

JONATHAN RUKUNDO

African Christian University

March 2026 Newsletter



Dear Sponsors,

As I begin this new year, I give thanks to God for His sustaining grace in my life and for the opportunity to continue my studies here at the African Christian University. Your support continues to be a great blessing, and it is a joy to share these updates with you.

ACADEMIC PROGRESS

- 28th February 2026 marked the beginning of my fourth and final year of my studies in Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology. It is encouraging to have reached this final stage of the program. Although the academic year is still in its early stages, I trust the Lord to sustain me through the demands ahead.
- As part of my final-year requirements, I presented my research proposal before the faculty on February 5, and it was approved. I have now begun the research and writing phase of the project.
- Lord willing, I anticipate graduating in December this year.

MINISTRY

Local Church Engagement

- I have been a member of Kabwata Baptist Church here in Zambia for three years now, growing under faithful biblical teaching and the guidance of our elders in many ways.
- Last month, we (Kabwata Baptist Church) celebrated its 40th Anniversary (19–22 February) with Pastor Conrad Mbewe serving there as the pastor for about 39 years. Coming from a young church in Rwanda that is only about five years old, without a pastor yet, it was especially encouraging to witness the Lord's faithfulness in sustaining a congregation for so many years.
- The elders have entrusted me with continued service as one of the worship leaders, a responsibility I carry with gratitude and commitment.



Campus Ministry.

- I was entrusted to serve as Student Assistant to the Chaplain throughout this year, which I gladly accepted. In just one month, it has already been a valuable opportunity to learn under the Chaplain's guidance and gain insight into campus ministry. I hope to

continue learning and gaining experience that will be beneficial for my future ministry engagements throughout the year.



- I continue to serve with the privilege of leading selected Wednesday chapel services at ACU.
- I also continue to lead one of our Student Bible study groups, guiding weekly sessions that help students grow in their understanding of Scripture. I must say that leading these studies has also been a blessing, sharpening my knowledge of God's Word and strengthening my spiritual growth.

FAMILY

- I was privileged to spend my holiday (November 15th, 2025, to January 25th, 2026) at home with my family and friends, whom I had not seen for nearly two years. It was a special and refreshing time after a year of hard work, allowing us to reconnect and enjoy fellowship together for weeks.
- The Lord has continued to preserve and sustain my parents despite the challenges of old age, and they remain steadfast in trusting Him.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP

- Having served for about a year as Student Body President, I formally handed over leadership to the newly elected Student Body President on February 20th, 2026.
- I regard this responsibility as a gracious providence of the Lord, granting me the opportunity to serve His people within the university community. It was a season that both humbled and shaped me, and one I will always cherish. Below is a photo of me delivering my final address to the student body.



HOME CHURCH (Rwanda)

During my time in Rwanda, I was grateful for the opportunity to fellowship with the saints from my home church even though the church is currently unable to gather as a full congregation. Briefly, this is what has been happening:

- Since June 2024, stricter government regulations on church buildings and registration have forced many churches, including my own, to stop meeting publicly. These strict measures were prompted by concerns that certain churches—predominantly among Charismatic and Pentecostal churches—had engaged in manipulative

practices that negatively influenced or exploited their members. Also, some churches were also reported to have supported or maintained associations with external groups opposed to the government, including rebel factions.

- This situation has negatively impacted even the churches that remain faithful and doctrinally sound. Most saints now gather quietly in small home groups and follow services online.
- Home gatherings are currently not permitted. In January, one of our home groups was discovered by the authorities, and several members were detained for about two weeks before being released.
- Despite these challenges, the Lord continues to build His church, saving souls through these gatherings, with new believers baptized and others received into membership.

PRAYER REQUESTS

1. **Praise Item:** Thank God with me for a good start to the year, for completing my student leadership role well, and for His continued strength and desire in my heart to be better equipped for His service.
2. **Final year:** Pray for God's guidance, wisdom, and strength as I continue my final year—especially in completing my research project, preparing for my thesis, and serving faithfully at campus.

3. **Saints in Rwanda:** Please pray that the Lord would strengthen and protect the saints in Rwanda and open a way for them to gather freely again as a full congregation, faithfully advancing His kingdom.

4. **Future Guidance:** As I near the completion of my bachelor's degree, I am prayerfully considering my future especially regarding ministry, further studies, and marriage. Please pray that the Lord would guide me, grant wisdom in my decisions, and provide clarity and direction for the path He has prepared for me.

GRATITUDE

I am very thankful to God for River Valley Church and for your faithful support, prayers, and encouragement throughout my studies at African Christian University. I am reminded of James 1:17:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”

May the Lord reward your faithfulness and continue to uphold you in every way. Amen.

In Christ,

Jonathan Rukundo.