

MY DEGREE PROGRAMME (Cont.)

However, this never took away from my desire to keep learning and working. I had to realise that I was growing up anyway and had to learn to deal with more on my plate.

The standard year-round courses we were supposed to take this year were Latin, English Composition/ Research Writing as well as History of Thought, but because of an unpredicted circumstance we substituted History of Thought with Theology, Worldview and Ethics in the third term. The accompanying subjects in the first term included Old Testament Survey and Mathematics; New Testament Survey and Sociology in the second term; and Hermeneutics and Foundations of Science in the third. The changing of courses for the development of our worldviews was one of the things that really kept our learning hats on. The further we progressed, the more we appreciated the design of the curriculum and saw the benefits.

Latin, because it is a language and because it was a year-round course, was definitely one that got more challenging with time because of the build-up. It was not simply just the language we learnt though, but also much about Roman history and the ancient culture. Through this course we developed a greater appreciation for language and realised how it is one of the ways that God truly shows himself. English Composition/Research Writing was a course in which we not simply learnt how to write as a technique, but also learnt about the art of it through the writings of great authors such as C.S. Lewis and G. K. Chesterton. Through it we were inspired to use the skills we'd learnt to communicate effectively through creativity and through the rules of the English language and the technical laws of research writing.

Mathematics, Sociology and Science were the courses that helped us to have a general feel of what courses we would have to pick to study in the future. These were all unique and taught us different things about the Biblical Worldview and about God. Through Mathematics we saw the absolute, factual truthfulness and orderliness of God in all things. Through Sociology we saw how without a Biblical Worldview we are unable to operate in a way that fulfils, satisfies, and thrives all of humanity. The truth of the matter is seen through historical civilisations and how all who embraced the Biblical Worldview thrived, and all that did not either had a momentary victory or failed altogether. In our Foundations of Science class, we learnt many things that showed us how a clear covenant Trinitarian theology of God sets the stage for how we begin to think of ourselves as people and how that, in turn, begins to govern how we think about the world and do science.

Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey and Hermeneutics were the courses that took us directly to and through the Scriptures. It is always a humbling and mind-blowing experience to walk through the Bible and see God's hand actively working through all of history. It provided me with greater reason to trust and have faith in God as he continues to redeem men and restore all things to himself. Through these, my faith has gotten much deeper because of how I have seen that the Bible and its content is not something distant and mystical but that it contains true events that were written by a God who is still present and working in our lives today.

History of Thought took us back in time to learn and examine the thoughts and philosophies of ancient men. Once again, through this we were able to see how people's worldview, if not correct, leads to their demise and how the Biblical Worldview is beneficial for all, leads to success and glorifies God.

Theology, Worldview and Ethics, was a course that challenged our faith the most. It caused us to think deeply about the things we say we believe, why we believe them and what the result of that belief should be.

This year's experience has been deeply moving and heart provoking. It has humbled me and shown me that while it is important to have intellectual knowledge, it is not enough. There was not a day that went by that didn't leave me pondering or convicted by something new. This year I have experienced a lot of growth and for this I am grateful to all at ACU and to God.



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NOVEMBER 2017 VOL. 8, NO. 11

MY EXPERIENCE AT ACU

By Twalumba Moonga



"....they will spend the first term removing what's been pumped into you, then they'll pump in their stuff in the second term. Then when the third term comes, it'll be beautiful...." one of our degree students said to me my first Friday at ACU. I was on the kitchen duty, and he was our group leader. To be honest I thought he was exaggerating but when I got to the third term, I was in awe. I went to ACU with a lot of pride and God humbled me through my grades.

The first term was simple for me. We basically did revision in math and so many of us struggled with it; it was easy for me to hide in the crowd. When it came to subjects like the Grand Narrative and Critical Thinking, my Christian background was a huge advantage. Sometimes I would zone out in class, but still pass the tests even if I did not study.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."

Matthew 6:33

One Monday morning, our Grand Narrative lecturer, Mr. Carlos Paul, said something that caught my attention. I cannot remember his exact words, but he was talking about how God made sure Adam and Eve would not eat from the tree of life. If they did, they would be stuck in a rebellious state forever. I saw God's sovereignty, love and mercy in that lesson. It was then that I started to wrestle with what ACU was teaching me. Everything I thought I knew became foreign. And slowly, but surely, my worldview began to change.

By the time we got to the second term, my grades had dropped. Inside of me, a war was raging on. My heart started to connect the pieces together but my mind thought it best to stick to what I knew. Education was education and God was God; the two did not mix unless you were doing Religious Education (R.E.) or Theology. But God created everything and education falls under everything. This means that his high standards extend to education and as Christians, we have to strive to live according to those standards. For me that meant I had to set my pride aside and humble myself to my teachers' teachings.

The shortcuts of studying before an exam; memorizing and not understanding; working for the sake of working and getting the job done; not handing in my assignments on time etc. All those things began to feel wrong, and they were wrong. The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever. I began to

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MY EXPERIENCE (Cont.)

ask myself questions like “Is God glorified in my homework?,” “Have I really done my best on this task?,” “Are people ministered to by what I am doing?”

When we got to the third term, I felt different. I could not watch a movie without critiquing it from a biblical worldview, or look at technology without wondering what the Creator’s values were. My grades did not pick up immediately but my work ethic started to change and things that once challenged me now attracted me. I found that I wanted to do my very best in everything and find joy in the gifts God had given me, ACU being one of them and the people there.

We had these mentoring sessions, and at first, I felt it was a bunch of people intruding in my life, but eventually, I came to rely on those people. See, we have it easier than other Christian students. I say this because even when my teachers were unhappy with me or my fellow students, we still had that one uniting thing, the cross.



I think it is safe to say that my stay at ACU helped me reconcile my education to God. Aside from that, other aspects of my life were affected. I am a musician, not gospel in terms of genre and sometimes content but that does not stop me from giving my very best. Instead, I am motivated to write my heart out, knowing it is in God’s hands.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE AND PRAYER

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

As the ACU staff were calculating how many office desks would be needed for the next school year, they realized that they did not have the finances to buy the eight needed desks. However, they soon received a call asking if they could use 8 office desks! Eight second-hand office desks were received as donations from Shoprite Zambia to help furnish the offices that ACU will expand into for 2018. We



- So far, 20 applicants are being considered for the Scholars and the Degree Programmes. Please continue to pray for many more.

- At a most critical time, several brethren from the stake holding Zambian churches overseeing ACU stepped up to contribute towards ACU’s marketing and advertising expenses and programs to allow student enrolment responses to increase.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE (Cont.)

- The Turnbells and Davey Hoffman have been able to reconnect with family and friends as they’ve travelled back to the USA for the holidays. The Turnbells thank God for the upcoming wedding of one of their daughters in December.
- The Pauls have returned to Zambia and are settling back into their home lives.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Pray for God’s gracious provision so that the 2018 academic year will continue to expand on the amazing impact and progress that ACU has already made to-date.
- There will be a Chancellor’s Dinner held on 8th of December in Lusaka that is intended to raise awareness, prayer and financial support for ACU. Pray that the Lord will greatly bless the effort to His glory.
- Pray for the new applicants awaiting to sit for their entrance exams next month (7 - 8 Dec).
- Pray for the new and returning teaching faculty as they prepare course material for the 2018 academic year. Realise the significant challenge in that nearly all of the curriculum is written from scratch to imbibe a Biblical worldview for clear application in an African cultural context.
- Pray for the ACU office administrators and staff as they go through the admission process and make all preparations for the 2018 academic year.



MY DEGREE PROGRAMME EXPERIENCE

By Simbi UWishaka

I remember the way I felt at the beginning of the year. A nervous excitement about what possibilities lay ahead for me in the year. Looking back at this year, I realize that my experience was not what I expected. It was more challenging than I had thought and more rewarding than I could have imagined.

Being students that were only less than half groomed for what ACU’s final expectations are, there was still so much more to learn. This brought much excitement and eagerness, which was always a great motivation that propelled good momentum for our year. A lot of the time I desired to simply sit back and be taught, because the learning experience was always deeply moving and challenging. I also hoped to never, (or seldom at least) have to work to prove that the information had truly been learned and internalised.

As every term passed by, my enthusiasm seemed to have been going down because of the intimidating work load and the stress that came with it. I was no longer infatuated by the uniqueness and wonder of being at a Christian university – the first of its kind in Zambia. The realisation that it was a long-term commitment I made to be there had set in by the end of the first term, and by the second term, more exhaustion than enthusiasm had filled me.