

# >>>>>>> THE GLOBAL NOTEBOOK <<<<<<<<

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## Greetings from Global Ministries University!

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## **GMU Offers Something for Everyone**

Global Ministries University continues to make available programs for all interests and goals, from doctoral degrees to mini-certificates, from pastoral ministry to world religions. Our programs are ideal for the adult learner who does not want a structured curriculum but, instead, would like to choose the courses that best suit their ministerial, theological, academic goals. Students are given the opportunity to custom-design their program.

The most recent areas of concentration that have been added are:

Sacred Arts

Sacred Music

Contemporary Christianity

Prison Chaplaincy

LGBT Studies

Other areas of concentration offered are:

Pastoral Ministry

Pastoral Care and Counseling

World Religions

Peace Studies

Spirituality

Scripture

Church History

Liturgical Studies

Feminist Studies

We are currently developing a program related to Spiritual Companionship and the list keeps growing as we become aware of the needs of prospects.

The Global Ministries University Staff takes pride in preparing individuals to serve the people of God in a way that encompasses all faiths, denominations, genders, all expressions of faith. Is there another university that offers such a variety of courses? We actually receive many emails of gratitude for providing the courses and programs that we make available.

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## **First Joint Program Student to Make Transition to Mahidol University**

The first student in our Th.D./Ph.D. Joint Degree Program, Daniel Lee, who resides in Ft. Worth, TX, has completed his coursework with Global Ministries University and has now moved on to officially apply for enrollment in Mahidol University.

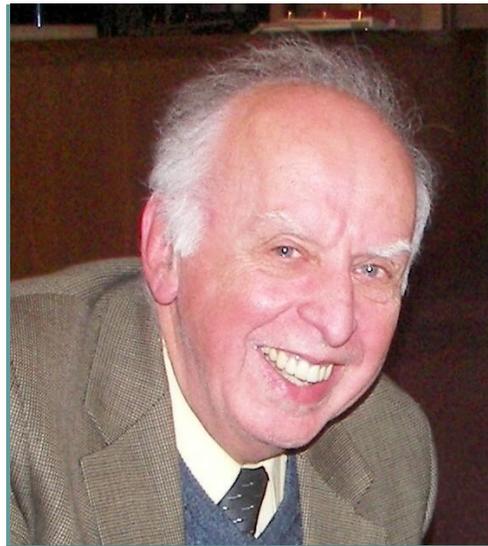
Being the first student to make this transition, the procedure has been slowly moving forward, breaking new ground. Dan has taken his qualifying exam and is working with his advisor, Matthew

Kosuta, Ph.D., an instructor for the College of Religious Studies, as well as GMU. Dan and Dr. Kosuta have agreed on a topic for the dissertation and Dan is now preparing a full proposal on the topic to present to the four-member doctoral committee.

Upon acceptance of his dissertation, Dan Lee will have earned both a Th.D. from Global Ministries University and a Ph.D. from the College of Religious Studies – Mahidol University completely online and become the first graduate of the Joint Degree Program.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



I will be traveling to Kenya with my wife, Marita, in August to visit several projects sponsored by the Maryknoll Fathers and the Maryknoll Lay Missioners. At the present time there are almost an equal number of lay missioners working in Kenya as there are Maryknoll priests (10 priests and 9 lay missioners).

Recently we met with the rector of the Maryknoll Seminary in Chicago while he was visiting the Bay Area and he told us that he had just 10 seminarians studying for the priesthood. All future projections are that the number of retired priests will keep increasing and the number of active priests working in mission areas will continue to decrease, threatening the future viability of the Maryknoll Fathers as a mission sending society. The situation facing Maryknoll as well as many other religious societies in the Roman Catholic Church seems to indicate that the future of mission work in the Catholic Church rests largely with the laity since it is doubtful that the Church can recruit sufficient numbers of priests to maintain existing commitments in the developing world.

Part of the mission of Global Ministries is to educate, not just the clergy, but also lay people who are seeking to develop a ministry that serves either local communities here in the USA or in other parts of the world as a commissioned lay person. Our recent development of courses in world

religions and our Certificate Program in Peace Studies and Celebrant Training Program are examples of programs that can prepare a lay person for a specialized ministry. The Federation of Christian Ministries with whom Global Ministries University is affiliated, has pioneered various preparation and commissioning programs for a variety of specialized ministries. We are presently preparing to include in our curriculum an accredited Clinical Pastoral Education program that will assist students who wish to pursue a chaplaincy position in a health care setting, prison ministry or working with hospice programs. Combined with our Master of Theology program and the CPE program, a GMU student can be commissioned by FCM for a variety of specialized ministries. We do not wish to diminish the importance of priestly ministries but it is clear that many other types of ministries are necessary for the Church to fulfill its mission in the world to be a sign of hope and compassion in every sector of the globe and among diverse populations that inhabit our planet earth.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD

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## MEET OUR FACULTY

**William Manseau, D.Min. one of the many competent instructors on the Global Ministries University staff, is proudly featured in this publication.**



William J. Manseau, D.Min., is the Dean of the Master of Divinity Degree Program. He is a Licensed Pastoral Psychotherapist and teaches Psychology and Pastoral Theology, Self-Care in the Ministry and Introduction to Worship and the Christian Sacraments for Global Ministries University. As an ecumenically oriented, ordained clergyperson, he has experience in a variety of pastoral care settings. He is the Founder and Director of Emmaus Institute Counseling Services in Nashua, New

Hampshire and President of the Emmaus Institute, Inc. He recently concluded seven years of service as a Professional Conduct Investigator for the New Hampshire Board of Mental Health Practice. He has served as the President of the New Hampshire Pastoral Psychotherapists Association and has received the Outstanding Achievement Award of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors Association's North East Region.

Dr. Manseau holds an M.Div. equivalent and an M.A. in the Psychology and Philosophy of Education from St. John's Seminary, Brighton, MA, a D.Min. in Organizational Development from Chicago Theological Seminary and a D.Min. cum laude in Psychology and Clinical Studies from Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, MA. He has served as Chairperson for the Federation of Christian Ministries' Committee for Specialized Ministries and as agent for its Religious Endorsing Body program for the specialized ministries of pastoral counseling, chaplaincy and clinical pastoral education.

Bill Manseau resides in Tewksbury, Massachusetts with his wife of 43 years, Mary Margaret Doherty. They have three adult children and two granddaughters. Their son, Peter, is the author of VOWS, The Story of a Priest, a Nun and Their Son published in 2005 by Free Press and Songs for the Butcher's Daughter, also published by Free Press, which won the 2008 National Jewish Book Award for Fiction as well as several other books.

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## STUDENT IN THE SPOTLIGHT

**Global Ministries University student body includes a variety of outstanding individuals with diverse and notable backgrounds and ministries. Camille Bennett is highlighted in this edition.**



Camille Bennett is a student in our Master of Theology degree program. She holds a BA in Marketing from the University of Alabama, as well as a Bachelors Degree from the University of Metaphysics.

By day she markets projects for a company that allows her to work from home but she is also the co-pastor of Living Spirit Church. Camille plans to use her Master of Theology degree to enhance her ministry and as a tool to educate and inspire her audiences.

At Living Spirit, the following principle is affirmed every Sunday: "Like Jesus we practice the religion of the heart and our doors are open to all who enter with loving intentions." Her faith community is one of diverse denominations, backgrounds and beliefs. The focus of her ministry is on practical Christianity. She is inspired to deliver messages that focus primarily on Christ-consciousness and freedom of spiritual expression.

She is encouraged, inspired and committed to obtaining her Master of Theology through Global Ministry University and states that the University has the diversity and support needed for her journey. She has thoroughly enjoyed her coursework thus far and asserts that *"te GMU team goes above and beyond the call of duty to ensure a high quality experience."*

Camille resides in Florence, AL with her husband, Taurus, and they will celebrate their 11<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary in August. 2012. They have been blessed with two amazing sons Christian (10) and Morgan (6).

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## CLASSROOM SHOWCASE

**Students of Global Ministries University submit outstanding coursework. This paper was submitted by Jim Lauder, a Doctor of Ministry student, to the instructor of a homiletics course. Jim is the minister of an independent Catholic small faith community and, though this essay was not a required assignment, he wanted to share it with his instructor. Jim compares small faith communities to vines and illustrates how those who are true to themselves, even when ignored, rejected, and/or considered 'annoyances,' have the power to transform.**

### **Paradoxical Vines**

One afternoon our ICN board members were sitting around and casually discussing our work and the prospects for our futures as small faith groups who have the courage to speak the voice of prophetic Catholicism, and live our lives as best as we can according to gospel values. Vine imagery came up in our conversation. It was our esteemed editor who thought of the institution as a solid structure that was at risk of being infiltrated by invasive vines. His comment about the vine excited me because it reminded me of the gospel verses found in John that focus on vine symbolism.

Thinking of the nature of vines as potentially invasive, unwanted, and a nuisance, offers us a paradox or a different way to think about vines that is contrary to the usual positive interpretation most people hold. For example, in John 15: 6, "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Nestle – Aland Greek English New Testament). In this verse and in subsequent verses, I believe what Jesus is saying to us, is that we

are inextricably interconnected to each other, and if we abide in what Jesus asks us to do, then we will bear much fruit.

Invasive, unwanted, a nuisance are words that seem like a stretch when we think of John's gospel, yet ironically, many small faith communities who challenge the various teachings of the "institutional" church are no doubt considered a nuisance are certainly unwanted, and indeed sometimes cut off (silenced) or attempts are made to get rid of the annoyances that these groups and some individuals present to the status quo.

Metaphorically, I believe we the people are the sacred vines, and the living reality that has the power to transform. We the people of God attach ourselves to a structure and have a role in supporting that very structure, and indeed, a role in transforming it as well.

I think metaphors and symbols are truly delightful because they offer us a multitude of different meanings, depending on our own values, choices and perceptions. When I think of the beauty of vines growing on the walls of so many of our churches, the very architecture of the church and other buildings are embellished as a result of the lush green vines that grace their walls and entrances. The relationship between the structure and its vines is symbiotic as well, each supporting each other in co-created beauty.

For years I admired the extensive vines that framed the Empress Hotel here in Victoria. It underwent a massive renovation awhile back and many of its vines were removed which exposed broad surfaces of brick and concrete. The structure although beautiful, lacked its original character and charm, and the warmth provided by the rich shades of green, that exuded from its flourishing vines. As far as I am concerned, the grand hotel lost its majesty when it lost its vines. But thankfully, over time, the few vines that did remain have grown and the structure is transformed once again and retains its natural splendor.

Any seasoned gardener will tell you that English Ivy for example, is very beautiful but extremely invasive as well. Growing rapidly, and if left unattended, it spreads like wildflower. With its natural tentacles it has the power and fortitude to creep into the smallest of cracks in concrete, siding and other solid materials. It can potentially pull a wall down and crumble a structure if left uncared for. It's also very difficult if not impossible to get rid of. What quiet transforming power the vine holds!

**Closing Thoughts:** For those who despair and wonder about the future prospects of our small faith communities, I suggest we take heart and believe that we have the same power, fortitude and beauty as the English Ivy, and so many other vines, that grace our landscape and adorn the structures in our midst. With light, water, and nutrients in the form of love for our God, and for each other, we as the branches, and God as the vine, can flourish, co-exist, grace and transform some of those bare and bleak structures that are in need of growth and transformation.

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