



Interview with Prashant Thakkar - ACU Office Manager

By Lisa Turnbull

ACU: Tell us about your educational, work and ministry experience. **Prashant:** I studied Bachelor of Commerce in Computer Science at Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. After I graduated in 2013, I did a ministry apprenticeship at my church for 2 years. During this apprenticeship I was exposed to various areas of ministry such as leading Bible studies, campus evangelism, leading church services, etc.

ACU: How did you come to a saving faith in Jesus Christ? **Prashant:** I was born into a Hindu family and had been a Hindu for about 17 years. Even though I was very religious, I felt an emptiness inside me, and I began searching for answers. In my quest for the truth, I spoke to a friend of mine who was a Christian. She suggested that I might be feeling that way because I was following the wrong god. Even though I was initially offended by this comment, we eventually began reading the Bible together. I came to a point where I realized that I'd have to make a decision between Hinduism and Christianity. The decision was made the day I went to church for the first time in my life, and yet I felt like I was home. As I began attending church and sitting under the preaching and teaching of the Word, I understood the Gospel more clearly. As I battled with my sins, I appreciated what Christ did for me on the cross more and more.

ACU: What did you know about Christian education before learning of ACU? **Prashant:** Before I heard of ACU, I didn't know anything about Christian Education at a tertiary level. I had only ever heard of Christian Education at primary and secondary levels.

ACU: How did you learn about ACU? **Prashant:** Pastor Mbewe shared a bit about ACU when he came to speak at a conference at our church in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

ACU: What are your responsibilities at ACU? **Prashant:** My responsibilities at ACU involve managing the administrative staff, managing communications between external parties and ACU staff, keeping track of any maintenance that needs to be carried out, managing inventory and purchasing and offering technical support pertaining to Information and Communications Technology.

ACU: How do you think ACU will impact the graduates and Zambia/Africa? **Prashant:** I believe that ACU will equip the graduates to be lights in whatever field they study. I believe this will be achieved by them being taught from a Biblical Worldview but also through the various instruments that have been put in place to shape the students in such a way that wherever they go they will stand out. I believe that equipping Christians to go out into the workplace and make a difference is a step in the right direction to address the many problems that we face as a country and continent.

ACU: Is there anything else you would like to share about ACU? **Prashant:** It has been very encouraging to see how God has been working, and it's humbling to see Him provide for this work. This is one of the main reasons why being part of ACU is so exciting.



Please contact us if you believe God is calling you to serve in such areas



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"..., but be transformed
by the renewal of your
mind,..."
Romans 12:2



In This Issue

A Biblical Worldview.
Why the Fuss?

Prayer and Praise

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A Biblical Worldview. Why the Fuss?

By Victor Kanyenge

It is not difficult to tell what worldview someone holds on to. There is nothing magical about it. As I interact with people from various walks of life, I am intrigued at the "lenses" through which they view life around them, even those who profess faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

Quite a few embrace a secular worldview. To them, what they see and feel is all there is to life. There is nothing beyond what we relate to with our five senses (remember, it is not five brains). Others (probably these are the majority among both Christians and non-Christians) hold to a "spiritual" worldview that is tilted towards African tradition rather than biblical teaching. They dread dreaming about snakes, owls sitting on their roofs, black cats running through their yard/garden (whichever you prefer) and entertain the weird belief of spiritual spouses. Yes, you read me right. Quite a number of Christians also hold on to this type of "spiritual" worldview.

We need to understand that it is not automatic that just because one professes faith in Jesus Christ, one will invariably assume a biblical worldview, not at all. Of course with true conversion, the process towards embracing a biblical worldview starts, but we need to work hard at it. The apostle Paul strongly appeals to us: *"Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect."* (Romans 12:2 ESV). That's a constant and consistent battle of non-conformity to the world and active mind renewal. This present evil age still threatens all those who belong to Christ, so they must resist its moulding influence and pressure. As Christians, our lives are changed as our minds are made new through the Word of God. That's how we begin the process of assuming a biblical worldview. But does it really matter if one does have a biblical worldview or not?

It is important that we have a good handle on what a worldview is so that we can grow in our own commitment to the truth. It is important that we help one another love and grow in our commitment to the truth.

So what's a worldview?

A worldview is that unavoidable framework from which we view reality and make sense of life and the world around us. I say unavoidable because we all hold on to a worldview of sorts. For example, TJ, my little toddler grandson believes he's the centre of the universe. A secular humanist believes that the world is all that exists, and someone holding on to a traditional African worldview believes they will only marry or get married if they are delivered from a "spiritual spouse."¹ Someone with a biblical worldview believes his primary reason for existence is to love and serve God.

Matters for Prayer

- Pastor Conrad Mbewe, ACU's Chancellor, is recovering from a surgery to help improve his sleep apnea.
- May God grant success in locating a sufficient, long-lasting source of water as we begin a new round of borehole drilling at the Chisamba campus.
- Mr. Chilekwa Kampeshi, Environmental Consultant, is leading the Environmental Impact Assessment required to advance ACU's development work at the Chisamba campus. Pray for his wisdom, perseverance and God's grace upon him as he manoeuvres the various government channels to accomplish this critical task.
- Various ACU faculty and staff are working towards applying for accreditation with the Higher Education Authority (HEA) of Zambia. Please pray for wisdom and thoroughness for the ACU personnel, and for professional diligence and competence of the HEA staff.
- Please continue to seek God to provide the individual(s) that would volunteer for the work of Construction Project Manager (Chief Contractor) for the Chisamba campus construction process.

Matters for Praise

- We thank God for continuing to provide those who financially support the ACU work. We praise Him for the very gracious \$50,000 donation recently made to ACU for construction work.
- An extensive geo-hydro survey of the Chisamba campus land was conducted to locate the three best locations for borehole drilling amongst 23 potential sites.
- Three Scholars Programme students were interviewed at the Lusaka Baptist Church (LBC) Annual Mission Conference. As a key stakeholder of ACU, it was exciting for the church to finally hear directly from students being impacted by the Christian worldview education that LBC has supported from the beginning.
- Pastor Mark Chanski made time in his busy schedule while in Zambia to teach on the Biblical worldview of manhood and womanhood at ACU's Chapel. God be praised for the quality of Biblical expositors that contribute to the ACU effort.
- God has opened the door for ACU-USA to establish a relationship with Liza Looser, Director of Cerlot Agency, who has welcomed the opportunity to work with ACU in helping to communicate the ACU vision to those who the Lord would lead to serve Him in this project.

A Biblical Worldview (Cont.)

Whether conscious or subconscious, every person has some type of worldview. A personal worldview is a combination of all you believe to be true, and what you believe becomes the driving force behind every emotion, decision and action. Therefore, it affects your response to every area of life: from philosophy to science, theology and anthropology to economics, law, politics, art and social order – literally everything! It is the interpretive “lenses” we use for understanding what we believe is real. From our personal worldview springs all of our actions and thoughts, and it is in unguarded moments when we can really see what we believe to be true.

For example, on Sunday morning the pastor asks for a show of hands from everyone who believes that God is the Provider of everything that we have or need now and for the rest of our lives. However, like many of the others who raised their hands, let's suppose you struggle with anxiety and worry. The important question then is, “Do you really believe that what you believe about God being the Provider is really real?” Worldview speaks about these core beliefs.

What's a biblical worldview and how does a biblical worldview get diluted?

A biblical worldview is based on the infallible Word of God. When you believe the Bible is entirely true, it must of necessity become the foundation of everything you say and do. That means, for instance, you take seriously the mandate in Romans 13 to honour the governing authorities by researching the candidates and issues, making voting a priority.

Here is the big problem. Non-biblical worldview ideas don't just sit in a book somewhere waiting for people to examine them. They bombard us constantly, as we noted above in Romans 12:2 through the media, movies, music, magazine, books and academia. Because we live in a fallen and sinful world, these ideas seductively appeal to our flesh, and we often end up incorporating them into our personal worldview – often without even knowing it.

For example, most Christians would agree with 1 Thessalonians 4:3 and other Scriptures that command us to avoid sexual immorality, but how often do Christians fall into lust or premarital and extramarital sexual sin? Is it simply because they are weak when tempted? Or did it begin much earlier, with the seductive lies from our sexualised society?

Why does a biblical worldview matter?

If we don't really believe and live the truth of God, then our witness will be confusing and misleading. Most of us go through life not recognizing that our personal worldviews have been deeply affected by the world. Through the media and other influences, the “spiritualised” Zambian view of history, law, politics, religion, science, God and man affect our thinking more than we realise. We then are taken “...*captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ*” (Colossians 2:8).

How do we address this great need?

It will take a monumental effort to change the course of our nation, starting first with our own understanding of God's truth. This will be by diligently learning, applying and trusting God's truth in every area of our lives; we can begin to develop a deep biblical faith that will stand against the unrelenting tide of our fallen culture's non-biblical notions. If we capture and embrace more of God's worldview and trust it with unwavering faith, then we begin to make the right decisions and form the appropriate responses to questions on politics, music, movies, sex and marriage, even on weird belief systems like that of “spiritual spouses,” same-sex marriage, and a host of other strange things. Because, in the end, we need to understand, it is our decisions and actions that reveal what we really believe. Our decisions and actions impact the lives of those around us.

1 For more on “spiritual spouses” read the fictional novel *The Concubine* written by Elechi Amadi, a Nigerian author, first published in 1966. In my opinion, the weird doctrine of “spiritual spouses” is a result of plagiarised material from this novel



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STUDENT TESTIMONY



One of the students at ACU, Francis Mwela, asked Mr. Carlos Paul, “What is your view on Christians dating?” he responded by asking, “what does it mean to be a Christian, that is, how does someone become a Christian?” Francis responded by giving a works based view of salvation.

Additionally, he felt that because he was so active in his church ministries, he was earning grace from God. At this point Mr. Paul explained how grace cannot be earned, and they looked at several passages of Scripture explaining that salvation is by faith alone, not works. When Francis confirmed that his view of salvation was at odds with the Bible, Mr. Paul asked him, “What are you going to do about that?” He expressed his desire to trust in Christ. He prayed aloud, verbalizing how he is a sinner and is receiving Christ's perfect righteousness.