

A student shares

The letters we receive from students move us and inspire us. Sharing them with you is a way for all our students to have an opportunity to get to know fellow students and be encouraged by the words of someone who shares your love for God, your desire to learn more from his Word, and your zeal to teach others no matter what your circumstances are.

"You don't know me. Chances are, we are never going to meet, yet you've made a difference in my life. Gold and silver--I have none, nor do I have enough eloquent words I can share. A simple thank you is all I have unless you count the tears of joy that spill onto this page.

"What did you hope to accomplish through your generosity? Do you know how successfully God, through NationsUniversity and the Holy Spirit, has changed my life? How my heart quickens when I think of Christ's love toward us! How does someone say thank you enough to someone who poured out such love?

"I write this brief letter to let you know of the treasure you have laid up in heaven. Because of your efforts, I preach of Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood. He has made us kings and priests to His God and Father. To Him be glory and dominion forever.

"Thank you that love me. Thank you that you care. Thank you for sharing with me and with all the students all over the world."

--an incarcerated student

The mission of NU



by Dr. Alan Cooper, President

The mission of NationsUniversity is not only broad, but also singular. It is broad in that we are dedicated to bringing our training to every nation where students wish to be educated theologically. It is singular in that we seek to do this as service to our Lord, Jesus the Christ.

Hudson Taylor, a missionary to China, once said, "God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supply." For our university, the work is never completed. There are courses we continue to develop and improve. There are exams, postings and approvals always waiting. There are grants to write and requests to be made to fund the education this institution offers. There are prayers to be said for our students, for every person involved with this institution, and for the entire population of the world. We see what we are involved in here as God's work. As Taylor implied, if we do this work, God will supply our needs to do it. In your own life each day, you have the opportunity to take what you are learning at NationsUniversity and put it to good use in God's world.

William Carey, missionary to India, also encouraged Christians to, "Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God." This implies that we can expect God to be involved in our work if we are doing His work. Since we are seeking to do His work, why not attempt great things? Jesus spoke to this matter in Matthew 5:16 when He said, "Let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." [NLT] If we seek to do great things and God blesses us in providing accomplishment of those great things, it brings Him glory. That is a great mission for all of us to be involved in.

In your own life each day, you have the opportunity to take what you are learning at NationsUniversity and put it to good use in God's world.

May our great God bless you with peace, strength and learning.

What type of learner are you?

by Dr. Martell Souder, Director of Student Services

Are you a visual learner or an auditory learner? Think about your style of learning. If someone tells you a phone number, will you remember it? Some people are able to hear (auditory) information and easily remember it. When you are trying to remember something, do you need to write it down (kinesthetic learning). Most people in the 21st century are visual learners – we remember best if we can see it. If you have not analyzed your style of learning, take some time to do so. It is important for you to figure out the methods of studying that work best for you.

One of the purposes of Student Services is to provide students support in their course work. I want to recommend a website that has excellent information and tips for studying: the University of Victoria Counseling Services in Canada, <http://coun.uvic.ca/learning/index.html>. One of their methods for improving reading, comprehending, and remembering is PSQ5R: Purpose, Survey/Skim, Question, Read Selectively, Recite, Reduce/Record, Reflect, and Review. Check out the website to read more about this method.

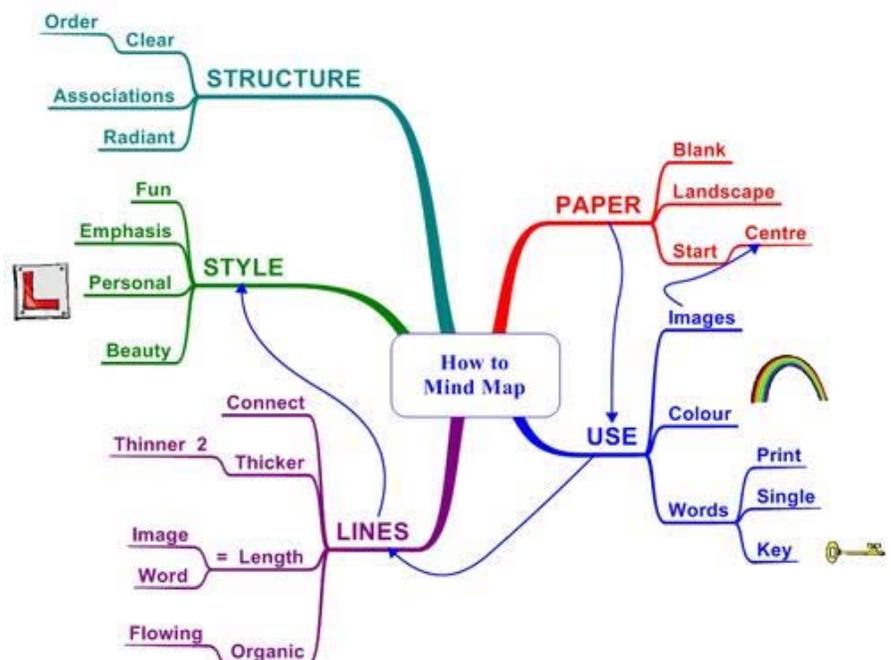
Many times you will find instructions in a course that tell you to “reflect.” This is an important step in your understanding of the material and your personal growth. In recent research on how the brain works or cognitive psychology, we have learned that understanding and retaining information increases when we elaborate the new information. When we *reflect* on information, we take what has just been seen or heard and connect it to prior knowledge. If the brain organizes and reorganizes information or compares and makes categories, this learning is much more likely to be stored in the long-term memory of the brain.

How does this apply to a *reflection* activity? Don’t skip over the sections of the course that tell you to *reflect*. Write down your thoughts, take the information and connect it to something else, explain it to another person. Rather than memorizing material (which usually stays only in short-term memory) make the information “your own” by applying it to your own learning style. If you learn best by what you hear, talk out loud and make your reflections an auditory experience. If you are a visual learner, put your thoughts down in a chart or a journal entry. You may prefer a mind map – putting the information in a graphic form that makes sense to you, perhaps even color-coded. Look at the website of York University (another institution in Canada) to learn more about mind maps.

<http://www.yorku.ca/cds/lss/skillbuilding/notetaking.html#mindmap>

This example is from the following website:

<http://www.mind-mapping.co.uk/mind-maps-examples.htm>



The Voice of Nations

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Finding encouraging moments

by Dr. Mac Lynn, Chancellor

Life comes at you fast! The unexpected hits you when you are unprepared. When you think you have matters firmly in hand, your ideal world begins to fall apart. In such times, it is essential that you do not despair. Do not feel sorry for yourself. Do not think you are alone in this regard.

Do you recall the passage in the Gospels about Satan's temptation of Jesus? Satan came to Jesus in what appeared to be Jesus' weakest moment. Jesus had not eaten in forty days. So Satan tempted him with food. Then, in the face of rejection by his own people, Satan offered Jesus instant gratification. Satan then appealed to what he thought may be another point of weakness: vanity. Jesus did not succumb to this barrage of efforts by Satan. His resolve was firm. But please take note of the statement made after successful resistance: "When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time" (Luke 4:13).

Satan is looking for the opportune time—when you are alone, weak, scared, needy, embarrassed; when you fear loss of honor, income, possessions, job, community standing. Satan is a persistent adversary. He will not leave you alone. Perhaps the safest time is when we are surrounded by friends and family who share our values. Perhaps the worst time is when we are in a hostile environment and become afraid of physical or emotional harm.

Satan is an enemy. He "prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour." You can resist him by standing firm in the faith. In resisting, you have assurance that "the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered for a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast" (1 Pet. 5:8-11; cf. Jas. 4:7-8).

Resisting Satan is not an easy task, for one is tempted by evil desire. The desire conceives and gives birth to sin (Jas. 1:14-15). No matter how strong one's faith, one can be tempted. Human weakness does not excuse us; it only tells us something about ourselves. It will not be easy, but through self-discipline and God's help, we can overcome. Perhaps the following four suggestions can help in resisting temptations.

1. Keep your thoughts on "whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable" (Phil 4:8).

2. Remember that as God's spiritual child, you have been remade in God's image to reflect spiritual values, attitudes, holiness, and love.

3. Stay away from situations where you are likely to be tempted.

4. Exercise self-control.



Graduates since the last newsletter

Certificate in Religious Studies

Sifanelo Godfrey Nkambule, South Africa
Mamsie Sarah Mukhedi, South Africa
Mashudu Tshikalange, South Africa
Fanie Panie Jones, South Africa
Zongezile Xoshe, South Africa
Bongani Matthews Masuhu, South Africa
Ramokgele Zakaria Moleko, South Africa
Thivhathembi Shandukani, South Africa
Adziyambeyi Jacob Tshivhase, South Africa
Takalani Rothlet Netshakhuma, South Africa
Rendani Selby Tshisamphiri, South Africa
Takalani Robert Nethengwe, South Africa
Maggie Sindi Matutu, South Africa
Malekukana Priscilla Modiba, South Africa
Joseph Eugene Ferrell, United States
Jeffrey Scott Fleetwood, United States
Erastus Owana Were, Kenya
Mosokoli James Nqeleni, South Africa
Mashako Samuel Mathose, South Africa
Nqobile Mlandeli, South Africa
Rodger Dale Smith, Jr., United States
Mark Andrew Torre, United States
Mickey Columbus Huff, United States
Gary Lane Atnip, United States
Patrick Mohale, South Africa

Associate in Religious Studies

Mark Adam Tims, United States
J. Boma Kamandani, Malawi
Paul Fontenot, United States
Salmon Akoth Obiero, Kenya
Arthur Torrence McIlwaine, United States
Donald West, United States

Diploma in Religious Studies

Paul Fontenot, United States
Salmon Akoth Obiero, Kenya

Bachelor of Religious Studies

John Bennett, United States

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Michael Hitchcock, United States
Millicent Ameyaw, United States
Leroy Ross, United States
Salmon Akoth Obiero, Kenya
Ndalama Estakio, Zambia
George Mwachibua Mwangolo Jilani, Kenya

Master of Religious Studies

Hector Anthony Collera, United States
B.S., Excelsior College
Dean A. Wideman, United States
M.B.A., Capella University
Kabeya Eric Kazenga, Canada
M.A., International School of Divinity
Olupot Ezekiel Eliko, Uganda
B.A., Kampala International University
Akpa Hugues Auverdauh, Cote d'Ivoire
Diplome de Maitrise Carrieres Administratives
Unite University d'Abidjan
Jacob Mwaboza Gambo, Kenya
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Ronald Hensley, United States
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Ruben R. Mendoza, Philippines
B.Th., Philippine Bible College
Ndalama Estakio, Zambia
B.S., University of Zambia
Keith David Harrier, United States
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Victor Enwu Ebong, Nigeria
B.A., Theology
Abraham Caulker, Gambia
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Master of Divinity
Matt Sevier, United States
B.S., Excelsior College

A special note to our prison students

by John Casteel, Director of Prison Enrollment

Blessings

On Tuesday May 24th, my wife and I were attempting to get to shelter due to an outbreak of heavy storms. We were in our car on the highway about a mile from home when I saw a tornado about to cross our path. I tried to stop, but we were caught in the path of the tornado. The car was spun around and was lifted off the ground. As I felt the car leave the ground, I also felt a force slam it back down to earth. Then it was over. By the hand of God, we had survived one of the greatest forces in nature. My prayer during the most frightening moments of my life was simple: *Jesus help us!* Trees were uprooted and stripped and a billboard sign less than 100 feet away was demolished. We were able to drive away with minor damage. Today as I write this it has been two days since that happened, and I feel truly blessed to be able to continue this work for Jesus Christ. Have you looked at the blessings in your life? Not all blessings are as obvious as my example. Don't let the small blessings go by unnoticed. Give praise and glory to God for all your blessings large and small.

A Chance to Help

In the last year, enrollment of prison students has grown from 600 to 1200. With this increase, we have had growing pains. I am sure that a number of you have noticed that mail from me has slowed down. As you know, NationsUniversity was started and continues to operate with unpaid faculty. Basic costs are covered by donations. You receive a Newsletter once a quarter and you hear from me once a quarter when grades are sent. Since NU charges no tuition, some of you have indicated your desire to give back something for the education you have received. One way to do this is for you to include a stamp along with your correspondence. This stamp will be used in my next correspondence to you.

A Few Reminders

Federal Inmates who have access to e-mail may contact the school through me at the following address: jac@nationsu.org. None of the other e-mail addresses will accept e-mail from CorrLinks.

If you are having problems, contact me as soon as you can. If you have not received a course or your proctor has not received exams, I can help. Please always use your Student ID when you contact me.

Contact Information:

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

Current Enrollment

Current through 5/31/2011

Total Students: 4,830

Male - 3,958

Female - 872

Undergraduate - 4,221

Graduate - 609

Total Countries: 141

Top Ten Countries:

United States	1,753
South Africa	305
Ethiopia	282
Nigeria	239
Kenya	213
Egypt	189
Iran	180
Cameroon	107
Malawi	97
Ghana	88

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