



INTERVIEW WITH CHILANJI MHONE

By Lisa Turnbull

1. Where were you born?

I was born in Lusaka, Zambia.

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

I was encouraged from the church to try it out since I really didn't have anything to do for my gap year. I had always heard of the Scholars Programme but thought it was something to do with Bible College and stuff, so I didn't pay much attention. Once it was explained to me, and I understood, then I enrolled.

3. What has been the most impacting thing you have learned in the classroom?

I have been impacted most on the topic of worldview from the Christian Reasoning and Rhetoric class taught by Pastor Kalifungwa. The diversity of our societies, in terms of what views they hold and how we should stand on our Christian worldview. The Bible's Grand Narrative taught by Mr. Carlos Paul and Pastor Makashinyi has also been impacting. We attend Sunday school, but what we get at ACU is far better, deeper and more interesting than that. The Bible being one big story is something you don't hear all the time.

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

The Student Labour Programme has been the most helpful thing here at ACU. We are taught not to depend on others to do our work and that we are to fulfil the cultural mandate through our work wherever we are. That is one thing I will be happy to take with me when I graduate from the Scholars Programme. It is also a good time to learn from one another as students and about each other as well.

5. What are your thoughts regarding the mentoring time?

We are all people from different backgrounds and having someone to talk to and confide in is very important. The time set aside here for mentoring has had a very huge impact on me personally. I enjoy the times learning from my mentors, asking questions freely and discussing scripture with them as they encourage me in the faith.

6. What would you say to others about ACU?

To everyone out there who hasn't yet experienced the awesome time at ACU, I would encourage you to apply now and be a part of this great place! Come and receive education with a biblical standing because as Christians we are to do all things to the glory of God. You will never be the same.



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Job Openings at ACU

- A full-time business faculty member who has experience teaching business from a biblical worldview
- A Latin instructor that can teach basic Latin from a biblical worldview

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BOARD LEADERSHIP AND FINANCIAL ADVANCEMENT

By Dr. Conrad Mbewe, ACU Chancellor



As Chancellor of the African Christian University, one of my responsibilities is that of being the face of the university when dealing with the public. This includes potential donors as we seek to ensure that the ACU has enough funds to meet its running and capital costs.

I have attended a few workshops on corporate governance and have been thinking hard about how what I am learning applies to my role in the ACU. What I have learned does not apply to me directly but it is certainly worth sharing with readers of this bulletin.

I have learned that in corporate governance, the relationship between boards and management can either make or break an institution. A healthy balance and poise between these two is vital for the health and advancement of any institution.

To put it simply, the board represents the shareholders or stakeholders and seeks to ensure that the reason why they started or invested into this body corporate is realised. Management works on a daily basis to carry out the mandate given to the body corporate.

This is fairly easy to appreciate when the institution is there to make money. The board simply sets down the policies and employs the chief executive. After that, it is a matter of monitoring and evaluating. Management ensures that the money is made!

Boards of non-profit organisations have yet another responsibility that is often easily overlooked. It is that of raising the money so that management can spend it and thus keep the organisation running and fulfilling its mandate.

“teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you...”

Matthew 28:20a

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BOARD LEADERSHIP (CONT.)

Some of the funds raised by a non-profit organisation are brought in through the service that is provided by the organisation. So, for instance, the African Christian University will raise some of its funds through student scholarships and fees. That is the easier part.

The challenge comes from the funds that must be generated above and beyond the service that the institution renders. In this article, I want to deal with this form of fund raising because it is what was a real eye-opener for me as I attended the board training seminars.

A board sets the parameters for the fiscal health of an institution. Management brings the budget to be approved at board level. In the budget will be found both the sources of funds and how the funds will be spent. The board sets the financial management policies.

Management should ensure that it follows these monetary policies without swerving to the left or to the right. Management should also not spend beyond its boundaries without seeking board approval. Hence, financial reports should always be evaluated by the board.

In evaluating the financial reports, the board wants to ensure that designated funds are spent on items in the budget for which the funds were raised. The reports keep management on the straight and narrow as far as financial integrity goes. This is an all-important board role.

On the fundraising side, board members of non-profit organisations are often chosen because of their personal and professional networks. It is hoped that they will leverage those circles to bring in funds to meet the requirements of the budget.

Board members are not necessarily the ones who get into the details of raising the funds but they certainly open the doors so that the chief executive can “sell” the organisation or the programmes that need funds to the would-be sponsor.

It is important that board members individually are giving towards the cause for which the organisation is established. This enables them to say to their colleagues, “I’d like you to join me in supporting this worthy cause. May I ask the CEO to come and see you about it?”

I hope that what I have picked up in the recent corporate governance workshops will help me to be a better Chancellor of the ACU. I also hope that ACU board members reading this and our CEO will see areas in which they can apply some of these basic lessons.



WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION IS NECESSARY

By Kunda Kalifungwa

When we hear about Christian Education, the first thing that usually comes to many of our minds is seminary or Sunday school, but what we don’t understand is how big and comprehensive it really is. In the beginning, God didn’t just expect Adam to love and study His attributes; He also wanted Adam to display His Image by working and being creative. In Genesis 1:28, the Cultural Mandate, God called us to subdue the earth and work it; this meant that He put man in charge of the earth to cultivate, develop and keep it. Man was to achieve this mandate by using the God given attributes and tools that He blessed him with. God created man and materials for man to use to build and develop the land. He provided man with fields for him to cultivate and produce food. He created animals for man to care for and also use as food. He blessed man with an intellectual mind so that he could reason through all these things in order that we could discover more and more of His creation which we can further use to develop the earth and glorify him. Out of all these things came Science, Agriculture, and Engineering to name but a few.

WHY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION (CONT.)

As Christians, we believe that God is the Creator of all things because scripture tells us so in Isaiah 66:2, Genesis 1:1-25, and Nehemiah 9:6, and if this is what we hold to as one of our fundamental truths, we must be consistent in applying biblical truth to every God given creation and institution. This fundamental belief implies that God is the Creator of all reality, which means he is the author of all truth. Therefore, in whatever we apply our minds to, we must look for truth in order for us to be in touch with reality. The implication of this is that in every vocation that exists today, whether it is Accounting, Business, Law, Medicine, Political Science etc., we ought to study it from a truthful and realistic point of view, which ultimately is God’s point of view, that we call a biblical point of view.

This leads us to conclude that education taught from a biblical worldview, is the only education that can be true and in touch with reality. Any school of thought not derived from a biblical worldview but is from an evolutionary or secularist view, which unfortunately is 90% of what is taught in primary, secondary and tertiary education today, is based on a lie and is not in touch with the reality of this world that we live in today.

Having said all this, it is apparent that many of us Christians in the Church today, particularly those of us of a reformed faith, are either ignorant of this fact, turn a blind eye to it, or are indeed aware of it but remain unmoved. It is vital that we understand that God created all things and deeply cares about how His creation is studied and taught. Why is it that as Christians, who should hate everything God hates and love everything that God loves, we don’t care about how His creation is studied and whether it is truthful or not?

Why do I believe that Christian Education is necessary? Because He created all things including education, which means He is the one who decides how it should be taught. My prayer is that as we continue to study the scriptures, the Holy Spirit may reveal to us the absolute necessity to seek for truth diligently in every aspect of our lives whether it is in church, our workplace or school.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray that the students and faculty will have a refreshing break and return ready for the final term of the year.
- The final sections of the constitution will be reviewed, so please pray for the completion of this project.
- Continue to pray for the current board members to complete the work they have been tasked to do.
- Please continue to pray for the land committee to have discernment and vision for the future of ACU as they sort through land options.
- ACU continues to struggle financially due to pledges not being fulfilled. Please pray the Lord would provide.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- Thank you for praying for the wedding of Prashant Thakkar to Dumisile Daka. It was a beautiful display of the gospel.
- We are very grateful for those that have shown interest in providing financial support for some of the students in need.
- It is encouraging to see more people signing up to receive this prayer update.
- We thank the Lord for another successful term with the students, and the transformation He is making in their lives.
- We are already receiving applications for enrolment next year, so that is encouraging! Word is spreading.