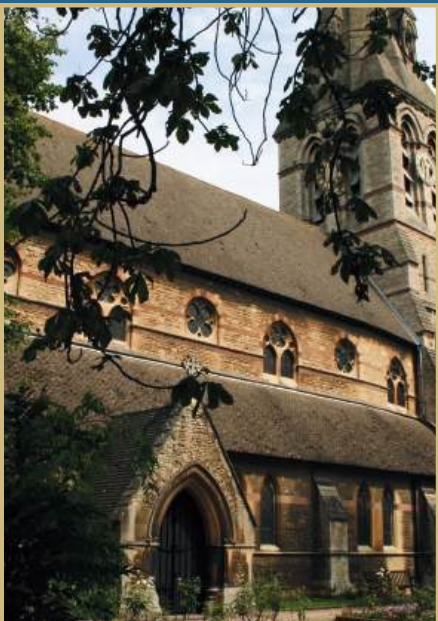


Highlights 2024



Oxford
Centre for
Mission Studies



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Who We Are

We empower Christian leaders **from across the globe** to address critical challenges to faithful witness like poverty, violence, and spiritual and church growth and decline. For over 40 years, we have supported leaders, especially from the Global South, through rigorous research and applied scholarship that integrates theology and mission with practical solutions. We are also a leader in disseminating mission research through publishing.

Programmes and Dissemination

- 1 PhD
- 2 Guided Research (GRP)
- 3 Integrated Mission Leadership (IML)
- 4 Regnum Books
- 5 Transformation Journal

2024 Highlights

85 active PhD students across 30+ countries.



20 books published by Regnum Publications

23 active GRP scholars, with a 43% representation of women



22 IML graduates as part of third year cohort

Over 50,000 downloads of articles from *Transformation* journal



Since our inception, we have proudly celebrated the achievements of **198 PhD graduates** from **56 countries**, along with **17 MPhil graduates**. Since expanding our programs in 2018, **75 church leaders** have completed our year-long Integrated Mission Leadership (IML) programme, and we have had **30 GRP graduates** — bringing the total number of participants across our 3 programmes to more than **70 countries**.

Equipping Leaders for Global Impact

Our programmes equip scholars to tackle real-world challenges with transformative change. These include:

- **PhD Programme:** part-time, with flexible short-term Oxford residencies, allowing students to balance research with professional and community commitments.
- **Guided Research Programme (GRP):** Intentional context-specific research periods that address pressing challenges, enabling students to make impactful contributions.
- **Integrated Mission Leadership Programme (IML):** one-year, immersive programme focused on leadership and organisational development for Christian witness in dynamic, changing contexts.



Programmes Highlights



PhD

- **17 students** completed their PhDs, addressing topics ranging from missional theology to social justice.
- **85 active students** representing
- **30 countries**, with a strong focus on leaders from Africa, Asia, and Latin America..



Guided Research

- Vital tool for leaders addressing context-specific challenges.
- **20 scholars** engaged in projects.
- **43%** of participants are **women**
- **25%** from **Africa**, **30%** from **Asia**, and **15%** from **Latin America**
- Research projects ranged from addressing harmful masculinity in Democratic Republic Congo to creating a theology of hospitality in Brazil.



Mission Leadership

- Bringing together senior leadership to study the changing nature of mission and organisational development
- **23 leaders** completed the third cohort
- Representing **16 organisations** and many thousands of cross-cultural workers

Celebrating Transformative Impact

Our alumni continue to make a global impact.

Our research programmes empower leaders to address urgent social, economic, environmental, and theological challenges within their communities by integrating scholarly research with practical application. In the following pages, we highlight key alumni projects and their most significant achievements.



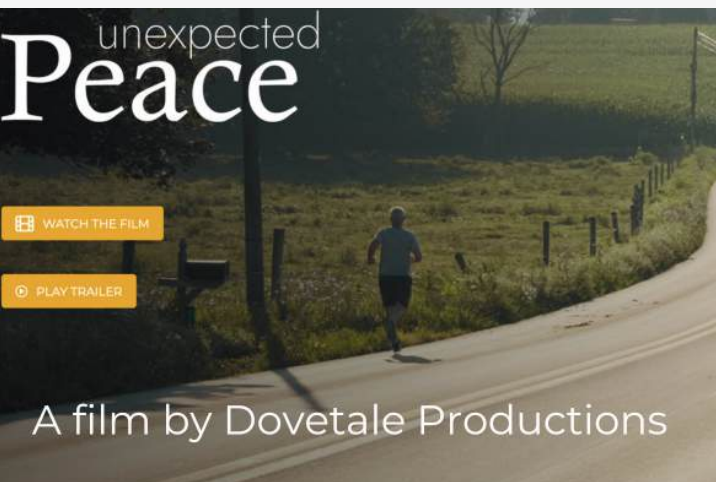
Remarkable Outcomes from our **PhD** Alumni



Transforming Leadership in the DRC:

In the Democratic Republic of Congo, a nation marked by conflict and systemic challenges, an OCMS PhD graduate is reshaping academic thought and societal realities. As a university lecturer and Academic Dean, his research into power abuse and societal oppression has provided actionable insights for his community.

This alumni has used his GRP research to address pervasive community violence rooted in distorted views of masculinity. His groundbreaking textbook on Biblical masculinity, published in French, is now widely used across theological colleges in DR Congo, fostering a culture of respect and non-violence.



Transforming Communities Through Peacebuilding

OCMS alumnus Dr. Jonathan Bornman, an American social anthropologist, used his PhD research at OCMS to study the Muridiyya Muslim community in Harlem, New York. His ethnographic work uncovered the community's deep commitment to nonviolence, reshaping perceptions and providing a foundation for his ongoing peacebuilding initiatives.

The documentary, 'Unexpected Peace' builds on his research, showcasing stories of forgiveness and reconciliation across three contexts: the Amish community's response to the Nickel Mines school shooting, the resilience of the Muridiyya community, and interfaith collaboration in Indonesia. His work exemplifies OCMS's mission to equip leaders who inspire peace and reconciliation in diverse and challenging settings.

Remarkable Outcomes from our **PhD** Alumni



Mining Justice and Innovation in Kenya

Through his PhD at OCMS, Dr. Terry Garde, originally from South Africa developed "Mining God's Way," a framework integrating theology, justice, and creation care to address challenges in artisanal mining. His research in Kenya, Zimbabwe, and Uganda explored how social, economic, and environmental justice can transform livelihoods in mining communities while honouring God's creation.

Building on his research, Terry now works with miners in Kenya, testing mercury-free gold extraction technologies like the GroundBreaker kit. These innovations aim to increase efficiency, reduce environmental harm, and boost local incomes, translating his vision of resource justice into practical solutions for sustainable mining practices.



Advancing Peace and Reconciliation in Palestine/Israel

We are proud to count 3 Palestinian alumni—Dr. Salim Munayer, Dr. Munther Isaac, and Dr. Rula Khoury Mansour—among those leading in 2024 vital peace and reconciliation efforts during the current Palestine/Israel conflict. Drawing on their research and published works, they offer theological and practical frameworks to foster justice, dialogue, and healing in a region marked by profound suffering and destruction.

This year, Salim and Munther visited OCMS to share their stories, with Salim presenting his latest book, *Reconciling Justice*, during a chapel service. Through global speaking engagements, they have been instrumental in keeping hope for lasting peace alive, ensuring that dialogue and reconciliation remain central to the path forward. Their work exemplifies the power of scholarship and advocacy in promoting peace amidst conflict.

Remarkable Outcomes from our **GRP** Alumni



Equipping Church Leaders in Japan

A mission worker from South Africa, serving as a lecturer in a Japanese seminary, developed a missions course tailored to ultra-secular communities where materialism intersects with Buddhist spirituality. His GRP research has equipped church leaders to engage effectively in this challenging context, where Christians represent a small minority.



Culturally Appropriate Education Leadership in West Africa

In a Muslim-majority country, a mission worker focused on developing schools researched leadership models suitable for the local context. His findings have enhanced teacher recruitment, training, and leadership support, resulting in values-driven education that aligns with Christian principles.



Renewing Theological Passion in Nigeria

Concerned about the spiritual stagnation of theological students, a Nigerian Christian leader researched how to integrate spiritual formation into theological education. His work resulted in a new curriculum that nurtures both the mind and heart for gospel ministry. Adopted across multiple colleges in Nigeria, this curriculum ensures graduates remain passionate witnesses for Christ.



A Theology of Hospitality in Brazil

A Brazilian church worker, focused on marginalised communities, joined the GRP to explore the 'theology of hospitality.' Her research underscores that hospitality is central to Christian ministry. She has since developed teaching materials that inspire churches to embrace the mission of God as one of ultimate hospitality.



What **IML** Participants are Saying

IML Participant

"I arrived feeling insecure about my leadership role and questioning whether I was even worthy to participate in IML. I leave with a new sense of maturity and confidence in who I am, and who I am as a leader. I've been affirmed in every sense. I'm equipped with so many tools for the journey ahead, and with relationships with all these incredible global leaders - a leadership community unlike any other".

Diane Marshall, Global Director, SIM International

"How do you refresh two dozen weary but eager mission leaders? Bring us together to reflect on a psalm through the lens of brokenness, guided by a vulnerable spiritual director. Add solid OD theory from a global consultant and mentoring walks around a blooming lake to share leadership struggles. Wrap it up with interagency connections and the promise of meeting again soon. A powerful recipe for blessing God's kingdom workers."



Knowledge Dissemination and Library



Regnum Books

Instrumental in advancing mission-focused research, publishing **23 books in 2024** that address critical global issues. Regnum books serve as key resources for mission and theology scholars and practitioners.



Transformation Journal

Transformation Journal continues to make a significant impact, with **over 50,000 full-text downloads in 2024**. As a leading voice in holistic mission studies, it offers Christian scholars a platform for innovative ideas and impactful research.



Library

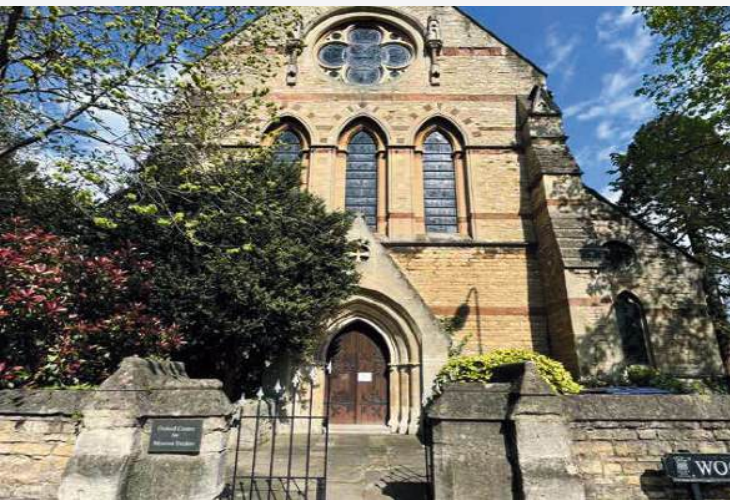
The OCMS library, housing over **18,000 mission-focused volumes** is a hub for research and learning. Under the care of our librarian, the collection is continually updated to serve the needs of mission practitioners worldwide.



A vibrant Community in a Beautiful Historic Church

Housed in the iconic St. Philip and St. James Church, OCMS has been based in this architectural masterpiece since 1983. Designed by renowned architect George Edmund Street, the church is a Grade I listed building of immense historical and architectural significance. Maintaining and enhancing such a unique and historic building requires ongoing care and refurbishment. These efforts ensure that it remains a welcoming and effective space for learning and reflection. We have plans for more extensive refurbishment going forward.

Spiritual growth is as essential as academic achievement. Weekly Chapel services foster reflection and worship, featuring esteemed speakers from local parishes and beyond. These gatherings, coupled with shared meals, form the heart of our vibrant and supportive community.



Financial Overview

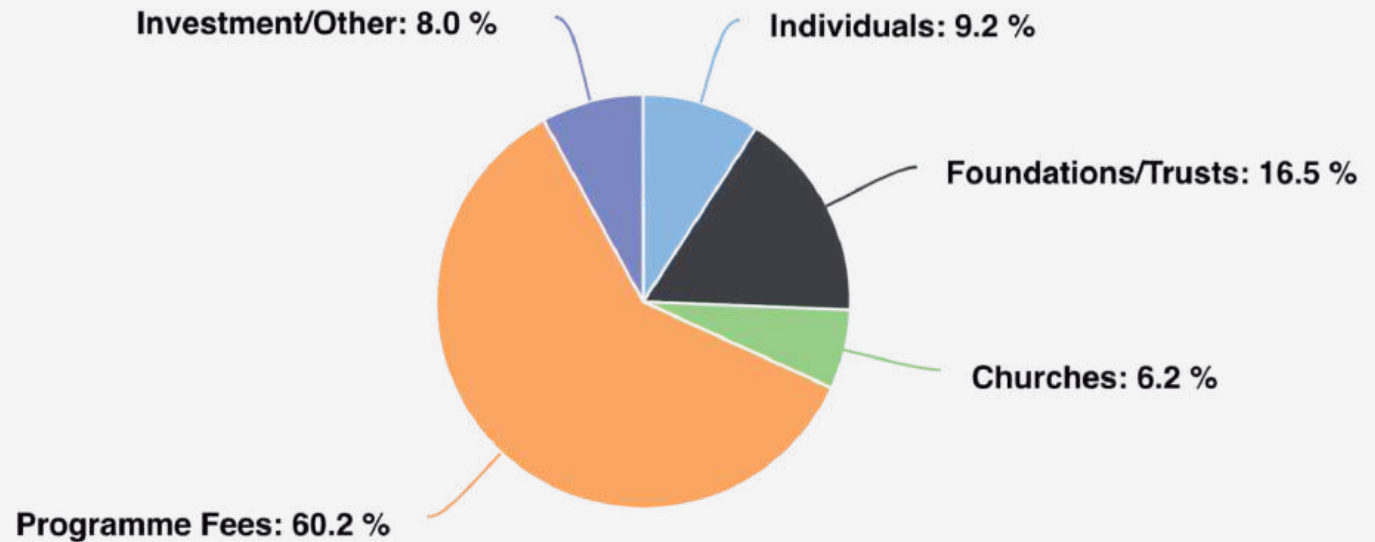
Over the last several years OCMS has not raised its programme fees, acknowledging the challenging circumstances of many of our students and scholars.

At the same time, the UK has experienced sharp cost increases. OCMS has worked hard to contain these costs, and we particularly appreciate those staff who are either seconded to the team or who work as volunteers.

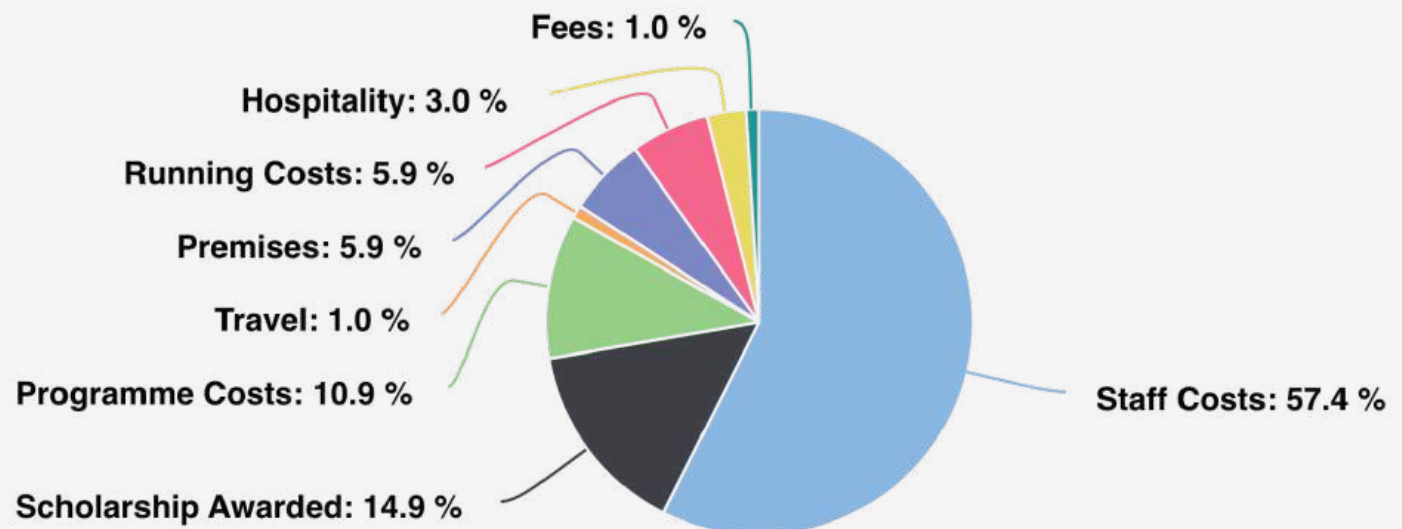
This approach is unlikely to work in the future as costs continue to rise and OCMS will need to grow its donor base in the years ahead.

The charts illustrate how dependant OCMS is on the generosity of God's people. Income comes primarily from Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Germany, USA and UK, demonstrating the global of OCMS' partnership with the global church.

Income - £1,073,949



Expenditure - £1,060,287



Looking Ahead



OCMS thrives on the generosity of individuals, churches, and trusts. Your contributions help:

- Provide scholarships for leaders from under-resourced contexts
- Fund faculty members in participating in relevant conferences
- Contribute to core operating costs

As we continue to grow and serve, we look forward to welcoming new student cohorts, launching the OCMS Research Institute for Mission and Innovation, and expanding our global partnerships.

With your support, we will remain at the forefront of equipping leaders for God's mission.

Yours in Christ

Dr. Paul Bendor-Samuel
Executive Director, OCMS

Join Us in Transforming Lives



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