

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

NATIONSUNIVERSITY®
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Hints to Understanding God

There are many things about God we do not know. If he is indeed *God*, that is as it should be.

One can master a computer and predict how it will react to certain stimuli. Even when the computer spits out unwanted data or contracts a virus, the computer expert can figure out what happened.

But God is not a man-made computer. The man who builds the computer is only following natural laws of mathematics. He does not create. He discovers. He builds from known elements. So, who would expect to understand God, when he cannot be reduced to a play thing in man's hands?

In our aspiration to know about God, one can look in several directions. First, one can observe the cosmos with its gigantic and infinitesimal objects rotating in perfect harmony and fulfilling their marvelous functions within a solar system so large man cannot even fathom its size or comprehend the life principle. If you have problems with the foregoing sentence, you will certainly have a problem in comprehending God. Second, one can consider the merits of special revelation. Third, one can look inward and sense the intangible aspects of being made in the image of God.

"The LORD wraps himself in light as with a garment; he stretches out the heavens like a tent and lays the beams of his upper chambers on their waters. He makes the clouds his chariot and rides on the wings of the wind." Psalms 104:2-3

Oh, yes. The human has many questions about God, His activity, His disposition, and why He allows certain things to happen as they do. Neither man nor woman can

comprehend the ways of God. But God is not asking us to comprehend Him—only to trust Him.

One reads the Old Testament and wonders why God judged "innocent" people so severely. At that point, one realizes he does not have all the information that God holds. And one fails to recognize that God owns us all.

One tends to think that God rewards faithfulness with prosperity and good health. So did the pagans, who created their own gods to give them what they wanted and needed. But that is not the God of scripture.

Just suppose God sprinkles a number of misfortunes in our lives to help us identify with him more fully? Given all the evil in our world and the disappointments God has felt from man's stubborn heart and wicked ways, perhaps he is shaping us for an enduring life in His presence through allowing us to experience what he has felt in His own heart from Adam forward. Who knows but that He may have given wayward children, ill health, tough circumstances for a purpose? When spiritually minded people deal with these matters, they have an option—exercise faith or complain.



MOSES MUKONJELO, Kenya

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Announcing the NationsU Student Video Contest

The 2 winners (1st and 2nd places) will select an eBook title from the university library.

Participants must be students or alumni of NationsUniversity®

Go to www.nationsu.org to enter!



EFFIONG OKU, Nigeria

Current Enrollment

Current through 1/1/14

Total Students: 2,881

Male - 2,410

Female - 471

Undergraduate - 2,439

Graduate - 442

Total Countries: 141

Top Ten Countries

United States 1,078

South Africa 206

Ethiopia 206

Iran 186

Nigeria 167

Kenya 84

Turkey 67

Cameroon 64

Ghana 49

Zambia 39

Accreditation Update

NationsUniversity complies with the standards of a recognized accrediting body and yet still operates as an unaccredited institution. In the process of planning toward the goal of accreditation, we discovered some advantages and disadvantages, making the decision to pursue accreditation a rather difficult one. The advantages of accreditation are numerous, including academic respectability, more open doors for its services, and enhanced opportunities for alumni. From our point of view, disadvantages include increased costs that must be passed on to students, curtailment of creativity and innovation, cumbersome and dysfunctional policies that do not work well in a global environment, and the requirement to conform to single-country standards. Presently, the Board of Regents is weighing the potential of each path. Foremost in the mind of the Regents is the institutional mission. There is no question but that over the past six years as we prepared for an accreditation bid, NU has become a better school—academically, administratively, and in its services to students. High standards will be maintained regardless of the path NU takes. Please continue to check our **STANDING** page on the website for updates.

E-Learning in Kenya

In his story below, Joseph Oyongo shares with NU participants and sponsors how he is using and will use his education earned at NationsUniversity. Joseph is a student in the Master's program. He and his wife Eva are seen worshipping God in the photo. The couple lives in the Lake Victoria region of Western Kenya and have 8 children and 4 grandchildren. They frequently go on evangelistic missions and medical camps with their church.

"I had trusted God to provide me with a scholarship grant to subsidize the college expenses since I have a poor family background following a period of widowhood and later remarriage. Sponsors of NationsUniversity deserve a special appreciation for their sacrificial giving to support those of us from developing countries. Without their generosity, many deserving students could be locked out of theological education. May God richly bless and graciously provide for all my sponsors whom I do not know physically but God knows them well. Your labor of love for God's work is not in vain. (1 Cor. 15:58).

"I am proud and excited to be a student at NU as it provides a conducive e-learning and networking environment internationally. I am able to share experiences with my lecturers and fellow students worldwide using modern ways of communication. This is realization of my dream to become a student of e-learning, a methodology of study introduced to me by the African Medical and Research Foundation (AMREF) and Nursing Council of Kenya Project where I was a member of the Steering Committee that coordinated the project in Kenya. I shall henceforth be a more knowledgeable and useful member of the committee. I shall promote the e-learning concept to many people here in Kenya with special emphasis on theological education for upgrading biblical knowledge, skills and attitudes of serving ministers. I shall also promote networking and collaboration for local and international interdenominational evangelistic missions.

"On completion of my masters studies, I shall use the knowledge and skills gained in active ministry. I have an earnest desire to join any local Protestant Bible School as a part-time lecturer to share what I have learnt in NU. As a nurse, I have a special burden and desire to serve in evangelism and counseling in health facilities. I have been actively involved in healthcare evangelism under the Healthcare Christian Fellowship (HCF) targeting healthcare workers and patients. These skills shall be sharpened by the masters course for the glory of God. God Bless the partners of NU."



The Voice



of Nations

A Publication of

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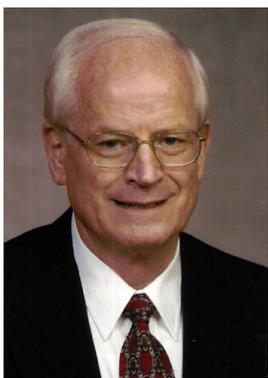
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An Interview with Herman Alexander



Herman Alexander is a beloved and valued faculty member at NU. He is highly credentialed with a B.A. from Harding University, a Teacher Certificate from West Texas State University, a B.D. (now an MDiv) from Melbourne College of Divinity, and a M.A. and a D.Min. from Harding School of Theology. Herman has been a local preacher at several churches in Arkansas and Texas and a missionary abroad. He and his wife Rosanne have been married since 1957 and have two sons and five grandchildren.

What brought you to NationsUniversity®?

My sister told me that she was enrolled in NationsUniversity courses, and that sparked my interest in the program. When I made contact with Mac and Marty in June, 2012, they were very gracious in inviting me to look into the work. I became very excited about the possibilities. I saw this as an opportunity to reach into areas that we were not reaching by other means.

All of my adult life has been spent in “full-time ministry.” My family and I spent 9 years in Australia (1971-80), after which I taught at the Center for Christian Education (25 years). During the years at the Center I made 9 mission trips to Lithuania as well as 9 mission trips back to the South Pacific. So, mission work is in the DNA of my wife and me. There has always been the concern with how we could reach more people. That is what is so appealing to me about NationsUniversity: the door is open to reaching thousands of people with the gospel.

Tell us about being Mac Lynn’s colleague at NU after also being his student.

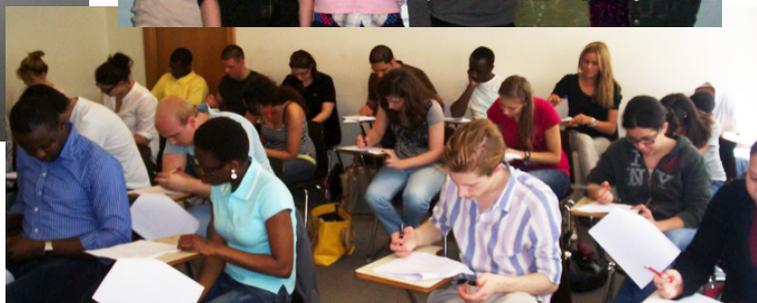
The first time that I remember meeting Mac was on a cold, snowy winter day in January, 1985. I had enrolled in the Doctor of Ministry program at Harding Graduate School, and he was my Advisor in that program. Right away I came to appreciate the way he related to the students and edified each of us. When he began to ask the group what their particular interest was I said that mine was in the area of expository preaching. So, he asked right quick-like, “What do you consider to be the weakest point in your preaching?” I said, “It’s Application.” Immediately he fired back, “Then that’s the area on which I want you to write your Thesis!” Going from “student” to “colleague” can be somewhat intimidating. However, I have found Mac to be a great fellow-worker who gives encouragement to me. It is his vision of reaching people throughout the world that inspires me to participate as fully as possible in NationsUniversity.

What is your impression of NU students?

I am excited that most of the students with whom I have been privileged to work really want to get into the Word. It is truly a thrill to hear from a student who tells us that he is now sharing what he has learned from NationsUniversity with others – even helping to equip others to go forward with the Word.



On the Bamboo Bridge over the Mekong River, Campong Cham, Cambodia.: and with students in S.T.A.M.P. (Short Term Australasian Ministry Program). and students in the Bible Course at International University, Vienna, Austria, where I taught during four different summers.



You're Never Too Old

Bill Hensley, U.S. Student, BRS 2012

I have been a follower of our Savior, Jesus Christ for about 61 years. I have always wanted to know more than just Sunday morning sermons and Bible studies. I now attend a church in Shreveport, Louisiana. NationsUniversity gave me the opportunity to study and be able to understand the whole story of what God has given to us through the scriptures.

At the age of 80, I graduated with a Bachelor Degree in Religious Studies from NationsUniversity. I am so thankful for this opportunity that I had to study and for all the knowledge that God has bless me with.

I would strongly recommend, that when you study at NU, to be very open to their instructions and follow them, such as putting aside what you know, letting the Holy Spirit guide you in what you need to get out of your studies. I very strongly believe that the Holy Spirit helped me all the way through school. My faith is 100% strong in the Lord God of Heaven and I would not take any amount of money for the purpose of doing away with the knowledge that I now have of the scriptures.

I thank God, Mac Lynn and all of his staff, for the dedication and hard work they have provided to help the students succeed in their goals and studies.



Bill and his wife of 63 years before the graduation celebration at his home in Louisiana.

Twila Le Page, U.S. Student, BRS 2013

I was born in 1930 in Cottage Grove, Oregon during the Great Depression. My father was a preacher and my mother was often ill. I was raised with two brothers, and much of that time with a grandmother, nearby cousins and many happy moments. When WWII began, we lived between three large airplane factories, so we were sure we would be bombed by the Japanese at any moment. One of the highlights of the war was meeting President Roosevelt. I gave him one of my paintings and he sent me a signed copy of his 4 Freedoms.

I had in recent years wanted to start a ministry at RV campgrounds. I found out from my brother, Glover, about Nations University, so I applied. I worked on the studies for a long time while taking care of a husband whose health is failing.

Finally, this year, at age 83, I completed my studies and earned my Bachelor's Degree in Religious Studies. I would never have made it without the constant encouragement from Marty Lynn and from my brother. I feel that Nations University is presenting a fabulous program for low cost to persons all over the world to enhance their religious studies and knowledge. They are helpful and considerate and their courses are enhancing to a knowledge of the Bible and to its historical contents.

May God Bless you all, and especially NationsUniversity—in bringing Christian education to so many around the world.

left, Twila and her daughter, Lynda, at a grandson's recent wedding. below, Twila and her husband Lee, celebrating their 20th anniversary and her 80th birthday on a cruise to Alaska.



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Encouragement From a Student

My name is Jeffrey Kobman. I was born in Michigan in 1954 into a loving family. My parents worked very hard to provide for us. From my youngest days, we always got to church. These early encounters with God and His Word are still a very real part of my life today. We were also taught to volunteer and to help people. I can best say it – my parents are GREAT!

The greatest and defining event in my life is when I first knew Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior, in March of 1974. My search for the meaning of life came when I was 19 years old. I am thankful that God forgave my sins, showed His love toward me and personally grasped hold of me! Thank you Lord.

I earned a Bachelor's degree from Michigan State University in 1977 and took a teaching position in Spotsylvania County, Virginia. God planted me in a wonderful church with loving ministers. Their hearts are always there for those in need.

I searched for a non-traditional advanced Bible-based education and God led me to NationsUniversity. I needed to increase my knowledge of the Bible, people, and how religion related to our society. I also wanted to understand church history – from the Gospels until present day. I realized that if I was going to be involved in my church, I needed to be informed. I started out with many questions, but after all of my time with NU, I have even more questions!

My education at NationsUniversity helped me take a biblical perspective when I serve at church. I use what I learned in my NU classes to be earthly and heavenly minded – I use the practical, common sense I have and the Bible-based learning that I have gained. I have grown a lot in my classes. I have learned things that I would have never imagined.

I want to encourage current NU students:

- **Take the long approach – study hard, don't take shortcuts on your home-work.**
- **Take this time to learn of God. Ask Him continually, "Lord, what would you have me learn from this?" "Where is the wisdom in this matter Lord?"**
- **Keep up your personal devotions. I found it too easy to study for my classes and get lazy on my personal prayer, Bible reading and just spending time worshipping.**
- **HANG IN THERE!!! DON'T EVER GIVE UP!!!**

I hope I have written one thing that will encourage you in your studies and even more, encourage you to grow in Christ!



Study in Vietnam

Kieu Cong Hien, of Vietnam, has been a student at NU since 2001. He earned the Bachelor of Religious Studies in 2004 and Master of Religious Studies in 2009.

"Greetings, NU has not only provided me a high education of discipline, systematic theology, biblical theology and theology research methodology, but the most benefit and open-mindedness that I received from NU student services and professors are their kind instruction, assistance, and support. I have a big debt to Mac Lynn who not only instructed and oriented me on the right direction of study, assignment, and exam process, but also recommended me to any institute where I apply for scholarship.

"I enjoyed studying at NU, it brings me the possibility to continue studying in the school without walls 2013 Student Newsletters and tuition free. I am so glad



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Graduates Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate In Religious Studies

Samuel Gross, United States
Donald Kamese, Mexico
Goma Amos, Nigeria
Stephen Kinuthia Muguro, Kenya
Amos Sentmanat, United States
Raymond Earl Green, United States
Livhuwani Gldy Mudau, South Africa
Mehdi Meidari, Canada
Wesley Chorney, Canada

Associate of Religious Studies

Mehdi Meidari, Canada
Amos Sentmanat, United States
Scott Anderson, Sr., United States

Diploma of Religious Studies

Scott Anderson, Sr., United States

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Emmanuel Eyebira Agharowu, Nigeria
Preston Ray Currin, United States
Mark Andrew Torre, United States
Raymond Essex, United States
George O'Brien, United States
Robert Lee Logan, United States
Twila Fern Le Page, United States
James LaPointe, United States
John Joshua Jett, United States
John L. Young, United States

Master of Religious Studies

Chiman Lee
B.S., Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Canada

Robert Sinclair Mclvor
B.R.S., NationsUniversity, Canada

Maria Fongwa Zuga Georgiopolou
B.R.S., NationsUniversity, Greece

John Ashley Birley
M. Ed., Open University, South Korea

Race Capet
B.A., University of Alaska -Anchorage,
United States

Da-Na Ben-Isra'el Allen
B.R.S., NationsUniversity, United States

Michael Archer
B.R.S., NationsUniversity, United States

Master of Divinity

Jeffrey Donald Kobman
M. Ed, University of Virginia, United States

Master of Ministry

Matthew Joseph Dobrenich
M.R.S., NationsUniversity, United States

Salt & Light at NU



As 2013 came to a close and 2014 began, there was a lot of salt and light shone between faculty, students and advisors at NU. One NU Nigerian student eloquently gave the gift of his kind words and Shakespearean quotes to a faculty advisor ending with, *"It is a Christmas Gift taking its source from the tenderest part of my heart to one who has influenced my life this much."* Matthew 5:13 says, "You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its saltiness, how can it be made salty again?" Like this Nigerian student who boosted this faculty member's spirit, we must flavor our words with encouragement and love and not lose this ability.

We continue to pass on to others the goodness of God by being filled by God through His Word. Studying the Bible allows us to remain salty. What better way to encourage others not to lose their saltiness than to point them to Jesus and His teachings. On the student forums, a Kenyan student welcomes a U.S. student into the graduate program with vivid and poetic imagery, *"Welcome on board the M.R.S. vessel where Jesus Christ is the expert captain assisted by our able and dedicated NU lecturers. Waves and unfavorable weather may come our way but we are assured that Christ is on our side and is in full control. God bless and keep you."* NU students edifying one another is an illustration of saltiness.

Continuing in Matthew we read, "You are the light of the world... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven" (Matt 5:14 and 16). We live in a dark world. NU advisors challenge us to shine God's light to the darker places by example.

NU staff, faculty, and advisors hear from all corners of the world and sometimes this news is tragic. *"Our people in South Sudan appear to be living in 'hell on earth'. I am particularly saddened by the sight of rotting corpses in the streets of Bor and Malakal. The international community also appears to think that we are barbaric and senseless savages who fight at every opportunity and without a justifiable cause. I hope the New Year will usher in a new era of fraternity, peace, tolerance and respect for each other. I wish you and all your families a happy New Year 2014, prosperity and freedom from the social and political upheavals we have faced in our recent past."* His NU advisor was able to encourage this Sudanese student with these words, *"I have read your letter and shared it with our staff. I assure you that many of us understand the difficulties your country has faced in the last twenty years and some in my own community have reached out the hand of aid to many of your countrymen. I too hope the New Year will usher in a new era of fraternity and peace for you personally. I also pray that*

you may continue your studies and enrich your education. I pray that you are able to be of assistance to those who may be suffering in your community. May the Lord bless you and give you His peace and rest. Let me know if you need any help resuming your studies."

NU faculty, staff, advisors, and many, many NU students are the salt of the earth and the light of the world. I close with a final exhortation written in Portuguese by another student, *"Every act of love we practice is proof that God became incarnate in our midst. God is not only among us, but in every choice we make well."* Thank you for the inspirations you already are and give every day. Continue to flavor your words and your actions in light of God's Word and love.

Mary Virginia Mabery, Registrar

Vietnam...

continued from page 3

and proud to be a student of NU where it not only improved my knowledge and understanding, but it also transformed me in the way of behavior and interaction with others. I am currently working on the Master of Divinity program and doing theological research.

"May God bless NU staff, professors, and all those who contribute their finance, time and effort to establish, sustain, and make NU grow. As a student, I have witnessed the fast growing and constant improvement of NU.

"Lastly, I would very much like to recommend all those prospective students, do not hesitate registering your study at NU where you will enjoy studying, challenge your mind, and

An excerpt from Hien's M.R.S. essay,

If the story of Jesus is mere fiction then no man could ever have invented such a character as Jesus. He is so utterly unlike any other person in history – human yet divine, gentle yet strong, simple yet profound, his parables unique, his teaching incomparable, his life and the manner of his death quite contrary to Jewish expectations, both then and now.

The Gospels are not a tribute to the story-telling genius of their authors, but rather to the matchless beauty of Christ. The Gospels are great, simply because ordinary men were telling the incredible things they had themselves seen and heard.

The Four Gospels are also remarkable in their dramatic differences in style. They tell the same story, yet without any sense of one author competing against another, nor is there any sense of conspiracy – for if the gospel writers had worked in collusion they would have removed the differences in their accounts. As Christians, we must believe that every scripture is inspired by God.



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