



# ICU CHRONICLES

## LATEST UNIVERSITY NEWS

**02** *Honorary Nominations Now Open*

**03** *Upcoming Semesters & Announcements*

**04** *Initiators Network*

**05** *ICU Cares*



## **01** *Graduation Re-Cap*



The air in the sanctuary crackled with divine energy as Initiators Christian University (ICU) held its recent graduation ceremony, a truly momentous occasion marking the institution's first celebration honoring both honorary and earned graduates. The service was a powerful blend of spiritual fervor, inspiring addresses, and heartfelt recognition, leaving attendees uplifted and filled with anticipation for the future.

The graduation commenced with a vibrant wave of praise led by Pastor Justin Jackson, immediately inviting the Spirit of God into the gathering. His energetic opening seamlessly transitioned into a warm welcome to the esteemed ICU staff and the eagerly awaiting graduates. The soulful rendition of the national anthem by Prophet Dr. Octavius Miller followed, setting a tone of reverence and pride. Dr. Kimberly Dawn McMullen then offered a moving performance of the negro national anthem, adding another layer of rich cultural significance to the ceremony.

Pastor Jackson returned to lead everyone in a powerful prayer, creating a unified atmosphere of supplication and gratitude. Prophet Miller then reminded the graduates and attendees that ICU graduates carry the very presence of the Lord, emphasizing that He is their unwavering strength through uplifting praise and worship.

## VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

### Thank You to Our Dedicated Supporters

Initiators Christian University gratefully acknowledges the following individuals and groups whose support was essential to the success of our recent graduation ceremony:

- **MC:** Pastor Justin Jackson
- **National Anthem & Psalmist:** Prophet Dr. Octavius Miller
- **Negro National Anthem:** Dr. Kimberly Dawn McMullen
- **Band:** Sam Littleton & Friend
- **Tech/Sound Team:** Kim & Kurt Reuscher
- **Guest Speaker:** Bishop Timothy McBride
- **Venue:** Vinings Church
- **Balloons:** Nicole
- **Photographers:** Holly Doughty & Anthony Token
- **Videographer:** Isaiah Joseph
- **Prophetic Voice (Zoom):** Dr. Fran
- **Event Planner:** Dr. Shameka J. Walker
- **Transportation:** Pastor Dr. Samuel H. Walker
- **Graphic Design (PowerPoint, Programs, Certificates):** Creative Chardai Graphix (Jada Renee Daniels)



He passionately encouraged everyone to persistently declare their dreams until they manifest, using a compelling analogy of a devoted dog owner calling for their missing pet with unwavering expectation. Bishop McBride shared his journey of embracing familiar paths with renewed faith in his divine calling. He urged the attendees to fully embrace their potential, concluding his message with the powerful declaration that they are no longer mere seeds but flourishing forests.

The energy in the room remained high as ICU President Dr. Varian Harris took the stage for his presidential address. Allowing the Holy Spirit to guide his words, Dr. Harris declared that the past is complete and a vibrant new chapter is unfolding for the university and its graduates. His words resonated with life and purpose, palpably inviting the presence of God into the building. Dr. Harris then shared an inspiring vision for ICU's future campus, revealing the institution's faith in securing a \$7.2 million fund to bring this transformative project to fruition. Adding to the forward-thinking direction of ICU, Dr. Harris announced the official transition of the curriculum to AI learning, promising students a comprehensive and deeply engaging educational experience.

This year's valedictorian, Dr. Shameka J. Walker, delivered an empowering address centered on the importance of graduates focusing on the harmonious integration of faith and intellect. Her powerful message concluded with a call to action, urging her fellow graduates to initiate change and illuminate the world with their unique gifts.

Pastor Jackson returned to the podium, sharing a heartfelt backstory of his connection with President Dr. Harris and offering a personal testimony that deeply resonated with the audience, concluding with the impactful scripture from Amos 9:13. The stage was then set for the guest speaker as Pastor Dr. Samuel H. Walker warmly introduced Bishop Timothy McBride, preceded by another moving solo from Prophet Miller. Bishop McBride launched into his inspiring word with the powerful theme of "No Limits," drawing wisdom from Ephesians 3:20.



In a heartwarming surprise, Dr. Harris honored Bishop McBride and his wife, Shunnae McBride, with honorary doctorates, expressing deep gratitude for their impactful contributions. Dr. Harris then proceeded with the highly anticipated awarding of certificates to the 21 graduates of the Class of 2025. This diverse group included 12 honorary graduates, 1 bachelor's degree recipient, and 8 accomplished individuals who earned their doctoral degrees.

The momentous ceremony concluded with a powerful closing from President Harris's father, Dr. James E. Harris. His words served as a grounding reminder to the graduates that their inherent worth transcends any academic achievement. He offered a heartfelt prayer for unity, empowering the graduates to collectively achieve all things.

The Initiators Christian University graduation ceremony was a powerful testament to faith, vision, and the celebration of both distinguished service and academic achievement. As the graduates step into their futures, they carry with them not only their hard-earned credentials but also the profound inspiration and spiritual empowerment that marked this unforgettable day.

# 02 Honorary Nominations Now Open



## ***Nominate an Honorary Doctorate Recipient for Our Winter Graduation!***

Exciting news! Initiators Christian University is now accepting nominations for honorary doctorates to be awarded at our Winter Graduation on December 6, 2025. This is a fantastic opportunity to recognize exceptional individuals who have made a real impact in their respective fields.

Do you know someone who deserves this prestigious recognition? To be eligible for nomination, candidates must:

- Be at least 35 years of age.
- Have a high school diploma or GED and at least 15 years experience in their field, **OR** a bachelor's degree with a minimum of 10 years experience in their field.

If your nominee meets these criteria, we encourage you to submit their name! Potential honorary doctorate recipients will be contacted with details about the application process.

Submit your nominations here: [Honorary Nomination Form](#)

The nomination window is open from May 1st to August 1st, 2025. **Kindly be aware that nominations received after August 1st, 2025, will be considered for the Graduation in 2026.** Let's celebrate remarkable achievements together!

### **Know a Future ICU Student?**

Help someone start their journey at Initiators Christian University!  
Share the [Interest Form](#) and connect them to a Christ-centered education.

*Nominate a leader  
who embodies the  
values of Initiators  
Christian University!*

### **Look for traits like:**

- Integrity
- Servant Leadership
- Faithfulness
- Humility
- Community Impact
- Vision
- Perseverance
- Compassion
- Godly Wisdom
- Excellence

**Honor their legacy.**

### **Ignite Your ICU Spirit**



Represent Initiators  
Christian University  
with Pride!

Grab your exclusive  
ICU gear—T-shirts,  
hats, mugs, and more!

[ICU SHOP](#)

# 03 Upcoming Semesters & Announcements



Initiators Christian University is excited to welcome current and prospective students into our upcoming semesters:

- Summer Semester: Now open for enrollment! Begins June 1st.
- Fall Semester: Begins mid-August or September 1st (exact date to be announced). This semester concludes on November 30th, just in time for our Winter Graduation on December 6th, 2025.
- Spring Semester: Kicks off January 15th, 2026.

We encourage all ICU alumni who are considering continuing their education to visit our [website](https://www.initiatorcu.com) and explore our wide range of degree offerings, including:

- 13 Certificate Programs
- 2 Associate Degrees
- 5 Bachelor's Degrees
- 22 Master's Degrees
- 19 Doctorate Degrees
- 2 Hybrid Degrees

Registration is available through the Student Portal.

We also encourage you to share ICU with those who are passionate about their education and faith. ICU offers unique features to support diverse learners:

1. LEAP (Life Experience Assessment Program) – Earn credits for your real-world experience.
2. Immersive Learning – Tailored for those who struggle with traditional learning methods.
3. Affordability – A commitment to accessible education.
4. Practical Outcomes – Graduates complete a personal portfolio ready for ministry or entrepreneurship.

You can direct interested individuals to fill out our [Interest Form](#) and get started via the official ICU [website](https://www.initiatorcu.com).

## ICU's AI-Powered Curriculum

ICU's transition to a fully AI-integrated platform makes learning smarter and more personal:

- Customized Lessons tailored to your pace and learning style
- 24/7 Support with instant feedback and guidance
- Real-Time Progress Tracking to keep you motivated
- Greater Accessibility for diverse learning needs
- Career-Ready Skills for ministry, business, and leadership

*Faith meets innovation—preparing you for purpose-driven success in today's digital world.*



ICU President, Dr. Varian Harris sharing the vision for ICU

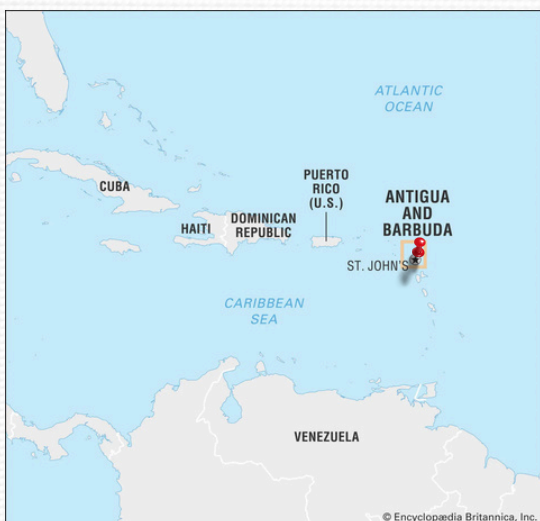
## \$8 Million Campaign for ICU's Future Building

We are launching a bold \$8 million campaign to build the future home of ICU. We ask all staff, alumni, students, and supporters to join in agreement and pray over this vision. We also encourage you to spread the word and invite anyone moved to give, to contribute toward this God-ordained mission.

## ICU is Going Global!

Beginning September 1st, ICU will launch international online campuses to serve students in **Ghana, Chad, Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Antigua, and Uganda**. These campuses will offer the same Christ-centered vision and immersive learning experience at affordable rates in local currencies.

We're excited for what God is doing through ICU, and we thank you for being a part of this growing legacy.



## Share Your Mission with the ICU Community!

Are you a student or alumnus involved in local, global, or online missions? We want to hear about your vision, goals, and the work of your ministry. Share your stories, upcoming events, and any prayer requests or needs.

Submit your brief article to [admin@initiatorcu.com](mailto:admin@initiatorcu.com) by the 15th of the month to be featured in the following newsletter. Let's support each other in advancing the Kingdom!

# 04 Initiators Network



Agape Worldwide continues its impactful work with children in Uganda and a growing network of Kingdom Economy pastors across Africa and India (Ghana, Nigeria, Chad, Kenya, Uganda, Mali, and India). Led by Dr. Quentina Attipoe, weekly meetings are fostering collaboration among pastors and ministries from various African nations, the Caribbean, and India. Their focus? To elevate the economic well-being of their communities through sustainable business and commerce.

Many of these vital startup businesses and job training programs (including initiatives like brick making and sewing lessons) are seeking investors. If you or your organization are interested in learning how you can partner with and support this impactful Kingdom Economy group, please contact Dr. Quentina Attipoe at [agapeghana@outlook.com](mailto:agapeghana@outlook.com).

**PRESENCE**  
A WORSHIP CONFERENCE

HOSTED BY  
**DAMIEN ELLISON**

DOOR OPEN AT 9:30AM | SESSION 1 STARTS AT 10AM  
**SATURDAY | JUNE 21, 2025**  
4479 S. ATLANTA RD, SE SMYRNA, GA 30080  
**REGISTER NOW LINK IN BIO**

## "PRESENCE" Worship Conference - FREE!

Join ICU alumnus Dr. Damien Ellison as he presents "PRESENCE," a special one-day worship conference this June. Our very own ICU President, Dr. Varian Harris, will also be a featured speaker. Come and show your support for our alumni and president in this time of fellowship and worship. Registration is free – don't miss this opportunity!

**Women Business Connect**  
**BUSINESS Talk**  
EPISODE 17  
30 April, 2025  
Starting at 5:00 PM  
With  
**Dr. Shameka Walker**  
Live On  
Women Business Connect Podcast  
with  
Dr. Rhonda Turner

ICU alumna and current COO, Dr. Shameka J. Walker, recently shared her inspiring journey on a podcast. Hear her insights on how she continues to walk in faith and purpose with courage. Don't miss this encouraging conversation! Watch the podcast [here](#).

**The Bolden Experience Podcast**  
Where Boldness Meets Purpose and Where your Difference makes a Difference  
Join the Bold One Community

## Stay Tuned...

Something bold is coming!

*The Bolden Experience Podcast* is launching soon — where boldness meets purpose and your difference makes a difference.

Get ready for real conversations, bold testimonies, and transformational moments that will ignite your greatness and inspire your bold journey.

Follow his socials for updates:

[@deonteboldenproductions](https://www.instagram.com/deonteboldenproductions)

[Deonte' Bolden](https://www.facebook.com/DeonteBolden)

# 05 ICU Cares

## *Triumph of Faith: Dr. Denise Hinkson Lawrence Defies Odds at Graduation*

ICU celebrates the incredible faith and resilience of alumna Dr. Denise Hinkson Lawrence! Despite being told she might not walk, Dr. Lawrence took the stage at graduation to receive her Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Counseling with Specialization in Marriage, Family, & Child Therapy and Master in Christian Psychology with Distinguished Honors (earned as a hybrid student). Her journey exemplifies that God's plans are always greater than any obstacle. Let's continue to lift Dr. Lawrence in prayer for complete healing and ongoing growth. You can also follow her inspiring testimony on her [Facebook page](#).



Dr. Denise Hinkson on Lawrence receiving both her Masters and Doctorate

We hope this newsletter has provided you with valuable updates on the recent graduation, upcoming opportunities, and the ongoing initiatives within our ICU community. Don't forget to submit your nominations for honorary degrees and to explore the resources available through the Initiators Network and ICU Cares. Thank you for your continued support. Wishing you a blessed and productive season ahead.



NLSTIC MEDIA, LLC PRESENTS:  
**FAITH BROUGHT ME THROUGH:**  
**JAMES C. BIRDSONG JR.**  
**45TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION**

SPECIAL GUEST ARTIST:  
**THE ANOINTED ASU GOSPEL CHOIR**  
ALBANY STATE UNIVERSITY

HOSTED BY:  
**PHYLLIS WONG** NATIONAL AWARD WINNING ARTIST  
**JORAD L. HOLMES** NATIONAL AWARD WINNING/BILLBOARD CHARTING ARTIST

**SUNDAY, MAY 18TH, 2025**  
**@ 3:30 PM EST**  
Admission: Free (Free Will Offering)  
Seating Is Limited

ALSO INCLUDING:  
**DEBRA PRICE**  
**VALERIE BARTON**

**DIVINE HOUSE OF PRAISE CHURCH**  
3447 RUBY H. HARPER BLVD, S.E. ATLANTA, GA 30354  
PASTOR BRITANNIA "TAN" FLOURNOY, SENIOR PASTOR  
[WWW.NLSTICMEDIA.COM](http://WWW.NLSTICMEDIA.COM)

## *Celebrating a Supporter of ICU: Happy Birthday, Dr. James Charles Birdsong Jr.!*

The ICU community was honored to welcome Dr. James Charles Birdsong Jr. as one of our distinguished dignitaries at the recent graduation ceremony. His presence underscored his ongoing support for our university and its mission. Now, we have a wonderful opportunity to show our appreciation in return! Dr. Birdsong is celebrating his 45th birthday, and we encourage all members of the ICU family to come together and celebrate this milestone in his life. Let's extend our warmest wishes and gratitude for his continued involvement with our institution.