



In this month's edition of the International Bible University newsletter, we are reminded of our core mission—equipping leaders, reaching nations, and transforming lives—through powerful stories of faith, resilience, leadership, and global partnership.

We begin with a compelling feature from an interview with Bishop Dr. Venance Lubung whose work bridges continents and communities. His efforts, and those of his wife, Dr. Esther Lubunga (who recently taught a Women's course here at IBU), highlight both the challenges and the extraordinary potential within the Democratic Republic of the Congo—a nation rich in natural resources and even richer in spiritual vitality. This article explores not only the realities of conflict and displacement but also a growing movement of ethical, faith-driven investment aimed at empowering local communities, strengthening institutions, and transforming nations from within. (pg 2)

Building on this vision, we introduce the Joseph Anointing Company, a purpose-driven initiative inspired by biblical models of leadership such as Joseph and Nehemiah. (pg 5)

Scott V. Black, who challenges us to rethink leadership as identity designed by God, (pg8)

This is followed by a personal testimony of transformation—one that reflects the grace of God working through even the most difficult circumstances.

Missionary Kris Bornman, highlights the ongoing work of missionaries and ministry partners faithfully serving international communities here in the United States. (pg 10)



Masters Class with Dr. of Gender and Theology, Dr. Esther Lubunga

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IBU recently had the opportunity to interview **Venance Lubunga**, a Congolese Bishop and Doctor of Theology who oversees more than a thousand pastors across the Democratic Republic of the Congo, along with approximately 300 pastors in the diaspora. He also serves as a board member at **International Bible University (IBU)**. Many of the pastors he leads, along with over 5,000 church members, are legal refugees now living in the United States. His current visit is focused on supporting these communities and teaching a course on *Christian Ethics* at IBU. His wife, Esther Lubunga, a Doctor of Gender and Theology, has likewise been contributing academically, having recently taught a course entitled: *Women and their Ministries in both the Bible and the Church*.

The stories of these refugees are inseparable from the broader realities of the Congo itself. Many have fled regions plagued by ongoing conflict, where armed groups compete for control over some of the richest natural resources in the world. The Democratic Republic of the Congo is often described as one of the most resource-endowed nations on earth.



Drs. Venance and Esther Lubunga

Even today, it produces roughly 70 percent of the world's cobalt, a critical component in the batteries that power modern technologies such as smartphones, laptops, and electric vehicles. Beyond cobalt, the country is rich in coltan, copper, gold, diamonds, tin, tungsten, and increasingly lithium—minerals often referred to as “conflict minerals” because their extraction and trade are so frequently tied to violence and exploitation. While oil and natural gas reserves are also present, they are not as central to the global economy as these mineral resources.

Yet the Congo's wealth extends far beyond what lies beneath the ground. It is home to the second-largest rainforest in the world, a vital global resource that contributes not only timber but also plays a crucial role in regulating the earth's climate. The Congo River alone carries

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immense hydroelectric potential—so much so that, if fully developed, it could theoretically provide electricity for much of the African continent. In addition, the country contains millions of hectares of fertile farmland, much of which remains underutilized despite its capacity to support large-scale agricultural development. By every natural measure, the Congo should be among the wealthiest nations in the world.

And yet, paradoxically, it remains marked by poverty, instability, and conflict. This contradiction is often explained through what economists call the “resource curse,” where abundant natural wealth attracts external exploitation, fuels internal conflict, and undermines the development of stable institutions. But as Bishop Lubunga emphasized, there is another dimension that must not be overlooked: the Congo is not only rich in natural resources, but also in spiritual ones. With a population exceeding 100 million people, an estimated 85 percent or more identify as Christian, making it one of the largest Christian populations in the world.

This reality opens the door to a different kind of possibility—one that Bishop Lubunga, IBU and others are actively pursuing. There is a growing initiative, involving Christian leaders in government, church networks within the Congo, and partners in the United States, to rethink how investment and development take place.

Rather than allowing outside entities to extract wealth with little benefit to local communities, this effort seeks to create investment opportunities that are both profitable and ethical—ventures that intentionally avoid exploitation and instead empower Congolese communities to retain ownership and control over their resources.

The vision is not merely economic, but deeply rooted in Christian ethics. It reflects a commitment to stewardship rather than exploitation, to shared prosperity rather than concentrated gain, and to long-term community development rather than short-term profit. Through partnerships with American churches and Christian business leaders, these initiatives aim to channel investment into projects that build infrastructure, support education, strengthen healthcare systems, and create sustainable local economies. In this way, the wealth of the Congo

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can begin to serve its own people  
rather than fueling cycles of conflict.

What makes this approach particularly significant is the role of the church itself. In many parts of the Congo, Christian institutions and networks already function as some of the most stable and trusted structures in society.

They operate schools, hospitals, and aid programs, often reaching areas where government presence is limited or absent. Because of this, the church is uniquely positioned to act not only as a moral voice but also as a practical agent of transformation.

At the same time, the church's influence extends beyond institutions into the formation of individuals and communities. It shapes values, informs decisions, and cultivates a sense of accountability that transcends political systems. In a context where corruption and exploitation can become normalized, this moral formation is essential. The transformation of a nation, in this view, begins with the transformation

of hearts—of leaders who choose integrity over corruption, of business people who prioritize fairness over profit at any cost, and of communities that embrace cooperation over conflict.

The initiative described by Bishop Lubunga represents a convergence of these realities: a land rich in resources, a people rich in faith and a network of relationships that spans continents. It is an attempt to align economic development with spiritual principles, to ensure that growth does not come at the

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Drs. Venance and Esther Lubunga

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expense of justice, and to demonstrate that faith can have tangible, measurable impact in the world.

In the end, the future of the Congo may depend not only on what resources it possesses, but on how those resources are understood and stewarded. If the current patterns of exploitation continue, its wealth may remain a source of conflict. But if efforts like these take root and expand—grounded in ethical conviction and supported by both local and global partnerships—there is real potential for a different outcome. The same land that has long been a battleground over material wealth could become a testimony to what happens when that wealth is guided by transformed hearts and a vision of shared flourishing.

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## JOSEPH ANOINTING COMPANY

Inspired by the transformational leadership models found in the Bible, particularly the lives of Joseph and Nehemiah, **Dr. Joseph Boomenyo** founded **Joseph Anointing Company**

(JAC), which is a registered purpose-driven enterprise committed to contribute to economic transformation, ethical leadership, and global partnership.

The story of Joseph, from the pit to the palace offers timeless principles of resilience, strategic thinking, financial stewardship, and influence. At JAC, we call this Joseph Anointing: a divine strategy for those called to lead, build, and create lasting impact. It is a model that empowers entrepreneurs, professionals, and visionaries to step confidently into their God-ordained purpose while generating sustainable prosperity.

Equally inspiring is the example of Nehemiah, a visionary leader who rose in a time of crisis to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Beyond physical restoration, Nehemiah's mission was about restoring dignity, security, and hope to a broken people. He mobilized communities, confronted injustice, and uplifted the poor and vulnerable demonstrating that true leadership combines practical action with compassion and moral courage. His story reminds us that rebuilding systems and structures must always go hand in hand with restoring people.

**Dr. Boomenyo's** own journey reflects these same principles. Displaced by war, he spent two decades as a refugee in Zimbabwe before being

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 resettled in the United States through a United Nations and U.S. government refugee resettlement program. His life is a testimony of resilience, faith, and transformation. He firmly believes that while conflict begins in the minds of people, so too do the solutions—peace, justice, innovation, and sustainable development are born through education, training, ethical leadership, and strategic collaboration.

### Our Vision

To become a globally recognized enterprise that mobilizes diaspora resources, ethical investments, and strategic partnerships to drive sustainable economic transformation—while strengthening economic ties between the United States and emerging markets, particularly in Africa.

### Our Mission

**Joseph Anointing Company** exists to:  
 Build and invest in ethical,

- transparent, and sustainable business ventures.
- Create jobs, empower communities, and generate long-term wealth.
- Strengthen people-to-people economic cooperation between Americans and Congolese communities.
- Advance U.S.–DRC business relationships and strategic partnerships.
- Equip individuals through education, leadership development, and workforce training.
- Promote responsible stewardship and faith-based ethical leadership in business.

### Our Strategic Objectives

- Facilitate high-impact partnerships between U.S. and Congolese businesses.
- Encourage diaspora-led investment and entrepreneurship.
- Foster meaningful connections between American and Congolese communities.
- Promote knowledge transfer, skills development, and technology exchange.
- Strengthen private-sector collaboration aligned with U.S.–DRC economic initiatives.

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## Continued from previous page Invitation to Partner

Joseph Anointing Company is more than a business. It is a movement to rebuild, empower, and transform lives through faith-driven enterprise and global collaboration following the example of leaders like Joseph and Nehemiah, who turned vision into restoration and hope. Dr. Joseph is also the founder of Refugee Empowerment Network (REN) and International Bible University USA (IBUUSA).

We invite you, our readers, partners, and supporters to join us on this mission. Your partnership and financial support will:

- Fuel sustainable business development Expand opportunities for underserved communities.
- Restore hope for vulnerable populations.
- Strengthen international economic bridges.
- Help raise a new generation of ethical, impact-driven leaders.

Together, we can rebuild, restore, and create lasting impact, turning vision into reality and challenges

vision into reality and challenges into opportunities for generations to come.



Katherine Hanson and Missionary Kris Bornman

APRIL, 2026



## Awakening the Architected Self: Leadership Formation for a New Generation

My name is **Scott V. Black**; I am a Master's student at IBU USA. As a CEO of **Like It Matters Leadership**, and a Pastor, counselor and Radio Show Host, I have seen the Lord change people's lives for over 33 years; watching as He draws them nearer to Himself and to their purpose and their calling!

Leadership is not about titles, positions, or platforms. Leadership is about identity, it is about the kind of identity that is formed, forged, and activated by the God



Scott V Black, CEO of Like it Matters  
Leadership

who made us. When I teach leadership, I am not simply offering skills. I am awakening the architected self, the version of you God imagined when He formed you by His mighty right hand.

Every civilization has a flood story, and every culture carries echoes of Eden—these are common. In contrast, each person has fingerprints that have never existed before and will never exist again. Identity is not random. It is architected. We are handmade by the same mighty right hand that formed galaxies out of nothing. We are crafted with intention, encoded with potential, and designed for purpose. I believe every person carries three layers of identity:

1. **Created Identity**, this is who God designed you to be.
2. **Distorted Identity**, this is who the world told you, you are.
3. **Redeemed Identity**, this is who Christ empowers you to become.

By merging theology, psychology, leadership science, and the study of human uniqueness and potential, God has given me opportunity to help people move from distortion to design, from confusion to clarity, from survival to purpose: to *understanding how they were made and why they were made that way*. And at **IBU** and within the  
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Texas Prison ID card

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**Refugee Empowerment Network**, I work with leaders from the Congolese diaspora who carry a Nehemiah mandate; to rebuild what was broken, restore what was lost, and rise into the future God has prepared for them. These leaders are not just students; they are called architects of national restoration. My role is to help them see the potential encoded within them, to activate their strengths, and to equip them to lead with courage, clarity, and conviction.

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### My Story

I've been walking with and serving the Lord for a long time. But my journey did not start this way. In 1984 I committed murder at 17 and went to prison, where I served over 36 years. I grew up in prison, both as a man, and as a Christian. I was very active in my faith, serving the church, teaching classes, preaching, mentoring, writing books and essays to address Christian issues, etc. My life is a testimony of

God's grace; His transforming and redeeming power.

When I got released in my 50s, I faced many challenges reintegrating into society without family to help or a place to go. It has been a challenge on many levels, but one I have met through the grace of God and the help of many Christian friends. I continue to walk with the Lord and to serve in ministry, even as I continue my reintegration process. Wisdom and insight from the Bible and the Holy Spirit, together with my experience, have given me an intimate perspective on the challenges faced by Christian felons reentering into society which also transfers to those entering the USA as refugees.

Now I am proud to be a part of **IBUUSA** and the **Refugee Empowerment Network**, both as a student and volunteer. I feel like I have finally found a home where I can grow, learn, and contribute.

--**Johnny**

APRIL, 2026



### Kris Bornman - Assemblies of God Missionary with Intercultural Ministries.

This is ministry to International people here in the United States. The Assemblies of God has always been involved in sending missionaries overseas. About 10 years ago the question was asked by the National Committee "What are we doing to help and encourage International pastors coming here?? And are we reaching the people who are coming here from overseas??" The need to have missionaries helping this ever growing population was great - and we responded to that "call".

Since that time 8 years ago, we have been involved with many international pastors and people. They have blessed our lives in so many ways. We have been working with Pastor Joseph Boomenyo for many years. He is doing an amazing job helping people move toward their ministry goals in the International Bible University.

He is also helping refugees in their relocation to this country with the Refugee Empowerment Network. This is meeting very practical needs as well as spiritual needs. I am honored to provide encouragement for these 2 Ministries. Lives are truly being transformed.

Recently I attended and helped with the International Bible University classes on

Women and their Ministries in the Bible and in the church. It was so wonderful to see students hungry to know and study God's Word. There was anointing teaching by Dr. Esther Wehusha, lively discussions, and insights into the students lives and callings.

These Ministries will continue to thrive and grow because the basis of the ministry is to see God's love displayed. Hearts and lives WILL be changed!



Kris Bornman -  
Assemblies of God  
Missionary with  
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