



AFRICA RENEWAL UNIVERSITY

Funding Request for Establishing a University

Drafted by:
Jeff Atherstone
Director
Africa Renewal Christian College
www.arccuganda.org

INTRODUCTION

Since Africa Renewal Christian College (formerly Gaba Bible Institute) opened its doors in 2007 our vision has been to equip Christian leaders for the transformation of society. That vision has led us to expand our programs into the field of development in order to train ministers who will be working with Christian organizations involved in child development and humanitarian work.

In order to continue to expand our capacity to equip Christian leaders we are applying to become a Christian University, with a focus on leadership development. In a land plagued by war, corruption, greed and poverty we want to train up leaders who can transform their communities with the hope of the gospel.

This document is to request three years of funding which will allow Africa Renewal Christian College to reach accreditation level of Private University. As a Private University we will have opportunity to expand our programs to the Bachelors level, thus increasing our impact on society by expanding our programs and elevating our students to a higher level of gospel-centered education.

THE NEED

In June 2010 Africa Renewal Christian College became one of six Christian colleges recognized by the Government of Uganda. This recognition has made ARCC a top destination for Christian students seeking training for ministry. It has also helped to quickly expand our student population from 35 in 2007 to 175 students in 2012. We believe that this growth will only increase, as we become a university.

There is great need for Christian higher education in Uganda. Currently 65% of the total population is below 19 years old. This young population is causing the people of Uganda to look closely at the need for higher education institutions.

At ARCC we see this as an incredible opportunity to reach the next generation of Christian leaders for Uganda. Whereas the majority of believers come to know Christ before the age of 18 we also know that between the ages of 18-24 many young people are deciding whether or not their faith is their own or simply the faith of their family or sponsoring organization. We want to seize this opportunity to bring these youth into adulthood in an environment that fosters their spiritual growth and development.

We also believe that there is a second need that this university project answers. In Uganda there is great need to train development workers with a gospel focus as the foundation of their future ministry. By training ministers to share the hope of Christ we will impact the entire East African region as currently 30% of our student body comes from Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and South Sudan.

THE CALLING

We truly believe that by providing higher education for Christian leaders we will be meeting the spiritual and socio-economic needs of Uganda. It is not simply enough to feed the hungry, to care for the sick or to look after abandoned children. Our calling is to equip ministers to share the hope of Christ in the midst of pain and suffering. At ARCC we are training up the next

generation leaders to be firmly rooted in their faith while at the same time equipped to share the compassion of Christ and hope of the gospel.

In a country where 82% of the population is subsistence farmers there is great need for higher education. We believe that Uganda is at a tipping point. If we continue to help children up to the age of 18 through sponsoring organizations without giving them the opportunity to go to University then their own children will also need a sponsoring organization. But if we seek to bring this generation of Christian youth through University then they not only will be able to put their children through school but they will also be able to help others in need.

Due to the progress of Uganda in regards to its stability in an unstable region of the world and the development of its system of higher education we believe that we are strategically located to reach out to students in the surrounding countries of Rwanda, Burundi, Congo and South Sudan. We also believe that by becoming a University we will be strategically positioned to impact and equip the next generation of leaders for this region and beyond who will bring about true spiritual and community wide transformation.

OUTCOMES AND FINANCIALS

We want to secure commitments for \$15,000 a month in funding by September 1, 2012 for a period of 3 years so that the NCHE can approve us as a University beginning in 2013 The NCHE wants us to prove that we have the resources to pay staff salaries for the first three years of our operations as a university.

We are seeking partners that can provide monthly or yearly support for a period of three years to help us reach this goal.

This donation can be given at one time and distributed monthly by Africa Renewal Ministries USA or can be allocated monthly at the donor's discretion.

This commitment will help us to accomplish our goal of becoming a Christian University that will equip Christian leaders to transform society.

Thank you for your consideration of our proposal.

Jeff Atherstone
Director
Africa Renewal Christian College
+(256) 752 702500
jatherstone@arccuganda.org

APPENDIX 1 – Case Study: Uganda Christian University

Uganda Christian University (UCU) is a project of the Anglican Church of Uganda, established in 1999. In 2012 they have enrolled 7,000 students and 95% of their budget is derived from school fees. Looking at these numbers alone it is simply astonishing to see their success and by God's providence I (Jeff) have had opportunity to not only work there in 2006, but also the opportunity to establish a relationship with their founding Vice-Chancellor, Rev. Prof. Stephen Noll.

Over the course of March and April of 2012 I was able to conduct a series of three interviews to discover how this dream of a sustainable Christian University became a reality in Uganda. The following is a series of observations that Stephen Noll and I have identified if Africa Renewal University is to follow their pattern of success.

The first observation is that Private Universities must have the backing and support of their founding organization or network to establish its vision. The Church of Uganda approached Stephen Noll in 1997 with this vision. They offered Stephen Noll 1) a prime location of 88-acres in Mukono in the names of Uganda Christian University without any cost to the University 2) backing of the House of Bishops giving UCU a respected Board in the eyes of the government 3) an additional 2 square miles of land to develop income generating projects.

The second observation is that Private Universities must develop partnerships to finance their vision to completion. By God's grace the previous administration of the White House supported faith-based programs, such as UCU, through USAID. UCU was the recipient of \$1,000,000 USD over a four-year period, which allowed them to build facilities and recruit excellent staff members. This funding came to an end when the previous administration's term ended but the timing of the funding stands out as a key factor in their early development.

The third observation is that "Private Universities must have the support of in-kind gifts such as volunteer staff, computers, books and other tools for education in order to develop their capacity." UCU received the volunteer services of 25 missionaries during their first 12 years which helped them with the development of academic programs, administrative systems for growth and qualified staff for accrediting purposes.

The fourth observation is that "Private Universities are not exempt from the economic laws of supply and demand." UCU started by providing affordable education as a means of filling their facilities to capacity. As demand for their programs increased they were able to raise their rates to a rate that now covers 95% of their total budget. As the fees increased they were also able to continue to support disadvantaged children by establishing scholarship funds through partnerships with organizations like Compassion International.

The only question that remains from this study would be "Is there a need for another Christian University in Uganda?" The conclusion that Stephen Noll and I share is a resounding "Yes!" Professor Noll shared an article with me that I found to be a great source of encouragement by Dr. Paul Scotchmer titled "Plant Universities: Universities as a Mission Strategy" (<http://www.missionfrontiers.org/issue/article/christian-universities-as-a-mission-strategy>) There is no greater calling than to invest our lives in the fulfillment of the Great Commission!