



ACA ALUMNI IN THE WORLD / PETER BRINKERHOFF

Fighting poverty, one thoughtful loan at a time

Peter Brinkerhoff (ACA 2000 / Covenant 2004) consults for Hope International’s microfinance institutions (MFIs) in Afghanistan and Democratic Republic of Congo. As a technical consultant, he helps implement loan-tracking software, trains local staff on operations, and supports local management.

Working with Hope from 2004-2009, Peter helped open a new office in Kisangani, DRC.

“The simplest description for micro-finance,” he says, “is that it’s small-scale banking. Our program in Congo provides

basic banking services—savings and loans—for economically active poor who are typically excluded from the formal sector—where banks charge prohibitive fees on simple savings accounts, require minimum balances that only a wealthy client can maintain, and do not offer small loans for small business owners.”

Peter served in Kisangani for one year, managing staff and operations. Ultimately, he helped initiate over 40,000 loans in Africa. He is now pursuing his master’s degree in Washington, D.C., with his eye ever cast back to Africa.



**ASHEVILLE CHRISTIAN
ACADEMY**



“While I was at ACA, I started a small landscaping business with my brother, which has since given me a special interest in small business owners. We started with a small loan from our dad and grew the business, repaying the loan and putting 20% of our revenues back into the business. It grew such that the profit we earned helped us pay for a significant part of our college tuition.”

“I actually wrote my senior thesis at ACA on biblical ethics in business. I kind of chuckle when I look back on that and think how limited my perspective was. But I believe it was important—this was the seed of an interest that developed into a deeper interest and eventual career in economic development.

“Through the biblical foundation I received at ACA and Covenant

College, where I received my Community Development degree, I think the Lord was preparing me to be a vessel to spread the Good News, through both word and deed, to a world that has been plagued by poverty of every sort since the Fall. I get to see the redeeming work of Christ taking place in people’s lives, and it’s like getting a glimpse of what will one day be a perfect restoration when Christ comes back in glory.”