



The Global Notebook

Quarterly Publication April 2016 Vol IX Issue 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Global Ministries and Global Spirituality

The globalization of culture in the twenty-first century and the changes in culture that it has brought about have transformed the way most of us think about religious belief. It is no longer possible to isolate one's belief within a particular denomination or religious culture. Since I work extensively with young people in my role as a professor of Philosophy and religious studies, I meet the questions posed by our youth today about the relevancy of faith to their life. In the philosophical course that I teach, I like to bring out the fact that faith is a consequential choice that we make about the fundamental nature of existence. If we think that nature is limited and circumscribed by a closed set of scientific laws, we will probably not leave much room for an open and evolving universe in which mystery plays a vital part and human creativity is a symbol of the cosmic creative act that brought our universe into existence and allows us to evolve with it through time. The present dialogue between religion, philosophy and science is leading us into new pathways of understanding about how these fundamental postures toward nature impact how we understand our own journey through life. Global Ministries University provides students with more than a degree. Our approach to study at GMU is one based

upon posing new questions to the religious traditions which formed us in the past. Changing concepts about identity, gender, the environment, humanity and our human future are part of the focus for us in the courses that we facilitate and guide at Global Ministries University. We are planning to introduce a Global Ministries University Global Forum in the fall which will allow anyone interested in GMU to take part in this dialogue over the Internet. More will come soon on this project.

Gerald Grudzen, PhD

GMU Graduation to be Held at FCM Assembly



The Global Ministries University graduation will be held at the Federation of Christian Ministries Assembly in Cleveland OH on Saturday, August 6th at 5:30 p.m. We have held our graduations during the FCM Annual Assembly since our first graduate, Leo McIlrath, in 2004, in Hartford, CT. Since we are an online university and have students from all over the world, it isn't always possible for our graduates to attend the graduation ceremony the year they earn their degree. However, because the FCM Assembly is hosted in different areas, past graduates have the opportunity to participate in a ceremony whenever it is convenient to do so and are therefore welcome to attend this year in Cleveland.

Global Ministries University has been affiliated with FCM since GMU's inception in 2001 and our Staff, as well as many of our instructors are FCM Members. Also, many FCM members are GMU instructors and students.

GMU Hosts Exhibit at SDI Conference



Global Ministries University Vice-President for Operations and Development, Jean Conley, hosted an exhibit at the Spiritual Directors International Conference, which was held in San Diego, CA on April 7-15. The purpose for the exhibit was to offer information and familiarize the participants in attendance with our programs.

Why GMU Uses a Classroom Site



All individuals connected with Global Ministries University, both faculty and student body, are familiar with GMU Classroom but there may not be a clear understanding of its purpose. GMU Classroom is hosted by Classroom Revolution using Moodle computer language. Moodle is a learning platform designed to provide educators, administrators and learners with a single robust, secure and integrated system to create personalized learning environments. By functioning through this site, Global Ministries University has the capacity to keep a record of all its courses, grades, assignments, and communication. GMU Classroom also automatically notifies instructors when an assignment has been uploaded by one of hers/his students and also automatically notifies student when the assignment has been graded. Granted, there are glitches in the system at times but it is an invaluable tool in the operations of a school.

GMU Instructor, Joseph Grenier, Passes Away



Joseph Grenier, Ph.D., passed away on January 19 of this year. He had been a member of our faculty and taught Modern Church History for Global Ministries University since 2004. He is survived by spouse, Catherine "Cait" P. (Finnegan) Grenier with whom he celebrated 35 years of marriage. Dr. Grenier was a valuable asset to GMU and he will be missed.

**Preconceived notions
are the locks
on the door
to wisdom.**

-Merry Browne



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