



Building faith and training Christian leaders around the world through affordable, accessible higher education

NU Students' Worldview From Prison

My world view has changed over the years as has my way of making sense of the universe. As a young man my idea of reality was fairly simple and conservative. As I expanded my learning, my sense of what reality consisted of grew and matured. I began to see my universe was not the only reality, and there were many things beyond my ability to comprehend. But just because I could not comprehend something didn't mean that it wasn't correct.

My morality comes from my knowledge of what God expects of me, especially from His word the Bible. The Holy Spirit that was given to me when I obeyed Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior lets me know when I am not living my life according to the laws He established. I believe the only way to control the dark side of my nature is to allow someone greater than myself to guide me and give me strength.

"The path of the righteous is like the first gleam of dawn, shining ever brighter till the full light of day.

But the way of the wicked is like deep darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble." **Proverbs 4:18-19**

Though the Holy Spirit would gladly teach me the correct way to live, and give me strength to live a life that centers on obedience to God, he never forces me to do so. To force me to obey would negate the very right of free will that God gives

to everyman—starting with Adam, the first man. God could have very easily made Adam obey—an obedient robot. However, had He done so he would never have had a being that worshipped Him out of his own basic desire, and would never have a being that followed His morals out of a desire to please Him out of love.

Through the long years many people have chosen to obey Him, but even a greater amount chose not to. This is the choice I make daily, to love God or not to love Him. My prime reality is my relationship with my God. My morals are his statutes and commandments outlined in His word.

Though my world view may change slightly over the years, one thing that will stay constant is my need to place my relationship with my Creator at the very apex of my life.



*David D.
U.S. Prison Student*

Selecting Visionary Advisors

No one should attempt to go through life without good counselors and advisors. The English word counselor means someone who is qualified or trained to give guidance on personal, social, family or business matters. In Hebrew it is a nautical term that is used for steering a ship. The Bible is replete with passages instructing us to have good advisors. It is not weakness to seek advisors and counsel; it is being obedient to the word of God (Prov. 1:7, 11:14, 13:10).

There are many examples of leaders in the Bible seeking counsel. We must be sure that those we seek advice from are obedient to God. In Acts 15 Paul seeks the advice and Godly counsel of the Apostles in Jerusalem on questions about Jewish practices and their application to Gentile believers. In Galatians 2 he sought affirmation that he was correctly teaching the gospel. On the other hand, Moses sent out a group of spies to scout out the land and provide good advice on how best to conquer Canaan. The selected spies did not believe God's declared vision that He would clear out the enemies before them.

David took counsel and tried on King Saul's armor, then changed his mind before going out to challenge Goliath.

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Current Enrollment

Current through 9/1/13

Total Students: 3,145

Male - 2,619

Female - 526

Undergraduate - 2,696

Graduate - 449

Total Countries: 136

Top Ten Countries

United States 1,181

South Africa 239

Ethiopia 230

Nigeria 191

Kenya 115

Iran 89

Cameroon 69

Egypt 68

Turkey 68

Ghana 54

Syrian Student Chooses NU

I believe the Lord is calling me into full-time ministry rather than go on to complete my Ph.D. (in another field). I am fully supported in this decision by my preacher, friends and other church members. They believe, as I do, that God has gifted me in the areas of pastoral care, preaching and counseling. I sense that now is the time for me to develop my skills in order to serve Him in these specific roles of ministry, in accordance with God's plan of building His church throughout Syria and the region.

The church will need to deal with the fallout of the crisis that is now unfolding in Syria. We need to find ways to tackle the enormous spiritual challenges that we now face as war continues to ravish our nation. I want to equip myself further by undertaking studies in pastoral theology, leadership development and counseling. I want to take up my place to breach the spiritual gap and to help restore the heritage of Syrian believers, from both Christian and Muslim backgrounds. I believe this will be a significant step forward in the ministry that the Lord has laid on my heart for my country.

My personal vision is to become equipped in order to return to my homeland after a period of study to develop young Syrian believers from all backgrounds towards spiritual and emotional maturity. My goal is to implement intensive, practical discipleship programs for youth in order to raise up a new generation of spiritual leaders, that will eventually disperse throughout the towns of Syria to begin new ministries of outreach and discipleship. I hope to continue with my studies at NationsUniversity for these reasons.

(Name withheld for security reasons)

The Voice of Nations

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alumni loquere bona



There are things I did not understand before going to NationsUniversity but now after completion of my studies, NationsUniversity has given me a new understanding of the life of ministry and God. Thanks NU, thanks to everyone who has made NU in existence as a tool through the hand of God for the nations.

South African Student

I have received the NU diploma and words cannot explain how grateful I am for this blessed gift. NU has executed an act of faith which taught me to be faithful. As you and your donors have made it possible for me to be the beneficiary of a free education so shall do my best to help others achieve theirs as often as I can. God bless you all and I really intend to make my presence be felt.

Leon Peters – French Guadeloupe Islands

Let me thank you for the wonderful opportunity to enroll and graduate from NU. I learned so much from every course. Each course taught me more of the Word and I am able to share more of Christ.

Nancy – U.S. Prison Student

The fame of your academic excellence has reached the ends of the continent of Africa. It's my earnest desire to partake in this great learning so that I can have a good understanding of the faith that I have received in Christ Jesus and if possible impact the lives of others with the right knowledge of the kingdom of God.

Ezinne –Libya

God's Truth in Uganda

What are NationsUniversity students doing with their education? Innocent Mubuto is a Congolese refugee leading a new Bible School in Uganda using NationsUniversity material. He recently graduated from NU with his Master's in Religious Studies degree.



"I was born in the city of Kamituga within the Democratic Republic of Congo. My parents' religion was the Kimbangu cult. [a popular sect of Christianity in the Congo that follows a Congolese false prophet Simon Kimbangu and has an estimated 5.5 million believers.]

God began to speak to my heart when I moved to Bukavu for my secondary school. In secret, I was saved by God's grace and baptized by a missionary from England while attending my first year at the University of Kisangani in 1997. After my graduation from Political Science, I worked successively as a Secondary School Principal and Lecturer at Simon Kimbangu University.

With War and problems, I fled to Uganda as a refugee. In that situation three different people encouraged me in my need for gaining more leadership training for God's church. In 2006, God challenged me to begin attending a Bible school after much time in prayer. From there, I left all that I was doing and went to attend Bible school in Jinja.

In 2007, my Preacher prayed specifically for my calling and leadership and I began to serve the Lord as Assistant Preacher up to 2010. We began a ministry that now has four other branches around the country. Since 2011, I have started an undergraduate program where I use some of the NationsUniversity courses and materials. We expect the first graduates in 2014.

I am married to a beautiful wife called Maombi and we have one son called Moses who is 3 years old now. I thank you for thinking about me and my ministry. Keep praying for us, as we pray for you."

NU is honored to have students such as Innocent who understand what it means to commit to Christ despite challenges from family, war, and many other difficulties. God has not only helped Mubuto to overcome these obstacles but has also worked through him and his wife and child to reach the world around them and train up others in God's Truth in Uganda.



A Word From the Philippines

My family and I arrived in Texas Nov 5, so we are safe. We were living in Tacloban for the last 18 months where it was hardest hit. At this time it seems that the group we worked with is all okay. Food and water is outrageously expensive, so they are trying to get the college kids off the island.

We are so thankful to be here and safe. If we were there then I would not be helpful, but just another victim. By the way, most cell phone towers are down and power is out. So even if they can get a cell phone signal, they probably don't have a battery to send a message with. Keep praying for them all.

Jesse

Graduates Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate In Religious Studies

Egozue Daniel Obiajulu, Nigeria
Sipho Christopher Mhlongo, South Africa
Charles Glynn Robinson, United States
Michael Todd Jenkins United States
Robert Kay, United States
Lester R. Wilkes, United States
Alex Asuncion, United States
Bobby Ray Rackley, United States
Ronald L. Garrett, United States
Ronald J. Williams, United States
Leslie Redmond, United States
Willem Petrus Els, Zimbabwe

Associate of Religious Studies

Tony Atalaye, Nigeria
Sylvester Brown, United States
Lester R. Wilkes, United States

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Harilla Mandro, Albania
Blanchard Basilwa Bankete, South Africa
Darrell Holmes, United States
Sylvester Brown, United States
Andrew Phillip Nichols, United States
Tyrone H. Johnson, United States
Troy C. Taylor, United States
Morris Virdean Warner, United States

Master of Religious Studies

Mubuto Kuzindamolo Wasolela Innocent
B.Sc., *Political Science and Business,*
University of Kisangani,
Uganda

Louis L. Edwards, V
B.R.S., *NationsUniversity,*
United States

[Name withheld for security reasons]
B.S., *Isfahan University of Technology, Iran*

James Lynch
B.R.S., *NationsUniversity,*
United States

Joseph D. Liberkowski
Ed. M., *Rutgers University,*
United States

Komba Komanda
B.A. *Business Management,*
St. Clements University
Sierra Leone

Dealing with Blessings and Curses

As we approach the end of another year, many of you once again can count your “blessings” and find ample reason to praise the name of the Creator-Redeemer. Surely, there is much each of you could say on this subject. But, then, for others, you may have experienced multiple disappointments, intense suffering, and considerable grief that look more like curses than blessings.

For those of you in the latter category, I am sure that whatever your lot during the past year, you feel constrained to question the reason for your circumstance. Perhaps it is no consolation, but as humans, we should get used to the idea that there are many things we do not know and cannot know. Other matters we know, but we do not understand why they are the way they are. Some things we just do not get at all! And this can prove frustrating when we know we have tried to be good and faithful.

In the long run, the question is not, “How could this happen to me?” Rather, it should be, “How have I handled my circumstance?” Yes, we still want to ask where God is amidst the violence and evil that surrounds us. Before you get too deep into the subject, however, just remember, the question may be ill framed. If you accept a negative answer that says God is not present, then what hope do you have at all? If, on the other hand, you affirm his presence and care, you may ask how he demonstrates them. Ah, just perhaps he demonstrates his concern through those who are committed to him. I am reminded of a Jewish expression, “God has no hands.” That means God works through his people. Are we not the eyes, ears, hands, and feet of God when it comes to showing compassion and love? So, how do we proceed when at times it seems the world is against us? Maybe we should begin by asking, Are we better than the prophets and apostles who suffered for their faith? Are we more righteous than Job?

What is true for some of you will not be true for others. Some of you have sown wild seeds and are now reaping the consequences. But observation leads to the conclusion that there is not always a cause-effect relationship between behavior and events. Some people are just at the wrong place at the wrong time. The righteous share the same world as the unrighteous. Jesus affirmed that God causes his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matt. 5:45).

Perhaps we can suggest an answer to a popular expression among Christians in the United States. They are often heard to say, “I know God has a plan for me; I just do not know what it is.” I want to reply, “Open your eyes. God wants you to be faithful in the matters at hand.” God appears to be more interested in what you have done with what he has already given. If your lot is persecution, he asks that you remain loyal to him. If you are the recipient of riches, he asks you to be a good steward. The human yearns for greatness in achievement, but greatness in human terms does not define the Christian life. If you are the recipient of “blessings,” become God’s hands to those who live under a curse. If you have lived under the “curse” this year, recognize that this may be your testing. God does indeed stand beside you in your good days and bad. Nothing can separate you from his love. Just do not confuse God’s love with prosperity.

Mac Lynn, Chancellor



A Focus on Serving in a Texas Women’s Prison

My name is Linda. Although the life I face everyday is the furthest from what I had ever imagined it could be, it has become more tolerable. Now I try to spend as much time as possible in God’s word. Focusing on serving others seems the only answer to getting my mind off of losing my former things in life. My life revolves around serving, praying, reading Gods’ word or the basic necessities of living (eating, sleeping, etc.).

I pray that the Chaplain here is correct in his guidance that I should work for a degree studying in religious studies. I am now permitted to serve as an aide for a cognitive class to offer some Biblically based instruction for about a 10 minute period each day. I now believe God is guiding me to use my faith through a career he has planned for me when I leave prison. I want to prepare mentally and learn as much as I can while I’m here. I am ready to take a step up and it is my prayer that NU will help me do this.



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Remember, there is nothing wrong when having to make a change. Do not fear the ridicule or embarrassment of changing when you know you should change.

Also, David had a ragtag militia who believed that God had anointed David to be the king. Selecting people who believe God is better than selecting those who appear to be the smartest. Doing God’s calling even in human weakness and with Godly counselors, God’s strength will be made known.

The qualities of a visionary advisor are one who is knowledgeable in God’s word, lives by faith, and is willing to challenge you (Prov. 19:2, 25:19, 27:5-6, Heb. 11:6). The advisor should have more years of experience than you. Watch out for immature Christians by reviewing their biblical understanding. Do they have a gracious spirit to give advice and not make demands? Determine if your request for counsel is to be compensated and the terms. Prayerfully ask them to be an advisor and seek counsel regularly and often.

In the end, demonstrate your faithfulness to seek and receive their counsel and be sure to express your appreciation and thankfulness. Give back when you can—it may go beyond a mutual relationship. It is sometimes wise to seek counsel from good people who are not Christians. Listen carefully and weigh their words against the scriptures. But don’t make them your “primary” advisors.

Because the world is constantly changing, you should seek counsel for the moment and remember prayer, fasting and patience.

Jon-Roy Sloan, Director of Communications



NU wishes everyone a Merry Christmas!

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