

# 2020



# The Voice of Nations

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## Promoting Christ's Kingdom In My Part of the World

### NUAA Student Ambassador in the Caribbean

NationsUniversity likes to say the globe is its campus. Wherever you have a computer and the Internet, NU is there. Few places are as exotic as the island of Guadeloupe. Guadeloupe is an archipelago forming an overseas region of France in the Caribbean and consists of six inhabited islands.

Leon Peters graduated from NationsUniversity in 2013 with a Master of Religious Studies degree. During his studies, he recounts, he sensed a deeper calling, one for ministry and to minister to his community in Guadeloupe where he resides.

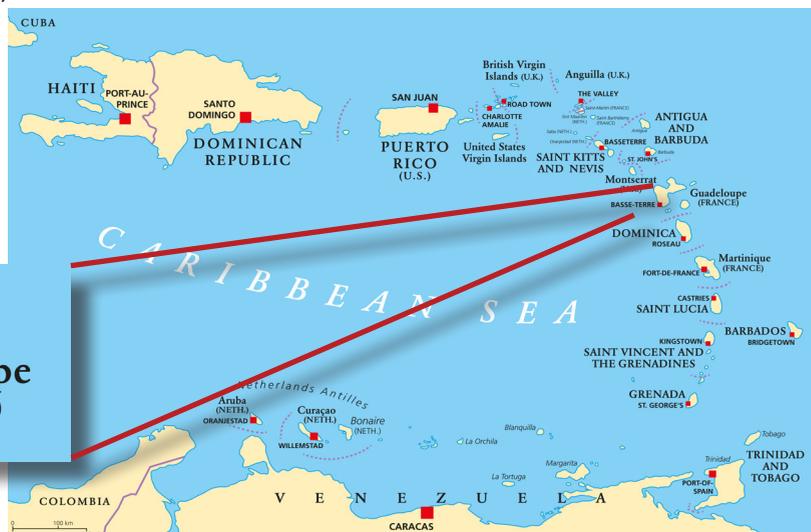
Upon graduation, he formed an unofficial group named The Righteous Army to begin training others in ministry. He is bilingual and says this is a great asset to his ministry. He is able to take a lesson plan in English and deliver it properly in French Creole.

After teaching in associations and as a freelance teacher with good results, he decided to begin an association, the A.C.S.A.J., (*Association Chrétienne de Solidarité et d'Activités pour les Jeunes* - Christian Association of Solidarity and Activities for Young People) that would be a registered non-profit and Christ oriented organization. The mission of A.C.S.A.J. is to assist adult learners, parents, and students.

Today, Leon serves as a volunteer student ambassador with the NationsUniversity Alumni Association. You can reach out to him on the NUAA LinkedIn page.



Leon Peters, Guadeloupe





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# NationsUniversity May Graduates

## Certificate In Biblical Studies

Guy Bertrand Djiozang Fopa, *Cameroon*  
Stephen M Ndine, *Kenya*  
Musonda Sunga, *Mozambique*  
Nhlanhla Emmanuel Nkosi, *South Africa*  
Zuko Mbewu, *South Africa*  
Gibson Friday Sapana Walla, *South Sudan*  
Habiba Abdallah Kent, *Uganda*  
Jason M. Harrod, *United States*  
John Hoon Yi, *United States*  
Alan Lumsden, *United States*  
Keven A. McIntyre, *United States*  
Jonathan M. Newhall, *United States*  
Charles D. Ray, *United States*  
David A. Wheelley, *United States*

## Bachelor of Religious Studies

Stanley Chukwuebuka Atueyi, *Nigeria*  
Francis Kahoz, *South Africa*  
Joshua Inez Bocanegra, *United States*  
Shane L. Latson, *United States*  
James Scott Wilbur, *United States*

## Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies

Gakenosi O. Motshwarakgole, *Botswana*  
Jerome Manuel Robert Marques, *China*  
Isaac Oppong, *Ghana*  
Emmanuel Oppong Owusu, *Ghana*  
Yan Chun Chan, *Hong Kong*  
Tadeusz Juliusz Godera, *Poland*  
Marc Gresset, *Thailand*  
Kyle Andrew Hamrick, *United States*  
Stephen Rigatti, *United States*  
Paul D. Smeltzer, *United States*

## Master of Theological Studies

Beratu Anshebo Lachore, *Ethiopia*  
*B.Th., Addis Ababa University*  
Festus Mintah Abrah-Yeboah, *Finland*  
*B.B.A., International Business, Vaasan*  
*Ammattikorkeakoulu U of Applied Sciences*  
Cameron John Blair, *New Zealand*  
*B.Th., Laidlaw College*  
Nkosinathi Emanuel Mdletshe, *South Africa*  
*B.A., Theology, Northern Luzon Adventist College*  
Casey Dean Corthron, *United States*  
*B.A., West Virginia University Institute of Technology*  
Charles Frederick Molesworth, *United States*  
*B.S., Business Administration, Oregon State University*  
Jerome G. Washington, *United States*  
*B.A., Organizational Management, Concordia University*

## Master of Divinity

Geoffrey Wandera, *Uganda*  
*Diploma, New Life Adv Bible College*  
Bytha Regauld, *United States*  
*M.T.S., NationsUniversity*



## Tell Your Story

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**YES! The date for the NUA Ambassador meeting is?...**

*All alumni are welcome!*



# Nations University

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# NU Student's Response to Those Who Criticize Faith

*Hannah Peek, B.R.S. Student*

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The world is and has always been a hostile place for those who keep the faith and remain loyal to God. The hostilities range from fairly mild, micro-aggressions to full-on persecution and martyrdom. In the secular workplace, a Christian may be passed up for a promotion because he refuses to work on the Sabbath or to do something else that would violate his conscience. He may even lose his job because he chooses to put God first. Unconverted peers may jeer at him and make unkind jokes or even pressure him into violating his conscience. Some may ridicule the faith as simply being ridiculous, childish, weak-minded, or a belief in a fairy tale.

In some countries, where complete freedom of religion is not granted, a Christian may even face death and cannot openly practice his faith without fear. Even in some countries where freedom of religion is granted, to speak out against sin can be labeled as hate speech, and one can be prosecuted for hate crimes for simply doing his Christian duty to warn a sinner to repent. If one's faith is not strong, there is a great likelihood that he will be worn down by the constant pressure and let go of his hold upon the truth.

Knowing that His followers would suffer persecution and criticism and be tempted to give up, Jesus' teachings were recorded in the Gospels to give encouragement. In Acts, examples of how the new church dealt with extreme persecution are also given as encouragement and templates for the modern Christian. Reading the stories of courageous missionaries and martyrs who refused to renounce their convictions to their death makes one consider whether he would be able to stand when his faith is on trial. Their faith unto death was the salvation of many more, as Tertullian said, "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church." The question then, is our faith strong enough, and will our example, in life or death, be used to save others?

Thankfully, I live in a country that more or less upholds religious freedom and persecution is not overtly carried out. However, it takes far more subtle forms in an attempt to undermine my faith. I must continuously be on guard and know without a shadow of a doubt what I believe in so that I can recognize the subterfuge and undress the wolf in sheep's clothing, exposing it for what it is before I am bitten and vanquished. I have been asked to work on Sabbath at a job in a restaurant when they were short-staffed, even though we had an agreement that I would never work on that day. However, even though I could have used the money, I refused to violate my convictions about working on the Sabbath instead of using those precious hours to spend in communion with my Savior.

I have been called a homophobe for not supporting LGBTQ+ rights and lost a few friends. However, the loss of a few friends would be nothing compared to the loss of eternal life spent with Jesus, the One who cares and loves me most. The most subtle attacks against my faith come from those closest to me, like my boyfriend, who is a Sabbath keeper, though not of my denomination. I don't even think he realizes them most of the time. While I am a very open-minded person, I have to take care against being open-minded to heresy or engaging in activities that could lead me away from my faith. I have had to give up playing certain games that I felt were desensitizing my conscience and lie detection meter so that I would slowly begin not to care and feel that these things were inconsequential when, in reality, my eternal salvation is paramount to anything else. No matter how fun something is or how good it feels, the hope of eternity with my Saviour sounds like a better deal in trade for some momentary pleasures of this life.

In a final response to those who seek to criticize or to destroy my faith, I say this as did Martin Luther when called before a tribunal and asked to recant his beliefs, "I cannot and will not recant anything, for to go against conscience is neither right nor safe. Here I stand, I can do no other, so help me God." In my choice to be faithful to God, I realize that not everyone will love me and treat me well. They did the same to Jesus, constantly trying to trip Him up and trap Him in his words and finally killing Him. Luke 6:26 says, "Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for this is how their fathers treated the false prophets." Criticism is par for the course of Christianity, and to some degree, a measure of one's righteousness, for why would the Devil care to persecute those who are on his side or pose no threat to his cause?

I am called to love all men, but part of this includes preaching truths that may cause pain and resistance in the heart of the unconverted as the Holy Spirit calls him to give up something long cherished. Regardless of what men do to me, whether killing my reputation or physical body, I fear that not. Rather, I fear the loss of eternal life. My security rests in God, not the vacillating opinions of man. Not everyone is going to understand why I do what I do and love and support me. This does not matter. What matters most is the One who loved me so much that He was willing to die for me even before I knew Him. In the end, this is all. Everything else fades into the obscurity of eternity past given the glorious, heavenly future that awaits the faithful.

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*Editors Note: This essay has been edited to fit in the allotted space. Printed with permission.*

# Meet the NU Staff

## Mary Virginia Mabry, Registrar

Mary Virginia Mabry has been hard at work from home with an increase in tasks at NU during COVID-19. She has been helping to plan and re-plan the 25th Anniversary Dinner and auction, along with working on the bylaws for the NUAA, coordinating the first NUAA Ambassadors' meeting, improving graduation communication and keeping up with all regular Registrar and Admissions tasks.

Much has happened during this pandemic for the Mabry family. The biggest thing, other than a finally potty-trained toddler (Hurray for Hugh!), is her husband's (Matthew's) graduation from family medicine residency. This has been a long, trying ten year journey with many sacrifices since their seven years on the mission field of Brazil. Matthew will start as a hospitalist doctor in the Fall.

Mary Virginia and Matthew belong to a small church plant and do volunteer work with the youth group, of which their two girls (Aubry and Diana) are a part. Both girls gained "pandemic pets" (a parakeet and a mouse) while being homeschooled by Mom during this time and helped with their Mom's gardening projects: Spiral and Vegetable Box. She says of current events, "Even with the many stresses of life, there is still so much to be thankful for and our praises are many! One of those praises is my NU family and support."



*Pandemic Garden project (pictured at top), Mary Virginia and her family (pictured above).*

**New Date, Same Location**  
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**Al Robertson**  
*(Duck Commander)*

**August 22, 2020**  
**Rocketown**  
**Nashville, Tennessee**

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## The Voice of Nations

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