



“Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow” (Mt. 6:28)

Herman Alexander

HERMAN ALEXANDER REPORT

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Hello,

This summer, a busy one, has gone by so fast. Here we are at the end of August, summer vacations being over, and a new school year is under way.

Emily will be returning as a Sophomore to Harding University, the first semester of which will be in Italy. Harding has an extension program (HUF) in Florence, Italy, where she will join about 20 other Harding students in this exciting adventure. We are grateful that she can have this experience.

Our work continues with Nations University and with Skype teaching in Cambodia and Australia. I am absolutely amazed at the wonderful opportunity – the door that God has opened! – via the internet. By this means I am presently involved in teaching a larger number of people than at any one time in over 30 years of classroom teaching. This is a humbling experience, and I am grateful for it. *“What has God wrought!”* (Num. 23:23)



NATIONS UNIVERSITY

The work at Nations University continues to go forward. For my own part, it is a joy to be receiving essays from students in different courses, students from varied parts of the world. In the past few weeks, I have been very heartened by the quality of work being done by a number of students. For, example, on a recent day, I read and marked, among others,

four different essays on the Lord's Supper, an assignment involving an exegesis of 1 Corinthians 11:17-34. The understanding of the text, its meaning, and its application, was a heartening factor. Let the Word go forward!



**Semi-annual Board Meeting of Nations University,
Nashville, TN, August 6th, 2016.**

Nations University Board of Regents, comprised of 13 members, meets twice each year – in February and in August. There are now four men from the DFW area and one from Ft. Smith, AR, who join the others (all from Tennessee) in this work.

AN EXCITING DEVELOPMENT!

Among the matters considered in the recent Board meeting, there was one that I just must share with you. A demonstration was given to those present how two different courses (one graduate and one undergraduate) can be immediately translated into 100 different languages! For example, that means that a French-speaking student or a Khmer-speaking (Cambodian) student, by “clicking a button,” can have the course translated into his/her language and do the work in that language. Then when the work is done, the assignment can be translated back into English to be uploaded for grading purposes.

The Board directed that all of the (85) different courses in the Nations University curriculum be prepared for this arrangement as soon as possible. (Obviously, it will take some time, because the courses will have to be done one-by-one.) This is an amazing development – a very exciting development. Although some courses are already translated into Farsi, Spanish, and French, the concern for some time has been with how they could be available in other languages as well. The assessment of this planned arrangement is that the translation is approximately 70% accurate, but as one person said, “That’s 70% better than it was!”

We are living in a time when English is the “lingua franca” of our day, as Greek was in the New Testament times. While this opens so many doors, there is at the same time the need to make the materials available in every “heart-language” possible.

We look forward to the day when the response will be, “*How is that we hear, each of us in his own native language?*” (Ac. 2:8). May that day come soon!

Responding in Reberence

Harper Lee, in To Kill a Mockingbird, tells of the trial of a black man accused of a crime which, obviously, he did not commit. Despite the overwhelming evidence of Tom Robinson's innocence, as demonstrated by his Defense Attorney, Atticus Finch, he was nevertheless charged as "guilty."

In the segregated courtroom, the Blacks were required to sit in the balcony area, to which Finch's 10-year-old daughter, Jean Louise ("Scout"), sneaked away from home and found a seat, thinking that her lawyer father would not know of her presence. When the verdict, "Guilty," was announced, Finch took his coat off the back of the chair, pulled it over his shoulder, and left the courtroom. At that moment, all the Blacks in the balcony, recognizing that the Defense Attorney had done all he could possibly do on behalf of Robinson, began to stand up, showing their appreciation for his efforts. The Black preacher, Mr. Sykes, by whom "Scout" was seated, then spoke quietly to her, "*Miss Jean Louise, stand up. Your father's passin'.*"

Stand up – your Father is passing! Reverence indeed. Is that not the appropriate call to us? "*Stand up; Your Father is passing.*"

We are called to a sense of reverence – a quality so lacking in our time. Our Father is the Holy God who calls us to holiness: "*You shall be holy, for I am holy*" (1Pet. 1:16). A spirit of reverence is our response to the holiness of God. It was so with Moses: "*Take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground*" (Ex. 3:5). It was so with Isaiah: "*I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up . . . And one (of the seraphim) called to another and said: 'Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of his glory'" (Is. 6:1-3). It was so with the four living heavenly creatures: "*Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lord God Almighty*" (Rev. 4:8).*

Reverence involves a sense of awe. I shall never forget when Rosann and I, along with two of our granddaughters, stood on Brighton Beach in Adelaide, Australia, a few years ago and watched the sun set out over the waters of the Pacific Ocean. All we could say was, "Ahh!" Indeed, it provoked a sense of awe. Yes, that is what reverence is – a sense of awe, a sense of awe at the majesty of God. A proper appreciation for the holiness and majesty of God prompts in us a sense of deep gratitude in which "*we may offer to God acceptable worship with reverence and awe*" (Heb. 12:28).

All of life should be impacted by a sense of reverence toward God. That is certainly true in our corporate worship: "*Come, let us worship and bow down; let us kneel before the Lord our Maker. For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand*" (Ps. 95:6-7). It is the proper attitude toward his word: "*But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at my word . . . Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at his word*" (Is. 66:2, 5).

Our life-style in general needs to be pervaded by a deep sense of reverence. "*Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer*" (Ps. 19:14). The directive that Paul gave to older women is indeed relevant to all of us: "*to be reverent in behavior*" (Tit. 2:3).

We praise God because "*He sent redemption to his people; he has commanded his*

covenant forever. *Holy and awesome is his name*” (Ps. 111:9, ESV; “*Holy is his name, inspiring awe,*” N.E.B.)

Yes, “*Stand up. Your Father is passing!*”

H.C.A.,

THANK YOU!

We shall always be grateful for your fellowship in our work. Thank you for your continuing support and encouragement.

We are so grateful that we can share together. David has taught us well in this regard. In his defeat of the Amalekites (1 Sam. 30:16-25), he stressed that those who went into battle and those who kept the baggage should “*share alike*” in the booty of war.

You make it possible for us to be involved full-time in the work of sharing the Word. We are partners! We share and share alike in the blessings that come from the work. Thank you for this partnership!

Shalom!

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Our personal support is made available by interested individuals and congregations.

Contributions to our work may be made to the Alexander “Special Fund”:

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All contributions are deeply appreciated and will be gratefully acknowledged.