



# The Voice of Nations

2nd Quarter 2022 | Number 111 | NationsUniversity® | nationsu.edu | elearning.nationsu.edu

## NationsU Expands M.T.S. With New Optional Thesis

### *Providing Greater Opportunities for Students*

NationsUniversity has over 25 years of providing quality biblical education to students worldwide. During that time, NationsU has continued to seek ways to provide greater opportunities for our students to excel in their studies, ministries, jobs, and other educational pursuits. Becoming accredited by DEAC was a big step in opening doors for students to use their degrees in ways that were only barely imagined in 1995. Adding new certificates and courses that help prepare students for church leadership and pastoral care was another step forward in NationsU's journey.

Over the last few years, NationsU has looked for other ways to help prepare students for what is next in their academic endeavors. As the Chief Academic Officer, I've been privileged to watch the evolution of NationsU's student body. While many students are studying at NationsU for personal enrichment or ministry leadership training, we see more and more students coming to NationsU to take advantage of our biblical worldview, excellent faculty, and academic rigor. The news is spreading that NationsU has the world's best online Christian higher education. (Admittedly, our alumni and I are a bit biased.) This growing reputation results from the inquiry and admission of students seeking to begin an academic journey leading to an academic career. This development is thrilling news to NationsU because we think our alumni have a lot to teach others about biblical worldview, spirituality, and hermeneutics.

Since NationsU does not offer a doctoral program that one might need for teaching at the university level,



### Important Dates to Remember

*Mark Your Calendar →*

- July 8 - MAPS monthly prayer zoom between alumni and students*
- July 15 - Orientation Class Zoom - Study Skills / Keeping Motivation*
- August 6 - PASS Quarterly Peer and Alumni Academic Support Meeting*
- August 12 - MAPS monthly prayer zoom between alumni and students*

*Optional Thesis, continued on page 2*

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## NUAA

*All students who have completed at least one course at NationsUniversity are already considered part of the Alumni Association. We would love more participation from you! Please join the LinkedIn NUAA page.*

### Prayer Leaders Needed!

*The NUAA needs more alumni members to step up to lead the prayer sessions for students by zoom. Please email [allisonj@nationsu.edu](mailto:allisonj@nationsu.edu) if you can help.*

*Optional Thesis, continued from page 1*

we stepped back a bit and asked a simple question, "Are our master's level students qualified for Ph.D. admissions at other schools when they finish at NationsU?" We found that they were not, because NationsU's Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.) did not have a thesis option, which is often an admission criterion for Ph.D. programs. The education was excellent, but one piece was missing for those who wanted to pursue a doctorate—a thesis.

As in the past, NationsU has responded to the needs of our students. On June 3, 2022, NationsUniversity received approval from our accrediting agency (DEAC) to offer the option of writing a thesis after the completion of all M.T.S. coursework. This 10,000-word thesis option will result in an additional six credits beyond the M.T.S., for a total of 42 credits. While there are additional requirements and the possibility of additional costs, the option will be available to all online students who meet the course prerequisites and requirements.

The target date to begin offering this thesis option is September 1, 2022. Prior to that, all current graduate students (G.C.B.S. and M.T.S.) will receive information on this new offering, including how to apply, what topics are available for research, what the requirements of the thesis will be, and how the whole optional thesis program is organized. Though the thesis option will be self-paced and asynchronous like everything else at NationsU, the number of students who may participate will be limited by the number and research backgrounds of faculty available to supervise.

Once again, we are excited to be a part of our students' academic journeys, and we look forward to the doors that this new option opens.

Dr. David Srygley

Chief Academic Officer

## Athens Christian Conference — 2022

### Promoting NationsUniversity

In April 2022, John Baxter and Jon-Roy Sloan, and their wives, traveled to Athens, Greece for a conference on evangelism in Muslim countries. NationsU is seeking new ways to partner with missions in this region of the world to advance the gospel.

We met Dino Roussos, who helped organize the conference and visited his church in Athens. John Baxter was invited to speak at two of the three services, Greek and Ukrainian. Travel time did not permit speaking at the Farsi service the church has in the afternoon.

The NU team visited historic sites along Paul's second missionary journey. An account of this journey is recorded in Acts 16-18. The sites visited included Philippi, Berea, Thessalonica, Athens, and Corinth. Many videos were recorded and photos taken for use in upcoming education projects to supplement NU courses. Here is a sampling of photos from the trip. There will be more to follow soon.



*Top Right: Dimitrios Argyropoulos, Eastern European Missions, John Baxter, Dino Roussos. Bottom Right: The ruins of the Temple of Apollo at Corinth.*

# NationUniversity's Chosen Family

## Mabery Family As Extras on the Set of The Chosen Television Series

"The Chosen" is the name of the largest crowd funded project of all time and is the first ever multi-season series based on the gospels of Jesus Christ. "The Chosen" now has over 406 million viewers world-wide and this number is still growing each day. "The Chosen" is being translated into over 100 languages.

This June, NationsUniversity's Registrar, Mary Virginia Mabery, along with her family were able to be part of this hit streaming series about Jesus and those He chose to follow Him. Over 10,000 extras from all 50 U.S. States and 36 different countries traveled to the set just south of Dallas, Texas to be part of the "Feeding of the 5,000" (or F5K) scene. Many made huge sacrifices to sit in a crowd all day in their 1st Century clothing with a heat index of 104 degrees Fahrenheit just to "hear Jesus" speak. Actor Jonathan Roumie, who plays Jesus, had his disciples helping to teach and feed the crowd, both spiritually and physically. The Mabery's were seated near disciple, Nathaniel, during the filming and Mary Virginia and son, Hugh, also were in the huge crowd walk-up scenes near the front of the line.

Mary Virginia notes, "It really was, in many ways, similar to how I imagine people felt at the time. Everyone there to see Jesus was hungry and hot. We saw more than one person faint from heat exhaustion despite the constant waters and electrolyte packets being passed out by the show's staff. There were costumes from various people groups and those from all walks of life. But everyone was genuinely grateful and glad to be there. All who sacrificed to give to the show, to create their own costumes and get themselves and their families to this moment, were awed and humbled for God to use them and play a small part. We were surrounded by kind people who helped to entertain our 5-year-old, provide snacks and encouragement to our teenagers, and immediately help our daughter when she herself became dizzy from the heat. The whole experience, being there with thousands of people so loving and passionate about sharing our Lord Jesus, is too hard to put into words."

Dr. Matthew Mabery grew out his beard to be an extra in "The Chosen." This simple act led to so many questions at his hospital from patients and other doctors. Questions, that Dr. Mabery was able to use to point others to the show and in turn, to Jesus himself. Dr. Mabery also loves the show because it has helped his family to search scriptures more together and his kids to see how Jesus related to real people and in turn how we can relate to Him too.

The show is not meant to replace scripture. The filming of these scenes just happened to be on the 6th month (June) of days 7-10. And John 6:7-10 says: "Philip answered Him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that



*Top: Mary Virginia Mabery and family. Below: Hugh Mabery being fed loaves and fishes by the Apostle Nathaniel during filming. Bottom L to R: Paisley Mabery in costume; the extras great walk-up to the feeding of the 5,000.*



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*Chosen, continued from page 3*

every one of them may have a little." One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?" Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand."

God likes numbers and He can do impossible math! As the Director of the Chosen, Dallas Jenkins says, "You don't have to feed the five thousand, you just need to bring your loaves and fish." In what ways can NU students "share your loaves and fish" right now to be part of something amazing that God is doing around you?

*Top Right: Mary Virginia Mabery selfie in the 5,000 extras. Bottom L to R: Early morning on the set with the main cast; Dr. Mabery in the crowd; brektime for the extras.*



## NationsUniversity Graduates May 2022

### Certificate In Biblical Studies

John Wang'ombe Kinaga, *Kenya*  
Ndiana-Abasi Asuquo, *Nigeria*  
Frank Gatera, *Rwanda*  
Jaki Mabuka, *South Africa*  
Jesse Ndaye K. Umba, *South Africa*  
Kolton Blanda, *United States*  
Scott M. Cook, *United States*  
Ruben A. Delgado Jr., *United States*  
Samuel Moore, *United States*  
Timothy A. Priska, *United States*  
Olatunji Kareem Sule, *United States*  
Abraham Q. Tibbs, *United States*

### Certificate in Christian Ministry

Ernest Mwangi Lydiaiah, *Kenya*  
Joseph Mwongela Musau, *Kenya*  
Kolton Blanda, *United States*

### Bachelor of Religious Studies

Elijah Afram Gyemisah, *Ghana*  
Jeremy Kyle Clark, *United States*

### Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies

Morten Bøsterud, *Andora*  
Edmund R. Prizeman, *Switzerland*  
Michael Kofi Agbegbor, *Ghana*  
Amani Jean Nsabimana, *Rwanda*  
Daniel Mbajiorgu, *Nigeria*  
Clifford A. Erondu, *United States*  
David A. Weaver, *United States*  
Kholwani Dube, *Zimbabwe*

### Master of Theological Studies

Avenir Pëllumbi, *Albania*  
*Bachelor Degree, Aleksander Xhuvani University*  
Mary-Ann Lopez Mzana, *China*  
*B.S., Panpacific University North Philippine*  
Bernard Baffour Awuah, *Ghana*  
*B.Sc., University of Education, Winneba*  
Yan Chun Chan, *Hong Kong*  
*B.Div., Christian Leaders Institute*  
Omondi Kevin Ochieng', *Kenya*  
*B.A., St. Paul's University*

Charles Justin Mapira, *Mali*  
*B.Th., Hebron Theological College*

Harri Severi RYNAENEN, *Spain*  
*B.A.C.Min., M.P.A., Troy State University*

Ronald David Bender, *United States*  
*M.B.A., University of Management and Technology*

James David Caddell, *United States*  
*M.S., University of Georgia, B.S., Clemson University*

Sanu Pothen Sunny Mathew, *United States*  
*B.Sc., University of Houston*

### Master of Divinity

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## The Voice of Nations

A Publication of  
**NATIONSUNIVERSITY®**  
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