

The Voice of NATIONS NEWSLETTER

Celebrating Thirty Years of Excellence in Education



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Growing in Wisdom My Journey Through Nations University



Charles Ray, C.B.S., B.R.S., G.C.B.S., M.T.S., New York, Graduate Alumnus of the Year Nominee, 2024

The education I received while earning two degrees from Nations University has profoundly strengthened both my relationship with our Heavenly Father and my effectiveness in ministry. Developing a solid working knowledge of God's Word has proven to be an essential tool for guiding others on their journey to Christ. As we prayerfully reflect on Scripture and allow the Holy Spirit to direct our understanding, God's purpose for each of us becomes clearer. I am often reminded of James 1:5: "If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives generously to all without reproach, and it will be given him." Embracing this truth has enabled God to use me in meaningful ways to help lead others to the Savior—an immeasurable blessing that continues to shape my faith and service.

In addition to the spiritual growth I experienced, earning an accredited degree from Nations University also produced tangible benefits in my professional life. Many employers, including my own, recognize the value of employees who demonstrate commitment, perseverance, and discipline by completing higher education. Following the completion of my studies, I received a promotion along with a salary adjustment. It has been deeply rewarding to see such positive outcomes result from an academic journey that I

genuinely enjoyed and found enriching.

Of course, the path was not without its challenges. When asked whether difficulties arose during my coursework, my answer is an emphatic yes. Like many others, I had to navigate the demands of daily responsibilities and the countless distractions that compete for our time. While the flexibility of Nations University's self-paced learning model is a tremendous benefit, it also requires strong self-discipline. There were moments when leisure activities diverted my attention and caused delays in completing coursework. When that happened, I often lost the instructional "flow" of a course due to extended pauses in study.

Through this experience, I learned the importance of maintaining consistent, reasonable study habits. Strengthening my self-discipline became an unexpected but valuable outcome of my time at Nations University. In the end, this growth—spiritually, professionally, and personally—stands as one of the greatest benefits of my educational journey.

We want to hear from you!

Your story matters, and your journey can inspire others just as these alumni have inspired us. Whether you have a testimony of how NationsUniversity has impacted your life, a story of transformation, or a calling you're pursuing, we invite you to share it with us. Your voice could encourage fellow students, future graduates, and the broader NU community. You may submit your story on our website.

Follow this link to make your submission! <https://nationsu.edu/nu-videos/>



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**CHANGE
YOUR
WORLD**

Rooted in Scripture

Equipped for the Word, Sent to Serve



Kristen Turner, G.C.B.S., M.T.S., Louisiana, Change Your World Distinction Nominee 2024

I am deeply grateful for my education at NationsUniversity because it gave me something far more valuable than information—it taught me how to study the Bible thoughtfully and engage in serious theological exploration. NU helped shape the way I read Scripture, ask questions, and wrestle with the text in faithful and meaningful ways. That foundation continues to guide me today as I pursue graduate studies in Old Testament at Abilene Christian University, where my passion for theology continues to grow.

Before returning to formal theological studies, I taught high school Spanish, and being bilingual has opened many doors for ministry and service. Over the years, I have been able to serve on short-term mission trips and participate in local outreach efforts where language and cultural understanding were essential. My journey in ministry formally began in 2006 through community outreach, teaching English to Spanish speakers. What started as language instruction soon developed into Bible studies, relationships, and, ultimately, baptisms.

In 2017, my husband and I took a significant step of faith by planting a Spanish-speaking church. During this same season, from 2017 to 2023, I also served as a mentor for Spanish-speaking participants in Crossroads Prison Ministry. Walking alongside students in that context was both humbling and transformative, reinforcing my belief in the power of Scripture to bring hope, growth, and renewal—even in the most difficult circumstances.

One of the most rewarding experiences I now enjoy as a NationsUniversity alumna is the opportunity to give back academically. I am privileged to grade and guide undergraduate students through two NU courses that are especially close to my heart: Tanakh Literature and Theology of Law, Wisdom, and Psalms. Supporting students as they grow in confidence and depth in their biblical studies has been an unexpected joy and a meaningful extension of my own education.

Currently, I serve at White's Ferry Road church in prayer ministry, youth outreach, and small groups. At the core of all I do is a desire to be a Psalm 1 lifelong learner of Scripture—rooted, growing, and bearing fruit. NationsUniversity prepared me not only to study the Bible well, but also to equip others to do the same. I look forward to continuing my education, engaging in biblical research, wrestling with Scripture in collaborative dialogue, and seeking ways to contribute to the renewal of the universal church.

A Foundation That Changed Everything

Building a Scholarly and Ministry Vocation



I credit Nations University as a foundational part of my journey and the modest success I have experienced since enrolling. When I began my studies at Nations University (NU) in 2016, I was 32 years old and searching for an educational path that truly fit my circumstances. Traditional academic models had long presented obstacles—financial limitations, demanding schedules, and learning environments that did not align with how I learned best. NU offered something different: an accessible, flexible, and supportive framework that allowed me not only to participate, but to thrive.

By 2019, I had completed both a Bachelor of Religious Studies (B.R.S.) and a Master of Theological Studies (M.T.S.). These degrees marked milestones I once believed were beyond my reach. More than credentials, NU became the catalyst for a profound academic and professional transformation, opening doors I had never imagined.

The years following my time at NU have been extraordinary. Since enrolling nine years ago, I have gone on to earn additional master's degrees and a Ph.D. in Religion with a specialization in Biblical Studies. Professionally, my career has flourished, leading to ecclesial supervisory roles within my denomination and the opportunity to serve as a correctional chaplain. I have also completed certifications in Clinical Pastoral Education, further strengthening my pastoral skills and practical ministry experience.

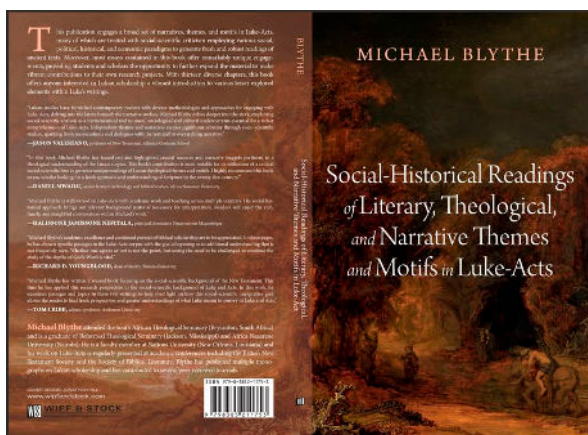
My academic journey has continued to grow as well. My third monograph is scheduled for publication this year, adding to previous work published in seven peer-reviewed academic journals, along with contributions to scholarly dictionaries and other academic venues. I have been honored to present research at more than 30 academic conferences, including gatherings hosted by the Society of Biblical Literature, the British New Testament Society, and the Stone-Campbell Journal Conference.

These reflections are more than expressions of gratitude—they are testimony. While I recognize that my journey is ongoing, with new goals still ahead, I can say with confidence that without Nations University, none of this would have begun. NU's accessible and empowering educational model fundamentally altered the trajectory of my life.

I remain deeply grateful to Nations University not only for the degrees earned, but for instilling a passion for lifelong learning, academic excellence, and faithful service. The foundation laid at NU continues to shape my work and calling, and I am forever thankful for the role this remarkable institution has played in my journey.



Michael Blythe (left).



We also want to hear from you!

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NationsUniversity Graduates May 2025

Certificate In Biblical Studies

Kelvin Maluki Kimetu, *Kenya*
Thakane Molise, *Lesotho*
Ojighovdowan E. S. Believe, *Nigeria*
Iyanuoluwa Jude Olorundare, *Nigeria*
Marcey O. White, *United States*
Nkosinolwazi Moyo, *Zimbabwe*

Certificate in Christian Ministry

Adosraku Gloria Ama Seyra, *Ghana*
Alfred Makunamu Shimekha, *Kenya*
Habiba Abdallah Kent, *Uganda*
Ernest Banda, *Zambia*

Bachelor of Religious Studies

Sylvester Kennedy Omondi, *Kenya*
Alfred Makunamu Shimekha, *Kenya*

Graduate Certificate in Biblical Studies

Kai Ming Caillou Wong, *China*
Adnew Yohannes Chinkebo, *Ethiopia*
Allan Muriithi Njeru, *Kenya*
Bruce Paul Ifonu Jr., *Nigeria*
Gibson Friday Sapana Walla, *South Sudan*
Josef V. Hodgkins, *United States*
Clayton Aaron Parks, *United States*

Master of Theological Studies

Danladi Chiroma Husaini, *Belize*
M.S., Nnamdi Azikiwe University
Faith Petrov, *Canada*
M.B.A., New Charter University
Kai Ming Caillou Wong, *China*
B.G.S., The Open University of Hong Kong
Fuxin Du, *China*
B.Eng., Nanchang Hangkong University
Simeneh Yeshewelul Bekele, *Ethiopia*
B.S., Lorma Colleges
Wambugu John Kariuki, *Kenya*
B.S., University of Eldoret
Bruce Paul Ifonu Jr., *Nigeria*
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Patrick William Mondragon *United States*
B.R.S., NationsUniversity, B.S., New Mexico State University
Joseph A. Myers, *United States*
B.R.S., NationsUniversity
Paul D. Smeltzer, *United States*
B.A., Southern California Seminary
Moses Chimwaji, *Zambia*
B.A., Central Africa Baptist University

Upcoming Calendar Events!

- **April 11** - MAPS monthly prayer zoom between alumni and students
- **April 15** – Good Friday, Offices Closed
- **April 18** – Deadline for Completing Academic Graduation Requirements & Paying Grad Fee
- **May 1** – NationsU Spring Graduation Day
- **May 3** – P.A.S.S. Spring Graduation Day
- **May 9** – M.A.P.S. Meeting- Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **May 26**, Memorial Day, Offices Closed
- **June 13** – M.A.P.S. Meeting- Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **July** - Official Admission is Closed this Month, Official Transcripts Orders Still Filled
- **July 4** – Independence Day, Offices Closed
- **July 11** - M.A.P.S. Meeting- Monthly Ambassador Prayer with Students
- **July 15** - Apply with Advisor for September 1st Graduation
- **August 15** – Deadline for Completing Academic Graduation Requirements & Paying Grad Fee



Nations University Alumni Association

CHANGE YOUR WORLD



If you have completed even one course at NationsU, you are already considered part of the NUAA.

We urge all members to get involved today.

Go to the homepage and click on Alumni in the top menu or go to <https://nationsu.edu/nationsuniversity-alumni-association/>

The Voice of Nations

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