

Africa Nazarene University Prepares Educators to Transform the World

by Daryll Gordon Stanton, Ed.D., Guest Writer
Submitted by Wes Eby, Global Representative



Africa Nazarene University (ANU) is proud of its modest beginnings since August 1994, when it opened its doors to 62 university students from 11 African countries. These students could choose an undergraduate degree in theology or business administration or the Master of Arts in religion.

The main ANU campus is located near the Nairobi National Park just 24 kilometers (15 miles) from downtown Nairobi. It provides a safe and calm environment, ideal for classes. Located at the center of the Maasai savannah, the university's 124-acre campus

fulfilled the Nazarene dream of creating an African Christian university.

ANU is a private university founded by Christians in Kenya and is one of the 51 Nazarene colleges and universities around the world. It is established on the same basis: the development of students in a strong spiritual environment. The mission of ANU seeks to provide a university education that provides people the best knowledge, ability, and Christian values.

Three core values guide behavior and form the core of the Nazarene culture at ANU:

Character: students and staff examine their faith for living.

Competence: students are equipped to achieve their career goals.

Community: students and staff together find their place in the world.

ANU stimulates the growth of character and integrity of heart, key factors in the journey of life. This is the foundation that guides graduates in applying established principles that make them unique in the field in which they choose to contribute to society.

The university is fully accredited by the Kenyan Commission for University Education since its charter was awarded in October 2002. ANU has maintained its mission as approved by the Nazarene International Board of Education in 2008. ANU offers the best education to students by exposing them to the latest technologies and challenges in the world while seeking to consolidate their leadership and service skills for God and humanity. The quest of ANU to help transform the world was implemented by its founding students, and today the same quest continues with ANU students and graduates.

A balanced and comprehensive education that includes a strong education department sees learning as a factor of positive change. Its purpose is to produce educationists who are well-grounded at all levels with theoretical and practical bases. It guides the formation of appropriate values and attitudes necessary to affect the field of education, students, and society in general. Its programs are based on both academic and Christian ethics to prepare educators to be the moral pillars of society in order to show future generations how to create a moral and ethical society.

The department believes that learning is a continuous process and encourages those who wish to enter the profession, as well as those who already practice it, to prepare themselves to become better teachers. Teachers prepare through four undergraduate options: childhood education, primary

education, secondary education, and special needs education. These programs prepare students with valuable knowledge about teaching methods, techniques, and strategies for teaching at different levels, enabling them to become effective professional teachers who communicate well in traditional or online classrooms. The students gain general and special knowledge in the preparation of teaching materials, lesson plans, outlines, and work plans as well as various guidelines in teaching methods.

Today, ANU is a place where students are part of a multicultural community from more than 27 African countries, as well as exchange students and professors from sister universities in America, England, South Korea, South America, and the Philippines. When we say that "what begins at ANU transforms the world," it is an affirmation of the quality of education that is provided as well as a declaration of the global positioning of ANU's students.

The ANU vision is to be the university of choice for Christ-centered academic excellence, research, and transformative leadership.

Dr. Daryll Stanton is currently the Global Resourcing Coordinator in the Sunday School and Discipleship Ministry International Division at the Global Ministry Center in Lenexa, Kansas. You may contact Daryll at dstanton@nazarene.org.

Editor's Note:



Dr. Stanton and his wife, Verna, were missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene for 36 years in Africa, serving in Zambia, Republic of South Africa, Tanzania, and Kenya. He devoted his last 18 years to education at Africa Nazarene University. While his more than three-decade missionary service included many responsibilities, such as church planting and district leadership, most of his three decades included aspects of education, primarily as a teacher/professor.

"One of my missionary goals was to become a highly effective teacher," he says in sharing a bit of his education philosophy. "This happened as I read widely and interacted with some great teachers. I observed that highly effective teachers have a passion for guiding others in the teaching-learning process. We must remember that often things are 'caught' rather than 'taught.' The highly effective teacher is one who serves the young members of our society, modeling the kind of leadership we would want to see in our future leaders. Teachers who aspire to be highly effective view each learner as an individual and aim to facilitate fulfillment of the individualized learning needs. Especially-talented learners are identified and nurtured early. However, such teachers know they neither have all the knowledge nor all the necessary resources to be fully effective. So, they know how to both call on God for help and find ways to sharpen their teaching skills. They promote interconnectedness, interdependence, and partnering within their own schools as well as with other highly effective schools, where everyone's role is recognized as important, respected and appreciated."

Dr. Stanton exemplifies what it means to be a highly effective teacher. He became a key person to help ANU develop and fulfill its mission and motto "What Begins Here Transforms the World."

Resources

Website: Africa Nazarene University www.anu.ac.ke

Book: *What Begins Here Transforms the World* by Debbie Salter Goodwin. 2019. Nazarene Publishing House. (NMI missions book for 2019-20)