



# The Student Newsletter

A Publication of NATIONSUNIVERSITY®

*"The Mission of NationsUniversity is to build faith and to train Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education using distance learning."*

Number 66

[www.nationsu.org](http://www.nationsu.org)

September, 2010

## Message from the Chancellor

### Mac Lynn, Chancellor

The NU Board of Regents and staff greet you warmly.

We are thrilled to have an association with so many students around the world. Your interest in spiritual matters, your dedication to scholarship, and your patience bear witness to an excellent student body. We trust that our service to you is fulfilling.

Be assured that NU continues to work toward accreditation with a respected accrediting body. This has proven to be a monumental task. But in the end, we believe it is a task worth undertaking. Accreditation pushes an institution to a higher level of responsibility with respect to program offerings and student services.

NU is completing a revised edition of the mandatory Self-evaluation Report (SER). We hope to submit a new application and the SER early this fall. Once the SER is approved, we can expect to submit half of our courses for close scrutiny by a group of educational specialists. The step after that is a formal visit by professionals to evaluate our work firsthand. We feel we are on target, although the process is proceeding at a slower pace than we initially anticipated.

The accreditation process forces us to take a serious look at our mission statement and to review the goals and objectives for each education program and each course. Exams and other measurements must be in place so we can assess the results of our work in keeping with those goals. These measurements must have yielded results that enable us to review and revise programs, courses, exams, academic processes, student services, and administrative procedures. So, it is not enough to project what we plan to do in the future. We must show that the process is in place and is working. The experience has already led to substantial improvements.

The accrediting process is helping in a number of ways. Program goals have become more precise. Course goals and objectives are being developed in closer proximity to the institutional mission and programs. Critical thinking problems are replacing simple fact gathering questions in exams. Student services continue to expand. We are actively searching for new and stronger leadership at the administrative level. Fund raising efforts are under close review.

With the Lord's help, we shall persevere. Meanwhile, thank you for being part of the NationsUniversity family. We invite your suggestions for improvement.



### Name the Newsletter

Thanks to all of you who submitted suggestions for our "Name the Newsletter" event. We received more than fifty suggestions. Narrowing it down to three has been quite a task. The office staff carefully pondered the suggestions and discussed the merits of each. Now, it is up to you, our students, to make the final choice.

The three finalists are:

1. The NU World
2. Voice of Nations
3. NU Student Bulletin

There are three ways to cast your vote. You may visit our website, [www.nationsu.org](http://www.nationsu.org), and follow the link on the homepage for online voting. If you prefer to e-mail your vote, send your submission to [melaniea@nationsu.org](mailto:melaniea@nationsu.org). Finally, you may mail your choice to:

NationsUniversity  
P.O. Box 3342  
Brentwood, TN 37024, USA

All votes must be received by November 30, 2010. The final newsletter of 2010 will bear the name chosen by our students.

# Student Services News

## Marty Lynn, Director of Student Services

When I think of majesty, my mind naturally gravitates toward the grand and the glorious—blazing sunrises, blue skies, brilliant sunsets. But God's majesty cannot be limited. He is so incredible in his creativity that his majesty can be displayed in some of the smallest wonders in the universe. Consider the tiny ant able to lift a load equal to many times his body weight. Working as a group, the ant builds roads, stores enough food to provide sustenance through the winter, cares for the sick and injured, and watches out for the colony. All of this is done without an audible sound. Whether you think about a single drop of water that contains microbes, germs, and tiny creatures or the single cell from which a human being grows, or a single thought which determines our state of mind, it all results from the majestic creation of our God. He has set in place a system that cannot be matched by human science.

Not only has God acted in creation, but He has extended his arm to establish a relationship with his human creation. NationsUniversity exists to guide you through scripture so that you can develop a personal relationship with this Majestic God. As individuals, we are only one person, but as a group we can make a powerful impact in our world simply by living according to God's plan for us, which is revealed in scripture. If you have questions concerning the text or want to explore theological areas, your advisor will welcome your inquiry. I rejoice every time I receive a letter from you because I know we are partners together in a mutual quest to gain increased knowledge and deeper understanding in this most important realm of life. God bless each one of you today!

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P.O. Box 3342  
Brentwood, TN 37024  
www.nationsu.org

### Mac Lynn

Chancellor & Director of Academics  
macl@nationsu.org

### Joe Sloan

Director of Fiscal, Legal, & Public Affairs  
joes@nationsu.org

### Marty Lynn

Director of Student Services  
martyl@nationsu.org

### Ernie Clevenger

Director of Technology  
eclevenger@carehere.com

### Hank Davis

Director of Public Relations  
hankd@nationsu.org

### Melanie Anderson

Public Information Manager  
melaniea@nationsu.org

### John Casteel

Director of Prison Enrollment  
jac@nationsu.org

### Anastasia Cullum

Student Services  
student.services@nationsu.org

### Joye Jacobus

Office Manager  
exams@nationsu.org

### Awny Jad'on

I.T.  
awny@nationsu.org

## Notice for Inmate Students

### John Casteel, Director of Prison Enrollment

We currently have just over 880 students "doing time." This is just about twice the number we had when I started. Growth is a good thing . . . right? Yes it is, but with growth comes more work and changes. I have found that I need to make a few changes to better serve you. These changes are ongoing so please be patient.

- Many of you have written to me needing various things done. For the most part if I could get what you needed sent to you or your proctor, I did not send a physical letter. This was an effort to save postage. Not sending a reply to everyone was a mistake on my part, and I have made changes. Just this last week I started sending postcards to everyone who writes. This saves money on postage and lets you know that I am working on your problem. If you don't hear from me within ten business days of your first letter, please send me another letter.

- To the students in the Federal System that have email access please use that option to contact me as it is much faster. I am at my computer at least 8 hours a day, and I can often send you an answer the same day.

- When you write to me, please include your student ID number.

- Do not send me exams, or transcripts. Please send those to Student Services.

- If you have a proctor that is another inmate, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thanks and God Bless.

John Casteel  
Director of Prison Enrollment  
NationsUniversity  
513 E 16th Ave  
Stillwater, OK 74074

### *Important note to students*

If you do not receive a response to your letter, please consider the possibility that your letter did not reach us or that our reply did not reach you. To increase the success rate, be sure to give complete information in every letter.

Include your name, your username and your full address. For our incarcerated students, you **MUST** include your prison number. If we do not have your prison number, we cannot successfully communicate with you.

Each letter received is read carefully and action is taken to fill each request and keep you supplied with study material.

# A Student's Story



My name is Shushan, and I am from Yerevan, Armenia. I have had a very harsh life, but I am thankful to God for that. I may sound crazy but no, believe me. In Armenia it is really very hard to have a job especially if you don't know a foreign language, so my mom did not work, and my father was terribly sick. He had high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, kidney disease.

I started to work when I was 15 years old which is not common for Armenia. My brother was 2 years younger than me, but he could not find a job because he did not know any foreign language. I worked and the money was only enough for the medications and for a loaf of bread.

Then I entered the state university and did not have to pay a tuition fee. When I was in my second year, I won a scholarship and went to the United States for an exchange program which lasted for one year.

Though I had opportunities to stay in the U.S., I am the kind of a person that only thrives for something when it is legal. So I came back and found out that my dad was dead. I did not know about it while in the U.S. because everyone was afraid that I would leave my studies and come back. When I got back, I started my career both in education and in finance and in administration. My major is in education, but I like to work in different spheres to get different experiences. I also do it because I have to earn more money to make both ends meet. So thank God now I am again helping my family, but if I had not passed through so many difficulties, I wouldn't have had what I have now.

So go for everything that you long for by putting your faith in God. His will is the best for us.

Thanks for everything.

## Graduates Since the Last Newsletter

### Certificate in Religious Studies

Gary C. Jordan, United States  
Jean Brice Jean Baptiste, Haiti  
Donald Tyner, United States  
Jason W. Witt, United States  
John Akuboh, Nigeria  
Tyron H. Johnson, United States  
Charles K. Smith, United States

### Associate in Religious Studies

J. Boma Kamandani, Malawi  
Max B. Delva, United States  
Marcus McKinney, United States

### Diploma in Religious Studies

Lois Minnie Mwaura, Kenya

### Bachelor of Religious Studies

Jaime Moros Mantilla, Spain  
William S. Thomas, United States  
Charles Fields, United States  
Prince Green, United States  
Patrick Swingheny, South Africa  
Alem Tefera, Ethiopia  
Robert Seth Trotman, United States  
Phillip Speckter, United States  
Da-Na Thomas Allen, United States  
Henry Herman Neondo, Kenya  
Shawn B. Donahue, United States  
Roselyn Kiwala, Germany  
Clayton Edwin Spires, United States  
Johnny W. Jink, United States  
Endzinaw Tefera, Ethiopia

### Master of Religious Studies

Anne-Sophie Gloor, Switzerland  
B.Com., University of Quebec  
Shiferaw Feleke Siso, Ethiopia  
B.Th., Evangelical Theological College  
Graham Bell Collynes Ndeakala, Kenya  
B.A., Pentecostal Bible College  
Edward Paul O'Toole, Slovakia  
B.A., Norwich University

Jimmy Randall Bagwell, United States  
B.A., Magnolia Bible College

Paradzayi David Mubvumbi, Canada  
B.A., Theological University of America

Gary R. Swearingen, United States  
B.Th., Apostolic Bible College

### Master of Ministry

Harriet Hercolena Oliver, South Africa  
B.A., University of South Africa

### Master of Divinity

Paul L. Pothier, United States  
M.B.A., Baker College

*If you would like to tell your story to your fellow students, or wish us to include your photograph with your academic award or degree in a future newsletter, write to us and send it to [melaniea@nationsu.org](mailto:melaniea@nationsu.org).*

## Current Enrollment

\* As of August 31, 2010

**Total Students: 4,237**

Male - 3,458

Female - 779

Undergraduate - 3,542

Graduate - 695

**Total Countries: 136**

### Top Ten Countries:

United States	1,326
South Africa	324
Ethiopia	309
Iran	260
Nigeria	232
Kenya	230
Cameroon	112
Malawi	93
Egypt	84
Haiti	70

# A Student's Story

I was born and raised in a Hindu family. My father taught me to perform the daily Hindu rites even when I was a little boy. Almost every morning and evening I used to light the lamp and incense in the small altar where we had placed idols and images of different gods and goddesses. My prayers contained petition for wealth and health and destruction of people who could be our enemies. As I grew up to be a young man, I realized a huge vacuum inside of me. I had no peace, and I thought life was meaningless and therefore sought death. Once I tried to strangle myself with my own hands but could go no further - I realized it wasn't possible to strangle oneself. The Lord in all His sovereignty protected me from attempting to do any more harm to myself.

In college I had a circle of friends with whom I began to enjoy the pleasures of this world. However, by this time my parents had heard the Gospel and had given their lives to Jesus. I too liked Jesus and Christianity except I wasn't going to commit myself. Gradually two of my other three siblings also joined our parents' spiritual journey. The youngest brother was still too small to comprehend spiritual matters. So I used to be bombarded with the Gospel at home day in and day out. I decided I would give my life to the Lord when I became too old to enjoy the things of the world. However, God had other plans for me. The emptiness in me eventually made me question the objectives and purpose of my life. I began to fear death dreadfully. I knew I was a sinner and death can come to anyone without any warning. I also knew that there was no place for me in Heaven if I died without Christ. I knew after hearing so much of the Gospel that it was only Jesus who could save and deliver me.

In the year 1989 on Good Friday the family devotional reading was from Isaiah 53 (our parents always made sure that we all be at the family devotions). This passage of the Scripture was all the Lord needed at that time to gently but

deeply touch me with His loving kindness as He brought a revelation of His love in my spirit. My stony heart melted like wax before the fire of His love. I began to weep aloud as I beheld His glory in my spirit and wave after wave of joy began to flood my soul. In fact I actually saw a vision as I was crying - a vision of waves of light (not water) overwhelming me with Heavenly joy. I had never ever experienced such joy in my life. The next early morning the Lord woke me up and led me to read the Bible. The verse where Jesus tells us not to labor for the food that perishes but for the one that endures to everlasting life popped up (Jn 6:27). As I read that I felt the Lord telling me that He had called me to labor, to work for His Kingdom. That morning I quietly committed myself to the Lord to serve Him in His Kingdom. And since that day I've never looked back.

At present I'm pastoring a Hindi-speaking church here in my hometown of Shillong, India. My mother tongue is Nepali (I'm an Nepali Indian). We're about 50+ believers and the Lord is revealing other aspects of my ministry in these days. So as I continue to wait upon Him for further direction may I take this opportunity to request you to kindly pray for me in this matter. I'm married and have five gorgeous kids - three daughters and two sons (four of whom I'm homeschooling). About a month ago (even before I ever knew about NationsUniversity) we started a Bible school in our church. I'm teaching them basic theology and other subjects relating to evangelism and mission. We're an independent church yet functioning interdependently in and as part of the Body of Christ. Also, my ministry is basically a faith ministry – perhaps another item to add in your prayer lists:-). But God meets our daily needs in amazing ways. Praise be to His name!

May the Lord bless and continue to use you and NU for His Glory. May God abundantly bless you and all you do for Him.  
--Reuben

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