

The Global Notebook

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New Beginnings...

Man is wise and constantly in quest of more wisdom; but the ultimate wisdom, which deals with beginnings, remains locked in a seed. There it lies, the simplest fact of the universe and at the same time the one which calls forth faith rather than reason. -Hal Borland



As we enter this wondrous season of spring, there are new beginnings all around us... seeds sprouting everywhere. All of life evolves from a very simple beginning. Are you in quest of more wisdom?

Are you contemplating a ministry?

Do you want a more solid theological foundation?

Do you hunger for a better understanding of your God?

Global Ministries University is here when you are ready. All it takes is an application and a measure of faith the size of a mustard seed.

A Message from the President



Dr. Grudzen (center) visiting Al Azhar University, the leading Islamic university in the world. He is shown here with Dr. Nossair (right of Dr. Grudzen), who is special asst. to President of University, and other members of the California delegation.

Journey to Egypt

In January of this year I had the privilege of co-leading an educational tour of Egypt which took us to many of the ancient historic sites such as Giza, Edfu, Luxor and the Valley of the Kings but also to the commercial and religious centers of Egypt and the Middle East in Cairo and Alexandria. Our group included 48 academics and students from four colleges and universities in the San Jose area. We had an interfaith dialogue with some of the young scholars studying at Al Azhar University in Cairo, the leading center of Islamic learning in the world which was founded in the tenth century AD.

We also had the opportunity to meet with the president of Alexandria University, Professor Hind Hanafy, and many of her senior administrators. At that meeting I was able to share with Professor Hanafy the interfaith work Global Ministries University is doing with the College of Religious Studies of the Buddhist affiliated Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Professor Hanafy is the first woman to head a major Egyptian university. In a Memorandum of Understanding submitted to Professor Hanafy, we proposed a similar joint doctoral program inclusive of Christianity and Islam with Alexandria University. GMU is part of a consortium planning the 2011 Globalization for the Common Good Conference now approved by the Egyptian government for the world famous Library of Alexandrian and Alexandria University. This conference will occur in June of 2011. In June of 2010 Global Ministries University has assisted Doctor Kamran Mofid of the United Kingdom in organizing the ninth international conference of Globalization for the Common Good at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, CA. This conference will take place from June 6-10 and will feature many interfaith programs with panelists from diverse faith traditions who will address the phenomenon of globalization from a variety of perspectives including the spiritual dimension. For more information about this conference, [CLICK HERE](#)

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.

MEET OUR FACULTY



Michael Conley, one of the many well-qualified instructors on the Global Ministries University staff, is proudly featured in this publication. Mr. Conley teaches several courses for GMU including *Introduction to the Old Testament, New Testament Studies, Homiletics, Wedding Ceremonies and Services*, and contemporary Christianity courses: *Exploring the Identity and Role of Jesus and Jewish Midrash and the Gospels*. In addition to being an instructor for Global Ministries University, he is also an

administrator and serves as Vice-President for Finance.

Michael received his A.B., M.S., and M.S.A. from the University of Notre Dame. He is currently earning his Doctor of Ministry degree through GMU, focusing on how to celebrate the spirituality of evolution and ecology in contemporary communities. He did his theological studies at Holy Cross College in Washington, D.C. and was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Holy Cross Fathers in 1964. He was a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross until 1986, when he left the order to marry.

Michael is retired from a full-time profession but had been a teaching priest and taught high school science in parochial and public schools for 35 years and was also a principal of a high school for four years.

He has recently moved to Temecula, California, where he resides with his wife, Jean. They are in a ministry together, Namaste Church of the Vineyard, which promotes a more contemporary Christianity. They give workshops on this topic as well as on relationship, self-image, community and spirituality. Mike and Jean have been happily married for 24 years. When asked how he feels about leaving the priesthood, he replied: “Best decision I ever made!”

STUDENT SHOWCASE

Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals that have a variety of backgrounds and ministries. This edition features Diane O’Donnell.



Diane is currently working toward a Master of Theology degree in Contemporary Christianity. She had been a financial planner for 27 years and is now retired. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Mt. Mary College in Milwaukee and also has CLU (Chartered Life Underwriter) and ChFC designations from the American College and a CSA (Certified Senior Advisor) designation from the Society of Certified Senior Advisors.

She has a ministry to hospice patients and is contemplating the possibility of becoming a hospital chaplain. She is a member of the Threshold Singers, which is an international group that sings at bedside in hospitals, homes and hospice centers. Their local group has 35 members but when singing at bedside only 2-3 people are present. She is also a cantor in her faith community.

Diane resides in Rio Rancho, New Mexico, with her dog, an Australian shepherd named Sandy. She remarks: *“I can hardly wait for graduation, but have quite a ways to go. These studies are very different from my past studies. My instructors are very helpful to me.”*