

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Graduation Ceremony Held for GMU Graduate Dr. Simon Bryden-Brook

Simon Bryden-Brook, who earned a Doctor of Ministry Degree through Global Ministries University in 2010, was formally presented his diploma at the American Catholic Council in Detroit, Michigan, on the weekend of June 10-12.

Because Dr. Bryden-Brook resides in London, it was highly unlikely that he would be able to participate in a graduation ceremony. However, GMU Dean of the Master of Divinity Degree Program, Dr. William Manseau, realized that both he and Simon would be attending the American Catholic Council and arranged for the ceremony during this event.

In response to the presentation, Simon spoke of the GMU doctoral program and its meaningfulness for him. He also shared his appreciation for the existence of Global Ministries University, which enabled him to complete studies in the field of his ministry. Manseau had introduced Bryden-Brook to GMU and Bryden-Brook stated that he would be 'ever in debt to Manseau for introducing him to GMU some years ago, to the possibility for further study of the type he wanted to do, and to Manseau's colleagues for making it possible and crowning it with success.'

GMU Launches a Celebrant Training Program

Global Ministries University introduces a Celebrant Training Program designed for those individuals who have little experience but would like to conduct weddings ceremonies, memorials, and other rites of passage. There are no academic requirements for this program except that the applicant must be dedicated to assisting people in having meaningful wedding ceremonies and other rituals that reflect their own beliefs and spirituality. Global Ministries University perceives the role of a celebrant as one of service. Although GMU-Certified Celebrants are able to be compensated for their services, celebrants certified through Global Ministries University take pride in making a difference in the world.

Requirements for this program consist of three courses: Interfaith Weddings and Commitment Ceremonies, Interfaith Rituals, Prayers and Ceremonies, and Ceremonial Public and a Celebrant Training Project.

The following concepts are covered in the Celebrant Training Program:

- Client Relations, Interviewing, and Fee Setting
- Ceremony Composition
- Personalizing and Selecting Ceremony Elements
- Suggested Rituals for Weddings and Other Rites of Passage
- Wedding Ceremony Format and Performance
- Commitment Ceremonies
- Vow Renewals and Anniversaries
- Managing Rehearsals
- Ceremony Observation Report
- Legal Issues for Wedding Celebrants
- Licensing Information and Assistance
- Marketing

The Global Ministries University Celebrant Training Program costs just \$1,500, which can be paid in five interest-free monthly payments of \$300, plus an application fee of \$100. For information concerning this exciting, new program, contact the Admissions Office: gmu5053@aol.com or call 866 419-8020.

Celebrating the Tenth Anniversary of Global Ministries University

Global Ministries University is celebrating ten years of operation this month. GMU received its license to grant Religious Studies and theological degrees from the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education of the state of California on July 5, 2011. Over the past ten years Global Ministries University has continued to expand its mission to include a variety of programs which meet the needs of those who often have been marginalized or limited in the forms of service available to them within traditional ecclesial bodies. One example of this outreach has been our work with the Roman Catholic Women Priests organization and those seeking ordination to the Roman Catholic Priesthood. GMU has served as one of the primary resources for women preparing for the priesthood within this organization through our Master of Theology and Doctor of Ministry programs.

In addition to our focus on the Catholic and Christian faith traditions, GMU has greatly expanded its outreach to other spiritual traditions, particularly to Buddhism and Islam. We now have an affiliation of our doctoral program in World Religions with Mahidol University in Bangkok, Thailand. Mahidol is one of the leading Buddhist universities in Asia and our religious studies doctoral program with Mahidol is fully accredited by the Ministry of Education of the government of Thailand.

In the past year we have begun two programs with various organizations in the Islamic world. One program has involved outreach to the interfaith movement started by Fethullah Gulen in Turkey and now popularly known as the Gulen Movement. GMU co-sponsored a major conference on the Gulen Movement at Santa Clara University this past February and a second conference with Santa Clara University, the Gulen Movement and the Common Bond Institute, is planned for December of 2011.

We also have participated in a new project with Al Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt, the largest and oldest Muslim university in the world. With the assistance of our long time board and faculty member, John Raymaker, we have been able to fund an exchange program with this university entitled Building Peace and fund the travel of the founding director of this project at Al Azhar to the United States this coming August and September. Doctor Waleed Abouamer. GMU is planning an interfaith and intercultural conference in Cairo at Al Azhar University in January of 2012.

As part of our tenth anniversary year, we hope to raise funds for scholarships that can help us to subsidize lower income applicants both inside and outside the USA. We have an increasing number of studies from outside the USA including many in Africa who are seeking to become part of the GMU studies program. We hope that you will consider a contribution to the GMU Scholarship Fund that will allow us to offer either certificate or degree programs to students at a reduced cost.

We wish to thank all of our Deans, faculty and students who have helped us to make GMU a leader in global ministry education and we look forward to the next decade of service.

Gerald Grudzen, Ph.D.

