

UBS

November 2017



Uganda Baptist Seminary

The Story Continues

It is very important for us at Uganda Baptist Seminary to remember those who have gone before us. We are not isolated here in 2017 but rather part of a story of God’s faithful-ness. We are grateful for the brothers and sisters who walked ahead of us—both students and faculty. The staff and faculty poured themselves into the school. It is easy to think of the school as a collection of buildings on a certain piece of land or a set of curriculum that is taught in the classrooms, but the school is grander than those things. The school is a living thing whose primary components are students. We are here to invest our lives in the brothers and sisters of East Africa. As of this year UBS has now seen over 1000 gradu-ates complete their studies. We currently see only a small portion of those, but we know that we are continuing the story that was started by our predecessors. We do not carry this legacy lightly. God has placed us here for this purpose. Paul said in Colossians 1:28 “We proclaim Christ by warning and teaching every person with all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” UBS is part of a long and wide story. Please pray with us that we will be faithful to that story as God has been faithful to us.

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UBS

Graduation Celebrations

We celebrated two graduations this year. There were 46 in our March graduation and 56 in our September graduation. When we counted our total graduates for the history of the school, we realized that we have this year reached over 1,000 total graduates. This is a huge blessing and a great testimony to the hard work of the faculty, staff and students over the years. These alumni have been charged to take what they have learned and reproduce themselves—multiply themselves wherever God has planted them. Thank you to all the students and families who worked hard to make these celebrations possible. We pray that you will reflect God's glory into East Africa and beyond.



Reformation Celebration

On 31 October, UBS celebrated the 500 year anniversary of Martin Luther's nailing of the 95 Theses to the door of the church in Wittenberg, Germany. We have dozens of languages represented at UBS. We owe a debt of thanks to the Reformers for pushing the church to make the Bible available in the local language of the people wherever those people are. We spend a great deal of time in class studying with the students on how they need to be translators between the ancient languages and cultures of the Bible and the language and culture of their local peoples. The story of Christianity is an incarnational story. This began with, of course, the person of Jesus, but it continues in the written Word of God and in the preaching, teaching and living of God's body—the Church. We encourage the students to meet people where they are—incarnationally bringing the Gospel. We owe a great debt to our spiritual ancestors who stood up for the truth in the midst of heavy persecution and at great cost.



“Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason—for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves—I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. God help me. Amen.”

Martin Luther—1521

Student Enrollment, Financial Responsibility and Future Sustainability

One of the most challenging questions we have been facing is “What is the optimal enrollment for UBS to find the right balance between maximum impact through sheer numbers and our financial responsibilities?” Towards the end of 2017, we find ourselves at 226 students. This reduced enrollment over the last few years is a result of a few factors. First of all, the majority of our budget is centered around the students. The more students we have, the more expenses we acquire, and the more revenue we need. Second, since 2013, UBS has seen a 63% reduction in donations. Finally, since 2015, we lost a majority of our missionary teachers, with their vast and extensive experience. These factors necessitated a reduced budget and a reduced teaching load for the faculty.

This all sounds a bit gloomy, but one of the themes that we see here, is the faithfulness and graciousness of the God we serve. We are delighted to report that UBS is much more financially stable for 2017. This is due to many factors: the many generous donors, the sacrifice of the students and their families, and the hard work of our business office in reducing costs.

For the near future we will be trying to keep enrollment at its current place between 200-250. We also have several long-term sustainability projects in the works that should help the school move into the future. Along these lines, we are excited to announce the donation and installment of a solar project on our campus later this year. Also, UBS has also been approved to begin the process of a long-term endowment project through the IMB. Thank you for your prayers. We are excited about the future God has for us.

Faculty Profile - Mr. Moses Mulago

Moses has been a beloved faculty member and our faithful Academic Registrar since 1998. He and his wife Esther have two daughters and just this year they have adopted two sons. Moses has been a pastor in Mbale, Arusha and here in Jinja at Rubaga Baptist Church.

Moses says, “My heart’s desire is to see a growing church that will express maturity in Christ and be able to stand against the false doctrines. One of the places that God has gifted us with in this region to equip His church against wrong teachings is Uganda Baptist Seminary. I am humbled to be part of God’s instrument in this honorable task.”

He holds a Masters degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.



New Missionary Teachers—Mr. Nathan Godby and Dr. Jim Perkins



This year we welcome two new missionary teachers: Nathan Godby and Jim Perkins. Nathan’s central responsibility at UBS is to teach English. He holds a B.S. in Chemistry and Education from Wilmington College in Ohio. He is serving through the International Mission Board’s Journeyman program. Before coming to Uganda, Nathan worked at a pharmaceutical company and served in youth ministry at his home church.

Jim is a retired pastor from Texas. He and his wife Phyllis served in pastoral ministry for thirty-five years. They have two grown daughters and four grandchildren. For the Perkins, Jim says, “Retirement must not be just growing flowers in the garden, but instead will be growing disciples of Christ to be prepared for works of ministry.” He teaches New Testament and holds a PhD from Baylor University.



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Our Story

Uganda Baptist Seminary was founded in 1987 by Jack Frost of the International Mission Board. The school is located in Jinja, Uganda, which is home to the source of the Nile River. From a handful of students in 1987 the school has grown to its current enrollment of 226 students. These students come from Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Burundi, Rwanda, Congo and South Sudan. We have three full-time Ugandan faculty and four full-time IMB missionary families and one mostly full-time volunteer from the UK. We have three program levels: Certificate, Diploma and Bachelors. We also host a Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Masters Degree. We operate on a modular, semi-residential model where students come in for one month terms, three times per year.

By the Numbers in 2017

- ◇ 226 Students from 6 Countries
- ◇ 18 Students in the current Masters Cohort with SEBTS
- ◇ 7 Full-time Lecturers
- ◇ 19 Local Adjunct Lecturers
- ◇ 205 Courses Taught
- ◇ It costs about \$800 per student per year.

Thanksgiving

This has been another year of God's faithfulness here in Uganda. After struggling financially in 2016, the school was able to rebound in 2017 by almost breaking even with our expenses and income. We want to give thanks to all of the donors that so generously supported the school and the students in 2017. We absolutely could not have done it without your help.

One of the many encouragements that we receive are the testimonies from our students as they take what they have learned at UBS and apply that training back into their communities. This multiplication effect is an extraordinary return on the Kingdom investment that is being made at Uganda Baptist Seminary.

Sincerely, Anthony Shelton—Principal

Please check out our redesigned website: www.ugandabaptistseminary.org