Illinois Great Rivers To Raise More Scholarships

The Illinois Great Rivers Conference, (IGRC), is expanding its support for Africa University by raising an additional $250,000 for scholarships. The conference plans to help at least 10 students to complete four years of study. Each of the IGRC’s 10 districts is being asked to raise $25,000, which would support one student from freshman year to graduation day.

The IGRC’s Africa University Committee launched the effort at the annual conference in June. Richard Straub, appointed as committee chair in January 2012, said members discussed a range of options, but decided to work on helping more needy students to enroll.

“We felt that providing support to get students educated and back to their communities and countries would have the greatest impact for Africa,” said Straub.

Currently, the conference is funding two graduate students, one from Liberia and another from the Democratic Republic of Congo. Its new effort, the “Making Dreams Possible” scholarships campaign, will help students from across the continent. The campaign broadens the scope of the IGRC’s ongoing investment in Africa University’s development, which includes support for the Richard E. “Dick” Reeves Wesley Foundation.

Interns Begin Mission Assignments Overseas

Four recent graduates of Africa University are headed to Asia, Latin America and Europe to serve as young adult missionaries.

Two of the four—Wuo Christian Zigbuo from Liberia and Albert Otshudi Longe from the Democratic Republic of Congo—were among the 34 young people from nine countries, commissioned by the General Board of Global Ministries (GBGM) on August 3, in Arlington, Virginia. Both Zigbuo and Longe will serve for 18 months in the Philippines, with Initiatives for Peace and the Kapatiran Kaunlaran Foundation, respectively. Two other graduates, Faida Rachel Bahati and Jacques Kazemb Kambol were commissioned at the Congo Central Conference in Kolwezi, Democratic Republic of Congo.

Bahati is assigned to the World Student Christian Federation in Geneva, Switzerland and Kambol is being sent to the Shade and Water Project of the Methodist Church of Brazil in Sao Paulo. Three of the graduates majored in environmental studies and one majored in IT.

After completing their overseas placements, the four AU-trained interns will return to their home countries in Africa to continue their mission service for an additional 18 months.

Zimbabwean Leader Doubles Support, Urges Others To Give

Chief Nyamukoho, a successful businessperson and senator, donated $10,000 to Africa University on August 22. This year’s gift is double the amount he gave in 2011 and is designated for scholarships.

“For us to become what we want to be, charity should begin at home,” said Chief Nyamukoho. “As we speak about indigenization and empowerment...let us also speak about African philanthropy as these complement each other if we want sustainable development in our country.”

Lectures Underway

Faculty and students began lectures on August 20, marking the start of the 2012-2013 Academic Year. More than 300 students registered for various degree programs this year. Africa University’s overall enrollment now stands at just over 1600 students. First semester lectures will run on November 15, and the semester will officially end on December 1.

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Bishop Minerva Carciano, GBGM General Secretary Mr. Thomas Kemper and others lay hands on Christian Zigbuo, during the commissioning service in Arlington, VA.
This past June 9th, Marlene Domingos Fonseca of Angola was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the Faculty of Management and Administration. Marlene’s life was transformed by the four-year Ushawira Scholarship provided by Gary and Jane Powell of Eugene, Oregon.

Each year without fail Gary and Jane gave sufficient appreciated stocks to pay Marlene’s tuition, room, board and fees totaling $5,400.00. For the Powells, giving appreciated stocks was much more beneficial than giving cash because they received an immediate income tax deduction for the fair market value of the stocks on the date of transfer regardless of the lower original cost, and they avoided having to pay capital gains on the appreciated value of the stocks.

Now that Marlene has graduated, Gary and Jane have covenanted to provide full scholarship support for another female student during her matriculation at Africa University.

For more information about the benefits of giving appreciated securities, about the Ushawira Scholarship program, and about the planned giving program, please call or write our Director of Planned Giving, Elaine Jenkins, Africa University Development Office, P. O. Box 340007, Nashville, TN, 37203-0007, 615/340-7428 (telephone), 615/340-7290 (fax), ejenkins@gbhem.org (e-mail address). Also, please visit the planned giving website at www.support-africauniversity.org/plannedgiving.