
Biography Deborah McAlister-Gallander

Educator, Traveler, Speaker, Author, and The Holy Explorer

With more than a decade of experience in higher education at faith-based institutions, Deborah brings a distinctive voice to audiences seeking depth, clarity, and purpose. Her teaching career began in an extraordinary setting—as an adjunct instructor aboard the USS *Shiloh* while deployed in the Pacific—where she first developed a passion for guiding others through complex ideas in challenging environments.



Since then, Deborah has guided students through thoughtful instruction and helped young professionals wrestle with life’s biggest questions: Who am I? Why am I here? Where am I going? As the author of *Character Atlas*, she has contributed a meaningful framework for understanding the role of character in personal and organizational life. Building on this work, she designed and taught a graduate-level course, *Organizational Character*, where she offers a compelling model for building a life anchored in character rather than circumstance and equipping emerging leaders to cultivate integrity-driven cultures in their institutions and communities.



Additionally, as an educator and international business program designer, Deborah has been dedicated to fostering cross-cultural understanding and meaningful global engagement. Through her work, she developed and led international exchange programs for both faculty and students, creating opportunities for participants to expand their perspectives and grow in global awareness.

At the heart of her approach was a commitment to integrating faith with exploration. She guided participants in recognizing the many ways the Holy Spirit is present in our daily lives, encouraging reflection that connects personal experience with deeper spiritual insight. By grounding each journey in Biblical history and the formation of Christianity, she helped others see how faith transcends borders and cultures.

Deborah creates space for honest reflection. Her message meets people where they are—whether they feel lost, stuck, or searching—and points them toward a deeper sense of purpose rooted in faith, integrity, and spiritual living. Deborah challenges audiences to move beyond confusion and begin shaping lives of meaning, direction, and lasting impact.

A compelling and engaging speaker, Deborah challenges individuals and organizations alike to pursue excellence rooted in enduring values, offering both inspiration and practical wisdom for meaningful impact. Her work has been driven by a passion for connection—between people, cultures, and faith traditions—and by a desire to cultivate experiences that are not only educational, but transformative.

