



International Student Spotlight

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“Lanta Ariba: Standing Up in Purpose — The Story of Rydaniël Windster”



There are some students whose stories shine as brightly as the Caribbean sun, and Rydaniël Windster is one of them. Born on the vibrant island of **Curaçao**, Rydaniël carries with him the colors of home—deep ocean blues, warm trade winds, and the unshakable spirit of a people who know how to rise, rebuild, and rejoice.

Growing up on this jewel of the Dutch Caribbean, Rydaniël spent most of his life surrounded by the warmth of his **supermom** and his two beautiful older sisters. His roots run deep in Curaçao’s culture, faith, and community, shaping him into someone who leads with humility, gratitude, and purpose.

A Journey Shaped by Hard Work and Heart

From a young age, Rydaniël learned the value of dedication. At just 15, while many teens were still discovering themselves, he was already working—serving at weddings, helping customers at the supermarket, grilling burgers at McDonald’s, assisting with inventory at Mitsubishi Motors, maintaining equipment at a bottle factory, and stocking goods for distribution companies.

His most transformative role came at the **Curaçao International Airport**, where he worked as a ramp agent, marshaller, wing walker, baggage handler, customer service agent, gate agent, and lost-and-found representative. Each role taught him something new about people, responsibility, and excellence.

These experiences became the stepping stones that carried him far beyond the shores of Curaçao.

Choosing a Different Path

While many students from Curaçao choose the Netherlands, Rydaniël felt called to something different. He wanted a Seventh-day Adventist education and a community where faith and purpose walk hand in hand. After discovering Burman University through online CAYA Vespers, he saw a family he wanted to join.

It took **three years** of saving, planning, and praying—but he made it. And he believes he arrived at exactly the right time.

Today, he is a **Religious Studies Pre-Professional major**, now in his second year, preparing for a life of ministry.

A Leader on Campus

Rydaniël's presence at Burman is felt everywhere:

- Janitorial Team – Maple
- Cafeteria Staff – Deli Station & Smoothie Bar
- **Residential Assistant** for the upcoming year
- Former **Choir Pastor** for Burman University Singers
- Member of **Ubuntu Choir** and **Gospel Choir**
- **Senior Visitation Representative** for Campus Ministries
- **Spiritual VP** for Anointed Movement
- **Cafeteria Senator** for BUSA

He serves with joy, sings with passion, and leads with a heart anchored in faith.

A Calling Rooted in Purpose

Rydaniël dreams of becoming a **pastor**, dedicating his life to sharing God's love and the hope of salvation. His mother recently reminded him that the degree he earns is only a confirmation of what God has already called him to do.

So, he has already begun—living with intention, serving with compassion, and shining light wherever he goes.

A Message of Hope

Rydaniël's story extends beyond campus. He and his family created a film titled "**Lanta Ariba**" ("Stand Up"), a reminder that no matter how hard life becomes, God is always present—guiding, strengthening, and lifting us.

His favorite verse, **James 4:7**, anchors his journey:
"Submit to God, resist the devil, and he will flee."

Rydaniël hopes his life encourages others to trust God, pursue purpose, and rise above every challenge.

“I strive to be an instrument in God’s hands—to inspire, to uplift, and to shine His light wherever I go.” — Rydaniël Windster

From the shores of Curaçao to the prairies of Alberta, Rydaniël carries the warmth of home, the strength of his faith, and the determination to make a difference. His story reminds us that when God calls, He also equips—and the journey, no matter how long, is always worth it.