reality that ministry extends far beyond preaching—it is about living out God's love daily in our communities.

This encounter renewed my energy and gave me a new vision for service. I returned to the Parish determined to make generosity a lifestyle and a tool for transformation.

"The greatest among you is the one who serves" (Matthew 23:11, Luke 22:26)

Bringing Hope to the Elderly

Upon returning to my community, I began visiting the elderly, many of whom live alone and feel forgotten. We spent time in fellowship - singing hymns, praying, sharing the Word, and listening to their life experiences. These visits restored hope and

created deep bonds of love. Sharing the love of Christ through the Eucharist and, for others, my presence with them became the most fulfilling acts of service.

Mobilising the Community for Action

Inspired by the training, I took the initiative to mobilise my community - men, women, youth, and children - to work together for the good of the church. Through our collective effort, we cleared the church compound, filled potholes, and planted trees around the premises. These activities strengthened our sense of unity and stewardship, showing that when people work together in love, transformation happens.



Tree planting.

Caring for the Sick and Vulnerable

Another area close to my heart is hospital and home visits. I have reached out to the sick, particularly cancer survivors and their families, who often feel overwhelmed by emotional and financial burdens. Through prayer, encouragement, and compassion, I have witnessed renewed faith and comfort among those facing great challenges.



Rev Alice praying for the sick.

Reaching Out to People with Disabilities

I also learned the importance of inclusivity and networking. With support from community members, we organised a special service for people living with disabilities. The event brought together individuals from different backgrounds to worship, share testimonies, and celebrate God's love. It was a remarkable day of joy, unity, and hope for all involved.

Recognised for Community Impact

The fruits of these efforts were not only visible in the lives touched but also acknowledged at the diocesan level, where I was recognised for exceptional dedication to community outreach and ministry to the needy. This recognition encouraged me to continue using my gifts to make a difference in people's lives.

Continuing the Mission of Generosity

The Generosity in Africa Foundation training equipped me with both vision and practical tools to serve beyond the pulpit. Today, I continue visiting the elderly, praying with the sick, mobilising community members, and mentoring others in the spirit of generosity.

A Prayer for the Future

My prayer is that God may continue to strengthen and sustain this Foundation of generosity and stewardship so that, together, we can impact more people and inspire greater transformation across continents.

"Generosity in Africa served us to be able to serve others for Gods glory."

PLEASE PRAY

Praise you, Lord, for the way you spoke to Alice through your word and transformed her ministry. Thank you for the ways she has been your hands and feet to the people in her community. Please bless her work and continue to bring her joy in serving you. Give her courage and perseverance as she ministers to lots of different people in difficult circumstances. Continue to strengthen and sustain the foundation you have laid of biblical generosity and stewardship, may it bear fruit in Alice and the people she serves, and spread throughout the continent as training continues. Amen.

THE NUTS AND BOLTS OF THE PILOT PROGRAM

Project Design and Methodology

Dr Nancy Njagi, Africa Director, Local Leaders International

The Pilot Program successfully trained 105 church leaders in biblical generosity and stewardship. As a result 2,225 community and congregation members have been trained or influenced through the trickle-down effect of those 105 leaders.

The Training Approach: The project applied a workshop-and-follow-up model. Church leaders participated in a one-week training and developed action plans during the workshop. Facilitators provided structured follow-up through one-on-one calls, group chats, and site visits (for Nairobi cohorts), based on the timelines in participants' action plans. Approximately eight months after the initial workshop, cohorts were reconvened for reflection and graduation to share testimonies, receive certificates, and document outcomes. Selected participants were also visited to capture impact stories



Participants Timothy Ombima and Esther Matekwa referring to the Pastor's Workbook.

through photos and videos. Each workshop was documented through a brief proceedings report, followed by a post-training debrief and an analysis of subject units to inform improvements to the Pastor's Workbook after the pilot.

Mercy Wambui, administrator and trainer for the pilot program, said: ***“What I loved during this training and follow up period was:***

The eagerness to learn, especially in the cohorts outside the city. Chavakali was our favourite place (Judith and I). The realisation that came during the training for the pastors that they had focused too much on other issues and forgotten their primary responsibility of looking after the flock of Christ. That the looking after wasn't that difficult, and how little things that they often overlooked really mattered to their congregations and the immediate impact it had on other things like church attendance and giving. How when they came back to share after the training they would start with the phrase “I was not able to do much” then they would share testimonials on how they chose to love their church members by giving of their time and little resources and how much difference that made even for themselves. The opportunity to implement the content of the manual away from our usual context, which is the city, was a great joy to me.”

The following subject units were covered:

1. Biblical understanding of faith
2. Christian teaching of the goodness of God
3. Biblical foundations of prosperity
4. Biblical foundations of generosity
5. Historical teachings on generosity and prosperity
6. Arising issues in generosity and prosperity in Africa
7. Communication practices for generosity
8. The role of the media in generosity propagation
9. Administrative structures
10. Power and wealth
11. Leadership, poverty and wealth
12. Resource mobilisation

Duration: Each workshop ran for five days at eight hours per day (40 hours total). Sessions combined teaching inputs with group discussions, participant presentations, and practicum activities supported by teaching aids.

Teaching methods: Facilitation used PowerPoint presentations, Bible studies, case studies, role plays, experiential sharing, questions and answers, demonstrations/modelling, pictorial aids, outdoor activities, and illustrations. Core training aids included the workbook/manual, projector, flip charts, pictures, sticky notes, newspapers, and simple props (e.g., food items, modelling clay, balls, balloons, string, and straws), alongside the Bible.



Participants using string to illustrate a point during the one-week training workshop in Mombasa, Kenya.

PLEASE PRAY

Thank you, Lord, for the planning, training and follow up involved in the pilot program and that over 2,200 people have already been influenced through the trickle-down effect of the 105 leaders trained. We pray that this effect expands as pastors continue to teach and live out biblical generosity in their congregations. Amen.

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT THE WORK OF LOCAL LEADERS

Some practical options for you to consider

GENEROSITY AFRICA PROJECT

If you would like to support the next phase of the Generosity Africa Project, you can contribute towards training for grassroots pastors to expand through different countries. **GOAL = \$5,000 per training event.**

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 keen to assist with building the first floor of the offices for Asia Theological Association in India. **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 a small phrase to your will. See our website for an example:

<https://localleaders.org.au/get-involved/bequest/>

It helps to have a lawyer involved and to explain your intentions to your family. 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**

DIRECT DEBIT

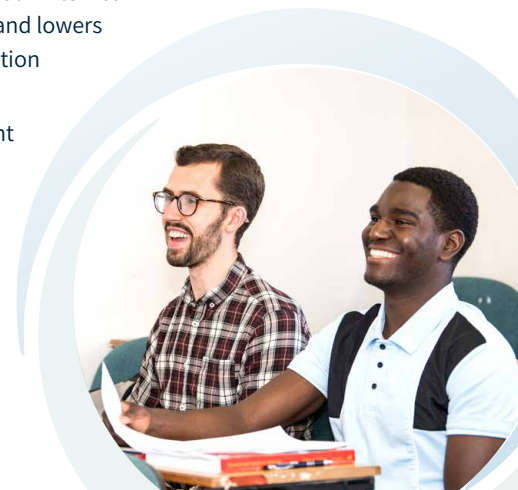
OUR PREFERRED METHOD OF GIVING

Although you can donate via credit card on our website, card charges can consume up to 3% of the donation. **So, for every \$100 donated we could be giving an extra \$3 to our beneficiaries rather than to the bank.**

Our preferred donation method is direct deposit via your internet banking provider. This ensures zero transaction fees and lowers our administration costs. It means more of your donation goes where it's needed most.

See the DONATE page on our website for bank account details: **<https://localleaders.org.au/donate/>**

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



DAY OF PRAYER & FASTING TUESDAY 16 JUNE



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