

February 18, 2019

Dear Brothers & Sisters at Memorial,

Thank you.

Thank you for equipping students for godly service across Africa. Thank you for giving to God's work over and over. Thank you for your prayers for guidance, wisdom, and protection for our campus, staff, students, alumni and board. Thank you for transforming lives. Thank you.

Thank you for equipping Victor for excellent service.

Last month, Victor sent a short update from East Africa. He graduated several years ago and recently got married. He shared photos and videos from a prison outreach he was leading. The photos showed well over 100 prisoners at the service. In his message, Victor offered his thanks for being equipped to "expose the lies of the devil" as a student in Swaziland (now called Eswatini!).

When I visited Victor's ministry in rural Kenya, I met some of the orphans he works with. The church provides housing, meals, uniforms, and school fees to these kids. Victor works directly with them and as a chaplain at their school. And, he serves as the preacher for the church of Christ in Winyo.



Thanks to you, Victor is "exposing the lies of the devil" and expanding the Kingdom of God. As a Preacher. Teacher. Chaplain. Prison Evangelist. Church Leader. And as a committed disciple of Jesus. <u>Visit our website</u> to see more photos and watch our video of Victor talking about the impact you've made on his life.

Victor is only one graduate among many. Others are doing similar work and ministry across Africa. God is using your dedication to Christian higher education in Africa to change lives.

VISIONING FOR THE FUTURE

Like you, I want to be about my Father's business. And I want to invest my time, energy, and money in Kingdom building efforts. I'm thankful African Christian College is such a place. Along with the board and staff, I take seriously the task of stewarding the resources entrusted to us by God and through your gifts. To be even better stewards,



Increasing enrolment. Chart

ENROLLMENT

this past year was for listening to God and God's people for clarity on a future vision for the institution.

Not because something's wrong. But because there's so much potential: More students are enrolled at African Christian College than ever before. Institutional resources are more stable than ever before allowing your gifts to strengthen the work rather than simply keep it alive. Staff are more qualified and capable than in the past. And, God is at work every day changing lives on campus and in communities across the continent.

We all want God to guide the direction and growth into the Christian university we set out to become in 2007 when Manzini Bible School became African Christian College. Together, we can make a profound impact on the Kingdom of God in Africa.

The visioning process began with six weeks of praying, "Thy will be done." The mission to equip students for excellence in God's kingdom hasn't changed. Our practice of Christian higher education remains central. But the

With <u>50 students</u> in 2019, it's a record-breaking year.

vision includes growth and changes to be more effective in accomplishing this mission. And it provides clarity for future planning.

The vision continues the work you've been supporting of equipping strong, ethical, Christian leaders for the challenges facing their communities, families, and

COUNTRIES

Current students are from 11 African nations (yellow) including Zimbabwe, Malawi, Uganda, Eswatini, Zambia, Lesotho, Botswana, Kenya, Rwanda, South Africa, & Tanzania.

Alumni are in 5 more nations (blue).



churches. It includes adding new academic programs to broaden our impact in teacher education, agriculture, technology, health, and hospitality. And it ensures that all students are grounded in Christian character and servant leadership with skills as peace makers, entrepreneurs, and Christian ministry.

Rather than growing too big, the vision remains committed to community and family. And it maintains the relevant, practical application of skills that will strengthen the Kingdom of God.

It's exciting. God is at work.

UPDATES FROM CAMPUS

This new year is already proving to be an exciting year. As I already mentioned, more students are studying at African Christian College than ever before. There are 50 students from 11 different countries currently on campus. They are bright, passionate, energetic, and God-seeking. I am blessed to get to be here with them and, like you, I cannot wait to see how God will use them to further his mission in the world.

We have several new staff members on our team this year. We now have five staff members completing graduate programs with ACU to better equip them for future leadership and teaching positions. We're blessed with new developments, equipment, and dreams for fulfilling the work God has given us to do. And I'm thankful you're part of this important work.

MACADAMIA NUTS

Another record-breaker was our 2018 harvest. Over 120 tons of macadamia nuts were harvested from the campus orchards last year. And sales also dramatically increased. Many challenges were encountered along the way, but God continues to bless this project.

As a result, macadamia nuts provide for most of our current operating needs. However, our

continued student growth and the accompanying need for expansion of facilities are beyond the ability of the macadamia nuts. God has given success with the project while also giving a vision to do more.



Our macadamia nuts are available at select HEB stores. Macadamia oil and nuts are available in all Central Market stores and on our all-new website, <u>UKWAZImakadamia.com</u>. We're excited to have some of our students working on marketing our macadamias on social media and our website. We'd love to have you follow along.

ACCREDITATION

Just before graduation in November, we had a weeklong visit from the international accrediting body we have been working with, the Association for Christian Theological Education in Africa (ACTEA). This was their official evaluation of our program against their standards for theological education in Africa. It will still be a few months before we receive a final word, but they provided positive feedback during the visit. This is the culmination of many years of accreditation work. I feel good about the expected response.

We continue to maintain good standing with governmental accreditation with the ESwatini Higher Education Council (ESHEC).

CHANGES ON CAMPUS

At the end of 2018, we were blessed to add a new facility, an open-air gathering space for study, fellowship, and fun donated in loving memory of Lilian Prowell by her family to the glory of God. This new, round *lapa* evokes memories of the Round House that sat in that spot in the centre of campus for our first fifty years. We're also blessed by an additional tractor for our orchard donated in memory of JL Brazell, founding chairman of the African Christian College board and long-time leader and advocate of the college.

As we welcomed 2019, we also welcomed three new staff members to our team. Two of the positions were left vacant at the end of the year and our new staff have brought new energy, skills, and hard work to their task. Another is a new position to provide essential support for our operations and Tree of Life team.

With an increase in people on campus and goods being sold off-campus, we also decided it was time to add 24-hour security at our entrance. We haven't had any safety issues this past year, but the addition of this security is primarily to assist in efforts of preventing loss of our assets, tracking visitors and residents on campus, and welcoming guests.

Under the leadership of Mancoba Hlatchwako, our new Coordinator of Agricultural Sustainability, we're greatly increasing oncampus food production using organic and sustainable farming methods. Now our students are growing more than we need for ourselves. So, next month we're launching **Locavore Farmers Market** on campus to sell our goods to local customers. This is all part of our efforts to be good stewards of what we've been given and to model sustainable and repeatable projects our students could easily implement at home.

NEW STAFF



Ncobile Dlamini Administrative Assistant



Nonjabulo Nxumalo Operations Manager



Mancoba Hlatchwako Coordinator of Agricultural Sustainability

YOU'RE ALWAYS WELCOME FOR A VISIT

I wish you could be here on campus to see everything that's happening for yourself. To sing praises in multiple African languages in daily Chapel. To enjoy a meal with the amazing students you're helping. To help harvest macadamia nuts. To visit the churches, schools, organizations, businesses, homes, and ministries our alumni are working with as they honor God with their lives. To see the impact your gifts are making on the Kingdom of God in Africa.

So, if you have any chance to visit, please come. You're always welcome. When you arrive, there will be many people here who'd love the opportunity to express their thanks to you directly. And as you pray for us, know we're also regularly praying for you.

I know you have many options for giving to godly ministries and your resources are limited. Thank you, brothers and sisters, for choosing to make African Christian College one of the places you support. I am humbled and honored to serve alongside you. Thank you for your partnership with God, who is at work. God is using you to accomplish Kingdom purposes.



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2018 GRADUATE REFLECTION Vuyo Adams, Eswatini



In exactly 30 days, I will be sleeping for the first time in three years knowing that I have no assignment due. Believe me when I say there is nothing as disturbing as knowing that there is an assignment you have not finished. You sleep, but you do not really sleep. That may be the reason why college life is exhausting such that the only thing you want to do after graduation is rest.

The preparation one goes under at African Christian College involves being squeezed, shaken, stretched, folded, and unfolded. The aim really is not to make life miserable, but to make sure that the three years here are transformative. As I stand on the last few weeks of my study here, I am convinced without a doubt that I am an idea whose time has come.

Being at African Christian College helped me go deeper in understanding the plan of God for the universe. I came to realize that God is seeking to create a new world out of this one through the transformative actions of people changed by the gospel. Our calling is not to escape the earth but to redeem it through the message of the Kingdom of God manifested in our lives. I learned that I can partner with God through sticking to my purpose and utilizing the talents endowed within me.

I learned I can partner with God.

I have made friends, partners, colleagues, supporters, and family. I have made mistakes, stepped on toes, and reconciled. I have seen myself grow. As I prepare to leave and relaunch myself in the world, I have no doubt that my decision to enroll has paid off. I am a better person than I was three years ago. African Christian College will always be a home away from home.

