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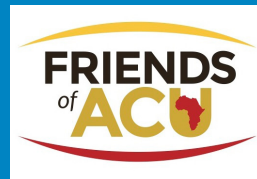
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"...a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth."

2 Timothy 2:15



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ACU Student



## Must We Train Ministers?

By Voddie Baucham

Not all Christians view theological education through the same lens. There is a strong anti-intellectual streak running through the body of Christ in both Africa and the west. Nor is this something new. Timothy Dwight, the grandson of Jonathan Edwards, and one-time President of Yale University, battled

this same attitude in the early 1800s. In his speech given at the opening of Andover Seminary, Dwight set his sights on those *who declare, both in their language and conduct, that the [pulpit] ought to be yielded up to the occupancy of Ignorance. While they demand a seven-year apprenticeship, for the purpose of learning to make a shoe, or an axe; they suppose the system of Providence, together with the numerous, and frequently abstruse, doctrines and precepts, contained in the Scriptures, may be all comprehended without learning, labour, or time. While they insist, equally with others, that their property shall be managed by skilful agents, their judicial causes by learned advocates, and their children, when sick, attended by able physicians; they were satisfied to place their Religion, their souls, and their salvation under the guidance of quackery.*<sup>1</sup>

Dwight was not referring to those who merely believed there were other means of gaining the requisite skills for "rightly handling the word of truth." (2 Tim 2:15) History is replete with self-taught men who worked diligently to master biblical languages, hermeneutics, biblical and systematic theology, and more, in an effort to comprehend the "system of Providence, together with numerous, and frequently abstruse, doctrines and precepts, contained in the Scriptures." The issue, then and now, is primarily doctrinal in nature.

The question at hand is, must a man be equipped to handle God's word, or are there shortcuts? Is a broad, classical, multidisciplinary approach (i.e., the approach of ACU) necessary, or is such training superfluous and unnecessary? Is training/equipping a necessary endeavour at all, or is it actually a hindrance to the more pure, natural, spiritual process of going directly to God for knowledge and insight?

There are anecdotes to bolster both sides of the argument. We can all point to the well-trained, highly-educated apostate, or the illiterate spiritual powerhouse, in attempts to make our point. However, doing so ignores the broader, more pressing question... "What do the Scriptures teach?"

The answer, I believe, is found in the proper application of a few key texts. For the sake of space, we will examine one.

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## Matters for Prayer

- Please pray for the students beginning the second quarter of the Scholars Programme. The work is getting more difficult, and their need for time management and good study habits are increasingly important.

- Many brethren here in Zambia and across the globe are helping to prepare for application with the Zambian Higher Education Authority for accreditation of all initial academic programmes. Please pray for those labouring for this purpose, and for the administrative work in completing the application.

- A good source of water at the Chisamba campus is critical. Much money and effort is being invested in trying to generate a successful borehole (well). As negotiations are finalised and the drilling is initiated, please pray that the Lord will grant success.

- The Construction Team is hiring one full-time worker to lead up the works on the ground. Please pray for Mr. Chali Chakonta, a pioneering young man fresh out of his Engineering Master's programme willing to invest his energies into ACU.

- Remember Mrs. Diana Paul as her left eye continues to give her problems. Please pray for all those involved to have wisdom.

## Matters for Praise

- The Saturday Student Labour day was a great success with focused time spent on a few critical projects. The students had fun together while learning some new skills.

- The first quarter of the Scholars Programme ended well. Many changes were witnessed through the first 10 weeks of classes including testimonies of salvation, spiritual growth and clear academic advancement. Students tell with excitement that their improved English speaking has been noted by neighbourhood friends and family, sometimes with scorn out of jealousy.

- The computer lab, shipping-container-conversion-project is well underway. We hope to be using it within a week.

- The ACU Construction Engineering Team had a very successful meeting. A strategic plan is now in place to move ACU's operations to the Chisamba campus by December 2017. This will allow the 2018 academic year to begin at the official ACU campus.

- The Baucham's first grandson arrived safe and healthy!

## Must We Train Ministers? (Cont.)

The Great Commission makes it clear that the mission of the Church is not to merely "convert" people, then back up and 'see what the Spirit teaches them.' Our mission is a comprehensive one: *"And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'"* (Matthew 28:18-20)

Clearly, the great truths of the Kingdom must be taught! This is the very thing that led the apostles to 1) commit the Lord's teaching to writing, and 2) appoint elders based on their ability to, "hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it." (Titus 1:9)

At ACU, and ACU Seminary, we take this task seriously. We believe the message of the gospel is too important to be left to chance. It must be preserved, proclaimed, and defended against error. It must also be applied to every area and aspect of life. As such, we are committed to helping called men attain the requisite skills they need to "maintain the pattern of sound words" (2 Timothy 1:13) laid down by the apostles, and preserved through the ages, and "take every thought captive to the obedience of Christ." (2 Corinthians 10:5) For it is indeed the gospel that is the power of God unto salvation (Romans 1:16), and that gospel must be understood rightly (1 Corinthians 15:1-3). Otherwise, it is no gospel at all.

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1 Timothy Dwight, quoted in Nathan O. Hatch, *The Democratization of American Christianity*, New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1989, p. 19



## Interview with Tshepo Rathaiya, ACU Student

By Lisa Turnbull

### Where do you live?

I live in Woodlands, New Casama outside Lusaka, Zambia.

### Do you attend a church?

Yes I do attend church. I will be applying for associate membership at Evangel Baptist Church. I was originally attending Birchleigh Baptist in Kempton Park, South Africa.

### How are you paying for your education at ACU?

I am paying through ACU sponsorship. ACU has managed to find an individual sponsor who can help me with most of my payments.

### What has been the most impacting thing you have learned in the classroom?

The learning impact has been learning every subject in a Christian worldview and how every faculty subject is directly connected to the Bible and God, for example how Mathematics and English are connected to God.

### What are your thoughts on the Student Labour Programme?

The Student Labour Programme is the practical aspect of service both to man and God. Through it I have been able to value and experience what it means to be a steward of God's grace in fulfilling the cultural mandate.



### What would say to others about ACU?

I would say two things: First, that ACU has taught me how to live not only to make a living. Secondly, ACU has taught me how to think critically and constructively not only what to think about.

### What do you plan to do after you complete university?

I want to be a Communication Scientist- a marketer, advertiser, graphics designer, business planner and many more communication areas- an expert in communication. I would like to do that as an ambassador of Christ.

