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## ACU Education degree

By Mr. Wilson Tembo

ACU Dean of Students



The Education Programme at African Christian University offers students an opportunity to understand what Education is all about. The overall conceptualisation of education is imparted to the students and then they

are allowed to specialise in any of the three areas of education: Early Childhood, Primary Education and Secondary Education. Students are able to make their choices, in terms of specialisation, in their second year of study. As can be deduced, each specialisation requires students to acquire special knowledge and skills to deliver in their respective disciplines in a given teaching environment. Essentially, the university prepares undergraduates to be educators at the three levels: Early Childhood, Primary Education and Secondary Education. The student chooses only one of the three.

The advantage that students have is that all undergraduates at ACU, in their first year, study the core curriculum courses which prepare them for the respective degree programmes for which they are registered. In the

first year therefore, students study Composition, i.e. Academic Writing; in the third term of their first year, they study Research Writing. The other courses are: History of Thought, i.e. an introduction to Philosophy; Latin, to harness their epistemology. Foundation of Science, Mathematics for Liberal Arts and Theology. These are offered as part of the freshman's courses.

The degree programme also offers additional core programmes which are taken in the third and fourth year. These are God, Marriage and Family, Vocational Evangelism, Christian Leadership, Entrepreneurship, Education as a business and mission. Of necessity, the university prepares the graduates to be relevant to their community and the nation as a whole. One of the courses addresses contemporary issues in Education and how these can be addressed. Elective courses are offered and the university is responsive to the relevant contemporary issues. The programme requires that students pursuing a degree programme write a dissertation and undertake a practicum in the relative teaching subject. We anticipate that our graduates will eventually assume executive positions wherever they will be. The degree programme therefore has courses in Curriculum Design and School Management.

In his book *“Teaching to Change Lives, Seven Proven Ways to make Your Teaching Come Alive”* Revised Edition (1987) Dr. Howard Hendricks states: “The way people learn determines how you teach.” The cardinal question that emerges from this assertion is, “How do people learn?” The Bible does not mince words in response to the process of acquiring knowledge. To learn something is to have knowledge of that thing; and the use of that knowledge is what constitutes wisdom. The Bible is apt in defining “knowledge” and “wisdom” as *“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”* Proverbs 9:10 New King James Version (NKJV). Interestingly, the Bible has no kind words for people who attribute to themselves as the source of knowledge: *“Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”* Like all degree programmes at ACU, the education degree programme acknowledges and demonstrates that all knowledge and wisdom are from God. The programme therefore offers

what is known about the discipline as revealed to us by the Creator and the pedagogical aspects of the natural and social sciences. The question that is being **answered** as we deliver the course material in Education is: How do people learn? We respond by teaching them how we can make them learn. The classic Socratic approach has stood the taste of time and the course content is viewed from the biblical worldview.

## Interview with Natasha Matafwali



### **How did you come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ?**

I became saved in November 1992 after having seen a movie called **'The Cross and The Switch Blade'** by David Wilkerson. It was a Sunday morning when our Sunday school teacher decided that we go to her house to see a movie. The attempt in the movie was to essentially give hope to those who walk in the shadow of darkness.

### **2) Tell us about your educational and work experience.**

I am a public health practitioner who studied Pharmacy Technology at Diploma level and Public Health Promotion both at BSc. MSc. level. I have been working for the last 16 years in various organisations in different portfolios from sales to managing an organisations' programmatic and project knowledge as well as reporting obligations. All these have been in the health industry and particularly health supply chain industry which includes the public sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs)

### **3) How did you learn about ACU?**

I learnt about ACU from Kabwata Baptist Church from the time of its inception.

#### **4) What led you to want to spend your annual leave volunteering at ACU?**

I have wanted to serve at ACU in one way or the other because I believe in the University's vision and unique approach to education but was not so sure how best I could. I had heard about volunteering at ACU and also took part in the faculty development training but felt somewhat inadequate until I spoke to one of the ladies (Chilombo) who had been volunteering for a while.

#### **5) How did you find your time at ACU?**

I found my experience at ACU quite different as a work environment first off, but also in terms of the work I was doing. It was quite refreshing and at the same time humbling to see men and women dedicated to ACU's vision in such selfless ways.

#### **6) How do you think ACU will impact the graduate and Zambia/Africa?**

I believe that ACU will change the Zambian/African graduate if not, have a positive impact on their value and principles toward life and approach to work looking at the course content, curricula and the approach that has been taken to deliver the courses.

#### **MATTERS FOR PRAYER**

- 1) Continue to pray for the raising of funds for the land and construction.
- 2) Continue to pray for the students in their final term for the year.
- 3) Continue to pray for the ongoing accreditation process of our Programmes.
- 4) Pray for the latest additions to body of staff particularly the Registrar.

#### **MATTERS FOR PRAISE**

- 1) Thank the Lord for the successful HEA audit that took place on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September
- 2) Thank the Lord for the latest additions to the staff body, namely the HR Director and Registrar.

**7) Is there anything else you would like to share about ACU?**

ACU is a growing University with potential to positively affect Zambia's national development in all its facets and the governance environment through the graduates being produced, the faculty and staff as the change is all encompassing for everyone involved. This will only happen by God's grace with improved ownership by the supporting churches/individuals and growing the support base within the country.