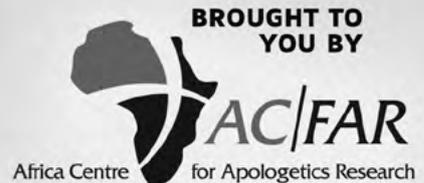


Tambua

RESEARCH & RESOURCE UPDATE



March 2016

Test all things—Hold fast to what is good—Abstain from every form of evil (1 Ts. 5:21–22)

A SPECIAL MESSAGE ABOUT “HYPER-GRACE”

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires....”

2 Timothy 4:3–4

Dear friends,

In 2014 a movement arose in Uganda which calls itself **Phaneroo**, after a Greek word meaning “to reveal” or “make manifest.” This group has very effectively targeted the youth of our country. It is very clever in its use of social media (such as Facebook and Twitter) and places great emphasis on music and ecstatic forms of worship to attract new followers.

But the greatest reason for concern is its doctrine. Through its “vision bearer,” a self-appointed apostle named Grace Lubega, Phaneroo is convincing young people that as believers they are not only disciples of Christ, but that they *are* Christ. They are taught that they can rightfully decree and possess whatever they want, and that all things (both living and inanimate) are aware of them and must serve them. They even claim to possess the power to curse those who oppose them. As Lubega said in one rally, “Imagine you carry the power to make a man blind anytime. **Bagenda tandika okututya!**”—which means in the Luganda language: “They will start fearing us!”

Phaneroo followers have widely stated that because they “sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus,” the sins they commit are merely done with their bodies and have no affect on their holiness or salvation. This Gnostic belief,

often known as “hyper-grace,” has led to great confusion. Based on their misunderstanding of Scripture, university students have encouraged one another to engage in promiscuity and other destructive behavior. Some step into traffic without first checking whether it is safe to cross. Some abandon their medical treatment. Still others have reportedly sat for their exams and turned in papers “written in tongues,” setting their educational careers on a course for ruin.

Indeed, it is in the universities that Phaneroo is especially divisive and harmful. Evidence indicates that the group has a clear and effective strategy of infiltrating Christian Unions and taking control of the leadership, thus shutting out sound teaching and bringing a distorted emphasis to all that is done there. And the damage is not limited to higher education. In many cases, Phaneroo followers are also aggressively seeking to take over Christian groups in secondary schools, and they are widely succeeding.

So, how are we responding? Our first step was to produce a tract, “Grasping the TRUE Grace of God,” to refute the errors of the “hyper-grace” message that is one of the driving forces in Phaneroo. **You can download a copy to read and duplicate [here](#).**

We are also meeting with student leaders. In one case we held a special three-day retreat for young men and women representing campus fellowships from nine universities. The theme—in contrast with the message of spiritual conquest and limitless power coming out of Phaneroo—was “It Will Cost You Everything” (from Luke 14:26). We saw God work so powerfully among those students that we realized we must make these teachings and devotional messages available to campus ministries across Uganda.

ACFAR is preparing a special DVD that we hope to distribute to every high school and university fellowship in the country. It will be in English and three local languages. Please pray for this project. We believe it can prevent great harm and bring many, many young believers back into a healthy walk with Christ.

For now, these six videos are available for you to watch and share on YouTube:



ENGLISH

- [Are Believers Only Under Grace, and Not the Law?](#)
- [Do True Christians Sin?](#)
- [Grace and the Christian Life](#)
- [Our Sins—Past, Present and Future. What Next?](#)

LUGANDA

- [Abakristayo bafugibwa kisa kyoka so tebakufugibwa mateeka?](#)
(Are Christians only under grace, and not the law?)
- [Omukristayo omutuufu asobola okwonoona?](#)
(Do true Christians sin?)

NEW MINISTRY RESOURCES

DVD

We now offer an inspiring, informative DVD on cults and false teachings with messages in English, Luganda, Runyankore, and Lhukonzo by the ACFAR staff.

These DVDs are perfect for use by...

- Churches
- Student fellowships
- Bible colleges
- Study groups



If you are a pastor or student leader, contact ACFAR today via [this link](#) and request your copy. (Note: Only one DVD per person, please.)

We encourage you to copy these DVDs for your friends!

RADIO

ACFAR continues to broadcast its message of biblical discernment to Christians in Uganda, Kenya, and South Sudan. You can listen on these and other stations:

English

“Defending the Faith” on Spirit FM 96.6—Kampala, on Thursdays from 8:30–9:00 p.m. and on Sundays from 6:30 to 7:00 a.m.

Luganda

“Okulabura—Kungigiriza Enkyamu” on Namirembe FM 93.9—Kampala, on Sundays from 7:30–8:00 a.m.

Lhukonzo (Rukonjo)

For stations and broadcast times, [contact ACFAR](#).

SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

ACFAR offers speakers to warn and train pastors and lay Christians in biblical discernment, the defense of the faith, and cult evangelism. If you are interested in having a speaker present at your church, school, women’s conference, or campus fellowship, contact ACFAR via [this link](#).

HELPFUL ARTICLES

[How to Spot a False Teacher](#)

Too many Christians are fooled by spiritually dangerous movements

[Do Muslims and Christians Worship the Same God?](#)

According to Islam, worshiping the Christian God isn’t just wrong; it sends you to hell.

[Has the Bible Been Copied Reliably?](#)

Yes—and here’s why

[About those “missing” verses in your Bible](#)

Why we should reject popular conspiracy rumors

[The Deceitfulness of Riches: Five Diagnostic Questions](#)

Who is in danger of being deceived by riches? Is it those who are rich already, or those who are far from it?

[Eisegesis gone wrong...awfully wrong](#)

How to ruin a sermon by ignoring the context of Scripture

"Christ refuses none for weakness, but accepts none for greatness."

—Richard Sibbes

[Debunking silly statements about the Bible](#)

How did the text of Scripture come down to us from the original manuscripts?

"Too often we confuse popularity with success, and obscurity with failure."

—Chris Larson

[Five ways affliction helps us](#)

We should understand how affliction helps us to understand God's Word and keep it

"Most Christians don't hear God's voice because we've already decided we aren't going to do what He says."

—A.W. Tozer

[Five Bible Verses You Need to Stop Misusing](#)

That verse you keep quoting? It may not mean what you think it means.

"God's will is what we would choose if we knew what God knows."

—Nancy Leigh DeMoss

[Brother Pastors: Let's Preach, Not Rant](#)

Pastors are called to preach sermons, not deliver rants. What's the difference?

"...whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that through endurance and through the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope."

—Romans 15:4

[There Is No Such Thing as a Prosperity Pastor](#)

Why there are plenty of prosperity preachers, but there's no such thing as a prosperity pastor

[Why Are There So Many Translations of the Bible?](#)

The answers may surprise you

[The Great Commission for Apologetics](#)

The challenge of 1 Peter 3:15

QUOTATIONS

"Live wisely among those who are not believers, and make the most of every opportunity. Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone."

—Colossians 4:5-6

"Always stand to it that your creed must bend to the Bible, and not the Bible to your creed."

—C.H. Spurgeon

"Show me a church's songs, and I'll show you their theology."

—Gordon Fee

"A single day in hell will be worse than a whole life spent carrying the cross."

—J.C. Ryle

Tambua (Swahili, "discern") is an e-newsletter of the Africa Centre for Apologetics Research (ACFAR). It is sent periodically and free of charge to pastors and Christian workers to assist them in the task of discernment and defending the faith once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3). Learn more about ACFAR and its mission [here](#). [Disclaimer](#): Reference herein to any specific resource that is not produced by ACFAR should not be considered an endorsement of all its contents or of other works by the same author(s) or organisation(s). When we use the word "cult" we mean primarily the commonly accepted theological definition.