



## Filling the Hungry

A recap of the 2015 HNGR Symposium

Jamie Huff

Dr. Emmanuel Katongole, Associate Professor of Theology and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, kicked off this year's Symposium on Thursday evening with a lecture entitled "Rooting God's Mission in the African Soil," during which he invited the audience to join with him in reflecting on God's promise to fill the hungry, and specifically on the "scandalous abundance of God's bounty that is reflected in creation." The address turned our attention to the work of small-scale farming initiatives located in post-conflict settings in East Africa, where various people are responding to God's invitation to till and cultivate the land. For Dr. Katongole their hard work and steady, humble successes offer a vision of how the hungry are to be filled: "If we feed the land, it will feed us."

On Friday a group of faculty and students from Wheaton College and the University of Illinois Champaign-Urbana, representing diverse research fields and disciplines, hosted two engaging panel sessions to continue explore the meanings and practice of reconciliation and to report on empirical research of organizations that



Former HNGR Director, Paul Robinson, concluded the symposium with a conversation with Emmanuel Katongole

are working to reconcile people and land in post-conflict setting. In the first panel, Drs. Andrew Abernethy, Larycia Hawkins and George Kalantzis, from the Biblical and Theological Studies and Politics and International Relations departments, explored the vision and language that various biblical stories provide for reconciliation. Notably, Dr. Hawkins pressed the audience to think carefully about the practice of reconciliation with the following important question, "What does reconciliation mean in the face of an institution – the State – that yields and is defined by what Max Weber terms 'the legitimate monopoly of force?'"

Later that day a diverse panel, consisting of students and faculty from the fields of economics (Dr. Paul McNamara), anthropology (Kayla Slagter), mathematics (Dr. Darcie Delzell), English (Dr. Jim Beitler) and psychology (Dr. Ezer Kang), presented original research on topics ranging from the rhetorical and linguistic politics of defining reconciliation in Truth and Reconciliation Committees in South Africa to agricultural extension program in post-conflict Sierra Leone to non-profit organizations working to reconcile victims and pepe-

Ideas for the 2016 HNGR Symposium? We'd love to hear them! Email your thoughts and suggestions to [hngr@wheaton.edu](mailto:hngr@wheaton.edu)



# Welcome to Mandy Kellums!



We are delighted to introduce Mandy Kellums to all of our alumni. Mandy joined the HNGR Program as the Student Support Coordinator this past fall. She brings extensive international experience to the position, with more than a decade of working with students as they navigated cross-cultural learning and international living. She taught in South Korea for two years and was based out of New Delhi, India, for eight years while working with international families across South and Southeast Asia. Mandy holds an M.A. in Clinical Psychology from Wheaton College and she is completing a Ph.D. in Counselor Education and Supervision at Regent University. She has greatly enjoyed the journey with HNGR students thus far! Already, she's been with HNGR interns in India, downtown Chicago, and HoneyRock, but she's looking forward to finally visiting Africa when she travels to Zambia this year. Part of her vision in life is equipping and empowering people and she is excited about the opportunity to accompany students before and during the HNGR internships and encouraging them to fully integrate their experiences upon re-entry to Wheaton.

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trators of genocide in contemporary Rwanda. Taken together their research reminded us of the hard work, patience and hope that are necessary to sustain lasting peace in post-conflict settings.

A highlight of this year's Symposium included a visit from former HNGR Director, Dr. Paul Robinson, who joined Dr. Emmanuel Katongole on the stage for a final concluding session on Friday afternoon. Those present were gifted with the chance to listen in a conversation between two friends (with cups of hot tea in hand!) who reflected on and wrestled with the big questions and main themes covered in the preceding panel sessions. Later that evening faculty, friends and family joined the returned HNGR interns to peruse the impressive poster session displays, and to enjoy des-

sert and coffee while admiring original artwork created by a group of HNGR interns.

The Symposium concluded on Saturday morning with brunch and especially informative and inspiring address by Dr. Larycia Hawkins (Wheaton College) and Chas Edens (Anathoth Community Garden and Farm). Guests were invited by each speaker to think about the concrete steps they could take to participate in God's mission of reconciliation in their own contexts, neighborhoods and communities.

All symposium sessions were recorded and are available on HNGR's website at [wheaton.edu/hngr](http://wheaton.edu/hngr) on the 2015 Symposium page.

# HNGR's turning 40

Happy birthday to HNGR and we want to share it with all of you! Plans are underway and you can mark your calendars for the annual symposium on February 25-27, 2016 as a weekend of reflection, stories, and (of course) celebration! We'll see you there!



## Staff Transitions at HNGR

Laura Yoder

Dear HNGR alumni,

As we anticipate next year's celebration of HNGR's 40th birthday, we are grateful as we recognize that next month, we will graduate our 800th alum of the program! I relish the opportunity to explain that it was the exceptional commitment, work, and character of HNGR alumni I met around the world who both informed me of the program, and who piqued my interest in coming to work with HNGR.

As this year's class of 22 interns prepares to go out to 13 countries, we also want to acknowledge two staff transitions: after eight years of service, Assistant Director Ryan Juskus will be starting a doctoral program in theology at Duke University, and Chris Wilson will complete three years of service as Research & Programs Assistant as he pursues new opportunities in Boston.

Ryan Juskus has shaped the HNGR office character in multiple ways, placing nearly a quarter of the total interns who have been part of HNGR. He is usually the first person that prospective students or interested applicants meet to learn more about the program. His calm demeanor is compelling and draws students to the program with gracious hospitality. Ryan asks incoming students incisive questions about their own backgrounds and motivations, even as he inspires them with his own stories and examples. One of the uncanny abilities Ryan has developed over his years as our "placement czar" is to meet students, learn about their interests, and make notes about potential placements that would seem a good fit for them that often come to fruition years later! We both marvel at and wish we could download his encyclopedic alumni knowledge: which year's cohort, where one interned and with whom, a funny story about the placement, and where the alum is now, and some details about current job or families! He has helped many students weather the storms of cross-cultural adjustments and field incidents, offering wisdom from his own experiences alongside theologically grounded responses that speak into students' circumstances. We are incredibly proud that he will represent well his deep HNGR learning about contextualized global theology, in this next chapter of his life!

It is Chris Wilson who has kept the HNGR communications growing and developing over the past few years. He has demonstrated a remarkable willingness to do what needs to be done in the office, and is also a much beloved leader of his small groups—including, most famously perhaps, leading a small group deeply committed to knitting together in both literal (handicraft) and community-building senses of the word! He helps students stopping by to gain perspective on their situations, and offers them encouragement with good humor. Chris has given significant input into the past several HNGR Symposia, including publicity design, logistics, and many new additions to that event as we present the mission of HNGR to a wider audience.

Although we will miss both Ryan and Chris, we have confidence that—as HNGR alumni—they will both remain closely connected to the Program and the alumni network! As always, we look forward to receiving alumni visitors anytime you come to campus, and especially around Homecoming in October and the HNGR Symposium in February. Do stop by to get to know the new faces in HNGR!

*If you are interested in applying for the currently open position of Assistant Director, please go to [wheaton.edu/hr](http://wheaton.edu/hr) and find the job listing under "Current Staff Openings"*

# Elijah, Family, and Future: Build a Vision and then Follow the Call

*Ryan Juskus*

I'm writing to share with you two developments in the life of my family, both of which intersect with life and ministry of the prophet Elijah.

Of first importance, **Elias Ryan Juskus was born on March 5**, a healthy 8lb. 6 oz. and 21" long. It was a beautiful and healthy birth, for which we give thanks to God. I think it providential that the Lord put it on our hearts to name our second son Elias, the Latin form of Elijah. His calling to ministry in a time of climate crisis, his being sent by God to depend on the gifts of the earth beyond the Jordan, his being sent to sojourn with and bless the vulnerable widow and climate victim in the foreign land of Zarephath, his return to Israel to confront the idolatrous reign of Ahab, and his denunciation of property injustice at Naboth's vineyard. Elijah was a prophet who saw and acted on the interconnection of true worship, society, environment, property, justice, governance, and crossing borders. He was like a proto-HNGR intern par excellence. And I think he's a prophet for our time as we likewise confront a dizzying confluence of climate change, ecological degradation, unjust property regimes, greedy lifestyles, increasing disparity, marginalization, and misguided governance. Elijah's ministry reminds us that worship of the triune God, prophetic denunciation of injustice, creative acts that bless the nations, crossing real or imagined borders, the formation of a new and inclusive "we" out of old and exclusive identities, and sojourning with those on the margins all come together in the life lived faithfully with God.

Elijah's ministry also has everything to do with the second major life transition for our family. As of August 2015, I will be a student in the doctoral program in **Christian Theological Studies at Duke University's Graduate Program in Religion**. A theological education of Duke's quality is an extraordinary honor and privilege that I hope to steward toward those purposes that I see as most central to the heart of God. I think the Duke faculty are doing some of the most important engaged scholarship in the field of theology. In the tradition of Elijah, I hope the axle around which my studies turn will be the worship of the Triune God while the spokes will be Christian socio-political witness, ecology and mining, the worldwide church, ethically formative education, and theological reflection that accompanies and encourages the church in its ministries of reconciliation. In the spirit of HNGR, the cycling wheel is that cycle of action and reflection as a scholar-practitioner: doing scholarship rooted in concrete social praxis and participating in initiatives nurtured by deep reflection.

Accompanying our excitement and vision for this upcoming season is the sadness of leaving a community that has been such



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a gift to us these past 7 years, that has helped to draw out our gifts and develop them, that has supported our young family's life. Kendra and I have so much gratitude for Wheaton and the HNGR Program, particularly for students, faculty, and our host partners and friends around the world. They have been God's means of extending grace to us during these years. We celebrate this community as we also mourn the end of this season.

When I first started as the HNGR Assistant Director, Paul Robinson tasked me with two unique goals for this season with HNGR: that it would be 1) a time when he would transition out and I would be asked to shepherd the program into a new season with new leadership, and 2) a time of seeking God's vision and calling on my life and the life of my family as I interacted with students, host partners, and faculty. I can wholeheartedly and confidently say that the first task has been achieved in ways I couldn't have imagined, particularly as we have a wonderful, dynamic HNGR team who will take this program into the next era with fresh vision and energy (and endowment!). The second task is fulfilled in this upcoming transition to doctoral study at Duke, which is a continuation of the action-reflection journey that was propelled forward during my time integrating my HNGR responsibilities with my theological studies in the Wheaton Graduate School. I have had the unique opportunity to meet faithful, creative, and hopeful Christian men and women in the global south and east who are living their faith in challenging contexts. And I have grown a desire to steward these stories by narrating, highlighting, and trying to multiply these Kingdom initiatives through a theologian's contribution.

These are the reasons why we believe now is the right time. Paul, both in word and in his witness, taught me that our time at Wheaton could only ever be for a season of maturation, growth, and vision-building, but that we must never get too comfortable here. Be nurtured and then be sent out. Deepen and cultivate a Kingdom vision and then follow the call to go out.

Please pray for us and for the HNGR Program during the hiring process for the next Assistant Director.



# 2015 Intern Placements

Please join us in praying for these interns as they complete their internships around the world.



Student Name	Organization	Student Name	Organization
Genny Austin	Shiphrah Birthing Home	Janice Leung	La'o Hamutuk
James Barrett	EFICOR	Kelsey Nikceвич	CARSA
Jamie Belsterling	Hagar International	Kaija Nivala	Paz y Esperanza
Madeleine Brewster	Juventud Para Cristo	Anneliese Petersen	Landour Community Hospital
Johanna Depenthal	A Rocha Peru	Cyanea Poon	TBD
Charissa Dornbush	PLAEP	Michael Sawyer	A Rocha Ghana
Hannah Grove	Paz y Esperanza	Hannah Sherritt	Vida en Abundancia
Kenya Heard	Pueblos en Acción	Andrew Trump	Discovery Farms
	Comunitaria	Kim VanAusdall	St. Luke Hospital
Kalei Hosaka	Shalom Delhi	Kelly Wilson	La Fundación San Lucas
Margaret Kaiser	Micah Network Nepal	Libby Youngerman	Center for Community Transformation
Pat Kiernan	Akuapem Ridge Church		