

IMPACT REPORT 2025

Equipping leaders. Transforming communities.

'Theological research is not abstract - it becomes practical when it helps leaders respond faithfully to the realities of their own communities'



Oxford
Centre for
Mission Studies





Highlights

The world today faces many challenges – conflict, poverty, migration, and rapid social change. The church needs leaders who are rooted in faith and equipped to respond to complex realities.

OCMS is here to meet that need, empowering scholars to combine research and leadership to make a real difference in their communities.

In 2025, OCMS continued to equip leaders from across the world through research, formation, publishing, and partnership – helping churches, institutions, and mission organisations respond practically to the challenges they face. We also completed a lighting project, made building improvements, and achieved strong progress in fundraising for the final phase of the project.

At a Glance - 2025 OCMS Impact

OCMS helps leaders address the challenges that matter most – through research that's rigorous, grounded, and built for real impact. Most study part time, staying rooted in their ministries and communities while tapping into world-class supervision, a global learning network, and real opportunities to share what they discover.

PhD

70 Scholars
210 Alumni

Guided Research

20 Scholars
32 Alumni

Integrated Mission Leadership

22 Current cohort
90 Alumni

from over 70 countries across all programmes

Transformation

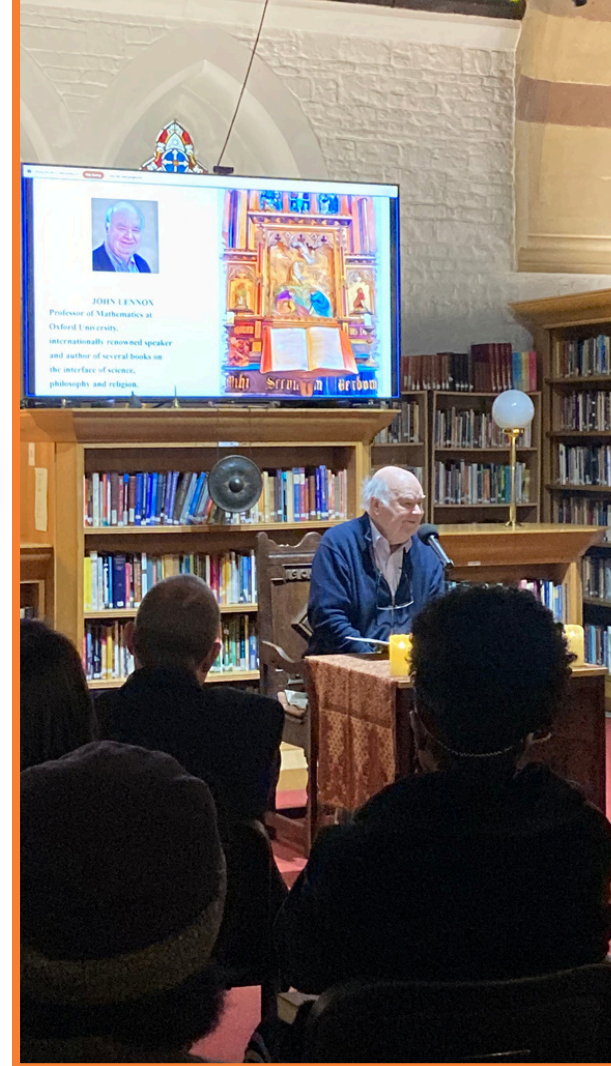
Mission Journal
40,000 Article
downloads

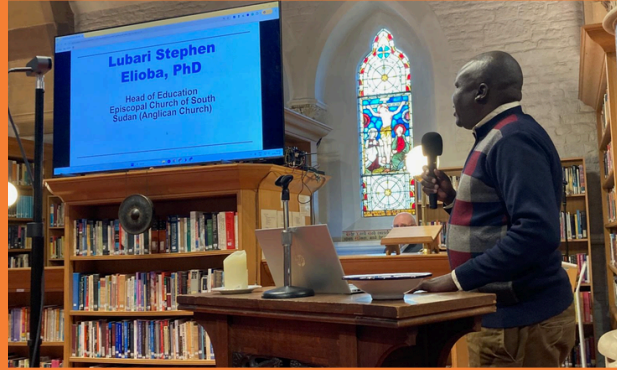
Regnum Books

19 Books published

Public Lectures

15 Expert lectures





PhD Programme

A flexible, part-time doctoral programme for experienced leaders, combining rigorous research with ongoing ministry. Students remain rooted in their context while engaging deeply with theological and missional challenges.

Sustaining education in the midst of conflict

In South Sudan, civil war, poverty and instability have pushed education to the edge. Schools run without pay. Resources run out. Families carry burdens most of us cannot imagine. Here, education survives because of people like Lubari.

Dr. Lubari Stephen Elioba is the Director of Educational Services for the Episcopal Church of South Sudan (ECSS). Lubari didn't wait for outside solutions. His PhD research at OCMS explored what others have overlooked: that for decades, ordinary families in Yei County have quietly sustained schools through conflict and crisis – largely unrecognised, rarely resourced, but absolutely essential. His conclusion is education in the world's most fragile places will not be saved from the top down. It is built by parents from the ground up.

Supported by OCMS and sustained by conviction, Lubari survived the disruption of Covid, in addition to civil war with his family in a refugee camp. Today his research hasn't ended in an academic library, but is shaping government policy and being implemented back in the communities that made it possible.



20th anniversary of ESCC Training Department (2026)



Equipping leaders to rebuild a nation

Dr Jean Musavuli, now lecturer in Bible and Theology at the Christian Bilingual University of the Congo (L'Université Chrétienne Bilingue du Congo [UCBC]) offers a powerful example of the kind of scholar-practitioner OCMS seeks to equip. Living and working in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with his wife, Linda, and their three children, Jean's academic work is deeply rooted in the painful realities of his country's history and in the urgent need for leadership that empowers rather than exploits.

In his doctoral research at OCMS, Jean developed a postcolonial reading of the book of Nehemiah in light of the Congolese context. His work asks what it means to read Scripture in a way that speaks truthfully to the DRC's experience of power abuse, colonial legacy, and social fracture.

For Jean, this is not just an academic exercise. Now appointed Academic Dean, he sees in Nehemiah a call to use power to empower the weak rather than exploit them. Through the counter-cultural work of UCBC, students and church leaders are being trained to think and act for social justice, responsibility, and hope in the life of their nation.

UCBC
IS A SOURCE OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION





GRP Programme

A structured research programme for practitioners addressing real issues in their ministry or organisation. It enables leaders to develop practical, context-specific insight while continuing in their work.

Bringing Indigenous memory & theology into the life of the church

Jocabed Reina Solano Miselis and Drew Jennings-Grisham are GRP alumni who came to OCMS to deepen their research into how Indigenous expressions of faith can be understood and lived out in today's world. During their time in Oxford, they developed research that is now shaping a forthcoming book, aimed at helping the wider church engage more deeply with Indigenous perspectives on faith and mission.

Jocabed, from the Gunadule nation in Panama, is also a climate change negotiator on the global stage. As co-director of Memoria Indígena, she brings Indigenous knowledge, Scripture, and lived experience into global conversations—representing Panama at forums such as COP and serving on the World Council of Churches' Commission on Climate Justice.

Together, they serve with Memoria Indígena, working to recover and preserve Indigenous histories, theology, and oral traditions, and to create space for communities to articulate their identity and faith.

Through research, storytelling, and intercultural dialogue, their work is helping to amplify Indigenous voices and reshape how mission is understood and practised worldwide.





Nairobi, Kenya



Ashburnham, UK

Integrated Mission Leadership (IML)

A IML is OCMS's flagship leadership initiative, creating space for experienced mission and church leaders to reflect, renew, and lead more effectively in complex global contexts. A year-long, in-person, programme equipping senior Christian leaders through four residential modules in mission theology, leadership, spiritual formation, and organisational development.

The 2025 cohort included one module delivered in Nairobi. In addition, an adapted form of the programme was provided through two short intensive courses, delivered in partnership with Onnuri Church, South Korea for 34 senior church pastors and 18 mission agency leaders. The experience was so successful the team have been invited back in 2026.

33
organisations

89
senior leaders
trained

25
countries

I believe that history will point to the significance of this programme as critical for equipping and deploying leaders to shape the future of God's global mission.

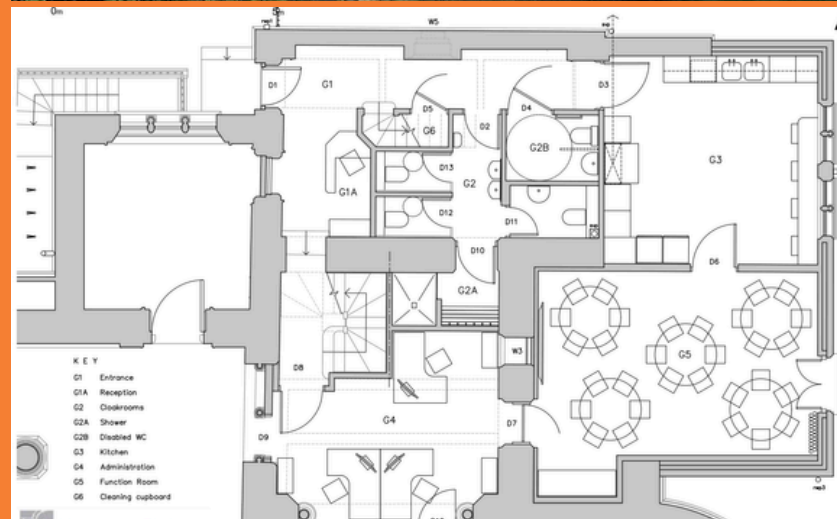
Executive VP and Chief Culture Officer, large organisation working with students

A Building fit for the Next Generation

Significant improvements to the OCMS building have already been completed, including major upgrades to heating and lighting. These changes have transformed the internal environment – creating a lighter, more welcoming, and more sustainable space for study, research, large events and community life. The quality of space matters, shaping how students learn, scholars engage, and visitors experience the life of the Centre.

Looking ahead, further developments are planned for 2026 as the project moves toward completion. With just over **£1 million** already raised towards the **£1.35 million** project total, we are grateful to our supporters whose generosity is making this transformation possible.

Plans illustrating the transformation of the hospitality area into a welcoming, multi-purpose space for shared learning, dialogue, and community life.



Sharing Knowledge Across the Globe

Regnum Books

Imagine a local church conference in which 1,500 church members gather for a three day academic symposium. That's what happened in Singapore's City Harvest church. Senior pastor, Kong Hee, is persuaded that Pentecostalism needs rigorous theology and invited OCMS to partner in a series of conferences designed to engage Pentecostal theology from an Asian perspective. Regnum books is the publishing partner behind the project.

Regnum Books published **19 new titles** across its series in 2025, bringing together academics and practitioners to explore the faithful witness of the church in all its diversity — and continuing its commitment to hear and amplify voices from across the world church.



Transformation - our Mission Journal



Published in partnership with Sage, Transformation remains a highly ranked journal in mission studies, with strong global reach. With around **40,000 downloads** annually and engagement from nearly **10,000** education institutions, it continues to influence mission thinking and practice worldwide.

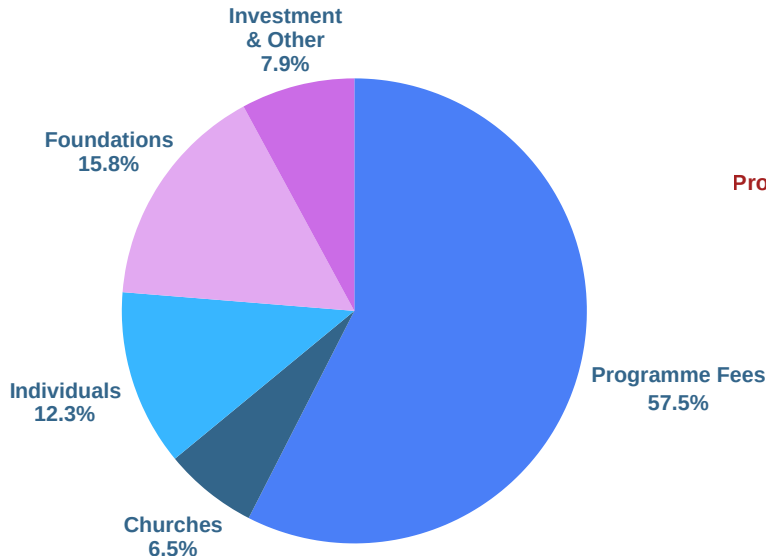


Scan to visit
Regnum Books website.

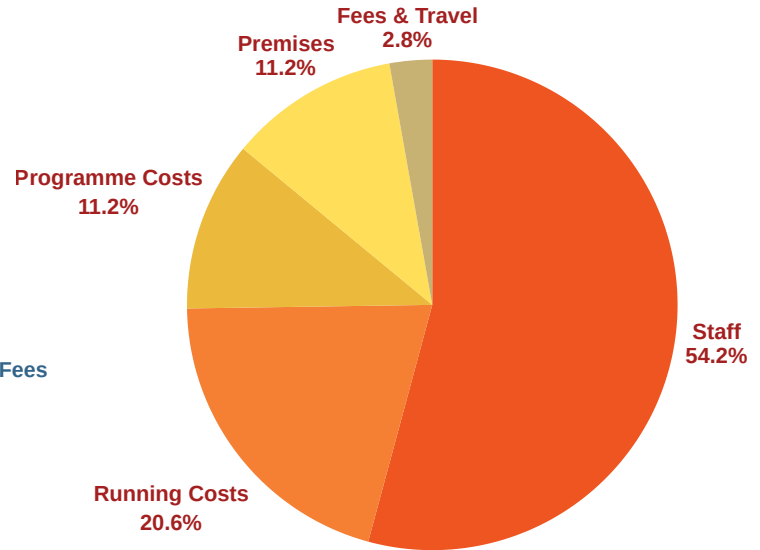
OCMS 2025 - Financial Overview

OCMS operates through a combination of programme income and the generosity of churches, trusts, and individual supporters. This partnership enables OCMS to equip leaders from diverse contexts while investing in faculty, resources, and infrastructure for long-term impact. The charts reflect the global nature of this support – with donor income from Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, Germany, the USA, and the UK. OCMS remains committed to careful stewardship of its finances and we are deeply grateful to all who make this possible.

Income



Expenditure



Looking Ahead



Data suggests that many—perhaps most—pastors and church leaders globally have little or no formal theological training. Where training does exist, it often fails to foster deep spiritual formation, partly because it is disconnected from the real-life contexts in which leaders serve. In a rapidly changing and uncertain world, OCMS remains committed to making research and scholarship accessible to the global church, continually asking how we can do this more effectively.

In response, we are launching the OCMS Research Institute for Mission and Innovation (ORIMI) in 2026. This initiative will bring together scholars, practitioners, and partners to address the most pressing challenges facing the global church and to shape mission theology and practice worldwide.

Since acquiring our home at St Philip & St James in 1983, OCMS has invested in creating a space for learning and formation. Following recent heating and lighting improvements, we are now planning to develop enhanced hospitality and learning spaces, creating a more open and flexible environment for programmes, conferences, and global partnerships. This reflects our commitment to hospitality as a core expression of our mission.

The work of OCMS is made possible through partnership. Together, we are investing in leaders and institutions who serve the church and shape communities.

With your continued friendship, prayer, and support, we seek to remain faithful to the vision God has given us: transforming mission through research and scholarship.

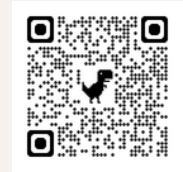
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Join Us in Transforming Lives



Scan to partner with us in transforming
mission through research



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