

Alumni Spotlight: Joseph Byamukama (MDiv '20)



Current Title: Founder and Team Leader Veracity Fount (Uganda)

Family: Wife: Daphne, Children: Abaho, Abaasa

Favorite Professors: Dr. Vidu, Dr. de Campos, and Dr. Fairbairn

Favorite Class: The Trinitarian and Christological Controversies

Favorite Memory: Our weekly meetings with Dr. Pfizenmaier as African students to discuss “Who is Jesus, and what does it mean to be his disciple?”

What have you been doing since you left Gordon-Conwell and what work are you doing now?

My wife and I returned to Uganda in July 2020 to build Veracity Fount, a ministry in Kampala that seeks to research, resource, and revitalize the Ugandan Church in a context plagued by rampant prosperity teaching among other false narratives.

Research: At the request of many Ugandan parents and pastors, we published a Research Report on a Ugandan-birther neo-Gnostic movement which has wreaked havoc on many Ugandan Youth. The research was well-received by leaders of various denominations in Uganda, The Gospel Coalition Africa, and many whose faith was shaken by the movement.

Resource: In addition to research, we offer a public theological library with a book club as a place where clergy and laity can study and research. We also just set up our studio to provide online, biblical, and contextual video and podcast content for the largely youthful Ugandan audience that seeks answers to life’s questions online.

Revitalize: We hold four weekly interdenominational inductive Bible studies that help people from various churches, whether leaders or laity, with basic bible handling skills. We also hold monthly seminar-model Zoom conversations where scholars and teachers help Ugandan Christians make sense of life and faith, and monthly physical seminar-model conversations with a particular focus on God’s work in history.

I also contributed a chapter in [Apologetics in Africa](#), a book which Langham published in 2023, and I write for *The Gospel Coalition Africa* and *Radical*. As I near the end of my PhD studies in New Testament Intertextuality at Ridley College, Melbourne, I hope to start training pastors and ministry leaders in a context where over 90% of ministry leaders have no basic theological training.

What do you love about your work?

I love digging into the biblical text and helping others appreciate its riches. It's always satisfying to serve, teach, and resource others for their God-given task. That 'aha' moment from students always strengthens my resolve to equip.

I also like seeing people grow in their knowledge of and love for God and his Word and to know that God is using us to affect this. Some of my big joys are when someone mentions that Veracity Fount has strengthened or straightened their faith and walk. Just recently, a lady came to one of our bible studies after reading my blog which led her to our YouTube page which led her to a bible-teaching church. I also think of 2022 when we presented our Research Report to *The Gospel Coalition Africa's* Council Members who were grateful that the Report helps them think through many theological issues that they face in their ministry contexts. Seeing such positive impact strengthens us to serve more.



What are the particular challenges of non-profit work in general and/or in your specific context?

There are few faithful ministries in our Ugandan context, which may leave one wondering the impact their efforts might have in the long run. It is possible to feel alone or be discouraged at the task ahead. Secondly, it's difficult to uproot deep-seated worldviews that distort the gospel. It takes time and constant engagement, which is difficult to sustain when one is under-resourced. Indeed, though the fields are ripe, not only are the laborers few, but they are often ill-equipped.

How has God woven together your Gordon-Conwell education with other life events to bring you to where you are now? How did you come to be doing your current work?

My time at Gordon-Conwell was more fruitful than I've ever dreamed. From grappling with Greek grammar to musing about Nestorius, Gordon-Conwell's MDiv introduced me to sound and holistic scholarship that was rigorous yet rustic. The lucid articulations of trinitarian thought in Dr. Adonis Vidu's Systematic Theology and Dr. Fairbairn's crystal-clear clarifications on early Christological controversies not only fine-tuned my knowledge of these essential doctrines but also increased my appreciation for historical theology. Plus, those in-and-out of class conversations with professors and fellow students grew my love for God's Word and world. Even the diversity at the seminary



aided my appreciation of how broad God's Church is, helping me think globally. My whole Gordon-Conwell experience prepared me well to equip my fellow Ugandans with the necessary skills to handle God's Word rightly and serve God's mission in the world.

How has your Gordon-Conwell education served you in your current work?

Gordon-Conwell gave me the necessary skills to handle Scripture and to teach it to others. I reaped a lot from Dr. Kaminski's Old Testament Interpretation, Dr. Donna Petter's Exegesis of Exodus, and Dr. de Campos' Exegesis of Mark. Those classes taught me how to interpret the biblical text carefully and contextually, which form the basis for my work at Veracity Fount. Of course, the attention to textual detail inspired me to consider a research degree in biblical studies. My seminary notes and syllabi are my starting point when looking for trusted resources to respond to varied ministry questions. Meanwhile, I am currently teaching a Greek class to five students. The funny thing is, when I began my program, I didn't even think of the importance of biblical languages. In a way, the MDiv (with biblical languages) helped me discover what I both needed and loved, even when I had no clue what it was. Later I realized God's grace in choosing this program which equipped me so well for my home context.

What piece of advice would you give to young alumni who are considering working in the non-profit sector?

For those preparing for the mission field, it's worthwhile. If you seek a lasting impact in the mission field, ready yourself for a marathon, not a sprint. That's the only way you will incarnate the gospel among the common folk. Anticipate shocks, adjustments, and a life of faith. Remember that the Lord remains faithful and that his Word is a lamp unto your feet, not a floodlight. He rather likes lighting our next steps than giving us a complete roadmap beforehand. Please hold your plans loosely and God's hand tightly. Your dreams may change, but his hand is constant.

Do you have any publications or links to share?

Learn more about [Veracity Fount ministry](#), [the Gospel Coalition Africa](#), [Radical](#), and [visit my blog](#).

Read my chapter, "Reflections and Lessons from Massachusetts to Uganda" in [Portraits of Global Christianity: Research and Reflections in Honor of Todd M. Johnson](#) ed. Gina A. Zurlo (Pasadena: William Carey Publishing, 2023).