



AN INSIDER'S PERSPECTIVE

By Lisa Turnbull

It is hard to believe that we have just graduated another Scholars Programme class! We at ACU find it a great privilege to be on the frontlines watching the transformation that happens in the students' lives over the school year.

The year always begins with orientation on the Friday before classes start organized by Mr. Davey Hoffman. The students arrive unsure of what to expect and who their classmates are. They are hesitant to open up, but by the end of that day, they have begun the journey of becoming a family that cares for one another.

When the first day of classes begins, they are introduced to a biblical worldview in their education in all of their classes: Language Arts, Maths, Critical Thinking, Computer Skills, Study Skills, Disputatio and the Bible's Grand Narrative. Most of them had never considered that a biblical worldview could be impacting on anything but church, so they are a bit surprised to learn how the Bible is relevant in every area of their lives.

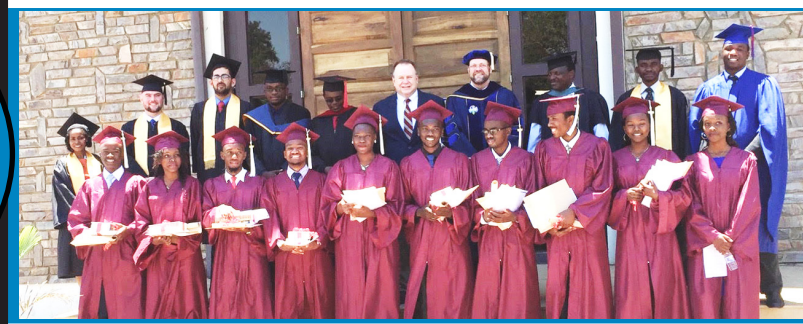
The next transition that happens is in the area of the Student Labour Programme. Prior to attending ACU, many of the students have a perspective that work is a curse, often reinforced by earlier schooling where work is often used as a form of punishment. It doesn't take long before they realize that work is in no way a curse, but is actually what God has called each of us to do! The faculty and staff come alongside them teaching them new skills and encouraging them in this important area that produces much transformation.

By the time the year with the students has come to an end, we have become family. They have been mentored in truth. We have walked with them through their journey of learning how to apply biblical truth to every area of their lives for every day of their lives. We have observed them develop a good work ethic that is focused on serving others as they serve God. We have watched their hearts grow in kindness to meet the needs of those around them. Their critical thinking that has matured allows them to be more discerning as they are faced with life's challenges. We are blessed observers of the transforming work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, and we had the privilege of being a small part in that.

Those of you that live in Zambia, I hope you will talk to some of our graduates to get their perspective on what happened in their lives during their time with us. You will be happy you did!

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ACU prayer update team: prayer@acu-zambia.com
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WHY YOU SHOULD SEND YOUR CHILD TO ACU

By Dr. Celestine Nyamu Musembi

On June 24th 2017 I finally learnt that the condition I have suffered from for the last 23 years has a name: Cognitive Dissonance. Maybe you have suffered from it too. The condition is

prevalent among active bible-believing Christians who are also active in academic scholarship and a wide array of other professions. Early symptoms include an odd feeling that what you are learning and doing does not sit right with what you believe and confess; gradually followed by a deep-seated sense of alienation from self. Most sufferers progressively practice and (sadly) perfect the art of suppressing the symptoms from about high school age. For me, suppression was brought to an abrupt end at a Faculty Development Workshop at ACU on a crisp June morning. The process of facing up to the symptoms is painful, but in God's grace, joyous and liberating.

Higher education in any country is marked by cognitive dissonance- yes, even in a country that laudably declares itself Christian. Any knowledge system sits on the foundation of a specific worldview, whether or not this is made explicit. The worldview that undergirds the courses taught in most institutions of higher education is not a Christian worldview. I can testify to that, having engaged in teaching and research in law, anthropology and development studies over the last 17 years, in three different continents. In some disciplines the approach is explicitly anti-Christian, despite the fact that virtually all the arts and sciences have Christian roots. (I also learnt this at the ACU Faculty Development Workshops, by the way, when we discussed Classical Education).

Something beautiful and truly transformative is growing in near-anonymity, right in our midst. You don't need to go too far in search of proof. Speak to any of the privileged youngsters who just graduated from the second cohort of the Scholars Programme. They can tell you without a moment's

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- There is a push for the advertisement for this next academic year at ACU. Pray that it will accomplish its goal.
- Enrolment to reach the capacity of 50 students is the goal to be prayed for.
- Continued prayer for sponsorship for future students that have applied, but do not have the finances to attend.
- Please pray for God's provision of finances and wisdom as ACU negotiates for land near Lusaka for the campus.
- Pray for the recent graduates as they make decisions concerning their future.
- The faculty would appreciate your prayers as they continue writing new curriculum from a biblical worldview perspective in the African context.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- We have successfully graduated another group of students from the Scholars Programme ready to serve Christ after "Growing in grace and knowledge".
- It was a delight to have many of you attend the graduation service. We appreciated Pastor Jim Elliff giving the keynote address to the students.
- Thank you all for your faithful prayers over this past academic year for the faculty, staff and students. We depend upon you being a part of this ministry.
- Volunteers are vital for the continued progress of ACU, and we are thankful for those that dedicate their time to assist us.
- The Faculty Development Workshops were a huge success in helping the possible future faculty to grasp the task that would be theirs if they come to work at ACU.

SEND YOUR CHILD TO ACU (CONT.)

hesitation, what the cultural mandate is, and what disputatio is. Speak to any of the students currently enrolled in the degree program. Speak to any of the devoted faculty and staff involved in teaching, mentoring and administration. Speak even to the newly initiated: those who faithfully attended the nine-week long Faculty Development Workshops that were held between June and October 2017. When ACU is in full bloom, glorifying God in full view of the whole world of higher education, I don't want to say 'I knew about it; I heard a few announcements at church.' Rather, I want to say 'I was a part of it from its humble beginnings!' My hope is that more than a handful of young people and their proud parents, guardians or sponsors will be able to say that too.

I watched with admiration and holy envy as the graduates of the ACU Scholars Programme, Class of 2017 gracefully received their diplomas on October 14th 2017. I said in my heart, 'I want my daughter to be there in six years' time!' Why? Because I know that she will receive quality higher education, rooted in a biblical foundation. Because I know that she will not only become a skilled life-long learner, but a seeker after Truth. Because I know that she will be under the influence of people whose lives model what they teach and profess. Because I know that she will be mentored and nurtured. Because I know that she will receive personal attention, an extinct feature of our over-crowded African universities, public or private. Because I hope to do my best to ensure that I do not transmit Cognitive Dissonance to the next generation!



A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE ON THE SCHOLARS PROGRAMME

By Pastor Michael and Jacqueline Bwembya

Our son, Mapalo Bwembya, completed his Grade 12 in 2016. As parents, we wondered what he would be doing between then and University. We had heard about ACU during the Reformed Family Conferences. So we thought we should go for it, and after discussing it with him, he agreed.

The following reasons influenced our decision to send Mapalo to ACU: what we had heard from the presentations by the students and the Vice Chancellor during the family conferences, the Student Labour Programme offered, and its approach to teaching with a biblical world view was another attraction. The Scholars Programme has excellent academic and hands-on education. Mapalo's experience can help others understand the significance of an education at ACU. The one at the top is what we have seen of him wanting to serve God as the opportunity avails itself. There was a time when the chiropractor came and Mapalo wanted to be one of the people involved in evangelising those who were coming to the tent which was pitched at the mall. Mapalo has learnt to use his hands and not wait for hand-outs. He has been using a camera to raise some funds, and he is learning the art of it. He is learning to be an entrepreneur. The labour skill he has been getting at ACU has made this possible. He is also perfecting his guitar playing which he has been able to do through the choir ministry.

Mapalo has talked highly of his mentorship time with Dr. Turnbull because the discussions he has been having have been all-encompassing. They do not only discuss academic issues, but all that is involved with life from a biblical view point. We can say that there are very few universities in the country and beyond that would give mentorship to students at an individual level. Our testimony about the mentorship programme with our son is that they have helped him to decide what he would like to study for his Degree programme and have also helped him discover and consolidate his God-given talents and gifts.



The Disputatio has done magic in Mapalo's life. He was not very confident to stand in front of people. Dr. Baucham trained him in speaking and more so to stand and speak in front of his class, which later was extended to him speaking at the Family Reformed Conference in August 2017. That was a milestone for someone who when you ask to speak in front of people would reject the opportunity because he was afraid he would stammer. We were very happy to hear how he had performed. The Scholars Programme provides a platform of working hard in terms of class performance. He has learnt to read a lot and work under pressure. He would call home and talk of how he has to read so many books because there will either be a test or preparing for Disputatio. Due to the programme on the Bible's Grand Narrative – a Bible overview of God's historical Mission, Mapalo has learnt a lot about the Reformers.

To put the cherry on the cake, Mapalo told his older brother, David, that even though he had completed school at UNZA he wasn't as prepared for society as Mapalo was. This is all because not many Universities "introduce a solidly biblical, gospel-saturated worldview as the foundation for all academic studies and practical labour."

We would encourage other parents to send their children to ACU, our son's character has really been developed and thanks to all members of the Faculty who had a hand in his life.