

SUPPORT AN ACU STUDENT (CONT.)

Presently, you can donate to help sponsor a Zambian student in the following amounts (or any capable amount):

1. African Student Scholarship: \$500/student/academic year
2. Tuition + Fees:
 - A. Scholars Programme (pre-university year): \$2,500/student/academic year
 - B. Degree Programme: \$3,000/student/academic year
3. Room & Board: \$3,000/student/academic year

Donations can be made to:

1. The ACU website, designated to "Student Scholarship" [acu-usa.com/scholarship/]
2. The Zambian bank account:

Account Name: African Christian University
Bank Name: Standard Chartered Bank Zambia Plc
Bank Branch: Northend Branch, Cairo Road, Lusaka
Account number: 0100526288802 (Zambian Kwacha)
Swift code (ABN code): SCBLZMLX
3. The South African bank account:

Account Name: African Christian University - South Africa NPC
Bank Name: ABSA
Branch Code: 632-005
Account number: 4078780486

Thank you for your participation in the gospel work of African Christian University!



INTERVIEW WITH CONSTANCE INONGE SIANGA

By Lisa Turnbull

1. Where were you born?

I was born in Livingstone, Southern Province, Zambia.

2. What caused you to attend ACU for the Scholars Programme?

I wanted to learn more about Christian life, and I thought it could have a great impact on my life. I did my secondary education at a Catholic missionary school, so I thought coming to a Christian University would be a good move because the teaching is from a

Christian worldview.

3- What has been the most impacting thing you have learnt in the classroom?

I've learned how to improve my writing, and I've been encouraged to read a lot of books. We are challenged to ask questions in class, to think independently, and to learn how to write clearly.

4- What have you found profitable about the Student Labour Programme?

The SLP has helped me to work on things I don't do at home, and I have learnt a lot as I have worked on the landscaping and maintenance crews.

5- What are your thoughts regarding the mentoring time?

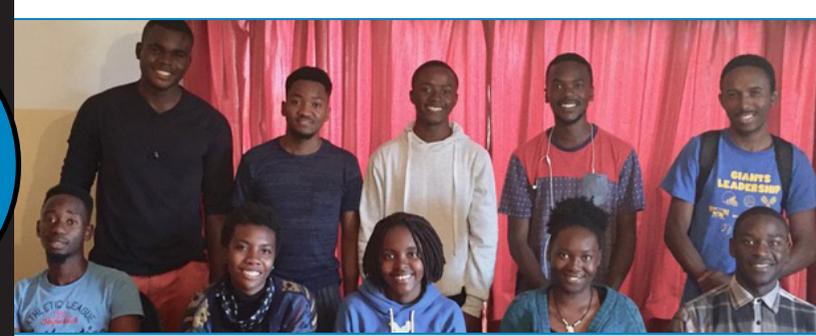
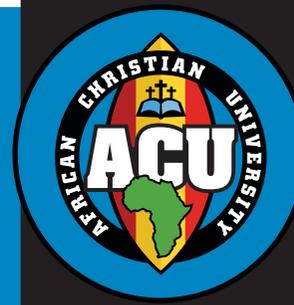
Mentoring helps you to be encouraged and teaches you to open up to people. It helps us to understand who we are in Christ and how to display that.

6- What would you say to others about ACU?

It is a university that teaches you from a Christian worldview and helps you understand challenges in life. It's a platform that is based on the Truth, and it helps you to not give up.

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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WHY STUDY "HISTORY OF THOUGHT"

By Mr. Carlos Paul

I am currently teaching a series of three courses on the History of Thought at ACU. Some Christians would object to the notion that Christians should study philosophy. Their objection may be because there are stories of Christians who went off to university and after taking one or two courses in philosophy

walked away from the faith. Sadly, some Christian philosophers have become unorthodox after studying philosophy. Additionally, some Christians are sceptical about philosophy because they think philosophy makes individuals arrogant. These fears or scepticisms towards the study of philosophy (while to some extent true) should not cause Christians to shun philosophy for there are numerous benefits to the discipline.

I have personally benefited immensely in my Christian walk from studying philosophy, especially in the area of evangelism. My first encounter with a course in philosophy came as a result of trying to understand the Christian faith better in order to share it. Due to my zeal for sound theology and evangelism, I came across John Frame's free lectures on the *History of Philosophy* online. Listening to Frame was invigorating and enlightening. Moreover, his lectures presented a distinct antithesis, that is, Christianity on the one hand and all other religions and philosophies on the other hand. The former bows to the lordship of Christ, while the latter rebels against Christ.

"See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition..."

Colossians 2:8a

If secular philosophy is lumped with false religions, and they all are man's rebellion against God, what is philosophy? If philosophy is merely a human endeavour to understand reality and ascertain the foundational questions of life devoid of any consideration of the divine and relegates religious ideas based on revelation to superstition, then a Christian has no business studying Philosophy. That is, if they embrace such a presupposition. Contrarily, if philosophy is defined as man's attempt to understand or defend his worldview, then philosophy is intermingled with religion. Both religion and philosophy are seeking to answer the very same questions such as: What is reality? Is there meaning to life? What happens after death? How should society be governed?

In this sense, even Christianity is a philosophy, rather a worldview; therefore, studying Christianity is doing philosophy. So how is that distinct from theology? At least one thing should be considered—the approach. The approach we take in the History of Thought (HOT) at ACU is to clearly delineate the Christian worldview. We consider the three major branches of philosophy: metaphysics (the study of reality), epistemology (the study of knowledge), and axiology (the study of ethics and aesthetics). We present the Bible's perspective on these fundamental categories. Additionally, we work chronologically touching on the major thinkers of the western tradition while giving some attention to Islam and African thought.

WHY STUDY (CONT.)

In this broad historical overview, we are able to see that since man is created in the image of God, he is able to accomplish marvellous things. Consider Pythagoras' mathematical insights, Aristotle's logic, Avicenna's medical insights, Leonardo's artistic skills, Shakespeare's literary genius, yet paradoxically, Pascal is right in saying, "Man is neither angel nor brute, and the unfortunate thing is that he who would act the angel acts the brute." That means that mankind with all his intellectual prowess is desperately in need of redemption. The philosophical approach we employ draws attention to man's need of grace not merely to reform his ethical life, but also his thinking. Paul clearly taught that mankind suppresses the knowledge of God in Romans 1:18-23, and he also warns Christians saying, "See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ." (Colossians 2:8).

How then shall we avoid being taken captive by the deceitful schemes of the world? Certainly by being rooted in the Word of God, which HOT does; moreover, Christians ought to be aware of the philosophical assumptions prevalent in society, especially that which characterises the educational system. Practically every high school student in Zambia is taught from a secular humanist perspective. Secular Humanism is a philosophical view which seeks to find an alternative set of beliefs to live by instead of traditional religious beliefs, yet it presents itself as neutral on the issue of religion. Contrarily, Secular Humanism is a religious belief that excludes God. Students are taught Mathematics, Science, English, etc. with no reference to the Creator who is the fountain and source of all knowledge (Colossians 1:17). By tracing the progression of ancient Greek philosophical musings to Secular Humanism and other worldviews, ACU students are able to see how and why these anti-God beliefs originated. Furthermore, they are trained to think critically not merely about surface issues but dig deeper to the foundational level. Such training enables students to be more critically minded.

Apart from seeking to graduate critically minded students who are able to evaluate assumptions (presuppositions) that undergird many of the beliefs that they once embraced due to their high school indoctrination, there are several additional benefits that ACU students derive from the study of the History of Thought. For one, through reading and writing on portions of the Republic by Plato and the Summa Theologica by Aquinas, students are intellectually stimulated, for these are tightly reasoned texts; thus they train students to read closely and reason logically. Furthermore, the Confessions by Augustine and the Pensees by Pascal are devotionally gratifying while intellectually challenging. The richness of these classical works enables students to improve the quality of their thinking, specifically enhancing their argumentation.

A final benefit of note is apologetics. John Frame notes, "The hardest challenges to Christian thought have come from the discipline of philosophy. So when Christians study philosophy, they become acquainted with the most formidable adversaries of the gospel: non-Christian thought in its most cogent form. Acquaintance with this is very beneficial for gospel witness."¹

Therefore, students of ACU are equipped to be ambassadors of the gospel in a world where arguments against Christianity are readily accessible. We seek to cultivate ambassadors who are critically minded, philosophically trained while having hearts warmed to adore our Saviour.

1 John M. Frame, A History of Western Philosophy and Theology, 1st Ed. (Phillipsburg, NJ: P&R Publishing, 2015), 4.



SUPPORT AN ACU STUDENT

By Dr. Ken Turnbull, ACU Vice Chancellor

I want to appeal for your continued support to assist ACU in accomplishing our greatest purpose: producing equipped ambassadors of Christ in all vocational spheres for the transformation of Africa. Please consider sponsoring an African student (full or partial) to experience what I will try to describe in the following brief article.

One of the greatest joys for those of us privileged to mentor and teach at ACU is to experience the students' spiritual and intellectual maturing. Walking alongside a young Christian who knows Christ and His redemption and is just beginning to experience the expansive freedom of kingdom life is an indescribable joy.

SUPPORT (CONT.)

We have the privilege of experiencing the Spirit's renewing of the students' minds and hearts to perceive life, calling and transformation of culture from that heavenly perspective in Christ (Ephesians 2:6, Colossians 3:1-3).

ACU's first two years of all Degree programs are structured on the Core Curriculum intended to formulate a sound biblical worldview through a semi-Classical education approach across the breadth of the humanities and sciences. As students absorb these foundational concepts across the breadth of knowledge, the impact on their thinking and motivation is clearly tangible. In our Zambian context, the privileged and indescribable joy is experiencing the students' grasping that God has created them with the full, image-bearing potential to challenge and change everything in their culture - subduing and bringing into the dominion of the Lordship of Jesus Christ through His reconciliation of EVERYTHING to God (including all knowledge and human potential) through the gospel working out through every operational sphere of the students' lives. This is the expansive freedom of the kingdom life that we, as mentors and teachers, are privileged to experience day-by-day. We see the students' emotional response, intellectual growth, creative and problem-solving passions, and desire to engage their gifts and talents for God's glory begin to take shape. This is the life-by-life work that each of us working at ACU continually prays God will guide us to best accomplish His purpose for the transformation of this city, this country, this continent and the world for His glory.

Our challenge at this gestational stage, well into our third year of operations, is that we seek to hire many Zambian and African brothers and sisters to expand the work of ACU, but we are still relatively unknown in this context of exploding University options for Zambian students seeking higher education. This is the stage of critical need for the support of the larger, global body of Christ to assist us in moving towards indigenizing this work.

If you would like to visit ACU to experience what is happening, we invite you to contact us (info@acu-zambia.com).

Continued on the next page

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for the continued process of writing the ACU constitution.
- Part time faculty are needed to volunteer especially in the area of business.
- The next Preview Day is scheduled for August, so please pray for this event.
- Land continues to elude us. Pray for the newly formed committee to move things along.
- Salvation of students is always a request that we ask of our readers.
- Finances continue to be a challenge. Pray for an increase in support for student scholarship money as well as the rent payment for the other building that was needed in the expansion of ACU at its current location.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- Thankful for the wedding and safe return of Davey and Phindy Hoffman.
- The Killian family have purchased their tickets in faith to come work at ACU to build up the Agriculture programme. Pray for their work permit application process.
- Preview Day was successful, and we thank you for your prayers.
- The Faculty Development Workshops have begun again. We are looking for those aligned with our doctrine and have the requirements to teach at university level to join us for these preparatory meetings that are required to teach at ACU.
- We are very thankful for the generous donation of 25 new Wheelock's Latin 7th edition hardcover textbooks donated by its editor and HarperCollins publishing.