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Prashant Thakkar
Prayer and Praise

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As we come to the end of the year, we thought it would be useful to reflect on all that the Lord has done in and through ACU during the course of the year. We have a lot to be thankful for. To list all these things would require a lot more than this Prayer Update can accommodate, but the following are some of the highlights to reflect upon:

STUDENTS

The year began with 26 new students in our Scholars Programme and 12 students in the Degree Programmes, 2 of whom were continuing students and 10 were new students. As has been the case in the past, we have been particularly encouraged in witnessing the growth in our students. It was such a joy to watch them mature and grow in their love and understanding of the scriptures. We also appreciated watching them grapple with various worldview issues, some of which had not been easy to process, but we thank God for granting them the grace to engage in the process.

At the end of the year, we held our 3rd Scholars Programme Graduation. This is always a heartwarming experience for the staff and faculty as we sit back and marvel at the Lord's goodness to each of the graduates. It really is a time of testifying to the Lord's goodness upon us as well.

DONATIONS

We continue to be humbled by the generosity of the saints in supporting the work of ACU. During the course of the year we have received various forms of donations for which we are grateful to the Lord and to the individuals and organisations for their sacrificial support. One such donation we received was a shipment of books from Southern Districts Reformed Baptist Church in Australia. These books were added to our Jonathan Edwards Library and have been greatly appreciated by all at ACU. We are also thankful to all those who continue giving to ACU through the 450 campaign, student sponsorship and various other campaigns. We don't always get to meet each donor but we would like to take the opportunity to thank each one of you for your ongoing support and dedication to the work of ACU. We greatly value your contribution.



EVENTS



ACU successfully hosted a number of events during the course of the year. Some of these were the Christian Scholars Week, the Faculty Development Workshop Series, Preview Days and the Annual Chancellor's Dinner.

- Our speaker for this year's Christian Scholars Week, Dr. James White, spoke on the theme: "Defending the Faith". It was a great opportunity for staff and students alike to witness Christian Scholarship modelled by Dr. White.
- The Faculty Development Workshop Series fulfils our ongoing efforts to equip prospective faculty to teach their respective disciplines from a Biblical Worldview perspective. We had about 8 individuals complete the series this year.
- We hosted 2 Preview Days this year as opposed to our normal one a year. The reason for this change was to accommodate both for prospective students who were in school and for those who would want to attend during the school holidays. We had a number of prospective students attending both of these and getting a real sense of what ACU is about. It was encouraging to see them integrate so well with our current student population.

- At the Reformed Family Conference, run annually by the Reformed Baptist Churches in Lusaka, our students got the opportunity to participate by helping out with logistical activities such as registration, media, security and ushering. It was a delight to see them serve joyfully even under pressure.
- The Chancellor’s Dinner was held on 8th December, 2018. The theme for this year was “A case for Classical Education in Africa: Is it worth it?” Pastor Choolwe Mwetwa was the keynote speaker who addressed the theme very well. The other speakers included Mr. Benjamin Katubiya who is the CEO of BUK Zambia, Simbi Uwishaka, a 2nd year student studying Agriculture and Dr. Conrad Mbewe, the Chancellor. We were encouraged by the turnout at the dinner and the pledges made towards the work of ACU. All in all, this year’s dinner was a success.

FACULTY AND STAFF

During the course of the year, we have had a number of changes in our staff and faculty. Mr. Ntobeko Mjijwa joined us from South Africa as a lecturer in Creative Arts. Dr. Ben Killian, and his family, joined us from the United States of America to head up the Agriculture Programme. Also, we have had number of part-time faculty join us as volunteers teaching various courses in our Degree Programmes. We are grateful for their sacrificial service to the work of ACU.

With regards to the Vice Chancellor’s office, Dr. Celestine Musembi stepped in as Interim Vice Chancellor after Dr. Turnbull left to return to the States a few months ago. We are grateful for her constant contribution and zeal.

We also have Dr. Conrad Mbewe, who intends to be more involved with our staff and faculty at ACU next year, 2019 and Mr. Khoza Gomile a new accountant who we recruited in the final quarter of 2018. We continue to be grateful to the Lord for the way He has drawn people to come and serve Him at ACU.

A number of volunteers have also given of their time and energies to ACU during the course of the year. One of the ongoing challenges for a start-up organisation is the huge amount of work that needs to be accomplished, very often with limited resources. ACU is no different in that sense and the volunteers have been a great help in bridging the gap.

SEMINARY

One of the other highlights of the year has definitely been seeing the ACU Seminary take shape. This was the main task that Dr. Baucham moved to Zambia for and finally,

after three years, we are geared to open the doors in February 2019. There is a lot of work that still needs to be done before February but we thank the Lord for bringing us to this point. We are grateful for the faculty that will be joining the Seminary to begin teaching next year.

ACU BOARD

Lastly but by no means least, we are grateful for the key milestones that the ACU Board has been able to accomplish during the course of the year. Of these, the key highlights are completion of the Constitution and identifying land for campus development. The process of bringing the Constitution to completion has been a long process demanding a wealth of dedication and sacrifice. We continue to pray for the Board as they seek to finalise the process of adopting the Constitution.

After considering a few sites for campus construction, the ACU Board has identified a piece of land in the east of Lusaka for campus development. The Board (along with others) now has the responsibility of raising the funds necessary to purchase land and begin construction. They will definitely appreciate your prayers as they engage in the process.

All in all, as we look back on this year we can see that we indeed have a lot to be thankful to the Lord for. Yes, there have been challenges but through it all we can see the hand of God. We praise the Lord for His goodness to us both as individuals and as an organisation. We are reminded time and time again that without His grace and provision, we really could not have achieved anything.

MATTERS FOR PRAYER

- The enrolment process for the 2019 intake of students.
- Pray for the recent additions to faculty and staff as they settle into ACU.
- ACU is in constant need of funds for endeavours, like construction and purchase of land. Please pray for the Lord's provision.
- ACU has numerous plans and targets to meet in 2019. Please pray for the Lord's wisdom and guidance.

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