



Michelle Bushrod

DEEP LEARNING AND FAITH

Michelle Bushrod joined the military right out of high school, but after medically retiring in Alaska, she and her husband moved back to Fayetteville, NC. Michelle went through the Growth Track, which resulted in her leading a small group, then becoming the Small Group Director at Manna Church Raeford Site. Eventually she came on staff as the Multi-Site Admin, but she now serves as the Manna Kids Director. In 2024, Michelle was at the Multiply Conference, where she says she, “heard the Lord clearly tell me it was time to become a student at Manna University.”

Taking college classes can be an intimidating endeavor, but Michelle shared that she felt supported the whole way, saying, “I knew the staff and faculty would be supportive, but I didn’t realize how much. My professors have been incredible, and the entire faculty truly reflects Christ in how they love and lead.”

“...I want to protect and cherish God’s Word...”

Michelle also shared that classes have shaped how she sees the Bible and Christian counseling in a way that has challenged her and grown her faith, saying, “One thing that will always stay with me is how I now see the Bible as fragile—not in the sense that it could break, but in how I want to protect and cherish God’s Word in my heart because it’s so precious. And learning about the importance of Christian counseling completely opened my eyes and deepened my faith.” In essence, Michelle has not just been equipped to be a better leader and servant in the context of her local church, but also to grow as a Christ follower through her coursework at Manna University.



MANNA
UNIVERSITY

Our Mission

Manna University is a biblical higher education institution dedicated to educating, equipping, and empowering emerging leaders to change the world.

Our Vision

We exist to advance the Kingdom of God through biblical higher education - Everywhere.

Connect with Us



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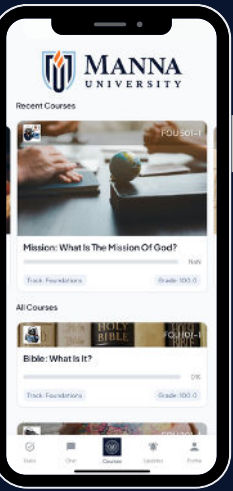
SPRING 2026
WHAT'S NEW AT MANNA U

Manna University Leadership Institute

The Manna University Leadership Institute exists to educate, equip, and empower everyday leaders for everyday mission. Our Foundations Micro-Credential is built for believers who want practical, accessible training that strengthens discipleship and leadership across the Manna movement and beyond. Whether you’re serving in a ministry role, leading in the marketplace, or simply hungry to grow, this is your next step.

With 25 lessons, 5 modules, 1 course, you’ll take a purposeful step into your calling to love God, love others, and love the world.

www.manna.edu/muli



Campus Updates

Spring is always a season of renewal and growth, and that is exactly what we are experiencing at Manna U. God has been faithful to expand our capacity, not only spiritually and academically, but also physically in the spaces where students learn, connect, and prepare for their callings.

Over the past two trimesters, we’ve made exciting updates to our Fayetteville Campus that reflect both our commitment to excellence and our desire to serve our students well. Our classrooms are now equipped with new smart TVs and updated technology, making it easier than ever for faculty to deliver dynamic, engaging instruction. We’ve also built a brand-new classroom (Room 108) and upgraded our lobby space.

More than just a place to study, this new lobby area is designed to foster community, collaboration, and encouragement. We believe that life change happens in the context of relationship, and the Fayetteville Campus upgrades give our students an environment where learning and friendship can thrive side by side.

Your prayers, encouragement, and generosity ensure that students are not only rooted in biblical truth but also equipped with the resources and spaces they need to thrive.

Lead on!

Dr. Carlo Serrano, President of Manna University



Tauri Maldonado

CALLED AND BEING
EQUIPPED



For Tauri Maldonado, the journey to Manna University began long before she ever enrolled in a class. After moving from Orlando, FL to Fayetteville for her family's first duty station, she and her husband faced a pivotal decision once he left the military: return "home," or continue building the community God had begun for them in Fayetteville. Their love for their church made the answer clear. Today, Tauri serves faithfully as the manager of Manna Church's café and as a member of the worship team. Though she had always dreamed of working in ministry and finishing her degree, it wasn't until the 2024 Multiply Conference that everything shifted. After a lighthearted conversation with Dee Bowie and an encouraging challenge from Dr. Carlo Serrano, Tauri felt the Holy Spirit prompting her to take a step of faith. "I'm a wife, a mother of three, and I work—when is a good time?" she wondered.

“We are all leaders...”

But the calling was unmistakable, and she enrolled the next month. Since becoming a student, Tauri says she has been "challenged, encouraged, and developed every single week." Her classes have shaped how she leads her café team, strengthened her understanding of Scripture, and equipped her to serve from a place of depth rather than familiarity. When asked what the Church needs most, Tauri's answer is clear: biblical literacy and leadership development. "We are all leaders—whether in our homes, workplaces, or ministries. We need to be equipped. And learning to study the Bible properly changes everything." For Tauri, Manna University is formation, not just education, and her story reflects a growing community of believers answering God's call to learn, grow, and lead.

Ways to Pray for Manna University

Wisdom for Manna University Leadership

"Pray that God would guide our leadership with His wisdom so that every decision reflects humility, discernment, and a desire to serve our students well."
Stefanie Ertel, Executive Director of Academics

Student Success

"Pray for a peace and drive in the students to strive to succeed and walk closer with God."
Jaedon Fletcher, Student Body Executive Administrator

Faculty & Staff

"Father in heaven, bless Manna University with Your presence. Provide what our campus needs, forgive us, help us extend grace, and guide our students, staff, and faculty away from distraction and temptation."
Dr. Joshua Thomas, Ministry Studies Chair

Global Impact

"Please pray for God's favor and new opportunities internationally as we continue to advance the Kingdom of God through biblical higher education – everywhere."
Dr. Carlo Serrano, President of Manna University

Ways to Give to Manna University

Help us advance the Kingdom of God.

"... this is an opportunity for good, effective biblical leaders to rise to the surface in the Church and ministries, to lead in real advance for the Kingdom of God on the earth."
Dr. Steven Crowther

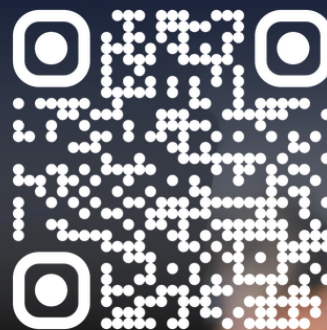
Online Giving:

Head over to this link, www.manna.edu/giving, and select where you would like your Kingdom investment to go. You may also scan this QR Code for information on how to make an impact today.

By Check:

Checks can be sent by mail to our secure mailbox.

Manna University
439 Westwood Shopping Center PBM 106
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If you have questions regarding how to become an active donor, please contact Dee Bowie, Advancement Director at dbowie@manna.edu.



Godfrey Ntagungira

SHAPED BY GRACE TO SERVE PEOPLE

Born and raised in Rwanda, Godfrey Ntagungira spends his days serving people through family counseling, youth empowerment and Christian ministry. Godfrey serves at his local church in the men's ministry, "walking alongside brothers in Christ as we grow together in faith." He also shares encouraging messages through a YouTube channel called Iwacu HopeCast, and is involved in community development through the FESY Institute.

Godfrey heard about Manna University through a friend, who described it as an opportunity he should not miss. After meeting with Dr. Stephen Nsengiyumva, applying, and getting accepted, Godfrey was able to complete a Master of Arts in Pastoral Counseling.

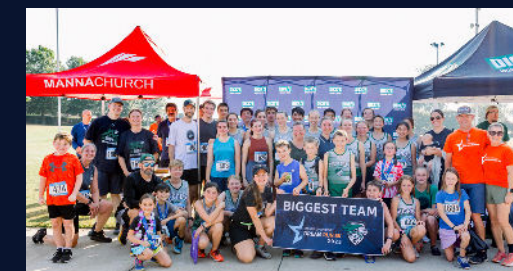
"I've always had a deep desire to help people—spiritually, emotionally, and practically," Godfrey says, but he feels that Manna University has equipped him for the ministry of which he gets to be a part. From serving in men's ministry to performing pastoral counseling, Godfrey shares that Manna University has given him the tools to "minister with both biblical depth and emotional understanding," going on to say that the counseling skills he has gained have helped him, "support men through real-life struggles, and the theological foundation has strengthened my ability to teach and lead with clarity and compassion."

“... the theological foundation has strengthened my ability to teach and lead...”

When asked about his experience, Godfrey said, "The journey was life-changing, and I'm forever grateful," sharing that he learned many concepts, but also gained the ability to apply what he had learned, and foremost feels that he came away from his experience with humility. He continued, saying, "Manna University showed me what servant leadership truly looks like. The staff were incredibly educated, yet they served with such grace and humility... That spirit of humility has stayed with me, and I try to live it out daily—in ministry, counseling, and leadership."

Dream Run 5K

This year's Dream Run was one to celebrate! With a record-breaking 263 registrants, our Kids Fun Run participation doubled, and we welcomed our first-ever title sponsor, Dick's House of Sport. Over the past nine years, this event has been an incredible journey, and we're grateful for every Dream Team member, runner, sponsor, and donor who made it possible. The Dream Run was the right fit for its season, but as we look ahead, we know this is the right time to bring it to a close. We move forward with great memories and excitement for what's next at Manna U.



Golf Tournament

Join us for the 16th Annual Dr. Steven Crowther Memorial Golf Tournament on March 27, 2026, at the stunning Gates Four Golf and Country Club! This event promises a day filled with camaraderie, competition, and a heartfelt commitment to education while honoring our veterans and first responders.

Last year, 100 golfers united to create an unforgettable experience, supporting Manna University's scholarship programs that empower students to pursue their dreams. As event coordinator Elsa McBride expressed, the joy on the course was palpable, knowing every swing contributed to such a worthy cause. Your participation can make a tremendous impact! This year, consider becoming a Cart Sponsor for \$300, a Gold Sponsor for \$600, a Platinum Sponsor for \$3,000, or our prestigious Presenting Sponsor for \$6,000. Additionally, you can honor our community's heroes by sponsoring a first responder or veteran player for \$150.

Mark your calendars for March 27, 2026, and get ready to swing into action! Together, we can strengthen our community, celebrate our students, and uphold the cherished legacy of Dr. Crowther. Let's make this tournament truly unforgettable!

www.manna.edu/golf-tournament



Scan the QR Code to learn more and register today!

