



Message from the Chancellor

Mac Lynn

Having the opportunity to greet each of you through the *Student Newsletter* is a thrilling experience. I wish I could sit down for a face-to-face visit. I have many questions to ask. I would ask about your family, your work, your special interests, and your culture. I would want to know of your progress as a student in NationsUniversity and your spiritual growth. While it is not possible to have a personal visit, I can only imagine what it would be like. Judging from your notes, letters, and e-mails, I know our joint educational venture is a worthwhile endeavor.

Accreditation Progress

The process of gaining accreditation is long and laborious. It is not something an institution can simply apply for, pay a fee, and attain. It entails training, a thorough self-evaluation project, revisions in current programs, assessment tools, finances, and additional human assignments. Most of all, it takes time to accomplish the work that will eventually lead to accreditation.

Where are we? We believe we are on track. We have spent a year and a half in the self-evaluation process and know what needs to be done to complete it. Hopefully, a second submission of the self-evaluation report will be done before the year's end. Then, we will continue to concentrate on upgrading courses so they conform to accreditation standards. Assessment procedures are being revised and will find full implementation soon.

To assist in our efforts, we have called upon specialists in the field. Dr. John Harris, Dr. Tom Woolley, Dr. Monty Lynn, and John Gibbs are four gifted persons who have long experience with accreditation, statistical analysis, and instructional design. They have offered valuable service already and will continue to be available to us for consultation.

State of the Institution

An 18-member Board of Regents governs NationsUniversity. The Board meets twice each year. Between those meetings, a four-member Executive Committee handles matters that need official attention. The four include the chief executive officer (chancellor), the chief financial officer, the chief operations officer, and the chief technical officer.

Obviously, funding is a major concern. NU depends heavily upon its Board members and its partners for financial support. This year, we are receiving some funds from two foundations and have a promised gift of \$50,000 if we can match it with new gifts. One of the foundations has given \$25,000 toward accreditation expenses. This is in addition to the normal cost of running the institution. As you can see, operating NationsUniversity is costly. For every student, we must raise \$100 per year to serve you. With over 4,000 of you now, our task is growing each year. But we are committed to the task of providing religious studies to those who have no opportunity or who cannot afford it. This is our mission, and we accept it gladly.



Did you know . . .

. . . if you are receiving *The Student Newsletter* by surface mail, you could be receiving it much more quickly by e-mail. All students who have a current e-mail address on file with Student Services receive *The Student Newsletter* in their e-mail inbox weeks before students who do not. To update your record with your current e-mail address, simply send an e-mail to student.services@nationsu.org. Put your student code/username and the words "E-mail Address Update" in the subject line.

. . . if you do not have an e-mail address, it is very simple to get one even if you do not have your own computer. From an Internet cafe or a friend's computer, simply go to www.gmail.com and click on "Create an account." It is free and easy to do. Once you have an e-mail account, contact us with the address so that we can communicate with you through e-mail. We are sure you will love the quick responses and the convenience of using e-mail.

GCM Opens New School

Gospel Chariot Missions of South Africa has launched its second school, the Vhembe Bible School, in Venda. The school currently has ten full-time students and 4 part-time currently working towards their Certificate in Religious Studies. Classes are taught by two NU graduates, Lazarus Munetsi and Dimpo Motimele.

GCM and NationsUniversity have a long-standing relationship and many students have been introduced to NU because of the work of GCM. About the relationship, GCM director, George Funk, writes, "Nations University is about getting to know God's word. God's word is about getting an individual into a relationship with Him. When one has a relationship with God he has the same dream God had from the very beginning. Its this dream that spurs one on to be a leader in the Kingdom. When one strives to be the best leader one can be, he encourages others to study God's word. With Nations being a University without walls and being free of charge, there is no excuse for one not to encourage others to study. As we go into the new year. Let's encourage and spur many more people onto knowing His word and becoming leaders in the process."

The first short term school was opened by GCM in Pretoria. Eleven students from the Pretoria school received their Certificates in Religious Studies last fall and are now working towards their Associate of Religious Studies degrees.

South African students near Pretoria or Venda are invited to visit the schools and get to know their fellow students and perhaps study with them.



The students of the Vhembe Bible School in the school yard after class.



Vhembe students being taught by NU graduate Lazarus Munetsi.

The Student Newsletter

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Student to Student Communication

Many of you have asked, "How can I know who is studying with NU from my country?" "How can I know if anyone speaks my language?" There are now two opportunities for you to communicate with other NU students.

1. You can log on to your Facebook account and then search for NationsUniversity. Choose the one listed as "Academic Organization" and then click on the "join group" link. Wait for confirmation from us, and you'll be ready to post information about yourself. Exercise caution in what you post if you wish to remain anonymous.

2. Discussion forums can be accessed from the Course Category page at (www.nationsu.net). The forums are grouped in three divisions There is a section for administrative and academic questions; another section set aside for scripture or worldview discussions; and a special section for participation by students enrolled in the Master of Divinity program.

Modern communication increases our ability to work with each other from different locations. Even though you live in 133 nations, it is possible to develop relationships with your fellow students. We hope you will explore these opportunities and be blessed by the friends you make around the world!

Current Enrollment

* Statistics as of August 31, 2009

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------|
| Total Students: | 4,074 |
| Male - | 3,233 |
| Female - | 841 |
| Undergraduate - | 3,496 |
| Graduate - | 578 |
| Internet Students - | 2,441 = 60% |
| E-Mail Students - | 621 = 15% |
| Postal Students - | 1012 = 25% |
| Total Countries: | 133 |
| Top Ten Countries: | |
| United States | 980 |
| Iran | 360 |
| Kenya | 251 |
| South Africa | 269 |
| Nigeria | 197 |
| Egypt | 186 |
| Ethiopia | 176 |
| Malawi | 136 |
| Haiti | 96 |
| Liberia | 92 |

Student Stories

Miracle of God's Love, Grace & Mercy by Phyllis Corbin, Canada

John 8:32, 36, "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed."

Some construction workers left a heap of trash. A seed had fallen into a crevice, and out of the rubbish grew a flower. Who can make miracle happen in a pile of garbage? Who can make a trash heap come alive with beauty? The only possible answer is that this is the work of God and his son, Jesus Christ.

My life was like that heap of trash--that pile of rubbish--for many years. I started out life with parents who did not want me and put me up for adoption. I was adopted at age two and grew up as an only child. I had everything life could offer materially, but I never felt loved because my parents gave me everything thinking they could buy my love. There was no discipline in my life, and I thought no one cared. In my teen years, I began to rebel against my home situation, school, and society. I went around with the wrong crowd and began trying different drugs. The first drug was hash and quickly I began getting into trouble.

My parents felt they could not handle me and contacted our family doctor. He took charge and began giving me pills and needles that made me feel wonderful--like I was in a different world. I had no cares while on these pills and did not realize they would lead me into a life of addiction. I trusted my physician and kept going back. Each time he gave me more pills or a needle until I reached the point I could not function without them. I had to take pills morning, noon, and night or I would become very ill.

Twice, I entered a treatment program, but both times I left. I wanted to live in two worlds, and it would not work. Freedom from addiction comes only when the addict wants help. I had not reached that point of extremity in my life to gain by any help offered.

After about twenty-seven years of life on drugs and sexual and physical abuse--during which time I had gotten married and had two sons--I finally reached that point of extremity. In the fall of 1979, after having taken too many drugs that became toxic to my system, I went on a

crime spree. This ended me up in court facing nine criminal charges. After a plea bargain, five were dropped, I was imprisoned for the other four which included attempted armed robbery. Because I was a first offender, I received a short sentence.

While in prison, I felt my life was coming to an end. My family visited me, including my sons, and it was difficult for all of us. One very difficult memory is of my son asking if I was okay because he was concerned I would get hurt in prison. Finally, I had reached that place in my life. I had to have help or my life was over.

A minister visited me weekly, counseled me, and studied the Bible with me. He helped me to see the need for the Lord in my life. One day in prison, I prayed this prayer, "Lord, there is not much left of me, but what there is, you can have. . ."

This was the beginning of the Lord's work in my life and unknown to me much more would take place. After being released from prison, I knew God had a ministry for me. I had felt his call in my life to help those in conflict with the law. I attended much counseling for the first year, and after a time of proving my life, God began to open doors of ministry. I became a court worker and parole supervisor after receiving a pardon from the government of Canada. I began to visit the same prison in which I had been incarcerated and counsel inmates and their families. God blessed me and gave me favor.

I have many health issues now: fibromyalgia, asthma, degenerative disk disease, severe lupus, and chronic fatigue. I cannot walk without the aid of a walker or rollator. However, I have found in all of this that Jesus is with me. I praise Him for his saving and keeping power in my life.

God has opened up doors of ministry to me via the Internet where under the anointing of his spirit, I try and minister to hurting people on a daily basis. Jesus led me on a long journey from darkness to light, from prison to praise.

Currently, I am enrolled in the B.R.S. program with NationsUniversity and being blessed so much by it. I grow spiritually every day, and my studies are

helping me to minister through World Wide Prayer Ministry which is reaching around the world. I am also teaching the Bible online using chat conferencing and e-mail.

I turned 70 on July 5, 2009 and celebrated my twenty-ninth wedding anniversary on August 27, 2009. I am blessed to have two sons and four grandchildren. I am busier now in full-time ministry than when I worked in the secular world. God has been so good to me. It is never too late to serve the Lord, and He will use anyone who is willing, humble and submissive to His divine will.

My Audacity of Hope by Stanley Matter, United States

I was so touched by Wiley Toler's letter, in the last newsletter, I felt the need to make a few comments. I'm also from Eastern Kentucky. There is very little indoor plumbing in the hills, and like Wiley, we carried water home from the creek in milk jugs. I was 7 years old when I saw my first flush toilet, and I kept flushing it because I was so enthralled.

I also quit school at 14 to go to work. Sadly, that's very common in that area. When I was 18, I went to work in the coal mines. I was barely able to read or write. The thought of going to college or obtaining a degree was never discussed among us, no more than flying to the moon would be discussed by 'city folk'. Why discuss the impossible! In four generations of my family no one graduated from high school. I was the first to ever get a GED.

Today, I'm almost 63, living on a fixed income, and actually taking college courses for credit. Wow, what an impossible dream come true. I'm the first in 4 generations to have a spark of hope for a degree. This is only possible because of you, and the volunteers and staff of NU. Last year I joined the Church of Christ. It was the first time I entered a place of worship in over 50 years. Thanks to you wonderful people I will be able to obtain an education and have finally been set on the right path. I can't sing your praises enough.

Thank you and every one at NU. I praise God for Mac Lynn. He has given us all the audacity of hope. God must have a special place in heaven for all of you. God bless you.

Graduates Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate in Religious Studies

Miki Paul Godoy Guillen, Peru
Pelidge Chirambo, Malawi
Edgardo Lopez, United States
Koko Acquah Beenyi, Ghana
Billy Guy Anderson, United States
Randy K. Jones, United States
Benny Sain, United States
Clever Ngizazi, Zimbabwe
Samuel Ikpi Arikpo, Nigeria
Jimmy D. Smith, United States
Tracy Cartwright, United States
Ray Gutierrez, Jr. United States

Associate in Religious Studies

Pelidge Chirambo, Malawi
George Mwachibua Mwangolo, Kenya
Sarah Wanjiru Kariuki, Kenya
Frederick Joseph Woodford, Canada
Ernest Jay Jordan, United States
Abutu Innocent Ogidi, Nigeria
Roger John Donnelley, Australia
Millicent Ameyaw, United States
Keith David Harrier, United States
William Thomas, United States

Diploma in Religious Studies

John Wayne Alexander, United States
Charles Anunda Nyaega Mogaka, Kenya
Lemy Pass Kamba, Kenya

Diploma in Religious Studies

Charles Ray Phillips, United States
Restin Dane Burk, United States
Pelidge Chirambo, Malawi

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Moses Liyayi Mukonjelo, Kenya
Eugene C. Hack, United States
Anonymous (for security reasons)
Alphonse Lutumba Kalundu, South Africa
Justin Kumunda, Zimbabwe
Julian Ryszard Hofman, Poland
Dereck Ryson Robert Chitete, Malawi
Godsave Ole Megiroo, Tanzania
Mark L. Cook, United States
John Wayne Alexander, United States
Michael Archer, United States
Pelidge Chirambo, Malawi
Victor Paya Mutaban, Tanzania

Master of Religious Studies

Donovan A. McFarlane, United States
M.I.B., St. Thomas University
Joseph Stanley Kaimenyi, Kenya
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Girmachew Lakew, Kenya
B.R.S., NationsUniversity

Master of Religious Studies

Enoch Boamah Frimpong, Ghana
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Damon Hayes Rambo, United States
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
George Adu-Yeboah, Ghana
B.R.S., NationUniversity
Anonymous (for security reasons)
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Gary Lynn Clack, United States
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Flourish Itula Abumere, Nigeria
B.S., Roehampton University

Master of Ministry

Larry Lynn Richardson, United States
M.R.S., NationsUniversity
Henry Chidubem Nwafor, Cameroon
B.R.S., NationsUniversity

Master of Divinity

Adebayo Isaac Olugbenga, Niger
B.S., University of Life
John Ogola Omondi, Kenya
M.R.S., NationsUniversity
Edward George Graham, Jamaica
B.B.A., University of Technology Jamaica

Reminders . . .

- . . . Always include your name, student code, and the exam identifier on ALL exams sent by surface mail or e-mail for grading. Failure to do so can result in delays or in not receiving credit for your work.
- . . . E-mail your exams to exams@nationsu.org ONLY. Please do not send them to multiple e-mail addresses.
- . . . A grade report is included with this newsletter for those of you who receive this newsletter by post. Every student may view his/her grades anytime by going to the NU website, www.nationsu.org.

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