



An Interview with Mofya Phiri, Scholars Programme Instructor

By Kendra Hawley, ACU Librarian

ACU: Tell us about your family and where you are from. **Mofya:** I was born in Chililabombwe, Zambia (on the Copperbelt) and went to high school in Chipata followed by University at UNZA (University of Zambia). My parents moved to Lusaka in 2003. I have an older sister, a young sister and two young brothers.

ACU: Tell us about your educational, work and ministry experience. **Mofya:** After finishing a Bachelor in Computer Science at UNZA, I worked in the call centre of an internet service provider where I learned to exercise the Fruit of the Spirit. This was a decent position, but restricted my career opportunities so I began a Master's programme in Information Technology. During the Master's programme, I began working with RuralNet (in their computing and technology development). I have a passion for lecturing and am currently part of the UNZA staff development programme. I look forward to joining the full-time staff in the future. I am a member at Lusaka Baptist Church and am involved in various ministries. I started working with the Senior Young People while a student at UNZA and now serve in a variety of ministries.

ACU: How did you come to a saving faith in Christ? **Mofya:** I was born into a Christian home and my parents were members of the United Church of Zambia (UCZ). I was a "good" boy and lived a moral life. I knew a lot about the Bible, but I never heard the gospel clearly explained. Towards the end of my primary school, I began visiting churches in the area. I started attending a Brethren church where a friend had invited me. One Sunday, the preacher made the analogy that when we sin it is like we are crucifying Christ again. The picture of nailing Him on the cross stuck in my mind. Over the next few weeks, every time I sinned, I pictured myself hammering Christ onto the cross. Not long after that, in December 1999, I became a believer. In February 2000, I began attending Calvary Baptist Church in Chipata. I struggled with whether I was a true Christian because my conversion was not dramatic like I saw depicted in Nigerian movies. At school I saw many two-faced friends living one way at church and another way at school. After about two years of struggling, I had a chat with an aunty who explained that true Christians are not like the two-faced friends I was hanging around with. After that I attended a camp where I actually saw people living out their Christianity. Their actions were not based on who was around them, but about God. That is when I truly began serving God and looking to Christ so I could reflect Him.



ACU: What led you to volunteer with ACU? **Mofya:** As I mentioned, I have a passion for teaching. My education was lacking so I want to help those coming behind me. One of my professors, Dr. Kunda, inspired me with his organised teaching and his practical work experience (most of my lecturers have always been in academics and thus lack practical experience). When I first heard about ACU, I thought, "This is my opportunity". This is a way to make the most of my education and experience while glorifying God.

ACU: You will be teaching the Computer Skills class in the Scholars Programme. What excites you most about this course? **Mofya:** I am learning that the key thing is to teach from a Christian worldview. I am now looking at my computing experiences with an eye to see God in it. I always enjoyed working with computers and now I am working to go the extra step of seeing how God gave us the capacity to create computers to glorify Him.

ACU: Why do you think ACU is important for Zambia and Africa? **Mofya:** When I think of ACU's importance, I look at its foundation. ACU is being built on the best educational foundation and the best principles to apply to life and work. ACU will not merely produce graduates who work hard or can pass exams, but seeks to produce graduates who will influence with excellence. Influencing with excellence is what will help Africa develop.

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ACU prayer update team: prayer@acu-zambia.com
ACU-ZAMBIA: www.acu-zambia.com

"And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Philippians 4:19



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MAY 2015 VOL. 6, NO. 5

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The 450, 425, 200 (and soon 315) Campaigns

By Wilson Tembo, ACU Dean of Students

We talk, and some talks are worth sharing because they are edifying and inspiring. They are worthwhile talks. This was the kind of talk I recently had with a brother about the ACU campaigns. Allow me to share it with you.

He mentioned the Macedonian saints. These people gave out of their poverty. "And now, brothers, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the saints" (2 Corinthians 8:1-4 NIV).

The Macedonian example was apt. Zambians, the majority of us, are poor, so we say. Yet how many of us have mobile phones and ensure that we have units for them? How much does phone "talk-time" cost? In Zambia, most urban dwellers have mobile phones. We call each other even within the house (This is my exaggeration to make a point, I must confess!). My brother pointed out that we spend more than K50 per month on recharging our phones with "talk time". Think about it. It is not poverty that restrains us from giving K50 per month.



Let us consider the Macedonians again. "And they did not do as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us in keeping with God's will. ...But just as you excel in everything--in faith, in speech, in knowledge, ...see that you also excel in this grace of giving" (2 Corinthians 8:5-7 NIV).

They first gave themselves to the Lord, and the consequence was all a work of God.

We need four hundred Zambians to register and commit to the vision and mission of ACU. Each of these four hundred is requested to contribute K50 monthly to meet the running costs of ACU. The scripture quoted above teaches us that the impetus to give came from the saints giving themselves "first to the Lord and then to (ACU) us". (Italics mine)

Truth be told, I wondered if I should put pen to paper on this matter.



Matters for Prayer

- Critical need for Student Labour Programme leadership. Pray with us that Michael & Igna Janse van Rensburg and family can garner sufficient support to join the team in Lusaka.
- Travel safety and ministry partnerships for Kendra Hawley and Davey Hoffman as they each return to North America for a few weeks from May-July 2015.
- Dr. Kasanda, previous Permanent Secretary, bringing our case before the Ministry of Education so that the registration process can move forward in a timely manner.
- That the Lord would bring students for the first intake of the Scholars Programme.
- Barry King (future ACU-UK) & Irving Steggles (ACU-RSA) are meeting this month regarding the initiation of an ACU Board in the UK.
- Logan Nyasulu leads the preparation for construction work at the Chisamba campus. Pray for the advancement of the survey work to progress well.

Matters for Praise

- Peggy Warwick recently returned to Zambia after an extended time in the US due to her health.
- A successful "Taste of ACU" day was held for nearly 50 students from Family Legacy on April 24.
- For the opportunity to share God's work at ACU during the missions conference at Lusaka Baptist Church.
- The caretaker's house at the Chisamba property is nearly completed.
- Electrical work and office construction of the Jonathan Edwards Library is progressing well.



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www.acu-zambia.com/students

Campaigns (cont.)

Seeing the passion my brother has to give to ACU and his desire to pass this message to others, so that they know that ACU is our work as believers, I have done just that.

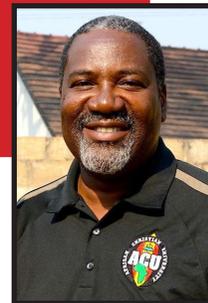
By the way, this message is for all of us - world over: In South Africa, the campaign is for 200 believers to give 200 Rands/month. In the US, for 400 people to give 25 Dollars/month. Soon, we will introduce the 315 Campaign in the UK, seeking 300 people to give 15 Pounds/month. If you are from another country, you can give whatever amount is laid upon your heart. See our webpage: <http://acu-zambia.com/donate/> for more information.

I wish I could mention my brother's name, but I trust I have communicated the message that is passionate to him, to us, and I pray now to you, as well!



The "Friends of ACU" campaign seeks partners for a 10 month duration to support special projects with monthly gifts in 3 categories: Bronze K500/mo; Silver K1,000/mo; Gold K1,500/mo

Contact Gladys Mposha for more information or to sign up as a partner. +26 0977 173484, gladys.mposha@acu-zambia.com



Let Light Shine Out of Darkness

By Dr. Conrad Mbewe, Chancellor of ACU

(Summary of the message given by Dr Conrad Mbewe at the Scott Christian University graduation ceremony in Kenya in May 2015)

I am grateful to God for the invitation you have given me to address the 2015 graduating students. As Chancellor of African Christian University I want to assure you that my heart beats with yours in your spiritual aspirations.

It is vital that we deliver a Bible-based and Christ-centred education to the world, and we must do so not only in teaching theology but also in every educational discipline. This is because all truth is God's truth. When we are teaching, we are

simply turning on the light.

When I say this, people often ask, "If that is the case, why hasn't the world seen what we have seen—the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ? We have been preaching and teaching the truth of the gospel since the apostolic era!" Let me answer by using 2 Corinthians 4:3-6.

Our Veiled Message

We need to understand that the good news, the centre of God's truth to the world, is veiled to those who are perishing. I know that speaking like this is not politically correct in the academic world. Yet, this is what the apostle Paul says about the gospel in our text.

He writes, "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:3-4 ESV).

We Proclaim Christ

Should we, therefore, quit teaching the truth? Not at all! We should continue to faithfully teach a Bible-based and Christ-centred message and curriculum, placing human knowledge in subjection to Christ. Again, this was the resolve of the apostle Paul in the first century.

He writes, "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake" (2 Corinthians 4:5 ESV). The Christian university must never shy away from informing minds with a view to transforming lives to the glory of God.

God Shines the Light

The reason why Bible-based and Christ-centred truth will ultimately prevail and transform lives is because of God's active work in human hearts wherever gospel-saturated truth is proclaimed. This is what gave the apostle Paul confidence in his ministry.

He writes, "For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6 ESV). When God says, "Let there be light!" darkness is inevitably vanquished!

Conclusion

This explains the vital place of Christian education—all the way to the tertiary level. We have the truth of God that not only informs minds but also transforms lives. So, as you go from here, do not keep silent. You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.



The torch has been passed to you. God says, "Let light shine out of darkness". Let Kenya see the light! Let Africa see the light! Let the whole world see the light radiating from your Christian University through you who have been trained here. I implore you, saying...

"Send the light, the blessed gospel light; Let it shine from shore to shore!
Send the light, the blessed gospel light; Let it shine forever more!" Amen.