



Library Update

By Dr. Ken Turnbull, ACU Vice-Chancellor

The Jonathan Edwards Library project has been an international effort over the past several years. The construction of the initial library at our temporary campus in the Ibex Hills area of Lusaka, Zambia is nearing completion. Books were donated to ACU through donors in the USA and a few from the UK and Zambia. Since the arrival of the books in June 2014, over 1,000 items have been catalogued by our librarian, Kendra Hawley. The books are now being shelved in the converted 12 metre (40 foot) shipping container with shelf space for nearly 10,000 volumes. Eight laptop computers have been received to establish a computer resource area at the front of the carpeted and air-conditioned library. Office space for the library workers has been added to the end of the container. We presently have just over 5,000 volumes of mainly Theological books. We remain in desperate need of good condition, higher education books in other academic disciplines. Our immediate need is in the disciplines of education, agriculture and business, but eventually we will need a collection of books in all of the humanities and sciences. We want to offer a special "Thank You!" To everyone who has donated and contributed their labour to the development of the Jonathan Edwards Library. May Christ be praised by the unity of the fellowship in the work of ACU!



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"But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace toward me was not in vain. On the contrary, I worked harder than any of them, though it was not I, but the grace of God that is with me."

1 Corinthians 15:10



LABOURING BY GOD'S GRACE

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In This Issue

The Christian Educator as Preacher (Part 2 of 2)

"Expect Great Things from God; Attempt Great Things for God"

Prayer and Praise

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The Christian Educator as Preacher (Part 2 of 2)

By Rev. Chris Hays, Acting ACU Registrar

For the first half of this article, see the August 2015 edition of the ACU Prayer Update at: <http://www.africanchristianuniversity.com/news/august-2015-prayer-update/>

Preaching is a slippery term. Everyone knows what it is, but it is notoriously difficult to define, especially when attempting to contrast it with the closely related concept of *teaching*. ... And though they are certainly not the same, I'd like to offer five ways in which they are similar, and by which it can readily be seen that Christian education is radically different from the education offered by worldlings.

3) The Christian educator, like a preacher, has a view towards real life change. The preacher knows that biblical truth is not simply to be known or felt, nor is it enough even that it lead us to worship, if these responses do not elicit real change in the lives of the hearers. But in the Christian worldview, all truth, deposited in every body of knowledge across all disciplines, has been given by God in part for this end. So the Christian educator leads his students to ask questions like "What does God expect me to do with this information?" "How does what I have just learned change the way I will live, work, and make decisions?" "How will God be glorified and known in my life by what I am studying?" He trains their minds to ask these questions, and presses them for real life changes. If students leave the classroom *unchanged*, then Christian education has not occurred.

4) The Christian educator, like a preacher, announces, heralds and proclaims good news about what God is doing in the world. Every Christian is called to herald the good news of the Father's salvific activity to reconcile His people to Himself in Jesus Christ. This Good News has implications for every area of life and enormous eschatological significance for every corner of God's creation. God is active, not passive, in His creation. The Christian educator, as he teaches in his field, announces to his students what his discipline proclaims concerning what and how God is working, for God has everywhere left Himself a witness to these very things. However, facts do not speak for themselves. They must be interpreted through a Christian worldview and the implications heralded in the classroom.

5) The Christian educator, like a preacher, must be aware that he may be speaking to both the willing and the unwilling, the interested and the indifferent, or even the friendly and the hostile. Even in

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Matters for Prayer

- Please continue to pray for the registration process for ACU with the Ministry of Education. We can see God working, but the process is still slow.
- Pray for the Board as they prepare the ACU constitution.
- Pray that God, through His people, would provide support for several families who desire to serve in Zambia with ACU, particularly the Pauls, Janse van Rensburgs, and Killians.
- There are several family difficulties facing the North American missionary staff of ACU. Please pray with us for opportunities to be involved in our families even though distance separates us.
- Pray for the Baucham family as they recently arrived in Zambia and are adjusting to living in this country.

Matters for Praise

- Ken & Lisa Turnbull have returned to Zambia after a good visit in the US.
- Praise the Lord for a profitable time for Ray Warwick and Wilson Tembo as they shared the ACU vision with churches in Kitwe on September 12.
- We are grateful for the many Zambian volunteers helping around the ACU offices.
- We thank the Lord for all those who are supporting this ministry.
- Several potential students have expressed an interest in the Scholars Programme scheduled to begin January 2016. Applications are being accepted and processed.

The Christian Educator (Cont.)

a classroom of professed believers, there may be resistance, both passive and active, to embracing higher education in the way that is consistent with Christian theology. The Christian educator may very well have to woo and persuade his students with words convincing and full of grace. Therefore he must be interesting, passionate, winsome, and he must *pray* about his task. He cannot enter the classroom as if he is just laying information at the students' feet and it is of no import if they pick it up. It is of great import. It may be the difference between a life well lived in service to Christ and a life wasted.



A Christian educator is therefore very much a preacher of whatever discipline with which he has to do. He does not merely *teach* the fields of mathematics, or language arts, or biology, or economics; he *preaches* them. He

is a preacher of higher learning, and his sanctuary is the classroom, for it is here that God is brought near to the minds of students made eager to know Him by the operations of the Spirit. The image called forth by the use of this word *preach* is really much closer to what a truly Christian educational process looks and feels like than what the word *teach* commonly connotes today. The Christian educator who takes his business seriously will take up the challenge, no matter his field, of "gripping the hearts" of the students entrusted to his care for the sake of the One who bought them.

Please contact us if you believe God is calling you to serve in such areas



"Expect Great Things from God; Attempt Great Things for God"¹

By Wilson Tembo, ACU Dean of Students

"Not many of you should become teachers, my fellow believers, because you know that we who teach will be judged more strictly." (James 3:1, ESV)

We (ACU) caution ourselves not to be presumptuous that we shall offer to Africa excellent education. But if we are to boast, we can only boast in Christ. "...as it is written, 'Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.' " (1 Corinthians 1:31, ESV). Teaching that is dependent on the flesh is no teaching at all; and teaching that is not conscious of James 3:1 is folly.

James chapter three leaves us with the understanding that we need to tame the tongue for all its possible adverse consequences. Certainly the tongue must be tamed but we should not lose the focus that this chapter, among other lessons that it exudes, is concerned with those of us who have chosen to be teachers. As the university will soon start operating, those of us who are "masters" at the institution need to take heed of the teaching in this chapter!

Our stock-in-trade is the spoken and written word. God has blessed us with words and these must be used wholesomely. James is apt in saying that, "For in many things we offend all" (James 3:2, KJV), but if we do not offend in words, we are perfect! ACU aims at having lecturers who will be able to, "bridle the whole body" (James 3:2, KJV), via wholesome communication. This can only be achieved by having a biblical worldview that should reign supreme in what we think, do, and say in all our endeavours.

Secular education, evidently, has shown us that what was wrong yesterday is right today. This is in spite of the knowledge that accrues to us:

"For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse. For although they knew God, they did not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened. Claiming to be wise, they became fools..." (Romans 1:20-22, ESV)

The world has been deceived by those who have attained mastery of the word; those who have the "gift of the gab". These are the teachers of the world we must guard our students from. These are they (teachers) who "put bits into the mouths of horses" (James 3:3, ESV) that they lead their students in whichever way they want except in the direction of righteousness.

James has conclusively argued against the abuse of the word. "Likewise, the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts." (James 3:5, ESV)

How then can we measure up to this wholesome standard of spiritual perfection? How can we give the best to our students so that as teachers we achieve the resounding accolade of Matthew 25:21 (ESV), "Well done, good and faithful servant."

The answer lies in what James says, "Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom," (James 3:13, ESV) and the best definition of wisdom is simply: the fear of God. God does not change the goal posts when the ball is fast approaching or indeed when it is slowly approaching. What is sin in the morning is still sin in the afternoon.

At ACU we are expecting great things from God; therefore we are attempting great things for God. We are attempting to tame the tongue. The subject, Language Arts, will attempt to bring out the beautiful intent of the word, the tongue, for edification.

1. This quote is attributed to William Carey, pioneer of the modern missionary movement.

