



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

What is God's Picture of Success?

The New Year has begun and for many around the world exciting things will be unfolding in their lives. It is also a time when Christians can pause and reflect on where we are in our relationship with God and where we would like to be in the coming year in that relationship.

I would imagine that many of us are hoping for success in our spiritual lives. So, what is God's picture of success? Jesus establishes a picture for us in the Gospel of John. He is the vine and God is the gardener—it is not about you. There are two things to consider in this verse. Jesus is calling us to bear fruit. This can happen only if God prunes us. Pruning can be very tough sometimes. Now, in order to bear fruit, we must be in the vine and there will be the fruit of the Holy Spirit when you are in Him.



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. Remain in me, and I will remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me." John 15:1-5

Remember, the Lord always has more for us than we can think to ask, always—something better. He always wants us to bear more fruit, but apart from Him you can do nothing. The ability to bear fruit is always in the vine, and the gardener cherishes the vine. None of us are the treasure. We are afflicted, and sin touches every area of our lives. Yet by being in the vine, we have salvation and we share in the suffering of Christ. He is revealed in us to His glory. As John the Baptist said, "He must increase, I must decrease." John 3:30.

Therefore, success equals God's Kingdom manifested in our lives. When people look at you they see Jesus, who is always bringing us to total reliance upon God. You are in your present position because He saw a need for you there years ago. What will you do in this New Year with the opportunity He has given you?

*Jon-Roy Sloan
Director of Communications*

The Winner of Our First Annual Student Arts & Crafts Contest!



We are proud to announce the winner of our contest!

Virginia Repka-Franco

Her eighteen homemade honey & oatmeal soaps were the big winner!

Current Enrollment

Current through 1/1/13

Total Students: 3,979

Male - 3,356
Female - 623

Undergraduate - 3,601
Graduate - 378

Total Countries: 140

Top Ten Countries

United States	1,535
Ethiopia	303
South Africa	263
Nigeria	238
Kenya	156
Iran	99
Cameroon	92
Egypt	88
Ghana	88
Malawi	76

Student Contestants Spotlight



NationsUniversity is proud to have students who use their skills to the Glory of God! We want to take this time to spotlight some of our Arts & Crafts contestants.

Our first place winner was **Item # 19—Homemade Honey and Oatmeal Soaps.** Here is what this contestant told us.

“Although I am what you would call a ‘modern woman’ (I work as a teacher and am the main breadwinner in my family as my husband is disabled), I was raised to be proud to be in the kitchen doing something for my family and for others. Making soaps in my simple kitchen for others makes me feel like I am sharing something small but special with people.

“As these soaps are very gentle, I especially love to give them to people with small children or elderly in their homes as they are old fashioned and free from many of the chemicals that abound in modern soaps. When not in my kitchen or working at my job, I am working on something else truly special...

“I am working on my Masters of Religious Studies degree at Nations! During every course and research session, I learn Biblical principles that can be applied to my daily life. I am blessed by God and I thank Him for leading me to graduate study at NationsUniversity.

“NationsU is a University of the spirit, mind and heart! I hope my small donation of these simple soaps will help with the cause of bringing the Word of God to more students. They were made with joy in my heart and love for people and especially for our Savior, Jesus Christ. May God bless you and keep you always.” *-Virginia Repka-Franco, U.S. Student*



The Voice of Nations



A Publication of

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Second Place, Item # 7— Handmade Men's Dress Tunic

“I am Komba Daniel Kamanda, born in Sierra Leone, West Africa, and a student of NationsUniversity. The gift I am sending is locally called “Country Clothe Gown.” It represents mostly the culture of the tribes in the east of Sierra Leone, although other ethnic groups use it as national cultural attire. The country Clothe Gowns were most widely used by men of honor of the Kono tribe (to which I belong), and other tribes. These were attires mostly used by the chiefs, and other noble men.

It is an honor and joy for me to contribute towards a global evangelistic ministry like NU. NU is sincerely impacting my life. I am now a new creature through the teachings of NU. I and my family are planning a way we can help to promote the ministry of NU in my community and my country at large.”

— Komba Daniel Kamanda, Sierra Leone, West Africa

Third Place, Item # 10. Creole House Warming Plaque

“My name is Leon Peters, I live in the French department of Guadeloupe. I am a Christian, married and the father of three children.

This item represents my culture which is creole. It is particularly identified by the language inscribed on the item and the one of many patterns of the national dress it shows. The inscription within the heart and the exclamation seen on the item portrays our West Indian identity as



a hospitable people and our colonial Christian heritage as a believing people. The translations are ‘Good God watch over this house and all visitors therein’ and ‘Happy to see you.’ By donating this small plaque to my NationsUniversity school, I am furthering the work of the Kingdom of God already undertaken by NationsUniversity.

Since I have enrolled at NU, my life has changed immensely and there’s not a day when I would not mention the name of my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Worship has been a more regular practice for me since I believed, my conversion and baptism had been another stage in my Christian life, but since NU, I’ve reached a new dimension.” –*Leon Peters, French Guadeloupe*

Honorable mentions:

Item #20—Ethiopia Picture

“Warmest Greetings from Ethiopia in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are very grateful to NU for its great educational support to ministers and leaders of churches. May God bless you all!

Please find a very cultural art which shows cultural houses in remote Ethiopia. It is very beautiful for me and I hope you like it. We wish you the very best in your fund-raising efforts. We love you dears!”



–*Emmanuel Korga — Restoration Youth Ministry in Ethiopia*

Item # 14. Ghanaian Wood Cuts

“My name is Eric Kofi Degbato. I am a 50 year old Ghanaian married with three children. I work with the Ministry of Agriculture. In the church I lead Bible studies, teach songs and preach sermons.

The item I have donated consists of two pieces of wooden sculpture depicting a farmer/hunter and his wife going to the farm or forest to get some food stuff. The woman is carrying her young child on her back; they were designed for wall decoration. I chose such an art piece probably because my occupation is hinged on such folks and almost all the members of my church are farmers.

The impact of NU on my life is quite profound. I have become well informed and educated on church history, interpretation of the scriptures, ministry and worship. Thanks to all the staff of NU and long live NU!”

– *Eric Kofi Degbato, Ghana, West Africa*

Item # 24 Egg Shell Jewelry

“I sent two necklaces and two sets of earrings. I will be selling similar items on Etsy.com. I’m also hoping to branch out into homemade soaps and beauty products, but that is still in the test stages. The name of my Etsy shop will be Kraftedbykaren. I will be donating 20% of anything I sell on Etsy to NationsUniversity. I hope this helps!

I think it is a fitting craft for the mission and purpose of NU, and that is why I chose it. The necklaces are made from eggshell. The eggshells represent my life before Christ--broken, and discarded. But Christ redeemed me, restored me, and re-purposed me, and made something useful and beautiful out of what was thought to be worthless.”

– *Karen Spaffard, United States*



Graduates

Since the Last Newsletter

Certificate In Religious Studies

Moussa B. Mahan, Côte D'Ivoire
Francis Nyameke, Ghana
Fahimeh Geranmayeh, Germany
John X. Biko, South Africa
Lebogang S. Malema, South Africa
Thivhafuni F. Ramabudi, South Africa
Mzwandile N. Mashoane, South Africa
Alphie Sasaviah, South Africa
Abel B. Mkadule, South Africa
Naomi M. Mkadule, South Africa
Thama Moeketsa, South Africa
Pari D. Ghamsari, Turkey
Ali Nazemi, Turkey
Siamak Hamednia, Turkey
Ali Ilshahi, Turkey
Marzieh Alamdarha, Turkey
Mohammad Alamdarha, Turkey
Alan D. Polk, United States
David A. Lewis, United States
Michael W. Turner, United States
Mark Briggs, United States

Diploma of Religious Studies

James LaPointe, United States
Billie “Bill” Hensley, United States

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Joseph F. Ogo, Nigeria
Casey Leach, United States

Master of Religious Studies

Anthony Enwerem, Nigeria
B.A. University of Calabar
Lackson Banda, South Africa
B.A., Christian Leadership Seminary
Zerai Hagos Gebrehiwot, Ethiopia
B.Pharm., Addis Abbaba University
Jeffrey Michael Switzer, United States
Bristol Road School of Biblical Studies
Robert Kevin McCartney, United States
B.A.C. Min., New Orleans Baptist Theo.



A Word from the Chancellor

First, I want to wish each of you a productive and fulfilling 2013!

Many of you have asked about NU's progress toward accreditation. Well, we are still on track. If it seems to you like a long process, let me assure you that those of us who work here *know* it is a long tedious journey. The self-evaluation study was approved some time ago. Then we submitted a significant number of courses for review. When the report came back, we discovered we needed to do some upgrading. That work continues for the rest of the curriculum.

You may have already discovered that more courses have textbooks assigned to them. You may expect more through the year. We are conscious of the added expense to you, but if we continue on the path toward accreditation, we see no alternative—at least not at the moment. We want the courses to be responsible. No, we want the courses to be the best they can possibly be! We keep you in mind with textbook adoptions and explore means of making them available to you, so continue to be patient with us.

The pursuit of accreditation has made us realize that we must depend on two delivery systems to meet our mission. One, we will do what is necessary to achieve accreditation, so long as it seems feasible. This will ensure a quality degree program. The next step for us is a site visit, which will come early next month. We shall not know the results of that visit for several months as visits of this type often outline other tasks to be accomplished before accreditation is awarded.

Our mission never promised that an accredited degree could be granted to everyone who applied, for there are circumstances that keep this from becoming a reality. Financial limitations and language barriers are the most recognized. The decision to seek accreditation has made it quite clear that we should also launch a fresh initiative so everyone has the opportunity to study, even though they may never qualify for a degree. Hence, on January 1, Bruce Clayton joined the organization to begin putting into shape an exciting non-credit program. We have adopted the emerging trend to create Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) for those who want the information without the full services and the degree which credit courses demand. All foreign language courses are being transferred in MOOCs. This list will be supplemented with other courses—some short and others standard length.

Keep the faith. Practice what you learn. It is all for the glory of God, so study hard and share your findings.

Mac Lynn
Chancellor

Student Advising

Our task as advisors is to help you perform better than even you think you can. We are more concerned about influencing your future and less concerned about what you have done in the past. Advisors have one main task and that is energizing students to do their best. Your advisor believes in you and will offer encouragement when you perform poorly and challenge you to set attainable goals.

Regardless of what you have done so far what is one thing that you could do even better? Be specific. Ask yourself—what can you do in the next week to move one step closer to at least one of your goals? If you have trouble with the logistics of surfing the website, ask your advisor for guidance and advice. If you have been inactive for a while and don't have an advisor, you will find the names listed on our Home Page. You make our joy full when you achieve your goal and take one step closer to success.

Marty Lynn
Director, Student Services

Well Done, Lloyd!



Congratulations are due to alumnus Ingemar Lloyd Woods who completed the Ed.S. degree from Liberty University in December.

Lloyd currently serves NU as Compliance Director and is valuable to NU in its quest for accreditation.



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