



2018 AFRICAN CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS & DEGREE PROGRAMMES



Scholars Programme

- » The Scholars Programme is a preparatory programme, A-Level calibre, certificate-granting programme that serves as the gateway to enter African Christian University.
- » Core subjects such as Computers, Grand Narrative, Language Arts, Mathematics, Reasoning and Rhetoric and Study Skills all taught from a biblical perspective.

Degree Programme

ACU offers 4-year Bachelor Programmes with a Core Curriculum developing the Christian Worldview foundation for critical thinking across the breadth of humanities and sciences. The initial degree programme offerings allow studies with a range of specialisations in:

- » Agriculture
- » Business
- » Education
- » Theology
- Multiple sub-specialities can be customised in each field of study.

The programmes focus on these key areas of student preparation:

- » Courses taught from a biblical perspective
- » Practical skill development through the Student Labour Programme
- » Relationship oriented learning
- » Emphasis on character development

Important Dates to Remember:

**Closing Date for applications is
2nd October 2017**

Classes begin on 22nd January 2018

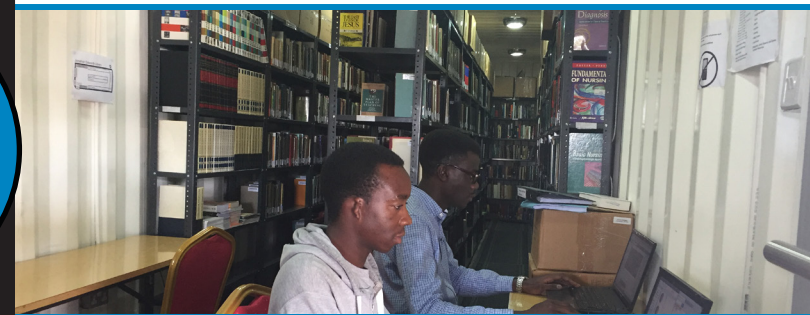
**Applications for 2018
programmes are now open**

For information about tuition and fees or to apply online, please visit acu-zambia.com/apply

For questions or more information contact us:
 acu-zambia.com  +260978559228
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Sign up to receive monthly prayer update

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ACU CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT: THE INFLUENCE OF CLASSIC LITERATURE

By Dr. Ken Turnbull, ACU Vice-Chancellor

The challenging and highly rewarding task put to ACU faculty members as Christian scholars is to develop new curriculum that is fully relevant to Africa, deeply derived from the Christian worldview and that informs the whole-

life purpose of students. It is important that each faculty member rethink, and as necessary, reconstruct the knowledge base of his or her particular academic discipline for this multifaceted purpose. This task requires the critical assessment of each academic discipline from the historic roots to the contemporary accomplishments. This process will equip ACU faculty members in worldview understanding of the fundamentals of his/her particular academic discipline. There are many advantages to (re-)developing each discipline from the foundations. Here we will consider a few.

“...discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil.”

Hebrews 5:14b

Advantages of Developing the Fundamentals from Historic and Classic Literature

1. *Anti-pragmatism* - Students must realise that theories, methodologies and knowledge useful to their education and vocations have a broad development history. Tracing the history of ideas in a respective field through the classic literature helps students to understand the worldview and cultural settings of those ideas. From that foundation, competing worldviews and ideologies can be discerned to provide examples for each student’s critical thinking development. Students must develop an appreciation for ideas and the process through which they were developed to help mature their own innovative thinking, thereby equipping them for proposing new ideas. They must escape the mode of seeing ideas, knowledge and methods for their narrow, pragmatic applications and appreciate the beauty and excellence of the knowledge of truth itself. Contemporary education has imbibed either a pragmatic, preparation-for-a-job mentality, where the professor views the job to be information transfer from the teacher to the student, or a process of ideologically conforming students as political activists for the latest, elitist academic trend to revolt against previous generational tradition. Students need to be challenged from their existing worldviews to increase in knowledge, wisdom and the grace of God in seeking truth, beauty and goodness through all avenues of learning and development.

2. *Discernment* - A student must first establish their understanding of the fundamental developments of an idea or base of knowledge from a particular thinker or a developing school in an academic discipline through the classic, original literature sources. From there, the progressive maturing of the idea or theory can be traced through history where various worldview and cultural influences can be parsed out in order to aid students in exercising their discernment in aspects of assessing where constructive truth-building is being accomplished versus influences that may corrupt or deter truth (suppressing truth). As the students have opportunity to read

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- Please pray for God's provision of finances for ACU's on-going search for land near Lusaka for the campus.
- Pray for the person that the Lord will call to work with Mr. Chali Chakonta and the ACU Construction Working Committee to help head up the campus construction work.
- Pray for the selection of future students that are responding to the enrolment announcements and registering to attend ACU in 2018.
- Pray for the potential Zambian faculty members that are capturing the vision and growing in practical understanding and enthusiasm to join in the challenging, yet rewarding work of ACU.
- Continue to pray for the Paul family and Diana's eye issues. May the Lord bring healing and relief so that they can return to ACU soon.

MATTERS FOR PRAISE

- We rejoice that the advertisements that have gone out to promote classes for 2018 are proving successful. The classes are filling up quickly!
- May God continue to bless the Faculty Development Workshops and grant passion and humility to those attending for teaching at ACU. The first six of the series of eight workshops have gone exceptionally well.
- We are grateful for the donations of many that continue to sustain the work at ACU.
- Volunteers are vital for the continued progress of ACU, and we are thankful for those that dedicate their time to assist us.
- We thank God for the encouraging visit of Dr. Ben Kilian (with his father-in-law) and pray that God will provide for Ben's family of six to be able to join ACU next year as a Professor of Plant Biology in the Agriculture Department. The faculty, staff and students were blessed by his brief time with ACU.

ACU CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT (CONT.)

original literature sources and realise how ideas can be corrupted or misappropriated versus realising constructive and beneficial additions and applications of ideas, it adds to their own discernment and experience-base in understanding the influence of worldview and culture on thinking and discovery.

This exercising of a student's discernment is a fundamental or core value of ACU that must be purposefully and rigorously developed into each course by the instructor. It is hard work, but it is also the source of greatest joy and accomplishment in the work of teaching and mentoring students. This exercising of a student's discernment should provide constant opportunity to reinforce the Biblical worldview in contrast to alternate, faulty worldviews. Study of the Scripture and consultation with others, especially those well-practiced in theology, should be a privileged part of this academic and holistic endeavour. Keep Hebrews 5:12-14 in mind. Students should be guided in maturing in their ability to apply Scripture to their discernment by constant practice, exercising their discerning of good and evil.

3. *Critical/Liberal Arts Thinking* - This repetitive process of developing ideas from classic or original source literature, tracing the historical development of those ideas through classic literature, emphasising worldview and cultural influences in shaping ideas and the branching-off of alternate ideas, should be a repetitive experience in each course that ACU students are enrolled. This repetitive exposure to a process of rigorously discerning truth from error from a Biblical perspective will greatly form each student's ability to think and reason systematically, clearly and critically. This approach to developing the knowledge base in every academic discipline from classical literature sources will afford a well-practiced, critical thinking, liberal arts student. Again, this is a fundamental value of ACU and one that should bring great joy to ACU instructors, mentors and Christian scholars.

4. *Equips Students and Faculty* - Lastly, because much of higher education has long abandoned such rigorous approaches to holistic exercising of students' discernment through exposure to the world's great literature, the results of these efforts in curriculum development should afford great dividends to ACU and its faculties.

(a) Curriculum developed in this manner will be the seedbed for fruitful, Biblical worldview development and innovative thinking in the application of ideas to issues of direct relevance to Africa. The students should be motivated through readings, assignments and exercises to passionately pursue ideas that will best prepare them to image God in their vocations and various spheres of life.

(b) Such efforts in curriculum development will provide the platform for scholarly work for all of ACU's faculty members. A well-researched lecture can develop into a meeting presentation, a meeting presentation into a publishable research article, a series of published articles into a book, and a combination of articles and books into a unique, Christian worldview textbook with an African emphasis. Such scholarly efforts will significantly contribute to a field of study. As Christian scholars, all ACU faculty members should honour Christ in their display of minds rigorously engaged in the discovery and exaltation of truth in every academic discipline. This will be a powerful source of mentoring students in Christian scholarship and display a life devoted to "do all things as unto the Lord."



VOLUNTEERISM

By Jalira Ngwira

What is volunteerism?

Essentially volunteerism entails the self-motivated act of an individual or individuals contributing their time, skill, talent and resources to charitable, educational, political, economic, and other noble causes in a community without regard for compensation. According to Dr. Conrad Mbewe, volunteerism is "offering yourself and or your possessions for the good of others, without seeking anything in return." While many may want to volunteer, few actually do it. Arguments such as lack of time and knowledge of what volunteering entails and that it only benefits the served are common excuses for not volunteering. However, even with our busy lives, we can all set aside some time in a day, week, or year for an important purpose that benefits society as well as ourselves.

Who can volunteer?

Anyone can volunteer. God has blessed us all with certain gifts and talents - and opportunities to use them. Thus, whether young or old, in employment or not, educated or uneducated, able-bodied or not, you can offer your service for the benefit of others without expecting payment. As Martin Luther King Jr. put it, "... you don't have to have a college degree to serve. You don't have to make your subject and your verb agree to serve. You don't have to know the second law of thermodynamics in physics to serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."

Why should we volunteer?

We should volunteer because, first and foremost, we glorify God when, in obedience to His command, we serve others through the gifts and talents he has blessed us with (1 Peter 4:10). Contributing to a cause that we are passionate about teaches us to look beyond our own circumstances and appreciate what others are experiencing. The difference we make in serving others will make an even bigger difference in our own lives (Acts 20:35). Secondly, because it is, as Dr. Conrad Mbewe says, "the vanguard of civilisation;" it promotes goodness and improves quality of life, which we all benefit from. Thirdly, because it awakens us to the realities and challenges of the people we serve.

Benefits of volunteering!

Although volunteering is undertaken for no financial gain, it offers enormous benefits to the volunteer. It is an efficient way of meeting needs in society, helping the widows and orphans in obedience to various commands (James 1:2). It enables us to serve others consistently in an organised way, and also creates opportunities for evangelism through interaction. For job seekers, volunteerism improves your CV and increases your chances of finding a job. Research has proved that employers have recognised the importance of volunteerism because it provides an opportunity for development of marketable skills such as teamwork, problem solving, organisation, etc. which, according to the 2014 British Council employability study, are among the "18 skills of highest interest to African employers." For those in employment and retirement, you have a wealth of knowledge and expertise which could positively benefit society. Volunteerism affords each of us an opportunity to learn skills, and meet and make new friends.

There are many worthwhile causes that would benefit from your volunteer services, and therefore enable you to contribute to the cultural, economic, social and political development of our nation. The African Christian University (ACU) is one such noble cause where you can volunteer and contribute to its on-going establishment. Since it is a work in progress with a serious shortage of manpower and heavily dependent on donor funding, your contribution would not be in vain. As the Malayan proverb goes, "one can pay back the loan of gold, but one dies forever in debt to those who are kind."