

6. Free flow of information: which fosters development of citizens and civil society).
7. High levels of human capital: through widespread access to quality education.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for the students as they write their exams
- Pray for the Computer Skills (Intermediate level) Programme which commenced on 29th April.
- Pray for the ongoing fundraising efforts for the purchase of land for campus construction

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- Thank God for the completion of the first term
- Praise God that the Christian Scholars Week was a success

Echoing other scholars, such as Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi and Darrow Miller, Dr. Osburn demonstrated the overlap on the world map of countries that have good rankings on the Corruption Perception Index (by Transparency International), GDP (and the companion Human Development Index, by the United Nations Development Program), and ranking by Freedom House. Whereas these institutions are content to point out the positive correlation between political and civil freedoms, wealth and low corruption, these Christian scholars dig behind the data to finger the common factor of a Christian heritage among the high-performing countries.

This begs the research question: *why is it that 120 years of Christian influence on the African continent have not registered the same positive indicators? Any takers among intending PhD candidates? We might even throw in a scholarship!*

Here is a reading list to get you started on your research proposal:

- Osburn, Robert (2016) Taming the Beast: Can we Bridle the Culture of Corruption?
- Miller, Darrow (2001) Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures.
- Mangalwadi, Vishal (2012) The Book that Made Your World: How the Bible Created the Soul of Western Civilization.
- Mangalwadi, Vishal (1999) The Legacy of William Carey: A Model for the Transformation of a Culture.
- Stark, Rodney (2005) The Victory of Reason: How Christianity Led to Freedom, Capitalism and Western Success.



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Christian Scholars Week 2019

Theme: Godly Leadership that transforms Nations

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the first Baptist missionaries to Zambia walked from Malawi to the Copperbelt Province to establish the mission?

The mission was established along the Kafulafuta River, and the walking missionaries were William Arthur Phillips and Henry Masters. The year was 1905.

Did you know that among the first three indigenous Baptist pastors was a man named Paul Kasonga, who continued to serve despite suffering from leprosy for many years? Though he never married, he was a much sought-after marriage counselor, with reputedly long queues of couples camping by his vestry well into the night.

Did you know that the longest serving Baptist missionary in Zambia was a woman named Olive Carey Doke? ACU's main auditorium is named after her. She served for 57 years (from 1915 until her death in 1972), establishing a school for girls, and working with others on the first translation of the Bible into the Lamba language.



In This Issue

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These stories speak of the kind of sacrificial servant leadership that is needed to transform a nation! In just one afternoon, we were served with a feast of rich history, and challenged to live for nothing less than seeing 'the whole of scripture applied to the whole of life.' That summed up the session by Dr. Mbewe, in which he built on general church history to delve into the specific history of the Reformed Baptist movement in Zambia.

What impact have Reformed Baptists had in Zambia? Without a doubt the greatest impact has been the deliberate propagation of Reformed Faith, with its theology founded on 'sola scriptura' (testing everything on the authority of scripture alone) and 'Soli Deo gloria' (pursuing the glory of God alone). Emphasising sound doctrine, through a tradition of expository preaching, has been the hallmark of the Reformed Baptist movement; a slow but sure way to impact a nation for the long term.

And to think that expository preaching took hold from very humble beginnings! It all started with one village school boy in Northern Zambia. Faced with the challenges of a long commute to the nearest school, his parents approached the family of a Scottish expatriate teacher to take the boy in, and provide for his needs in exchange for some manual labour during school breaks. The family subsequently took him with them back to Scotland where he went to university. More importantly, it was there that he came to faith, having been exposed to expository preaching. Upon his return to Zambia, he responded to the call to full time ministry, received theological training, and became the first indigenous pastor of Lusaka Baptist Church.

The boy in the story is Rev. Joe Simfukwe, and the Scottish family was not even Christian, but God worked through them to bring expository preaching to Zambia, planting the seed of the Reformed Baptist movement.

Highlights from Christian Scholars Week

By Dr. Celestine Musembi



A mouse that lives in the anti-corruption office; a bible commentary on the dusty shelf of a pastor's office; the underside of a table - just a few of the hilarious but sobering characters you will encounter in Dr. Robert Osburn's book named 'Taming the Beast: Can we Bridle the Culture of Corruption?'

Dr. Osburn (of the Wilberforce Academy in Minnesota) was the main speaker on Days 3 and 4 of Christian Scholars Week. He was assisted by his Zambian-born, US-based mentee, Ms. Margaret Mwale (of the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Self- Development of People program).

Ensuring low levels of corruption was just one of eight pillars he spoke about that are needed in order to transform a society and its leadership by embedding a biblical worldview. The other seven pillars were:

1. A well-functioning government through embodying servant leadership (Mark 10:45), the pursuit of excellence (Colossians 3:23-24), citizen participation (Ephesians 4:16) and the rule of law (Exodus 23:8).
2. A sound business environment: defined by peaceful relations (Romans 12:18), high level of economic freedom (1 Thessalonians 4:11) and wealth not being discouraged nor greed encouraged (Proverbs 13:4; Colossians 3:5).
3. Equitable distribution of resources by giving people equal access to healthcare and education (Romans 2:11, John 1:9; Matthew 5:45) and voluntarily helping those who are poorer (Deuteronomy 15:11).
4. Accept the rights of others by guaranteeing basic human rights for all as image bearers (Genesis 1:26-28), not coercing a worldview on others, but protecting freedom of speech (Romans 14:1-4; Ephesians 4:15), respecting the rights of workers (James 5:4), and honouring women as fellow image bearers (Galatians 3:28).
5. Good relations with foreigners marked by justice and love (Leviticus 19:33-34), peaceful coexistence (Romans 12:18; Hebrews 12:14; Mathew 5:25), hospitality (Heb 13:2) and no aggression (Genesis 12:2).