

Connection



Laura Story and 900 other
alumni "come home"
for 90th anniversary

Plus, basketball begins

autumn 2013
www.ciu.edu

THE MAGAZINE OF COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

90 Years (and counting)

What a wonderful Homecoming Weekend! The celebration of CIU's 90th anniversary Oct. 31-Nov. 2 reminded us of the rich heritage of our past, and energized us to look forward in faith. Over 900 alumni "came home" to CIU this year breaking the old record of 474 in 2007.

Many thanks go out to CIU's Alumni Relations Department for the long hours of planning and preparation that went into making the weekend so memorable. I enjoyed seeing many of you on campus at the special chapels and reunions, and at the banquet and concert at Shandon Baptist Church.

Concert headliner Steven Curtis Chapman seemed to feel right at home with the CIU alumni, and seeing CIU alumna Laura Story was especially heartwarming as she performed her Grammy Award winner "Blessings," a song reflecting how much God has ministered to her during recent challenges in her life.

The Presidents' Chapel highlighted the weekend for me. I consider it a privilege to have shared the Shortess Chapel

platform with CIU's three other living presidents as we reminisced with the student body on memories and perspectives of what CIU has accomplished over the years and our enthusiasm for what lies ahead. I've always said that I wish I had the heart of Robertson McQuilkin, the intellect of Johnny Miller and the communication skills of George Murray. These men represent pillars of leadership in the history of CIU.

Not only did we remember CIU's past at Homecoming, we witnessed CIU history in the making when the Rams played CIU's first intercollegiate men's and women's basketball games at the Moore Fitness Center. Talk about exciting! (And loud!) It thrills me to see how far we've come in athletics in just a few short years.

By the way, celebrations abound around the CIU ministry this year as Ben Lippen School commemorates its 25th anniversary in Columbia, and CIU radio station New Life 91.9 observes its 20th year of broadcasting in Charlotte, N.C.

We recount these events in this edition of "Connection" magazine along with articles about other exciting news around campus, including the addition of five new academic programs.

I want to especially draw your attention to the article, "Funding the Future of CIU" on page 16. While we relish a past that is deeply blessed by God, we look forward in faith to a future that depends on alumni and friends such as you who invest in CIU on behalf of students who may not even be in high school yet, but who will one day learn what it means to live out CIU's motto, "To Know Him and to Make Him Known."

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones
President



Connection

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Around Campus

CIU Professor Begins Music Program in Prison

South Carolina inmates representing a wide range of ages are learning music with the aspiration of being a part of the South Carolina Department of Corrections (SCDC) first-ever concert band. They have signed up for beginner music classes on the recorder with the goal of learning to play either brass, woodwinds, or percussion. The band is the brainchild of Dr. David Osterlund, the former director of Columbia International University's Prison Initiative and SCDC's director of Chaplains Lloyd Roberts.



Dr. David Osterlund teaches inmates how to play the recorder.

"Our goal is to provide qualified inmates with an opportunity to exercise a constructive means of discipline and personal expression through the development and exercise of musical skills in group settings," Osterlund said. "We believe that the men that take part in this program will find the challenge of developing musical skills to be constructive, therapeutic, enjoyable, and mentally and spiritually healthy."

So far, 28 inmates have qualified to take part in the band program at the Broad River Correctional Institution located just across the Broad River from CIU. They must have displayed incident-free behavior and show an interest in learning to read and play music. If the initial music program goes well, the plan is to expand it to eligible men and women in SCDC's other institutions around the state.

The program is funded through donations and staffed by volunteers.

- From Clark Newsom, Communications Manager, SCDC



In Memory of Bob Kallgren

Don Jones, the director of human resources at Columbia International University, remembers Bob Kallgren as "a godly man filled with wisdom, grace and gentleness" who had a major impact on CIU and the Columbia community.

That's why Jones and his wife Marty have planted a memorial tree on the CIU campus in honor of Kallgren, who served CIU for 39 years until his death in 2011.

"Looking past position, class, status, and race, Bob knew no strangers and was loving to all," Jones said. "He saw men and women made in the image of God with a great potential for the Kingdom of God."

The tree was planted in July near the CIU soccer field. A memorial stone with an inscription and Kallgren's photo was placed in front of it.

"Impacto Global" Held at CIU

Hispanic Churches from around South Carolina discussed the strategic impact they have on global missions at "Impacto Global" an annual meeting on the campus of CIU in September.

The event coordinator was CIU seminary student Alvaro Williams, a native of Costa Rica. He says he got involved because he has a heart for spreading the gospel around the world, and feels Hispanic churches have much to contribute to the effort — especially among unreached people groups.

This was the third year for "Impacto Global." The entire conference was conducted in Spanish.

Congratulations

Rankin Honored

Dr. Jerry Rankin, the director of the Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies at CIU, was honored for his decades of work in Christian missions. Rankin received the 2013 Lifetime of Service award from Missio Nexus at the group's annual conference in September. Missio Nexus unifies mission agencies in their fulfillment of "The Great Commission" of Jesus to spread the Christian faith around the world.

Before heading up the Zwemer Center, Rankin served for 23 years on the mission field, followed by 17 years as president of the International Mission Board (IMB) of the Southern Baptist Convention until 2010. He is a member of the CIU Board of Trustees.

Rankin is the second person associated with CIU to receive the award. CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin was honored by Missio Nexus in 2010.

Solomon Named Library Director

Stephanie Solomon is the new director of the G. Allen Fleece Library. Solomon holds a Bachelor's degree in English from Spelman College, and a master's degree from the University of South Carolina. She served as a reference librarian at Midlands Technical College in Columbia before joining CIU in May 2005 where she gained experience in a variety of positions at the library. Solomon replaces Jo Ann Rhodes who retired at the end of last year.

Ben Lippen has New Headmaster

Ben Lippen School's new headmaster takes the helm at an exciting time. Chip Jones is the sixth headmaster to lead the school since its move to Columbia from Asheville, N.C. in 1988. Jones, who has 33 years of experience in Christian education, desires to honor the past while moving toward the future.

"In 25 years, God has brought about amazing growth to Ben Lippen," Jones said. "We're asking Him to bless and increase our efforts in the next 25 years so that we can impact more children and families for Christ."

Jones' vision is to expand the school's ministry by increasing exposure to what the Lord is doing at Ben Lippen in the local community and among alumni.

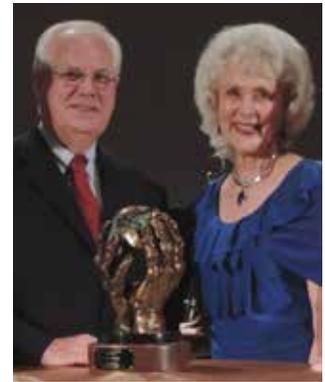
"Ultimately, everything we do is for God's glory," Jones said, alluding to the school's mission statement. "We want to continue assisting families and churches in the education of their children. It's bound to help students when their home, church, and school are all saying the same thing."

Wheeler Promoted to VP of Institutional Advancement

Jeffrey B. Wheeler has been promoted to vice president of institutional advancement. He had been serving as ministry coordinator at CIU. Wheeler's new responsibilities include oversight of enrollment management, student financial services, marketing, and alumni relations.

Wheeler has extensive background in business and Christian ministry in the Columbia area. He is the president of JB Wheeler & Company specializing in business growth and strategic planning for businesses and faith-based organizations. He is also the former president and chief operating officer of Coldwell Banker United Realtors in the Carolinas, and served as the chief operating officer of the Coldwell Banker Real Estate Corporation headquartered in New Jersey, overseeing 2,000 franchised locations around the world.

In the area of ministry, Wheeler served for five years as the minister of education and administration at Shandon Baptist Church, one of the largest Baptist churches in South Carolina.



Dr. Jerry Rankin and his wife Bobbye



Stephanie Solomon



Chip Jones



Jeffrey B. Wheeler

Athletics Update

Summer Camps

Great fun, good competition and personalized instruction were the focus of three sports camps this summer held on the CIU campus and led by the CIU Athletics Department. The camps had a spiritual emphasis with daily devotions led by the Rams coaching staff and Rams athletes.

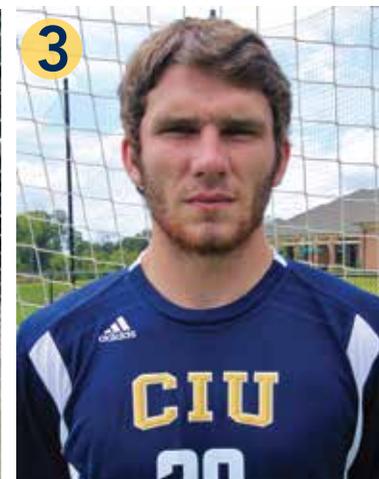
The first was the Boys Soccer Camp for ages 5-17 featuring high-quality, individual instruction. The Boys and Girls Basketball Camp for first through eighth graders focused on the skill level of each child and worked toward improving their abilities. The CIU Cross Country Camp for seventh to twelfth graders included basic biomechanics, nutrition, and goal setting, as well as training tips.

Soccer Kudos

Two members of the CIU Rams soccer team were named "Athlete of the Week" by the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA).

Freshman goalkeeper Luke Brooks took the honors Oct. 1 among defensive players in Division I. Brooks had seven saves for CIU in a 2-0 shutout of Bob Jones University on Sept. 24. Brooks was also stingy at the net in a 4-1 win over Concordia College three days later.

Sophomore Daniel Mallard was named Athlete of the Week Sept. 2 after he scored eight goals in three matches to lead CIU to a 3-0 start of the season. For the week of Aug. 26, Mallard scored six goals in two matches including four goals in a 5-0 win over Lagrange College and two goals in a 3-1 win over Point University.



1) CIU Men's Basketball Coach Kyle Mendenhall (right) and CIU Rams Zach Durkee and Aaliyah Knox offer high-fives to campers at CIU's basketball camp; 2) Luke Brooks; 3) Daniel Mallard.

CIU Students Honored by Red Cross

Columbia International University students have rolled up their sleeves to demonstrate the love of Christ.

Blood drives have been a regular occurrence at CIU through the years and the South Carolina chapter of the American Red Cross has taken notice. The chapter honored CIU with the "Most Improved" award at a banquet and ceremony in September.

Red Cross officials noted that in CIU's last three blood drives (November 2012, April 2013, and September 2013) CIU averaged 42 units per drive.

"I'm really pleased with the way our students have supported our blood drives," said Dr. Bryan Beyer, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences. "Each unit of blood donated can potentially save three lives, and our students have really stepped up."



Dr. Bryan Beyer holds CIU's "Most Improved" award from the Red Cross. It was presented by Cheryl Austin (left) of the Red Cross. Also accepting the award from CIU were (l to r) Chelsea Grose, Student Senate; Gayle McLeod, Student Life; Aryn Baxa, Student Senate



Campus Improvements: Original Cafeteria Comes Down

It served its original purpose and more. The building most recently known as The Distance Ed Building came crashing down in a matter of hours, as a demolition crew that could be heard across campus smashed the ceilings and the walls bit by bit, being careful not to damage Shortess Chapel right next door.

The building housed the original cafeteria, but was also more recently the home of the Business Office and the Copy Center. It served a variety of other purposes over the years, as well.

A few longtime staff members stood by and watched the demolition, sharing memories of the building and noting its versatility over the last 40-plus years, including orange juice storage.

David Morrison, the former general manager of CIU radio station WMHK, says when he first came to Columbia in 1975, one of the CIU fringe benefits was a quart of fresh Tropicana orange juice for each member of the CIU family each week—a gift from Anthony Rossi, the owner of Tropicana.

“I still have Tropicana cartons storing various items in my garage at home,” Morrison said.

Plans for the now-vacant spot include possible classroom and/or office space.

Attention Overseas “Connection” Readers

In our efforts to be good stewards of God’s resources to us, “Connection” magazine will no longer be mailed to addresses outside of the United States beginning with the fall 2014 edition. This is due to the increasing cost of postage. But the good news is, “Connection,” as well as other CIU publications, are always available to you online at www.ciu.edu/publications. At that page you have the option of printing a pdf version of the magazine. “Connection” is published in April and November each year.

Thank you for your understanding,

- Bob Holmes, “Connection” editor

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The article “Business with Biblical Values,” (Spring 2013) by Dr. Benjamin Dean, CIU’s Business & Organizational Leadership program director prompted me to express my deep concerns about an issue I have observed among the international mission community for many years.

My observation is this: On many occasions, I have seen missionaries on the field who hire nationals as house helpers, gardeners, watchmen and other low-skilled jobs, treat them with low regard. This comes in the form of demeaning conversations, dismissive attitudes, long-term minimized wages, 24-hour control, unpaid extra-duty requirements, excessive working hours, abusive oversight and other actions that, if carried out in the United States, would be not only regarded as unhealthy management but, in some cases, downright illegal.

I believe the problem is with missionaries, young and old alike, who do not have the experience and have never been sensitized as to what it means to be an employer – especially a Christian employer.

It is my prayer that CIU, and Dr. Dean in particular, will consider extending the teaching of Christian business principles to all CIU students who may, one day, find themselves as “CEOs” of their own small Christian enterprise, sometimes known as a church or maybe even, simply, a family compound. When people are hired by a “Christian boss,” we should always be able to find fair treatment and Christlike consideration. Sometimes, unfortunately, this is not the case.

Jeff Osborne, United World Mission
Missionary to Kenya, CIU Class of ‘91

Letters to the Editor are welcome. Correspondence must include your name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit for clarity and length. There is no guarantee your letter will be published, nor will letters be returned. Write to:

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Or e-mail publicrelations@ciu.edu.

By Melissa McCutchan
CIU Student Writer

Celebrating a Rich Heritage

Moving Forward in Faith



In the year 1923, "Time" Magazine released its first issue, the first pitch was thrown in Yankee Stadium and Louis Armstrong's music came into the national spotlight. And in 1923, in the city of Columbia, S.C., a small Bible school was born—Columbia Bible College.

Ninety years later, just over 900 alumni "came home" to that school, now Columbia International University, to celebrate God's faithfulness. The attendance was a record for a CIU Homecoming.

Presidential Summit

The 90th Anniversary Homecoming, Oct. 31-Nov. 2, began Thursday with a Chapel that looked back at CIU history through the eyes of the school's four living presidents: Robertson McQuilkin ('68-'90), Johnny Miller ('91-'99), George Murray ('00-'07), and Bill Jones ('07-present).

The presidents discussed everything from how they met their wives to the challenges they faced during their time in office. But through the difficulties, each president stressed the foundational importance of CIU's five core values: The Authority of Scripture, Victorious Christian Living, World Evangelization, Prayer & Faith, and Evangelical Unity.

"The [core values] have been of top priority for all of us," McQuilkin

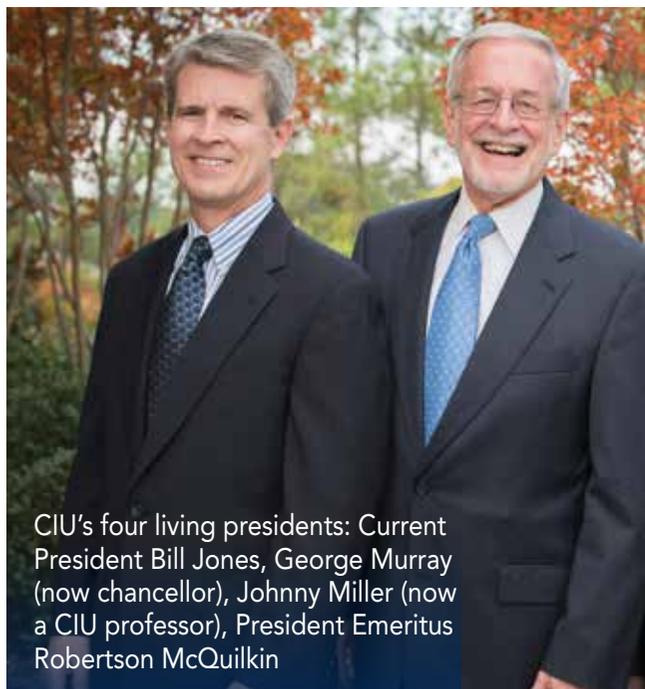
confidently stated on behalf of all the presidents.

Let's Get Acquainted—and Hurry Up!

Thursday night brought the second annual "speed meeting," where current students were given the opportunity to meet alumni in a format where each alumnus had five minutes to describe their time at CIU as the students moved down a row of chairs from alumnus to alumnus. As alumni shared their experiences, their message and memories weaved a theme: CIU had changed drastically, but had never compromised its commitment to the Christian faith.

"The expansion of the campus is new, and the sports programs," Beth Ragsdale ('74) said. "They're more relaxed about the dress code now, but the things that are important haven't relaxed. The school has kept its main emphasis."

Students and alumni were able to share laughs as they spoke about their funniest memories, craziest pranks, and favorite professors.



CIU's four living presidents: Current President Bill Jones, George Murray (now chancellor), Johnny Miller (now a CIU professor), President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin



The Way We Were. CIU alumni Larry Hatch and Eileen McCloy Fritz have a "Speed Meeting" with current students, describing in five minutes their days at CIU.



Laura Story plays the upright bass as she sings a bluegrass version of "How Great Thou Art" with Steven Curtis Chapman



"One of the most enjoyable parts of homecoming was simply getting to meet a lot of alumni," freshman Jacob Moore said. "They are so supportive of CIU even after all of the years they have been away."

Alumni of the Year

Friday morning brought the Alumni of the Year Chapel. Leading worship was Grammy Award winner and alumna Laura Story ('03).

"I didn't know they honored people who got D's in Dr. Beyer's Old Testament Survey class," Story joked from stage.

Following worship, the Alumni Association Leadership Council

presented the Alumni of the Year Award to brothers Chris ('70) and Mark Thomas ('73), and Mark's wife Linda ('73). Chris' wife Bonnie was named an honorary CIU alumna. All four serve with Torchbearers International which operates short-term Bible Schools in 20 countries.

"Christ shaped us, to some degree, here [at CIU]," Mark said. "What a joy it is to look back and see how we have been shaped by those who faithfully taught us the Word of God."

"Forward in Faith"

At a banquet on Friday evening, The Alumni Association Leadership Council recognized members of the class of 1963, who returned for their 50th anniversary, which was followed by President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin giving a brief history of CIU.

"Today, we celebrate 90 years of God's faithfulness," McQuilkin said. "What does the future hold? Only God knows ... May we be found faithful."

President Bill Jones introduced the alumni to the \$36 million "Forward in Faith" fundraising campaign, which details CIU's five-year plan for growth, including an Alumni Project of \$1.5 million toward the goal. The campaign emphasizes funding for student scholarships, expansion of academic programs and renovation of facilities. But the ultimate goal is to educate more students to follow the CIU motto, "To Know Him and to Make Him Known."

"If we're not sending out harvesters to the nations, what we're doing is just activity and not productivity," Jones said.

"Blessings" and Soccer

Following the banquet, Laura Story returned and joined fellow Grammy Award winner Steven Curtis Chapman and special guest Jason Gray for a



concert held at Shandon Baptist Church—a facility that could accommodate the 2,600 people in attendance, most of them from the Columbia area who got to know CIU a little better.

Story explained that

many of her songs have come out of trials in her life. In 2006, her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The experience eventually led her to write the song, "Blessings."

"It's not necessarily the journey we would've chosen, but I'm learning God's plan is better than our plan," Story said.

As homecoming weekend drew to a close on Saturday, alumni and students gathered for one of the newer homecoming traditions—the annual Alumni vs. CIU Rams soccer game.

"I'm very grateful for the relationships that get forged on this field," Philip Jackson ('91) said after reuniting with some old intramural teammates.

The Purpose Remains the Same

In the 1920s, when Robert C. McQuilkin accepted the leadership of what would become CIU, he wrote in an acceptance letter: "What a mighty power for missions and for soul-winning evangelism the school may be!"

He was right. Ninety years later there are 18,000 CIU alumni educated from a biblical worldview, who are impacting 150 countries with the message of Christ. Though the campus has changed, and the student handbook has been tweaked with the times, the core purpose of the school has remained, and God has remained faithful.

"I like to give every opportunity to thank God for this place, because it was here I learned to read and interpret and apply the Word of God," Laura Story said in Chapel on Friday. "And it is reading, and applying, and interpreting the word of God that gets you through life." ❖



1



2



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Basketball is latest intercollegiate sport

Hoops History

By Melissa McCutchan, CIU Student Writer



4

Energy was high as CIU students and alumni packed into Moore Fitness Center on Saturday, Nov. 2. With the blast of a whistle and the toss of a basketball, CIU made history: the first season of intercollegiate basketball had begun— a fitting way to cap off CIU's 90th Anniversary Homecoming.

"We knew we were making history, every step we took on that court," freshman guard Hope Crawford said. "That was an incredible feeling."

The Rams took on the Johnson University Royals of Knoxville, Tenn. in a women's/men's double header. As the women tipped off in the first game, forward Abigail Siemens quickly sank a shot that had fans on their feet and giving the freshman from Asheville, N.C. the honor of the first basket in CIU history.

The Lady Rams trailed closely behind the Royals in the first half, and though the women fought hard to close the gap, the Royals won the game 67-40. Despite the loss, head women's basketball coach Tammy Holder kept the game in perspective.

"The season will be fun, exciting, and the team will be a pleasure to coach," Holder said. "I know we will improve each game, probably more than any other team around."

The crowd was loud as the men's team took to the floor through a human tunnel created by The Rams Army, the student cheer block. With each basket, fans cheered loudly enough to shake the bleachers. The Rams quickly charged ahead of Johnson, and by halftime the scoreboard showed 58-38.

"The fans were so hyped up!" sophomore forward Aaron Spurlock said. "They were awesome, and I hope they continue to be awesome."

The Royals fought back hard in the second half, but they couldn't catch the Rams. The final score: Rams 113, Royals 97.

More than wins and losses

Though they were encouraged by their first games, coaches and players alike acknowledge that CIU's basketball program is about far more than wins and losses.

"I want God to show up and do what only He can do through this

group of guys," men's head coach Kyle Mendenhall said. "The teams we play—are they going to see the love of Christ?"

Both the men's and women's teams are working hard to be competitive, but their highest goal is to use basketball to know Christ and to make Him known.

"It is God who has given us the skills, ability, and opportunity to play basketball," sophomore Erica Hightower said. "The team has been given a great opportunity to encounter many different people and many of them may not be Christians. Through the game of basketball, we have been given another area in which we have the opportunity to know God more for ourselves and to make Him known to others."

Though the basketball program is new, the coaches share CIU's long-standing commitment to world evangelization. They hope to take team mission trips where they can use basketball as a witnessing tool.

"Surely, our hope and desire is that the Lord will use this program to the ends of the earth," Mendenhall said. "We hope that we'll be able to reach hundreds of thousands of people and share the love of Christ throughout the world."

In the meantime, the Rams desire to make an impact at the local level. They will take on several secular universities this season where they will represent CIU—and Jesus Christ.

"Sports have become a major part of American culture, and to be able to be a college basketball team carries huge weight in the kingdom of God," men's

team captain Isaiah Reeves said. "We can make an impact on little kids who look up to us, [and] local people who come for entertainment."

Laying a Foundation

Though the Rams have high goals for the future, they realize the importance of their first season of play.

"We don't want to get by with just average," men's coach Mendenhall added. "There are no second chances to do a first year program again, and I really want to lay a foundation."

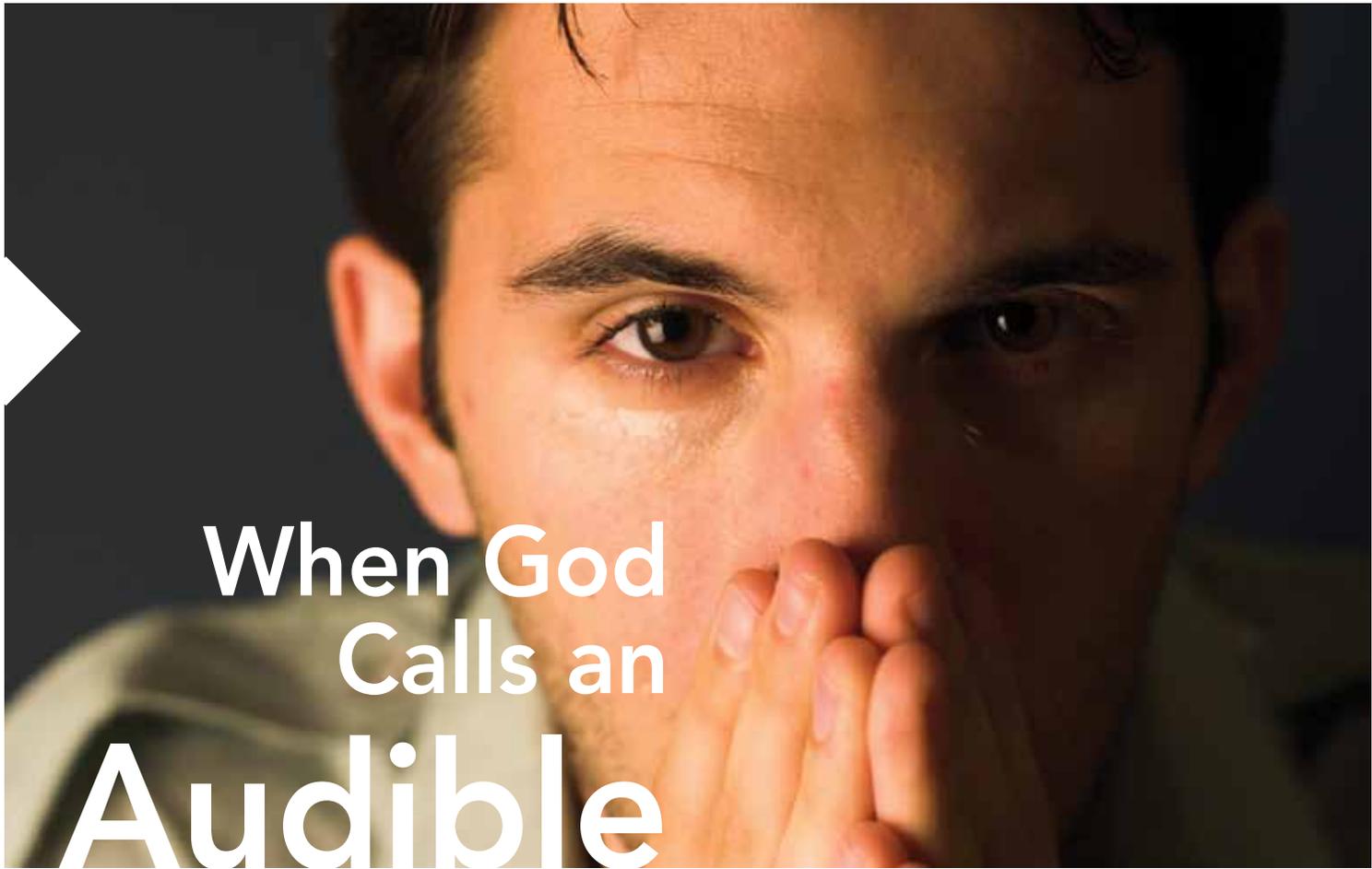
With their first games behind them, both teams are continuing to work hard on and off the court. The coaches are developing their players, not only in their basketball skills, but also encouraging them in their academic achievements and in their love for Christ.

"Since a lot of guys have been at CIU, I've seen the growth in maturity they're going through," Mendenhall said. "What I've found, the more guys learn about CIU and the more they experience it, they see the love of Christ here."

And Crawford, the freshman guard of the women's squad, says that has led to team unity and the kind of school spirit that is unique to CIU.

"We've become a family, and we're pumped to be able to represent CIU and the Lord as best as we can, giving it our all," Crawford said. "With that, we will grow to become the greatest that we can be." ❖

1) Senior Isaiah Reeves drives the lane to score the first points in CIU men's basketball history. 2) Basketball baby. Grace Mendenhall, wife of CIU men's coach Kyle Mendenhall, shows off the couple's new baby Hezekiah, born just a week before the season opened. 3) Freshman Abigail Siemens fights for position under the basket. Siemens led the women's team with 18 points and 13 rebounds. 4) Emotion. Junior Ben Johnson fires up the Rams.



When God Calls an Audible

By John Heflick

He looked at the table while he spoke, but his hands couldn't be contained. They moved around in seemingly random, animated patterns. She sat next to him, leaning forward, with one hand in her lap cradling her Kleenex and one in quiet support of him. I rarely caught their eyes. It was their hands that stood out to me. His were flailing, mirroring the emotion in his words. Hers were quiet, tense and trying to be supportive. A non-verbal, "I'm not sure what's happening, but I'm committed for the ride."

The confidant sitting across from them was a concerned mentor who offered hope. His words were kind and truthful. Not all had been lost. Sure, the immediate future was uncertain. But God was here. In their lives. In this situation. In that moment, the balance between trusting God's sovereignty and shaking in life's uncertainties shifted back and forth like an old teeter totter.

I saw this scene replayed over and over during my years serving in CIU's Alumni Relations office. It was moments like this that reminded me that we are not in control of our lives. God calls the plays. We don't. In moments like this, He has just called an audible – a football term meaning the quarterback calls a new play just before the ball is hiked, different from the play he just called in the huddle.

He just asks us to trust Him.

Maybe it's a family who must return home from missionary service due to the news that their son has autism, and the locale that God chose as their first assignment isn't equipped to deal with this challenge. They have to come home. God just called an audible.

Or maybe it's the pastor who loves his church and his role in it. He and his family expect to live out many more days in their cozy suburb. Then someone calls out of the blue, asks him to step out in faith and help them plant a new church in an urban area. He says no, but God keeps saying yes. God just called an audible.

Consider the story of the first president of CIU, Robert Crawford (R.C.) McQuilkin.

McQuilkin was a successful evangelist and writer for the national publication, "The Sunday School Times." If he was around in today's world, he would have been named to a magazine's list of "Up and Coming Evangelicals." McQuilkin was a powerful speaker with an authentic life to match. He had a way of challenging you and making you feel right at home in the same conversation. His ministry was prospering and had the potential for great growth. But God had other ideas. He was about to call an audible on the McQuilkin family.

In the mid-1910s, God whispered a vision to McQuilkin to follow Him to Africa. This was not altogether out of the blue. McQuilkin's wife, Marguerite, had a brother who was a pioneer missionary in East Africa, so they would be somewhat close to family. But it was still a drastic change.

McQuilkin was obedient to God's call. With tensions between the world and Germany growing, he found an agency that would accept his growing family, raised the support and packed up all his family's belongings. The night before their family set sail for Africa, they prayed for God's will to be done. It was. But it was another audible.

Their boat burned in New York harbor. To make matters worse, it was the last boat to set sail for Africa for the foreseeable future because the trek was too dangerous.

McQuilkin went back to what he knew and resumed his speaking rounds. One of those engagements brought him to Columbia, S.C. He got to know a forceful female leader,



R.C. McQuilkin

Emily Dick who had a dream of establishing a Bible college in the South. She had already begun to offer classes and had convinced a couple men to jump on board.

One evening before McQuilkin left town, Dick asked McQuilkin to consider the job of president of the Bible college. He told her that he'd pray about it. God had just called another audible on the McQuilkin family.



Emily Dick

The influence McQuilkin had gained as a nationally known conference speaker would be leveraged to attract students to this new school. The messages that he'd spoken and written would become the foundational curriculum for the school, spawning classes such as "Progress of Redemption," which continues to be taught at CIU. The vision God gave McQuilkin for Africa would be fulfilled, just not directly through him, but multiplied many times over through CIU students accepting the

same challenge that he had accepted years before.

As they say, "hindsight is 20/20 vision." We can see the legacy of McQuilkin's story, but he couldn't when he was going through it. Most often we can't see this in our lives either. With time comes clarity, but often our "why" questions aren't answered. God doesn't always tell us why He calls our audibles nor do we always see a final reason. He just asks us to trust Him.

We all experience God's audibles. Let's be encouraged that 90 years later all of us who have been influenced by CIU have benefitted by the multiple audibles that God called for McQuilkin and his family. Let that encouragement keep us moving forward "To Know Him and to Make Him Known." ❖

John Heflick is a CIU alumnus and missions pastor at East Lake Community Church, Irmo, S.C.

Ben Lippen School Celebrates 25 Years in Columbia

By Abbey Le Roy



Top to bottom: Students sing the National Anthem; Ben Lippen players celebrate a homecoming victory; and Rip Starnes ('53) and his wife Wanda



High school Bible teacher Bobby Young has been an employee of Ben Lippen School since August 1987. "It was my job to tell Columbia that Ben Lippen was coming," Young said reflecting on the school's move to the Columbia International University campus from Asheville, N.C. in 1988. The transition followed a devastating fire that destroyed the school's main building, ending its days as a conference center and school for the children of missionaries established in 1940.

So while Ben Lippen's 75th anniversary of its founding is still a few years away, Young joined nearly 200 Ben Lippen alumni and their families in September to celebrate the school's 25th anniversary in Columbia, where today it is a day school for over 700 Pre-K to 12th grade children in South Carolina's midlands, and a boarding program for over 80 international students.

Since Ben Lippen opened in Columbia, Young has served as a teacher, coach, and administrator. Young says the past 25 years have been, "All about relationships. People are the most important thing."

Many of those relationships were rekindled during the 25th Anniversary Homecoming as the classes of 1953, 1958, and 1993 gathered for reunions. Rip Starnes and two of his classmates from '53 celebrated 60 years since graduation.

"I feel kind of like a dinosaur," Starnes said jokingly, as he watched current students enjoy the festivities. Starnes, along with classmates Bill Schobert and Glenn Farring reminisced about the school's "glory days" when the Demon Deacons (now the Falcons) thrived in baseball, football, and soccer.

Several notable faculty members returned for the celebration. Among the honored guests were former headmaster Dave Edgren, former high school principals Dave Bower and Les Lehman, the first athletic director Bill Currier, and former teacher and coach Butch Sursavage.

As past faculty, parents, and alumni shared memories, current students participated in many of the school's longstanding homecoming traditions leading up to the homecoming football game. Many families gathered for a pregame tailgate, the elementary school choir sang the National Anthem, and the annual high school float competition was held during halftime, culminating the traditional Spirit Week activities. Additionally, the student body presented non-perishables collected for a food drive to benefit a local food bank.

Homecoming brought together alumni from six decades, united by the commonality of a quality Christian education at Ben Lippen School. The evening ended perfectly as fans cheered on the Ben Lippen Falcons to a 29-23 overtime victory over Laurence Manning, the team's first win of the season. ❖

Abbey Le Roy is a Ben Lippen and CIU alumna. She is an administrative assistant at The Wade Center, a ministry to the community in Bluefield, W.V.

New Life 91.9 Celebrates 20th Anniversary



By Joe Paulo, Director of Broadcasting

In the early 1980s Columbia International University was working hard to expand its radio ministry. WMHK had already been on the air from the CIU campus since 1976, and there appeared to be interest for quality Christian radio in Charlotte, N.C. But experts said there was no room on the radio dial in Charlotte to fit another station. God had other plans. On June 14, 1993, WRCM signed on the air at 91.9 FM after a 10-year process to obtain Federal Communications Commission approval.

What will the legacy of WRCM, New Life 91.9 be? If you had asked me that question 20 years ago, when we signed on the air, we could have only dreamed that God would use this ministry in the way He has. As we celebrated this major milestone over the summer, it became very apparent that New Life 91.9's legacy is not about radio towers, DJs, equipment, or even artists and songs. Instead, an eternal legacy of precious people have experienced the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ shared with them through a radio station. And, we would not have it any other way!

Stones of Remembrance. When the Israelites finally made it to the Promised Land, Joshua set up 12 stones to serve as a reminder to all the people of how God had led them there by his mighty hand. These were "stones of remembrance." We've not crossed the Jordan River, and our mission is not yet fully accomplished. But make no mistake – this 20-year legacy of lives changed is a result of God's amazing work through New Life 91.9. Our "stones of remembrance" are the letters, emails and phone calls we receive that tell of how God is at work through this ministry. This recent letter from Jessica is a perfect example:

I just wanted to take a few minutes to thank you for the work you do in our lives. I was at an all time low in my life as a single mother of two children and in an abusive relationship. I lived with a guy who was an alcoholic and I felt worthless and knew that I didn't deserve any better. One day I was driving around during the lowest point of my life and I decided to listen to your station (a friend mentioned it to me) and I heard a song come on that caught my attention. I immediately broke down and cried. That moment was the beginning of God changing my life. Your station is the only station that plays in my car and at my desk at work. I have begun attending church faithfully on Sundays and Wednesdays and my children love it. Plus, I have since married a wonderful man. I couldn't feel more blessed than I do now. My life changed and I thank God for using you. I hope I can one day get the opportunity to thank you in person for the wonderful blessing you have been to me and my children. If it weren't for you I may be in the grave right now. THANK YOU!

As long as there are people who need to be influenced with the life-changing reality of Jesus Christ, we are going to work harder than ever to broadcast His name. ❖

My life changed and I thank God for using you.



Original 91.9 FM staff— Rod, Karen & Ken



CIU President Johnny Miller speaks at the station dedication



Tower under construction

Center Radio Tower

Funding the Future of CIU

By Bob Holmes, "Connection" Editor

"Now won't you who are a part of our family pray with us for the future development of the work? There are many problems ahead with the changed conditions in the world and in the Church. Pray that the school will be kept wholly unto Him, and that His full purpose may be accomplished through it, 'til He comes." -Mrs. Guy Tarrant, Sept. 30, 1943.

Mrs. Guy Tarrant was one of the "Praying Women" who brought Columbia International University into existence in 1923. She spoke the words above in a Chapel observance of CIU's (then Columbia Bible College) 20th anniversary. But her message is just as relevant for CIU's 90th anniversary. Changing conditions in the world and in the Church make the work of CIU a



CIU student Zac Kahrs says CIU's core values such as Prayer & Faith "are diligently sought after by the faculty, staff, and students which sets CIU apart from other universities and makes the atmosphere around campus very special."

matter of urgency, and its future development imperative.

That's why there is a new emphasis on the CIU Fund (formerly known as the annual fund). Financial partners who invest in the CIU Fund, impact virtually everything on campus including:

- Financial aid for deserving students to attend CIU.
- Faculty who leave an indelible mark on student's lives.
- Areas of greatest need or emerging opportunities that impact students.

Donors can designate their contribution to one of the three areas above, supporting what matters most to them.

CIU President Bill Jones says tuition only covers a portion of the cost of a

CIU education, and it takes generous alumni and friends to provide the balance.

"For nine decades CIU has equipped students to realize their career and ministry dreams as evidenced by 18,000 alumni serving in 150 countries," Jones said. "Alumni and friends have actively invested in future CIU students by providing a consistent source of funding over and above tuition."

While Mrs. Tarrant addressed the CIU student body in the midst of World War II, the world is no less in need of Christ today—and the Church no less needy of real biblical leadership. The facts speak for themselves. Nine out of ten people in the world do not have a personal faith in Jesus Christ. Two out of every three people have never heard a clear explanation of the gospel. One out of every three people in the world has no true believer in Christ living near enough to tell them the message of Christ.

The story of Columbia International University is a story of one of CIU's core values — Prayer & Faith. It is a story of people recognizing God's supply as they joined Him in His work. It was true in 1923, in 1943, and here again in 2013. Mrs. Tarrant's question is still relevant: "Now won't you who are a part of our family pray with us for the future development of the work?"

If God is leading you to be a financial partner in the future development of CIU, please use the envelope inserted in this edition of "Connection" magazine, or visit fund.ciu.edu. ❖

Save the Date! Philip Yancey Coming to CIU

Popular Christian author and Columbia International University alumnus Philip Yancey ('70) will be speaking at CIU on April 30, 2014 to celebrate CIU's 90th anniversary. The time and location for the event are still being planned.

Yancey is the author of 20 books that explore the questions faced by most Christians and include "Where Is God When It Hurts," "Disappointment with God," and "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?" He drew heavily from his CIU background in developing "The Student Bible," a best-selling edition of the Bible with study notes. Yancey's books have won 13 Gold Medallion Awards from the Evangelical Christian Publishers Association, and have sold more than 15 million copies. For many years Yancey wrote a monthly column for "Christianity Today" magazine, which he still serves as editor at large.

Originally from Atlanta, Yancey met his wife, Janet at CIU. Today they travel the world supporting the missionary work of Philip's books, which have been translated into 35 languages.





When it comes to earning a degree we've learned to be

FLEXIBLE

At CIU, we understand that enhancing your ministry or career with a seminary or graduate degree requires a flexible course schedule to fit into your busy life. Customize your course schedule with traditional on-campus classes, online classes, or a hybrid of both. This kind of flexibility offered by most CIU programs, also allows you to change your course delivery options if your life circumstances change.

If you or someone you know is ready to take the next step toward a graduate or seminary degree from CIU, visit www.ciu.edu.

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CIU Introduces Five New Academic Programs

By Bob Holmes

Students enrolling at Columbia International University now have five new academic programs to choose from. Four of the programs are available to undergraduate students and a new master's program is being offered to graduate students enrolled in CIU Seminary & School of Ministry.

The undergraduate programs that lead to a bachelor's degree include Church Ministry, English, and two Communication majors – Digital Media & Cinema, and Media Arts. The new master's degree program, Youth Ministry Leadership, is an extension of CIU's popular Youth Ministry undergraduate program.

CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher says more students will benefit from a CIU education if they have more programs to choose from.

"Analysis by consultants we have worked with showed us that the primary reason a student who has demonstrated interest in CIU would not attend is the lack of a program that they are interested in," Lanpher said. "We believe that we can serve more students with the type of biblically-centered education we provide if we offer them more program options."

Church Ministry

One of those options, the Church Ministry major, is a merger of two undergraduate programs: Pastoral Ministries and Family and Church Education (FACE). Professor of Church Ministry Dr. Terry Powell says the major provides students with specialized knowledge and skills to serve effectively as a staff member in a local church. Areas of concentration include Pastoral Ministry, Discipleship Ministry and Children's Ministry.

"The program equips leaders who have a burden for the local church, whether their calling is to be an associate or lead pastor, or whether their calling is to work with broader

discipleship and educational ministries of the church," Powell said. But he is especially excited about the Children's Ministry specialization.

"In recent years, more churches have asked for graduates with training in, and a burden for children's ministry," Powell added.



*New CIU English Professor
Sandra Young*

English

For CIU, the English major is a direct outworking of CIU's motto "To Know Him and to Make Him Known," explains English Professor Mark Wenger.

"Natural revelation and supernatural revelation find their union in Christ Jesus," Wenger says, "and faithful students of Scripture study the writings of poets and novelists, journalists and biographers mindful that all truth is God's truth, and we look for ways in which we might see Christ more clearly and make Him more clearly known through faithfulness in the study of the Word of God, and the words of man."

More specifically, the English major focuses on intellectual

development through reading, writing, and critical thinking, as it prepares students for effective use of the written word in a variety of careers or graduate studies. Wenger is quick to point out that at least one study shows that 20 percent of those in management positions in the United States are English majors.



CIU student Jonah Fair leads a youth group in prayer at Zion Temple Baptist Church near the CIU campus.

“CIU really offers a great combination of biblical and professional education that will open many doors to serving God in many ways and in many places.”

– Dr. James Lanpher, Provost

Digital Media & Cinema/ Media Arts

Dr. Dan Delozier, director of the CIU Communication program says students in the new Communication majors “will focus on a unique and advanced curriculum that will foster, encourage and broaden their ability to communicate Christ creatively to the nations.”

Delozier says the Digital Media & Cinema major prepares students to develop films, videos and documentaries, while the Media Arts major prepares students for careers in graphic design, digital photography, Web design and development, video production, and writing.

But he says perhaps the best part for students in these new programs will be a trip to either New York City or Orlando, Fla., depending on their major.

“Digital Media & Cinema students will spend 7-10 days in New York City visiting the broadcast studios of the major television networks and will give the student a unique inside look into video production and editing,”

Delozier said. “The highlight of this trip will be a behind-the-scenes tour of a major Broadway play.”

Meanwhile, Delozier says Media Arts students will spend 7-10 days in Orlando “visiting the vast media arts industry that has developed there beginning with the Disney complex and the media ministries of the mission organizations Pioneers and Wycliffe.”

Youth Ministry Leadership

Finally, the Youth Ministry Leadership (YML) master’s degree builds on over two decades of Youth Ministry degree experience at the undergraduate level at CIU. Dr. David Olshine, lead faculty member of the program, says YML opens a new avenue of ministry for those who desire a master’s degree in youth ministry leadership. As a frequent speaker at youth ministry conferences, Olshine has often been asked if CIU has a graduate-level youth ministry program, but is now “excited about this new opportunity to serve prospective students.”

He says students have the option of pursuing a specialized Master of Arts in Youth Ministry Leadership degree, or they may choose the same concentration as part of the more comprehensive Master of Divinity degree.

“Youth Ministry Leadership is designed to help graduates address current trends in adolescent culture and develop the leadership skills needed to plan and implement effective strategies for youth and family ministry,” Olshine said.

Remember the Motto

Provost Lanpher says the addition of all of these programs connects with CIU’s well-known commitment “To Know Him and to Make Him Known.”

“CIU really offers a great combination of biblical and professional education that will open many doors to serving God in many ways and in many places,” Lanpher said. “We will always want to make sure that new programs we add are contributing to our mission.” ❖

Securing the Homeland

CIU Alumnus in Key Law Enforcement Position

By Bob Holmes

When Leigh Winchell is asked what he looks forward to when he heads to his office each day he responds, "I love locking guys up." Then comes a low chuckle. But he really means it.

Winchell is one of the top administrators in the United States Department of Homeland Security. He is also a 1981 graduate of Columbia International University. As assistant director of domestic operations at Homeland Security investigations, Winchell supervises 26 special agents in charge, who have under them, 6,500 agents. Their job is to crack down on crimes that cross the U-S border such as narcotics smuggling, international money laundering, and the unlawful transfer of weapons technology.

"I love the process of leading men and women in defeating criminal enterprises," Winchell said in an interview from his office in Washington, D.C. "I love the process of doing what I think is very good and wholesome for the country. It gives me great joy."

Winchell's journey to one of the top law enforcement positions in the federal government began with failure – as a youth pastor at a church in North Carolina. He lasted one year. He was attempting to walk in the ministry footsteps of this family.

"I love the process of leading men and women in defeating criminal enterprises."

His father and mother Dick and Marge Winchell were longtime missionaries to South Africa. His father would later become the general director of the missions agency TEAM. His sister was a missionary; his brother, a pastor.

It was after some heart-to-heart discussions and prayer with his father that Leigh Winchell followed his passion into law enforcement.

"(My father) gave me a lot of freedom saying that perhaps full-time ministry was not what God was calling me to and I was doing it more out of a sense of obligation than out of sense of calling," Winchell said of those father-son conversations. "He said it was better if I would open myself to what God would have me do." So the younger Winchell applied to the Richland County, S.C. Sheriff's Department where he was a deputy for three years before moving into federal law enforcement.

"I believe that the work that I do is rooting out evil and sometimes in the most raw and coarsest nature that it can be," Winchell said. "There is no doubt in my mind (these crimes) are Satan's work."

He says one of the most "evil" crimes he confronts is child pornography.

"One of the greatest satisfactions I have in my job (is) rescuing children from a life of abuse – some as young as two and three weeks old," Winchell said. "People exploiting them and sending (child pornography) around the world – that is evil in its rawest form."

Winchell says he gets a lot of "quizzical" looks from people when he tells them his college major was in Bible. He says that in some people's minds, including Christians, law enforcement is the antithesis of God's work.

"I disagree with that concept," Winchell flatly states, and encourages more young believers to consider law enforcement.

"The world needs law enforcement men and women who are rooted in Scripture and who are rooted in their faith and the power and righteousness of God," Winchell said. "Having a strong faith and being grounded in the Truth is absolutely necessary in this line of work and actually can make (believers) some of the best law enforcement people out there." ❖

Leigh Winchell testifies before a Congressional committee. (Photo courtesy of Talk Radio News Service)





Remembering 9/11 and 11/4

By Dr. George Murray
CIU Chancellor

Jesus said, "I will build my church," and Nov. 4, 2001 was a significant day in church history, because of what happened on that date in India.

In that Hindu country, there are over 250 million people who are classified as Dalits, or "untouchables." In the Hindu caste system, these people are at the very bottom. They are denied almost all human rights, including an education, live in dire poverty, and are relegated to the most menial of tasks. But in 2000, the Dalits "rose up" in protest and announced that on Nov. 4, 2001 they would hold a massive rally in New Delhi, India, at which time they would renounce Hinduism and adopt another major world religion. Their leader invited representatives of other religions especially Islam, Buddhism, and Christianity to meet with him prior to the rally and discuss reasons why the Dalits should "convert" to their religion. Islam was extremely attractive to the Dalits because the Muslim leaders were promising huge economic assistance based on their vast oil reserves.

And then, less than two months before the planned Dalit rally in India, the horrific events of Sept. 11, 2001, perpetrated by Muslim extremists, took place in America. At that time I was serving as the president of Columbia International University, and along with much of the world, the CIU family was

stunned at the events of that day.

In late October I learned of the Dalit rally that was being planned for early November. Several days before the rally, I told the student body

about the upcoming Dalit gathering, what was at stake, and asked any of them who could, to skip supper and join me that evening in Pamplin auditorium to fast and pray earnestly for the Dalits and their upcoming decision. I was hoping for a group of 20-30 students. To my surprise, when I arrived at the auditorium at 6:00 p.m., the auditorium's 200 seats were filled, with additional students sitting on the floor and in the aisles. The atmosphere was electric and Spirit-filled as the praying went on and on!

I had to slip out of the prayer meeting early for an off-campus meeting. When I returned at 9:00 p.m., I went back to Pamplin Auditorium and found many of our students still gathered in small groups throughout the room, continuing to pray for the Dalits. I eventually left the meeting to get a good night's sleep, and honestly don't know how late our students stayed and prayed. Did that time of fasting and praying have any effect on the Nov. 4 rally? I believe it did.

Several hundred thousand Dalits gathered, and listened to speeches from Muslim, Buddhist and Christian speakers. Significantly, even though Islam seemed to be "winning the day" in the period leading up to the Nov. 4 rally, when the terrorist attack on Sept.

11 took place, the Dalits said to the Muslim leaders "if this is how Islam operates, thanks, but no thanks." And they decided to NOT adopt Islam. If the Dalits had embraced Islam, India would have become the largest Muslim nation in the world since 160 million people in India are already Muslims.

On Nov. 4, the Dalits did renounce Hinduism as their "official" religion, but as a group, did not embrace another world religion. The leader of the Dalits at that time, Ram Raj, personally chose to convert from Hinduism to Buddhism, and many other Dalit people doubtless followed his example. But the official renunciation of Hinduism on the part of the Dalits as a whole has "opened a door" and given the Dalit people the freedom to choose a different religion, including the biblical, historic Christian faith.

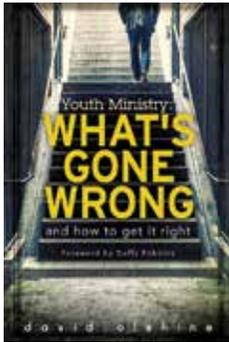
This account helps to answer two important questions. The first is, "Does God hear and answer prayer?" The second question is: "Is God still in

Can anything good have possibly been a result of the horrendous events of Sept. 11, 2001?

control, and can anything good have possibly been a result of the horrendous events of Sept. 11, 2001?" In the case of both questions, I believe the answer is a resounding "yes." And years from now, looking back, I believe that Nov. 4, 2001, and what happened in India on that date, will be a significant event listed in church history books. ❖

Photo courtesy of Gospel for Asia.

Resources



Youth Ministry: What's Gone Wrong?

Youth Ministry specialists are noticing that as technology accelerates, spiritual apathy among young people is increasing. Many teens are biblically illiterate, bored, and find the church to be irrelevant. Parents are frustrated. Youth leaders are burned out. And high school and college students—if they ever attended—are leaving the

church by the droves. What on earth has gone wrong?

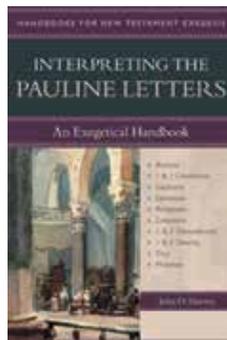
Dr. David Olshine, director of the Youth Ministry, Family, & Culture program at Columbia International University explores what needs to change and offers practical advice to youth ministry leaders in his new book, "Youth Ministry: What's Gone Wrong?"

Olshine is the author and co-author of 19 books and is a regular contributor to "Youth Worker Journal." He is ordained in the United Methodist Church and has served for over 30 years as a youth pastor and lead pastor of a college-town church. He is also the co-founder of Youth Ministry Coaches, an organization that helps the church strategize for youth ministry (youthmincoaches.com).

"Youth Ministry: What's Gone Wrong" is published by Abingdon Press.

CIU Seminary Dean Publishes Handbook on Paul's Letters

A new handbook on the Apostle Paul's letters written by the dean of Columbia International Seminary & School of Ministry is getting good reviews. "Interpreting the Pauline Letters" by Dr. John Harvey is the inaugural volume in a "Handbooks for New Testament Exegesis" series from Kregel Publications.



While the book explores the setting and theological themes of each letter, it also discusses strategies for communicating the central truths of Paul's first-century messages to a 21st century audience.

The book is written with seminary and graduate students in mind, but the studious lay person will also benefit from it.



A Thank You Letter to CIU from Alaska

Twenty years ago I began my final year of undergraduate courses at CIU, the most transformative four years of my life up to that point. It was, quite literally, a blessing of biblical proportions.

My amazement, thankfulness, and wonder at the grace God lavished on me through CIU have only grown over the years. No other place I've been has more of my heart than 7435 Monticello Road in Columbia, S.C. The memories and affection for the place and the people are continual sources of encouragement.

While an undergraduate student, I began participating in the Alaska Summer Missionary Program through SEND International. Though I was in the Pastoral Ministries program, I began to ponder the opportunities for village ministry in Alaska through education. In his wisdom, Professor Cliff Bedell assured me that serving as an educator was entirely in keeping with God's call to serve Him in ministry. Over a meal in the cafeteria, Professor Bedell graciously encouraged me to pray and follow God's leading. After graduating from CIU in 1994, I chose Alaska for ministry and landed a job as a teacher's aide in a local school and quickly realized the opportunities associated with serving in Alaska's rural public education system. I returned to CIU the following summer to complete the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program.

While completing the M.A.T., I was hired by the Copper River School District to teach in a small village school attended by Alaska natives known as Ahtna Athabascan. In 1999, I married Beth Ressler, who was also in Alaska serving as a medical missionary. Together we formed a close bond with the Ahtna people, even having Ahtna youth live in our home. Additionally, we are blessed with two children of our own who love the Alaskan lifestyle.

The challenges of being an educator in Alaska are numerous. The remoteness, climate, and culture are all unique and adventurous in their own ways. We have plenty of stories of students freezing their tongues to the swing sets, bears on cars, moose on the playground, 50 degrees below zero, earthquakes and other Alaska adventures. Though I won't forget the heat and humidity of South Carolina, in many other ways, CIU prepared me for life in Alaska.

CIU's impact on me has been clearly evident, as I've served as an aide, teacher, principal and superintendent in a cross-cultural setting. Through Dr. Bryan Beyer, Dr. Jack Layman, and many others, the ministry of CIU placed a foundation in my life upon which God graciously allowed me to serve in Jesus' name. Dr. Milt Uecker, Professor Linda Murdaugh and the other faculty of the M.A.T. program provided a vision of education that has shaped even the smallest details of my experience.

CIU's legacy of excellence and impact has been with me since the day I graduated, and God's grace given through CIU continues to point me to Him and the joy of His salvation.

Thank you to all those who make CIU a fountain of God's continued grace upon this world.

Michael Johnson,
Glennallen, Alaska

My amazement,
thankfulness,
and wonder at
the grace God
lavished on me
through CIU have
only grown over
the years.

Let's Get *Acquainted*

To fully experience all that **Columbia International University** has to offer, we recommend that you visit us in **Columbia**. Even if you are considering taking many of your courses online, God will often use a campus visit to guide you in your next step in following your passion.

Take advantage of Graduate Preview Days or a CIU Open House. But if these special days don't fit into your calendar, we'll get acquainted on your time. Let us know when you'd like to come and we will tailor your visit to your interests.



Preview Days

At CIU Preview Days you'll tour the campus, enjoy extended conversations with CIU professors, and interact with current students. Keep an eye on our website www.ciu.edu for the dates of CIU Preview Days.

Open House

We schedule a CIU Open House in the evening making it easy for you to drop in on your schedule. You'll have the opportunity to meet with professors, tour our beautiful campus, and connect with our admissions and financial aid experts — in a relaxed atmosphere.



Personal Visit

Schedule a visit on a day that works best for you (Monday-Friday). Please notify us a week before you visit. We'll make arrangements for you to meet with the admissions team, attend Chapel (Monday-Thursday), sit in on a class, meet with Student Financial Services, and have lunch with a professor in the dining hall.



Schedule your visit today!

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