

2017 REVIEW - CHUNDU (CONT.)

In early December, we held an inaugural Chancellor's dinner to thank those who have supported ACU in one way or another during the year and also raise funds. Approximately 100 people attended the event and about \$4800 was raised! We intend to make this an annual event.

Of the several issues being considered by the ACU-Zambia board, land for the construction of a campus, is a top priority. We have had to go back to the drawing board to look at alternative options due to the lack of water on our Chisamba Campus land. The finalisation of the constitution is another issue to be completed. Pray for the Lord's leading in these processes.

Thank you for your partnership in this kingdom enterprise, and I wish you all God's blessings in 2018!



2017 REVIEW

By Pastor Dan Pentimone, ACU-USA Board Chairman

Psalm 9:1 - "I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of your wonderful deeds".

As I was meditating on this verse recently, I wondered how long it would take to recount all of God's "wonderful deeds". Eternity will not be sufficient, but we can certainly begin now.

What a blessing to see another graduating class at ACU during 2017. God's goodness continues to shine forth. While there is much work yet to be done, the ACU-USA board is thankful for all that God is doing. We are especially grateful to God for each of those who prayed for ACU, as well as those who assisted financially during the year.

I was able to attend the 2017 G3 Conference in Atlanta this past year. There were approximately 2,400 in attendance who were able to hear about ACU from both our Chancellor, Dr. Mbewe, and the Dean of Theological Education, Dr. Baucham. Many hundreds stopped by our booth to learn more about the work God is doing in Zambia. I will have the opportunity to represent ACU in January 2018 at the G3 Conference as well. If you are able to attend, please stop by so we can meet.

Please pray for our upcoming board meeting taking place in Kansas City on January 2-3. We are hoping to accomplish some important planning for the new year and how the USA board can better promote the work of African Christian University. We are also considering a few more candidates whom the Lord may be leading to assist in the work in Africa.

Above all, please pray for God's grace and mercy as the work continues. And don't forget to recount all of God's wonderful deeds as you reflect back on 2017! To God be the Glory!

Sign up to receive monthly prayer updates

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



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In This Issue

The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating

Prayer and Praise

God's Faithfulness

2017 Review - Chundu

2017 Review - Pentimone

"If it had not been the Lord who was on our side..."

Psalm 124:1b



THE PROOF OF THE PUDDING IS IN THE EATING

By Dr. Conrad Mbewe, ACU Chancellor

I am mindful that it is now two years since we opened the doors for the training of students at the African Christian University. We have seen two sets of students go through our Scholars Programme. Listening to parents of these students who have been trained by our faculty convinces me that we are on the right track. A few parents gave these

unsolicited remarks about their children on the social media site Facebook earlier this year.

Parent 1: "Thank God for ACU! This boy has really changed and become helpful at home and great blessing indeed! I am a proud and blessed mother!"

Parent 2: "Awesome program at ACU! It has completely transformed my child. No need giving instructions for chores at home."

Parent 3: "When I look at what my son is learning, I wish I had that privilege at UNZA."

Evidently, within months of students being trained at ACU they become hardworking and very responsible individuals. We are not only passing to them head knowledge, we are working on character development—and the results are showing. Which other university in Zambia is having parents saying such words about their students when they return home?

In case you think the parents are biased, here is what one student wrote to me upon graduating from our Scholars Programme this year:

"My year has been phenomenal mostly because of my time at ACU. It was the best school year ever. Honestly, if I got a chance to go to Princeton or Stanford, I'd choose to stay at ACU. I've gotten the chance to learn from a point of view that I hardly knew even existed. I really want to learn more because not only do I get fed intellectually, I also get to grow socially and even more importantly, spiritually."



MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for staff and faculty as they prepare for the incoming students.
- Orientation will help the students assimilate to the uniqueness of ACU and be a bonding experience for all, so please pray for that important time.
- The new students would appreciate your prayers for them to transition smoothly to the challenges of ACU.
- Pray for the returning students to be refreshed from the break and eager to apply themselves to the rigors of the Degree Programme.
- The faithful giving to sponsor this fruitful and purposeful work is always a need to bring before the Lord.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- We thank the Lord that enrolment is at a maximum.
- The Chancellor's dinner was a success.
- Grateful for the many students that completed the entrance exams.
- Thankful for the rest that faculty and staff were able to enjoy over the holiday break.
- Encouraged by the increase in the 450 campaign due to a pilot programme in one of the stakeholding churches that will be implemented in the other churches.
- The enrolment into the Degree Programme from 7 of the 9 Scholars Programme graduates is a great testimony to the programme.

THE PROOF (CONT.)

How are we managing to produce such results? Of course, it is by the grace of God. However, we must also state that from the angle of human responsibility, we are teaching students to integrate their faith with their studies.

(1) All our courses are being taught from a God-centred biblical worldview. All truth is God's truth. He made the universe and our role as humans is that of "mining" its potential so that we subdue it for the good of God's world and for the glory of God's name.

(2) All our students are divided into small mentoring groups where they are allocated to members of the faculty who meet with them regularly. In these life-on-life meetings, they are helped to become the kind of individuals God wants them to be at a very personal level.

(3) Then we have our flagship, the Student Labour Programme. Our students not only study but also participate in the maintenance and development of the university. They begin to see work as a joy and not a burden, and immediately see the application of what they learn.

As we go into 2018, we want you to join hands with us in investing into these young lives through the sponsorship of scholarships. Let me end with an appeal that I got recently from one student that I would certainly want to see get such a scholarship:

"I had been given a scholarship for the ACU Scholars Programme, and I thank God for that. However, that scholarship doesn't extend to the Degree Programme. I've applied for one for next year, but it is not guaranteed. I was hoping that maybe, somehow, you could help me find someone willing to sponsor me next year from KBC or anywhere else because mum and dad are not really financially equipped to do so. It would mean a lot. I am also promising to do my best academically throughout because I am tremendously eager to learn from the ACU."

I hope that after reading this you will realise that some youths in Africa have begun to taste the pudding of the ACU through actual eating, and they want even more of it. Consider helping us remove the financial barrier by participating in sponsoring student scholarships. Together, we can transform Africa for the glory of God!



GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

By Dr. Ken Turnbull, ACU Vice-Chancellor

Every year could be encapsulated by the theme of God's faithfulness. That is always our experience of God. The testimony that reveals His glory and encourages us in our faith is the 'how' of His faithfulness. 2017 was filled with testimony of God's faithfulness experienced through the most difficult circumstances and the richest blessings.

'How' No. 1: The year began with shocking news that 22 of our 25 Scholars Programme students were to lose their sponsorship from the American organisation supporting their schooling at ACU. The financial burden to be experienced shook ACU to its core. While pressure was being strongly applied by the organisation's USA Director to conform to wishes that were not in line with ACU's vision, mission and core values or lose their sponsorship, ACU stood firm on the founding biblical principles and purpose. In God's faithfulness, ACU-USA stepped in with funds to keep ACU afloat for 2017. Amazingly, by the year's end, God fully vindicated ACU with the sorrowful fall and resignation of the sponsoring organisation's USA Director and ACU's relational re-establishment with that same organisation under new leadership to the mutual benefit of both ACU and the organisation, and more importantly, to the glory of God. His faithfulness was powerfully displayed. Stay tuned for further news on the significance of these developments.

'How' No. 2: This one is still unfolding, awaiting the full experience of how God's faithfulness will be revealed. ACU was sadly forced to abandon the property leased from Lusaka Baptist Church (LBC) for campus development because sustainable water was unattainable. The request has been put before LBC, and is still under discussion regarding the selling of the land so that ACU might initiate the campus on alternate property. Several exciting possibilities have been discovered for campus development, but how God will display His faithfulness in accomplishing His will for ACU is yet to be realised. Pray with us in faith that God's grace will be fully revealed through His faithfulness in providing what will become ACU's campus. Pray with us as we strain to grow at our present rented facilities.

All things keep us perpetually dependent upon God, and we are grateful to be in that position of dependence: our faith in His faithfulness. To God be the glory!



2017 REVIEW

By John Chundu, ACU-Zambia Board Chairman

Psalm 124:1b: "If it had not been the Lord who was on our side...."

I find this Psalm very appropriate as I reflect on 2017. The year has been very challenging, yet exciting and fulfilling in many respects. One is able to clearly see the hand of God in the many challenges ACU faced during the year but thanks be to God for carrying us through.

In the course of the year, the administration of the 450 campaign was reorganised and a new system of acquiring donors and collecting donations was implemented on a pilot basis at one of the stakeholding churches. Early results from the pilot are very encouraging. It is exciting and gratifying to see more people signing up and that translating into increased donations. This is something we have not seen since inception of the 450 campaign! We hope to roll out this system to other churches. A big thank you to the team spearheading this reorganisation!