

# Profile in Mission

## MINISTRY

Theological Education

## LOCATION

Limuru, Kenya

## PARTNER

St. Paul's University



**PETER, PATTY, AND ANDREW FORD**

## **What Need Is God Showing Us?**

Seminaries across Africa are recognizing the need to educate their teachers in the field of Christian-Muslim relations so that they can instruct their pastoral students to better understand Islam, to build positive relations between Christian and Muslim communities in their countries, and to share their Christian faith with Muslims in a meaningful yet respectful manner. Peter will teach in the post-graduate program in Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations (ICMR) at St. Paul's University.



*The library at St. Paul's University*

## **What Is God Telling Us to Do?**

Peter will build on his training and experience in teaching Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at the collegiate level to provide students in the ICMR program, many of whom are theology teachers from other parts of Africa, with the information and tools they need to think through issues of Christian-Muslim relations in a deeply Christian manner and to carry that insight back to their own students in their home countries.

## **How Are We Doing What God Is Asking?**

Peter will teach courses on the Arabic language, the Qur'an, Islamic history, and other Islam-related topics to help students better understand their Muslim neighbors. He will also work with students on a personal level to

help them develop appropriate attitudes toward the ministry of engaging with Muslims, and to teach others to do the same. Peter will also conduct seminars and workshops in Christian-Muslim relations for non-St. Paul's students.

## **Who Is Our Partner?**

St. Paul's University is a Christian educational institution located in Limuru, Kenya, that serves Christian students from Kenya and other African countries. St. Paul's is sponsored by the Anglican, Presbyterian, Reformed, and Methodist churches of east Africa. The school offers programs in many areas of Christian ministry at the diploma, bachelor's, and master's levels.

## *Mission Services*



## **Up Close and Personal**

In 1982 Peter and Patty Ford responded to God's call to missionary service and were assigned to serve Arabic-speaking people in Muscat, Oman. Five years later the Fords were invited to serve in Khartoum, Sudan, where they taught Christian leaders at Gereif Bible School and Nile Theological College. In 2002, the Fords relocated to Ethiopia, where Peter established and directed a program in Christian-Muslim relations at Mekane Yesus Seminary. Peter holds master's degrees from Gordon-Conwell and Western Theological Seminaries and completed his doctoral degree in Islam and Christian-Muslim relations at Temple University. Patty has a bachelor of science degree in nursing and a master's degree in Christian education from Princeton Theological Seminary. The Fords have two sons, David and Andrew.