

Building faith and training Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education utilizing distance learning.

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
www.nationsu.edu



The Meaning of Truly Seeking God

From the genesis of life, man was created as subjects of worship and mankind has been in the mood of worshipping something. Humanity has tried to seek divinity from many sources but scripture points to one omnipotent God who deserves all honor of human worship. I sought to seek God at my teenage age and through the grace of God have come to know the almighty God. I have moved with many Christians and have also read of many people who have been seeking God in their lives. I will not share my personal story but the life of one woman.

³³ But seek first his kingdom(A) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

There is an old woman in my congregation of over 90 years and I love to share her story. This woman

stays far from the church auditorium and walks in the company of other elderly women to church on most Sundays when she is not severely sick or traveled. It takes her more than one hour with the aid of a stick to walk to the church meeting place. She has been doing this for many years. Last year suffered two incidents and her response to those incidents demonstrated how committed she is seeking God.

One Sunday she was walking to church on a dusty *continued on page 2*



Visiting a Kosovar-Albanian family and giving them a New Testament

Testimony From Kosovo

My name is Aaron and I am from North Carolina. I grew up in a Christian family and always remember desiring to know and obey God. Although I have been far from perfect and have made many mistakes, God's unfailing grace has never let me go and continues to change me every day.

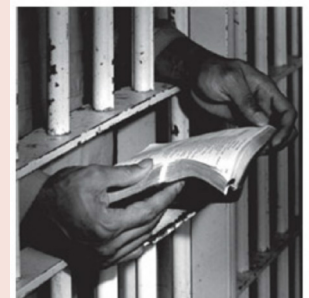
In my late teenage years God began to challenge me to serve Him more. I was involved in music ministries and played worship at church, and I was also involved in a ministry that feed the hungry in my city. My biggest challenge though came when I was twenty-one years old, I felt God's call to overseas missions.

At the time I felt God's call to serve him overseas, one of the doubts I had was my own maturity and knowledge. While I had been in church my entire life, I had no theological or Biblical education, or even seriously studied the Scriptures on my own. God however kept confirming that He was *continued on page 3*

From the Director of Prison Enrollment: FOR USA INMATES ONLY.

A prison library is now available to lend textbooks to prison students who are unable to access books in any other manner. Prison students will not be able to borrow every book needed to get a degree. But there will be books available to help when no other method has worked.

To be able to use the library a certified proctor has to agree to be receive the book and then send it back to us. Students must agree to pay for any book that is lost or destroyed. they must also pay the return postage. Books are loaned for a total 30-days and they cannot be re-checked. Only one book will be sent at a time and the book must be returned before the student can move forward. The number of books is limited but the library is growing each month.



Current Enrollment

Current through 1/1/16

Total Students: 1,969

Male - 1,709
Female - 260
Undergraduate - 1,613
Graduate - 356

Total Countries: 120

Top Ten Countries

United States	706
South Africa	212
Ethiopia	128
Nigeria	111
Kenya	91
Ghana	77
Canada	38
Zambia	38
Turkey	29
Iran	28

Seeking God, continued from page 1

road with her grandchildren and fell on the way. She suffered minor bruises and her dress too got torn and was stained with dirt all over the body. This old woman picked up herself from the ground and continued her walk to the church. What is her motivation for such an awesome faith in the Lord? Her response shows a determined mind trying all means to seek God.

After some months later, armed robbers attacked the house of the same old woman when she was sleeping with her family. The robbers took items from the house and also attempted to abduct one of her granddaughters. In the process, they slashed the hand of the girl with a machete. This robbery incidence occurred at the dawn of Sunday around 2 a.m. The old woman was able to organize herself and her grandchildren to church when it was time for worship that Sunday morning. Even at church that day she kept her composure throughout the worship. She informed me about this event when I took them to their house after the close of worship. What a marvelous response and inspiration when she told me all this.

Action truly speaks better than words. This old woman's narrations to me communicated in clear and unambiguous terms the meaning of truly seeking God. She had all the good reasons to have stayed out of public worship by virtue of her age and the predicaments she suffered on those two Sundays. I was so much inspired by the response of this old woman in the course of seeking God. Many people subjected to the same events would have responded negatively by turning back from God. What is the old woman looking for and what does she seek to achieve? Seeking God may be the appropriate answer. Let this inspire you to seek God and be closer to God.

*Alfred Ofori Agyemang
Student in Ghana*



NATIONSUNIVERSITY®

650 Poydras St., Suite 1400, PMB 133
New Orleans, LA 70130
www.nationsu.edu

Mac Lynn

Chancellor
macl@nationsu.edu

Herman Alexander

Vice Chancellor
hermana@nationsu.edu

Marty Lynn

Director, Student Services
martyl@nationsu.edu

Jon-Roy Sloan

Director of Communications
jonroy@nationsu.edu

Mary Virginia Mabery

Registrar
registrar@nationsu.edu

John Casteel

Director of Prison Enrollment
jac@nationsu.edu

David Srygley

Provost
davids@nationsu.edu

Awny Jadon

IT Administrator
awny@nationsu.edu

Jackie Cullum

Student Records Officer
student.services@nationsu.edu

Gail Heiderich

Director, Student Advisors
gailh@nationsu.edu

Ingemar "Lloyd" Woods

Vice Provost
ingemar@nationsu.edu

Allen Thyssen

Chaplain
chaplain@nationsu.edu

Tell Us Your Story

NationsUniversity® wants to know your story. If you would like to tell your story, write to *The Voice of Nations*, at info@nationsu.edu

and keep the story to 500 words or less. We look forward to sharing your story

Out of the Inbox



Dear Sir,

My name is Ampolu Rambabu. I am a teacher and preacher here in Andra Pradesh state in India. I am thirty-five years old and a member in church of Christ. I would like to know more and more from the Bible so that

I am able to live like Jesus Christ.

Could you please help me to study bachelor degree and master degree. What can I do to get registered, sir?

I think it is better to use online correspondence courses.

In His Service,
Ampolu Rambabu

calling me into missions and opened all the doors for me to go. Also, during the months I prepared to go, God gave me a deeper hunger to study and to know Him through His Word.

In January 2012, right after turning 22 years old, I landed in Kosovo to serve for two years with a music and art ministry and alongside local churches. Within months of being in Kosovo I knew that earning a degree would be beneficial to me, as I began to face many questions about the Bible, theology, and faith as I talked to both other Christians and witnessed to Muslims. However, I feared that this would not be possible for me since (1) I lived overseas (2) did not have time to commit to full-time study and (3) did not have the finances to pay for a degree since I lived off of support.

I decided to search for options online and found NationsU. I was so happy to find a degree program that was self-paced and offered to me tuition-free, yet at the same time thorough and challenging.

Today I am pleased to be a graduate from NationsU with a B.R.S. The education that I got from NationsU has helped me to personally learn and grow, as well as inspired me to be a lifelong student of God's Word. The degree has also helped me do things in Kosovo that I never thought I would do before I came here. To name just a few: having the opportunity to preach, leading Bible studies and home groups, having the knowledge to engage Muslims in deep Gospel conversations, and helping to plant a new church.

Today I still remain in Kosovo and continue to serve in full-time ministry. I am very thankful to Nations University for providing me with a quality education that has helped me so much!

God Bless,
Aaron



Leading a small group Bible study



Trekking in the mountains of Kosovo with Albanian New Testaments

Graduates

Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate In Religious Studies

Thapelo Samuel Mokoena, South Africa
Fatemeh Mohammad Ali, Netherlands

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Christopher Malazarte, Philippines
Salim Hamat, Afghanistan
Michael Francisoso, United States
Dennis Chibelo, Zambia

Master of Theological Studies

Ruskin Clay
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
United States
Richard McFarland
B.S., Missouri State University
United States

Harris Kristanto Wirawan
Bachelor, Economics, Petra Christian
University
Indonesia



Mornings With the Master

Hey Students, we are pleased to announce our new daily blog. Now you can register to receive an email daily from NationsU that will take you to our Mornings With the Master daily blog.

This blog was written for us by Casey C., a student incarcerated here in the U.S. We are excited to share this wonderful journey through God's sacred word. We invite you to sign up now at our website under, NationsU Blog.



Truly Seeking God, Part 2

To read part one of Truly Seeking God, head to the Chaplain's Corner. In that Reflection I asked the question, "What does truly seeking God look like in your life?" A number of readers from around the world have responded with a variety of answers. Following are some of the Chaplain's thoughts on this important matter.

I view "truly seeking God" as a process similar to that of developing a relationship with one's close friend or future spouse. The process flows from initial acquaintance to familiarity to closeness to love to "oneness." It takes one along a path that is similar to the old hymn's refrain, "less of me and more of you", until the two become one (albeit still retaining each one's identity). There are several ways this relationship with God develops. They include the absorbing of Scripture (both learning the "facts" and reading for devotional purposes), exposure to the love demonstrated by others, prayer (active, liturgical, contemplative) and, quite frankly, spending quiet, transformative time with God.

Said with somewhat "bigger words" truly seeking God is a process that proceeds from the center of one's being (heart), transcending the illusionary "false self" by means of a prismatic kaleidoscope of spiritual disciplines and the activities of life, all being brought to bear on and intensify one's awareness of the One who is unseen but ever present. (Isn't that a mouthful?)

The process is informed by Scripture and shaped by a host of consciously chosen spiritual disciplines that include prayer and fasting, liturgy, meditation, silence, reading the lives and writings of those who have gone before us, and a loving interaction in community with all that is. Learning to live by these disciplines is a life long endeavor. And it takes hard work, the work of an adult!

Sometimes called a "prayer of the heart", the action of seeking God is born out of simplicity and a deep personal silence that opens space for one to hear the small still voice of God residing within each of us. In that sense it is "contemplation", which from the Latin means "with the temple." In other words, like a (Star Wars) starship dropping its defensive shield, one seeks to alter control of body, mind and spirit so they are receptive to functioning as a "temple of the Holy Spirit." We are then no longer our own but His whom we truly seek. We learn to love God first and as a consequence we love everything else.

I have enjoyed learning from Dr. John Siegel, a neuropsychiatrist who began his work focusing on early childhood development. Siegel studies what he calls "interpersonal neurobiology." While not writing from a spiritual perspective, he has a definition of the "mind" that seems consistent with the Christian's experience of transformation. His definition of the mind is, "...an embodied and relational process that regulates the flow of energy and information." It is this "flow of energy" part that most intrigues me, because it is precisely there that I believe the Holy Spirit enters the human equation, as we consent (or at least intend to consent) to the Spirit's presence and the urging of the Scriptures (the "information" part). A lot more could be said about that but I thought you might like to chew on this snippet.

In more practical, day-to-day terms Christians love the church (our spiritual community) and they love the Bible, but most of all they seek to love God. This brings us to the paradox of unity versus uniformity. It is said that individual Christians cannot (and were not designed to) exist apart from community. If so, can we be unified in our mutual (and relational) objective of seeking God while at the same time leaving room for somewhat different views on the church, the disciplines we practice, and perhaps even one's interpretation of the Scriptures? It has been done. For example, in 1801 there was a "protestant" event in America that has come to be known as the Cane River (Kentucky) Revival where thousands of believers came together as "just Christians."

Two of the movement's leaders (Alexander Campbell and Barton W. Stone) held widely differing views on almost every subject related to the church, salvation, and interpretation of the Bible. And they came from very different social and educational backgrounds. However, they both believed strongly in the concept of unity in seeking God. And they came together in the spirit of John 17:20-26. Perhaps the same can be true of our NationsUniversity community. We also come from very different backgrounds, but we can be unified in our objective of "seeking God." We are "informed" by the Bible (after all that's what a degree from NationsUniversity is largely about) and "shaped" by one's dedication to his or her spiritual disciplines. And we love one another because we see in one another the image of God in Christ Jesus.

Chaplain Thyssen

"Do you need prayer? Are you experiencing spiritual distress? Life's problems? Email Chaplain Allen, chaplain@nationsu.org, and let him help."

www.chaplainscorner.org



Follow
NU!

The Voice

of Nations

A Publication of

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
650 Poydras St. Suite 1400
PMB 133
New Orleans, LA 70130