

**Message of Retired Provost Michael Conley, D.Min.**



*Dr. Conley working in GMU Office – 2010*

I have been a part of the growth of Global Ministries University almost from its inception and just recently retired. I handled the finances and curriculum. My master's degree in Not-for-Profit Administration and my teaching career helped GMU to offer a professional, dependable catalog and experience for students.

Our financial situation was a great challenge in the early days. When I joined GMU, we had four students, two paid in full and two were making monthly payments, which is what I had to work with to balance the books. However, it was soon clear to me that our bank balance was not an indication of what belonged to GMU. When two students paid their whole tuition at the start of their studies, it became a situation like getting paid for 100 ice cream cones in

February and needing to deliver them in July! However, as the enrollment gradually increased, we were assured a steady income.

Regarding my responsibilities related to the curriculum, my training as a Holy Cross priest provided a theological background for courses that needed an instructor. I tried to assure that the quality and expectations of every GMU course was commensurate with accredited graduate courses at universities with which I was familiar.

My best and most rewarding experiences were with the outstanding students that appreciated what they could learn at GMU. It was a pleasure to celebrate their excitement at graduation time.

