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Hello Sisters and Brothers at Western Hills!

I hope you remember this often: *You're making a difference in Africa.*

*Thank you! Your consistent support matters.* Especially this year when we're still trying to catch up from three years of slow macadamia markets. It feels so encouraging to know you continue to believe in the work of African Christian College! Every gift you send means that Poloko, Nonsikelelo, and their classmates will continue to learn and grow toward their graduation goal. *Thank you for giving today, and for giving regularly.* African Christian College remains strong because of you!

Your gift of \$1,979.00 made on 12/26/2025 is already hard at work to cover campus operations and keep students learning. *As a registered 501(c)3 organization, your donation is completely tax deductible. Please keep this for your tax records to claim your deduction.*

When students work in the macadamia orchards, they learn valuable skills outside the classroom that enhance their degree. *Your gift is making sure this continues.* Each student you equip impacts others: more families, churches, and communities. *Thank you* for your faith and vision in making this life-changing gift!

In upcoming issues of the *Harvest Newsletter*, I'll update you on all you are making possible. Feel free to call me at 512-900-9875 with your questions. You're the heart of this work and I'd love to hear from you!

May God bless you beyond measure for your love expressed through giving!

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*P.S. I've enclosed a story to let you know how your gift changes lives. Thanks again for all you do for our students!*



## Equipped for Excellence: Admire's Story

*We reached out to our 2018 alumnus from Zimbabwe, Admire Matata, after his recent graduation from the University of Eswatini. His story is one that reminds us of the strength of ACC's approach to equipping leaders for excellence in the Kingdom of God.*

"There is nothing I appreciate more in life than my time at African Christian College," Admire began. "I arrived as a young boy but graduated as a responsible man with more than just a degree, but life skills that continue to sustain me today." As he celebrates his new educational milestone, Admire looks back with gratitude for the transformation he received during his time at ACC.

Coming straight to ACC from high school, Admire was young and uncertain. He was still trying to find purpose. His time at ACC stretched him in every possible way.

The work-study program pushed him beyond his comfort zone, teaching him responsibility, hard work, and the importance of self-reliance. "I learned to work and provide for myself without expecting someone else to take care of my needs," he recalls.

Living in a diverse community of students from across Africa also shaped his ability to lead and serve in cross-cultural contexts. It was within ACC's international community that Admire discovered how to live harmoniously with others, respect different cultures, and work as part of a team.

Beyond the classroom, his spiritual life deepened as he learned to trust God and make decisions grounded in faith and integrity. "Worshiping and learning with others grew me spiritually to a point where I could allow God to direct my path in everything I did," he reflects.

After graduating with a Bachelor of Theology in Counselling, Admire returned home to Zimbabwe for a brief period before moving back to Eswatini in search of opportunities. Through the network he had made at ACC, he found a teaching position at Hosea's Heart, an organization serving vulnerable girls. "The culture there felt so familiar: loving, community-oriented, and faith-driven," he says.

"It reminded me of ACC."



His ability to connect with students, adapt in a cross-cultural setting, and lead with compassion soon made him stand out. It was also during this time that his passion for human development and education began to take root.

Driven by that passion, Admire enrolled at the University of Eswatini to further his studies in Education. The journey wasn't easy. But instead of giving up, he drew strength from the lessons learned at ACC, especially the value of hard work.

"One of the skills I learned while working at ACC was cleaning houses," he explains. "I decided to use that skill to earn money by offering house cleaning services." Though skeptical at first, Admire quickly discovered that many people were too busy to clean their homes. Soon he had a growing list of clients. "It wasn't easy, but it taught me humility, perseverance and hard work," he says. "What started as a way to survive has now grown into a small business I plan to register officially."

Academically, Admire continued to excel. The solid foundation from his ACC years gave him an advantage. He navigated his studies with discipline and confidence. His professors took notice. One of them was so impressed by his academic excellence and maturity that she recommended him for a Postgraduate Certificate in Applied Ethics and Decision Making. She even offered to pay for his tuition when she learned of his financial struggles. "I was shocked," Admire recalls, "but deeply grateful. That experience reminded me that when you work hard and stay true to your values, God always makes a way."



Leading at Hosea's Heart

His commitment and leadership at Hosea's Heart did not go unnoticed either. Within two years, Admire was promoted from Teacher to Deputy Head, and shortly after, to Headteacher. This achievement reflected not only his professional competence but also his servant-hearted leadership. "The promotion was a dream come true," he says, "but it also came with greater responsibility."

Today, Admire continues to grow as a leader, educator, and mentor to young people; living proof that resilience and faith can turn even the simplest beginnings into extraordinary outcomes. As he reflects on how far he's come, Admire's heart overflows with gratitude. "I now understand what it means to be equipped for excellent service," he says. I will forever appreciate the impact that ACC had on my life and always attribute my success to the solid foundation I received there."