

ILLUMINATION

LIVING UNIVERSITY



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FACULTY ADDRESS DR. MICHAEL GERMANO



God often begins things in a small way and then grows them. Recall Jesus' likening the growth of the Kingdom of God to the planting and growth of a mustard seed (Mark 4:32; Luke 13:19). In the first three years of Living University I took comfort in those verses. I understood that God was building this institution. It was not then—or now—simply an institution of men; it is God's university! LU will be and become what He wants it to be and to accomplish. And, seven years since its founding, Almighty God continues to build and bless His university.

In poking fun at LU's humble beginnings some critics referred to it as a "University in a Broom Closet." Living University actually began in Cullowhee, in the Smoky Mountains of North Carolina, in a basement next to the broom closet. Yes, indeed, it started very small in February 2007 with one full-time employee - me.

It was in 2006, while I served as chief academic officer for Haywood Community College (HCC) at Clyde, North Carolina, that Dr. Douglas Winnail stopped by my campus office for a visit as he was traveling on to Tennessee. Dr. Winnail and I worked together at Ambassador when I served as a dean and as academic vice president at its Pasa-





LIVING UNIVERSITY

Have you considered taking a Living University course? Living University offers a variety of courses, which are lead by experienced and passionate men and women who truly care about the learning of their

students. If you are looking for a different kind of educational experience, one founded on biblical principles, then check out our course descriptions and enroll today!

ENROLL TODAY

dena, California, campus and later at the Big Sandy campus where I served as dean when Dr. Donald Ward was its president.

During our visit, Dr. Winnail allowed me to demonstrate for him the distance education system we at HCC had implemented. And we discussed how an Epistles of Paul course could be offered using a similar online system. After a series of questions about procedures, technology and effectiveness, Dr. Winnail asked me if I would develop a proposal to use online resources for ministerial education, for the Living Church of God.

Soon after, Dr. Roderick Meredith, Mr. Richard Ames and the other leaders at the LCG headquarters met with me for a two-hour presentation. The question I put forward was: "Does educating brethren via online education enable a person to be a more effective servant of the Living God?" Then I laid out the various approaches to education that could serve the ministry and the whole church. The conclusion of that and subsequent meetings with Dr. Meredith, Mr. Ames and Dr. Winnail, Mr. Dibar Apartian and others, was that the Living Church of God and its worldwide membership would be served best by establishing an online university—one that included a small resident young

adult student body at the Charlotte international headquarters.

Classes began in the fall of 2007. As Dr. Meredith, Mr. Ames, Dr. Winnail and I are longtime friends who served as faculty and administrators together at Ambassador College/University for many years, we joined together to offer four online courses. About 87 for-credit students and 45 auditors enrolled that first semester. We had major software problems that year and found it difficult to develop detailed online lessons and the effective video we wanted. There simply was not enough time to achieve the level of professionalism we expected of ourselves. In each subsequent year since 2007 we have grown and improved. Last semester 100 percent of responding students in the end of course evaluation said they would recommend these studies to a friend, 99.3 percent reported they were satisfied with their studies with LU and 91 percent felt they had achieved their goals.

In its first seven years LU has served hundreds of the people of God all around the globe. Irrespective of other factors the thrust of the overall academic program is adult learning and preparation for service to local congregations and related occupations and Christian servant-leader activities. The faculty

now has four full-time members and twelve part-time members spread across the US and Canada. All have the required academic credentials (a masters or doctorate degree) and necessary professional experience for their teaching assignments. The University presently offers eleven certificate programs, two diploma programs and two degree programs (A. Th. and B. Th.). About 200 students annually enroll in online study and the majority are working adults who are members of the Living Church of God. While the university is open to the public, on-campus students are primarily drawn from families associated with the Living Church of God.

Since 2007 LU has graduated four Bachelor of Theology (B. Th.) graduates, the first of whom is retired. The other three found full-time employment with the Living Church of God. Of our four unique Associate of Theology (A.Th.) graduates to date, the University employs one full-time and another is employed full-time by the Living Church of God. The third A. Th. graduate was under the employ of the Church when he completed his degree. The final A. Th. graduate is in process of completing a Bachelor of Theology degree. Of the ten unique diploma and 26 unique certificate graduates, eleven became employed by the Living Church of God in conjunction with the completion of their credential. In addition, twelve of our graduates were ordained to the rank of deacon or elder during or shortly following the completion of their credential and serve in a non-employed manner in their local congregation.

In 2009 LU launched its on-campus program in Charlotte, and it has been a success so far. In the last five years LU has accepted sixteen on-campus students and established a student work program so on-campus students can work their way through their education. Recently God opened a door for LU to develop an Associate of Arts degree program by providing the necessary faculty members and library resources. This new degree should be helpful to young adults who would like to spend

their first two years of college study in an environment conducive to God's Way of Life, where they can complete their general education requirements and also study the foundations of biblical theology to help them establish themselves in Christian life. As on-campus students they can also "recapture true values"—a goal that is at the heart and core of Living University's mission.

This summer we plan to complete our application to the State of North Carolina seeking authorization for LU to offer the Associate of Arts degree beginning fall 2015. We also hope for approval of degree minors in business and in communications. In addition we plan to file an application for national accreditation with the DETC in the spring of 2016. God willing, we hope to achieve accredi-

LU is in the "success business," bringing Godly education to His people worldwide.

tation by the time of spring graduation, 2017—the tenth-year anniversary of the university's foundation.

This fall we expect 10-11 on-campus students in Charlotte and approximately 200 online students around the world. By the academic year of 2016-17, we hope to have 25 full-time students on-campus with university housing available to all.

LU is in the "success business," bringing Godly education to His people worldwide. The reality is that All the World Is Our Campus. The past seven years of building and growing LU have been exciting thanks to God's direction and help. Please keep the students and faculty in your prayers. Many things are brought about through the believing, faithful prayers of God's people - all of us!

- DR. MICHAEL GERMANO
LIVING UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT

IN THE BEGINNING

One of my favorite memory verses is Genesis 1:1, “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” This verse drips with potential—vast and unlimited potential. God chose to commence the telling of pre-human history with ten words that instill within us the question of, “Why?” God reveals why in Romans 8:16–17: “The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.” God gave mankind the ability to grow into a full member of His Family. To use a familiar phrase, what an incredible human potential we have!

This potential is the focus of those involved with Living University, or more specifically, fulfilling that potential. One of the maxims of Living University is, “Recapturing true values,” and that maxim will be the focus of this publication. The purpose of this newsletter will be to keep readers informed about the on-campus events of Living University and discuss topics relevant to the times in which we live. Articles will be written by both students and staff, and so first-hand perspectives of both distance learning and on-campus life will be shared by those living these experiences.

On that note, another goal is to build a greater connection between the distance learning portion of the student body with the goings on here in Charlotte. The other tenet of Living University is, “All the world is our campus.” Living University has students from many different countries and this newsletter will be another tool in connecting and uniting the student body. Stories will include information about assemblies, on-campus trips, Church social events, upcoming classes, and insights from the work-study program here on-campus. Maybe as a result some of you will give serious thought to becoming on-campus students yourselves.

There are so many different opportunities to be seized and discussions to be had, and so we, again, extend to you the invitation to begin this new journey with us. Help us make this venture relevant and worthwhile by sharing your thoughts, experiences, and insights. You are a part of this student body too, so let’s work together, grow together, and build thorough unity!

At this time it seems appropriate to be clear about what this publication is not. This newsletter will not discuss controversial issues, or promote itself as anything more than a newsletter that provides insight into topics that relate to Living University and recapturing true values. The name ILLUMINATION is meant in the following ways: 1) That all true Christians are supposed to be lights to the world, and therefore be illuminated by the word of God (I Peter 2:9), and 2) As our readers can see, highlighting certain letters shows “LU NATION,” a play on the idea that our focus will be on topics pertaining to Living University. With this in mind, together we can look to the potential of this paper, and know in advance what it will and will not become.

Potential knocks at the door, and with this first issue of ILLUMINATION we invite you all to join us in our beginning. We will strive to provide you with an uplifting look into the happenings here at Living University. We ask for your prayers, and thank you for your support!

- RYAN DAWSON

FEAST OF TABERNACLE SITES FEATURING LIVING UNIVERSITY FORUMS:

- Park City, Utah, USA
- Innisbrook, Florida, USA
- Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, USA
- Great Malvern, United Kingdom
- Ottawa, Ontario, Canada
- Montego Bay, Jamaica

MOTIVATED TO GODLY SUCCESS

What drives us forward? Benjamin Franklin once stated, “Nothing is more important for the public weal than to train up youth in wisdom and virtue. Wise and good men are, in my opinion, the strength of a state far more than riches or arms.”

We at Living University are learning how to live in accordance to God’s will and implement His characteristics of wisdom and virtue to ensure success in our lives. God has developed this institution in order to teach the future leaders of God’s kingdom—where we will take this wonderful truth to completely change a troubled world! Living University provides the opportunity for students of all ages to grow in godly skills, and helps disciples of Christ develop true wisdom from above (James 3:18).

If you are new to Living University, the skills and talents God develops through your experience taking courses will change your life and will teach you vital lessons for eternity. To all students; take advantage of every opportunity to learn, and serve in Christ’s name, being “diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth” (2 Timothy 2:15)! Words alone cannot describe the privilege of being a Living University student, and being able to attend the University that God established as His own. Living University is built on the foundational principles of God’s truth—principles through which God liberates us from the world’s destructive deceptions (John 8:32). We at Living University should take our calling seriously and strive to live by our motto “Recapturing True Values.” We apply the principles of truth with wholeheartedness—being motivated to defend our hope in the name of Christ (2 Peter 3:15)!

God is educating men and women, in preparation to teach mankind, and to rule with Jesus Christ when the Kingdom of God comes to the earth.

Living University is not a university that specifically prepares anyone to find a job, but instead it is a university which prepares a people how to live God’s way. Then, after we perfect the knowledge in due time, God will use our experience through His

The skills and talents God develops through your experience taking courses will change your life and will teach you vital lessons for eternity.

truth to change the world! God has no greater joy than to see His servants choosing to better their lives, by obeying His truth and submitting to His direction. He is even more elated when we do it in peace and unity (Psalm 133). Students of Living University—on campus or online—have the opportunity to mine and prospect for some of the greatest minerals of success known in the universe—knowledge, wisdom and instruction. Solomon encouraged the reader to receive “instruction, and not silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than rubies, and all the things one may desire cannot be compared to her” (Proverbs 8:11).

Friends and fellow students, seek the instructions from the ant (Proverbs 6:6–11); prepare now for the future so we can be qualified when the Kingdom comes, in all wisdom and virtue, rule with Jesus Christ. Redeem the time and strive to live the whole law of God in the name of Jesus Christ, and be driven to accomplish your assignments and responsibilities. They will be challenging, but “you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you” (Philippians 4:13). Keep up the great work and stay motivated in the truth! We are praying for your success!

- JUSTIN RIDGEWAY

A L I V I N G E X P E R I E N C E :

MAIL PROCESSING DEPARTMENT



Work begins at 8:30 a.m. down in the mailroom, but even before that you can see people standing around greeting one another, sharing stories and pleasantries. Why is it that we are all grouped together, especially before it is time to get to our jobs? It is quite simple, but unusual to any other employment I've ever been involved with. In MPD (Mail Processing Department), we begin every morning by asking God to bless our activities and to refocus our minds. This in itself invokes a great appreciation for what God is doing through His headquarters office. This is all before the workday has even begun!

It is hard to identify any particular label for what is done in Mail Processing, but the title itself does not do the department justice. While we do process and distribute a large quantity of mail (somewhere around a million and a half pieces of bulk mail

last year alone), each member of our team wears many different hats. Our main tasks include pulling literature requests that come in from the telecast, magazines and Internet. Our warehouse contains rows filled with pallets of our booklets, Tomorrow's World Bible Study Courses, magazines and DVDs/CDs. We are able to prepare these for shipment with our many assortments of equipment: high speed printer, booklets/letter inserters, folders, jogger, strapping machine, DVD/CD duplicators and DVD/CD labelers.

Along with fulfilling requests, we print, fold, assemble, insert, seal and put postage on all of the church letters throughout the year. This would include all of the co-worker letters, semi-annual letters, contribution receipts, and so on. What people may not know is that we also supply the stock needed for our international offices as well as duplicating and labeling all of the sermons and telecasts

WOULD YOU LIKE TO CONTRIBUTE?

If you are a Living University Student, either part-time or full-time, or an Alumni of Living University and would like to submit an article please send your article to RDawson@lcg.org. Please note that every article submitted will be reviewed, however, this is not

a guarantee that every article submitted will make its way into the newsletter.

Thank you,
-ILLUMINATION STAFF

A L I V I N G E X P E R I E N C E :

MAIL PROCESSING DEPARTMENT



that are sent out each month. The most amazing thing is that this is all accomplished by four full-time and two part-time employees; each of us being involved in other tasks as well (transportation, music, IT, outreach, etc.). We are not alone in our efforts though, and are very appreciative of all of those who have given and continue to give of their time to volunteer.

As a Living University student, I have been blessed to have this in-depth look into what goes on here at God's headquarters and specifically in MPD. Being a student and part-time employee has helped me to develop and fit in to many facets of the work we do at the office. Learning new tasks has been a fun and challenging experience, but so has balancing my obligations to school and work. I try to stay focused by remembering that I am here for Living University and that it is the reason I have the opportunity to have my hands in the work. My

co-workers have been very helpful in making sure I can take the time I need to devote to my studies. I have been assisting in the mail room all five semesters in which I have attended with Living University and it has been encouraging to see the trust and responsibility that has been afforded me the longer I have continued this direction.

It would be hard to sum up all the lessons I have learned from my two and a half years at LU, either from my classes or the many other experiences. It has been a worthwhile path that I hope others will look to take in the future. Regardless of how you put your time and energy into LU, taking one class or a full semester, studying at a distance or becoming an on-campus student, I've found that Living University has something to offer for anyone.

- DARREN BRINSON

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We live in an age of doubt and disbelief. Skeptics abound. Cynics abound. Everyone has an opinion on seemingly every subject under the sun. And yet, nobody really seems convicted about anything. But you, as a Living University student, are different. I know this because it takes being different to be a student or supporter of LU. It takes being different to reject the spirit of doubt that so pervades this world.

What obstacles did you face in the process of becoming an LU student? Perhaps people questioned the value of taking LU courses. Maybe you heard something like, “That’s going to be a waste of time,” or “I’ve got better things to do with my life than take LU classes,” or “All I need is the Bible.” If you’ve heard this before, you’re not alone. But you are different. In becoming an LU student, you have “caught the vision,” and you have not succumbed to doubt and cynicism.

As you most likely know, this university’s motto is “recapture true values.” Interestingly, to do this, to recapture true values, there is a certain bit of healthy questioning involved. However, unlike mere doubt and skepticism, recapturing true values means asking the fundamental question: “How does God see it?” Is it in harmony with truth?

Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to “Test all things; hold fast what is good” (1 Thessalonians

5:21). A healthy dose of questioning then is for the purpose of finding out what is good, what is true. To this end, Living University students strive to seek out culture, music, communication and education that is different from this present dying society—in other words, a way of life that is founded upon the solid foundation of God’s word.

So don’t be afraid to ask questions. Don’t be afraid to seek answers—and then have the courage to act on the truth when you find the answers. Strive to “push the envelope,” as long as it is in pursuit of excellence and God’s way of life.

To be different in this age is not about having superior intellect, nor does it mean being naïve. It’s certainly not so that we can say we are better than anybody else. It means caring enough about the future to act now in the present. It means caring enough about this world to change it. As an LU student or supporter of the university, you are pioneering a way of life that is going to be the standard in God’s kingdom, although it is sorely lacking today.

And, as we all continue to grow together in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ, may God enable you personally be convicted of His truth and to recapture true values—to be different in this age of skeptics.

-JONATHAN BUENO

FALL CLASS SCHEDULE

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BUS 223 PERSONAL AND FAMILY FINANCE • COMM 260 PUBLIC SPEAKING • EDUC 346 TEACHING IN THE CHRISTIAN HOME • ENGL 111 WRITTEN EXPRESSION • HPRO 114 HEALTH AND WELLNESS • THL 110A TW BIBLE STUDY COURSE • THL 135 LIFE, TEACHINGS, AND MINISTRY OF JESUS CHRIST • THL 200 PRINCIPLES OF CHRISTIAN LIVING | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THL 211 OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY I • THL 332 THE BIBLICAL TEXT • THL 344 CHRISTIAN WOMEN • THL 412 EPISTLES OF PAUL I • THL 421 HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY I • THL 450 INTRO TO BIBLICAL THEOLOGY • THL 460 UNDERSTANDING CONTEMPORARY WORLD RELIGIONS • THL 476 ARCHEOLOGY OF JERUSALEM |
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