

## Mentoring and Courses Pay Dividends Around the World

When he joined the staff of International Students, Inc., over 26 years ago, the Academy's executive director **Dr. Bob Osburn** was moved by a compelling argument: "We can reach the world at our doorstep!" That argument is still powerful today as the Academy pursues its 10K Campaign to raise \$10,000 by the end of September to fund the development of new courses that will train students, who eventually return to their home countries, to become Christ-animated leaders around the world.



"Those who mentor international students and visiting scholars using our course materials have a marvelous opportunity to affect not only lives, but societies around the world," said Osburn.

**One** such mentee was deeply touched when one of our October 2010 conference speakers **Dr. Carol Hamrin** (pictured right) discussed her book (co-authored with Academy supporter **Stacey Bieler**) *Salt and Light: Lives of Faith that Shaped Modern China*. In a public declaration of faith in Christ, the mentee (who has growing influence back home) was recently baptized at a church near campus. "The exciting thing is that this mentee will return home soon with an explicit and well thought-out plan to bring Christ-motivated renewal to a key sector of his society," said Osburn. "That's exciting!"

Academy mentees have already returned to India, Zimbabwe and Myanmar, and are undertaking redemptive projects that demonstrate to the watching world that Jesus Christ transforms lives and nations. The expanded course materials (for which 10K funds are being raised) will help the Academy better prepare such students.

### Mentor training workshop begins September 24

Besides course materials, trained mentors are key to the Academy's educational strategy. The Academy's inaugural mentor training workshop *Mentoring for Change* will significantly expand opportunities for Twin Cities-area Christian professionals to mentor students who will be trained to creatively, courageously, intelligently, and skillfully apply a Christian worldview to the challenges in their home societies and workplaces.



The Academy's educational consultant, **Dr. Linda Leonard**, whose doctoral research concerned mentoring in the second language classroom, will lead the training. Both prospective mentors and student mentees are encouraged to participate

in the two-day workshop (September 24 and October 15). (See enclosed workshop announcement.) The Academy welcomes American student mentees, but the coursework is ideally designed for those who sojourn in the USA and whom God is calling to make a difference for Him upon their return. "This pays dividends!" said Osburn recently.



## Laying a Good Foundation

Holistic Peace and Development-Zimbabwe (HPDZ) is a Zimbabwean-based not-for-profit organization whose mandate is to promote peace, nonviolence, economic development, community healing and reconciliation in Zimbabwe and beyond. It focuses on developing people's capacities for transforming communities holistically: meeting economic, socio-cultural, spiritual and political needs.

Founded by Wilberforce Academy 2010-2011 mentee **Masango Matimura**, the organization's vision is built around Christian faith. His mentor, Academy executive director Dr. Bob Osburn, reports, "Masango was a joy to work with. From the very beginning, he relished learning how to develop his vision around a Christian worldview." While in the Twin Cities as a University of Minnesota Humphrey Fellow, Masango was active in Stadium Village Church, where the Academy's organizational coordinator, **Mikalia King**, is a part-time administrative assistant.



In the next twelve months, HPDZ intends to conduct conflict transformation, healing and reconciliation workshops and dialogue meetings with Zimbabwe's interdenominational Christian/religious leaders.

Funding for HPDZ has been arranged in partnership with Global Horizons Inc. Those who wish to support his efforts can send tax-deductible gifts to Global Horizons Inc., P.O. Box #120494, St. Paul, MN 55112, Attn: HPDZ or online at

<http://www.razoo.com/story/Hpdz>.



## I've Been Thinking



Is government the problem? A Christian seeking to make a redemptive difference in American life has to answer this question, if only because the

recently-launched 2012 presidential campaign is consumed by it.

Governments, like all institutions, perpetuate their existence at others' expense, and, if all else is equal, with the minimum of effort. A Christian understanding of reality, namely, that humans are sinful, drives this conclusion: We are selfish and we aggregate power at others' expense. Therefore, government needs to be kept on a short leash lest it consume us.

But, the same truth points the finger at ourselves as well: We each take as much as we can from government while paying as little as possible. We keep government on a short leash, but we expect it to generously fund our entitlements. We Americans must face a terrible truth about high levels of household and government debt: **We** sinners are the problem.

Christians must lead the way to solutions, and not be trapped by either "no new tax" pledges or by big government spenders. Here is my proposal offered in a recent online symposium sponsored by a conservative think tank:

<http://americanexperiment.org/publications/reports/what-governmental-services-and-benefits-are-you-personally-willing-to-give-up>. (Feel free to ask me for a printed copy, if you prefer.)

-- Bob Osburn