

# Connection

Volume 5, No. 1

Summer 2006

Inside this Issue:

## Ministry and the Media

CIU exalts Christ through  
mass communication



Columbia International University



# Media: A Means for Ministry

Dear friends of CIU,

The focus of this issue of the CIU CONNECTION — *the critical role of media in the work of the Lord* — is particularly important to me because I was born again as the result of hearing an evening radio program in 1952. The radio speaker was talking about the Second Coming of Christ, and asked this simple question to his radio listeners: "If Christ comes back today, will you be ready to meet Him?" He went on to explain the salvation that Christ had provided through His life, death and resurrection. That night, by simple faith, I opened my heart to the Lord and I will be forever grateful for the medium of radio.

Radio continued to be important to me when my wife and I were missionaries in Italy. Our church-planting team started an evangelistic FM radio station in a completely unreached province. Years later after the first local church was established, I realized that 70 percent of the new believers in the congregation had their first-ever contact with us through that radio station. Print media was also a critical part of our missionary work. As more new believers were added to the church, I raised a large sum of money to translate into Italian and publish Paul Little's book, *Know Why You Believe*, in order to strengthen new believers and give answers to the many questions of skeptical post-Christian Europeans.

*Print media, music, art, radio, television, film, and the Internet are all media tools that have great potential for evil, but they can also be harnessed for the effective communication of the message of Christ.*

In Luke 5, we read of four men who made a great effort to bring one of their friends, a lame man, to Jesus. The biblical account tells us that those four men "sought means to bring him in..." Our 21st century rapidly expanding media forms are some of the "means" that we *can* and *should* use to bring people to Christ and help them grow in their knowledge of Him. Print media, music, art, radio, television, film, and the Internet are all media tools that have great potential for evil, but they can also be harnessed for the effective communication of the message of Christ. Here in North America alone, the Barna Group reports that 46 percent of all adults, believers and non-believers alike, listen to a Christian radio broadcast at least once a month, and one out

of every six adults visits a faith-based website during a typical month.

Highlighted in this issue of the CONNECTION are CIU's two Christian radio stations which touch the lives of nearly 250,000 people every week. Also highlighted are author Philip Yancey, songwriter Laura Story, and the TV show inspired by Sue Thomas. Yancey, Story and Thomas — *all three CIU graduates* — are having an impact for Christ on the lives of countless people. Dan Delozier writes about CIU's exciting Communication Program that is teaching our students how to "communicate Christ creatively." Don't miss the feature on Ben Lippen School graduate, Sam Gado, who is carefully but courageously upholding his Christian witness as a running back for the Green Bay Packers. And, if you are among our CIU alumni, find out how you can stay connected with old friends and meet new friends through the CIU NetCommunity on page 16. It's free!

Yours for His glory,

George W. Murray  
President

## Connection

Columbia  
International  
University

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**About the Cover**  
Joy Ridderhof was a member of the first graduating class of Columbia International University (then Columbia Bible School) in 1925. She utilized cutting edge technology to facilitate the spread of the gospel to every language group. She founded the ministry Gospel Recordings that continues today.

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# President's Letter



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Dear *Connection* reader,

We are now printing your *Letters to the Editor*. We encourage you to mail or e-mail your thoughts on this edition of *Connection*.

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: *Connection* Editor, Columbia International University, 7435 Monticello Road, Columbia, SC 29203. Or e-mail [publicrelations@ciu.edu](mailto:publicrelations@ciu.edu).

Let's hear from you!

Bob Holmes  
*Connection* editor

## CIU Receives Largest Donation in its History

Columbia International University has received the largest donation in its 83-year history. The approximately \$4.5 million donation comes from the estate of the late Henry and Mary MacCulloch (pronounced: mah-CULL-ah) of Willow Grove, Pa.

George W. Murray, CIU President, says the MacCullos had been making significant financial contributions to CIU for 20 years until the death of Mrs. MacCulloch late last year. Mr. MacCulloch, who passed away in the 1980s, owned a construction company. The couple lived a very modest lifestyle in an 1,100 square foot home in the northern suburbs of Philadelphia.

Murray commented that the MacCulloch's simple lifestyle and generosity reflected a heart that resonated with CIU's motto and

mission "To Know Him And To Make Him Known."

"This estate gift came from people who believed that the greatest thing in life is to give in such a way that people could know Jesus Christ," Murray said. "They saw CIU as a vehicle for getting the gospel to the whole world. There will be more CIU graduates doing Kingdom work because of this gift."

CIU's president says the money will be used primarily as an endowment to help fund student financial aid and salaries for faculty and staff.

## Ben Lippen Names New Headmaster

Brian J. Modarelli has accepted the position of Headmaster at Ben Lippen School.

Modarelli has been involved in Christian education for 20 years serving as teacher, coach, principal and headmaster. He comes to Ben Lippen from Davidson Academy in Nashville, Tenn. where he served as Head of the Upper School. Modarelli and his wife Tara have four children. He'll begin his tenure in mid-June.

Don Kauffman, Ben Lippen's Headmaster for the past six years has accepted the position of Upper School Principal at Southside Christian School in Greenville, S.C. Kauffman's leadership set a firm foundation of spiritual transformation and academic excellence at Ben Lippen.



Brian J. Modarelli



*Over the years the generosity of Henry and Mary MacCulloch made many projects possible including "The Clusters" dorm.*



Ben Lippen boys and girls at the Ashland Road Campus cheer at the news of moving to their own building.

## \$1 Million Matching Gift Sets Pace for Ben Lippen Initiative

A \$1 million matching gift to Ben Lippen — the largest single gift in the school's history — gave a boost to the school's Elementary School Facilities Initiative. The \$4.65 million initiative includes: (1) constructing a new elementary school adjacent to the middle and high school buildings on the CIU campus; and (2) purchasing the vacated Riverland Hills Baptist Church at 500 St. Andrews Road to serve families living in the northwest suburbs of Columbia. About 280, K4-5th grade students are expected to attend the elementary schools this fall.

Ben Lippen Elementary School is vacating three local churches that have graciously hosted the school for many years: Crossroads Community Church (since 2002), St. Andrews Presbyterian Church (since 1990), Spears Creek Baptist Church (since 1996). These strong church-school partnerships have been foundational for Ben Lippen's steady growth. Ben Lippen expects to join hands with other churches in the future as the school continues to provide Christ-centered education to a growing number of families in the Columbia area.

To learn more about Ben Lippen's Elementary School Facilities Initiative, please contact the Office of Advancement at (803) 786-7200, ext. 3511.

## 89.7 WMHK Wins Prestigious Dove Award

Columbia's Christian radio station has added to the many honors it has received over the years by winning the 2006 Dove Award for "Radio Station of the Year" in the medium



market category. The award is presented by the 4000-member Gospel Music Association (GMA) which is dedicated to exposing, promoting and celebrating the gospel through music.

WMHK General Manager Jerry Grimes says the award represents the highest honor in the Christian music industry.

"We're thrilled to have this recognition from our peers," Grimes said. "Our staff is dedicated to excellence and knowing that people in the industry have noticed that is a tremendous blessing."

The GMA presents the annual award to stations that demonstrate "the highest standards of quality and have the strongest impact on their listening area." A panel of judges reviewed the station's ratings, service to the community, on-air performance and industry leadership.

WMHK was acknowledged during the 37th annual GMA Music Awards on April 5, 2006 in Nashville at the Grand Ole Opry House.

The recognition from the GMA is just one of many honors WMHK has garnered in its 30 years of broadcast excellence. The station has won numerous local, regional and national awards, including the Marconi Award from the National

Association of Broadcasters for "Station of the Year" in 1997 and 2001. Also, the Arbitron ratings consistently show WMHK to be one of the most listened to radio stations in the Columbia market.

## First R.C. McQuilkin Leadership Scholarship Awarded

David Strobolakos Jr. of Bath, N.Y. was selected as the first R.C. McQuilkin Leadership Scholarship recipient. This new scholarship is a

full tuition scholarship, renewable for up to four years to attend Columbia International University.

R.C. McQuilkin, the first president of CIU, was committed to victorious

Christian living and world evangelization. His vision is reflected in CIU's mission and motto, "*To Know Him And To Make Him Known.*"

This new scholarship is presented to a student of high academic ability who best embodies the mission of the school and will carry that mission for many years to come.

Undergraduate Dean, Pat Blewett describes Strobolakos as "a winsome young man who demonstrates servant leadership, a balanced Christian life and is committed to taking the Good News of Jesus Christ to the whole world."

Strobolakos was one of 51 students from 13 states who competed for the scholarship during a weekend of events March 3-5. Each student participated in a class, two interviews, a group discussion and several large group activities.



David Strobolakos Jr.

Strobolakos plans to enroll at CIU in the fall of 2006. His desire is to study the Bible and use his Bible training to help him make a difference in other people's lives. Strobolakos was home-schooled and received his high school diploma in December 2005. He lived with his family in Columbia from 1990-1993 when his father was a CIU student. David Strobolakos Sr. earned an associate degree from CIU in 1993.

## CIU Announces New "Legacy Grant"

Officials at Columbia International University have announced the addition of a new grant for freshmen in the Fall '06 semester. Director of Student Financial Services, Darrell Webb says the new "Legacy Grant" applies \$1,000 toward the cost of tuition and is available to any child or grandchild of a CIU alumnus.

"CIU is committed to helping all interested students afford an education at CIU," Webb said. "This is just one of the ways we are trying to help students obtain a quality Bible-based education."

The following are the minimum requirements to receive this grant:

1. Must meet minimum admission requirements.
2. Must have a high school GPA of 3.0 or above on a 4.0 scale.
3. Must have a SAT score of 950 or higher.
4. Student must enroll as a full-time student.
5. This grant is renewable for up to four total years as long as the student remains full time and maintains a GPA of 3.0 while at CIU.

(continued on page 6.)

# News Connection

There are a limited number of these grants available and they will be awarded on a first come, first served basis. Therefore it is necessary that all interested students apply early and complete all required CIU Student Financial Services documents including the FAFSA (CIU Code # 003429), the CIU Student Financial Services application, and all admissions requirements.

All CIU grants and scholarships will be awarded up to the total cost of tuition and fees after first applying all federal and state aid.



Mittie Hatch

## CIU Distinguished Alumna "Now With Him"

Mittie Hatch, Distinguished Columbia International University Alumna of 1992 and the widow of long-time CIU Professor "Buck" Hatch, died Jan. 9 in West Columbia, S.C. She was 88.

Born in Charlotte, N.C., Mittie Hatch graduated from CIU (then Columbia Bible College) in 1941, the same year that she married the Rev. James "Buck" Hatch, who taught for nearly 40 years at CIU.

Mrs. Hatch was active as a homemaker, mother and pastor's wife, leading and teaching a variety of Bible studies. She was employed by Columbia International University for a decade in the media department. She often traveled with her husband in his broad teaching ministry across the United States, South America and England. She resided for the last 11 years at Laurel Crest Retirement Community in West Columbia, S.C. and was an active member of Cornerstone Presbyterian Church.

Her sons, James and Nathan, and their wives were able to spend time with their mother between Christmas and the New Year holiday.

"It was good to have had that time to talk, pray and laugh," Jim said. "Rejoice with us that God gave her to us all. Rejoice that she's now with Him."

## CIU Students Work to Beautify Neighborhood

About two dozen Columbia International University students avoided the urge to sleep in on a warm Saturday morning in March. Instead they put on their work gloves and grabbed a rake or shovel in support of a local initiative to improve CIU's neighborhood.

CIU has partnered with The Nehemiah Project, a community development corporation founded by Reginald Flynn. Flynn is the pastor of Temple Zion Baptist Church located a mile from CIU. He's also a CIU seminary student.

The goals of The Nehemiah Project include training young people in work skills, increasing the opportunities for home ownership and improving the general appearance of the neighborhood.

The students teamed up with members of Temple Zion Baptist to clear weeds and brush from a corner of a main entryway into the neighborhood: the intersection of Monticello Road and Blue Ridge Terrace, just north of the I-20 interchange. They were joined by CIU President Dr. George Murray. Trees will eventually be planted on the corner.



Above: CIU Vice President for Corporate Planning Bob Kallgren gives clean-up instructions to CIU President George W. Murray (left) and CIU students. Inset: Murray (second from right) and Pastor Reginald Flynn (second from left) and CIU students join in neighborhood clean-up.



# Zwemer Center

*Vision: A global church equipped for Muslim ministry.*



## 10<sup>TH</sup> Summer Institute on Islam

**July 3-28 on the CIU campus**

Islam through Christian and  
Muslim Eyes: July 3-7

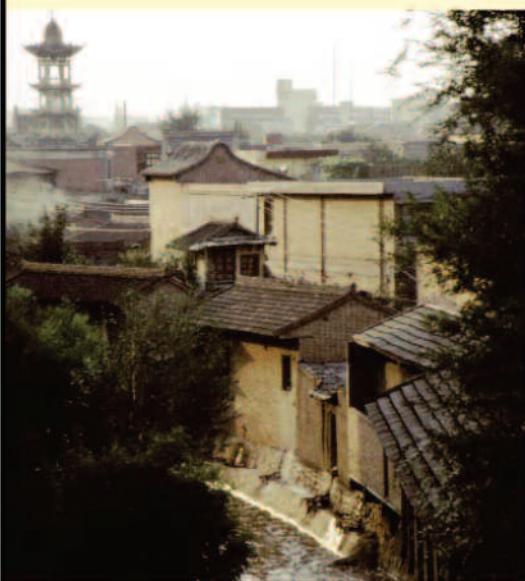
The Spirit World of Islam: July 10-14

Approaches to Muslims: July 17-24

The Sacred Sources of Islam: July 24-28

Credit or Seminar (non-credit)

For more information visit:  
[www.ciu.edu/summerstudies](http://www.ciu.edu/summerstudies)  
or e-mail [muslimstudies@ciu.edu](mailto:muslimstudies@ciu.edu)



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**1-800-777-2227**

7435 Monticello Road, Columbia, SC 29203

*Photos courtesy of Arab World Ministries and Create International.*

# A Great Way to Help CIU Students Reach Their Potential

By Frank Bedell



Frank Bedell  
CIU Director of  
Development

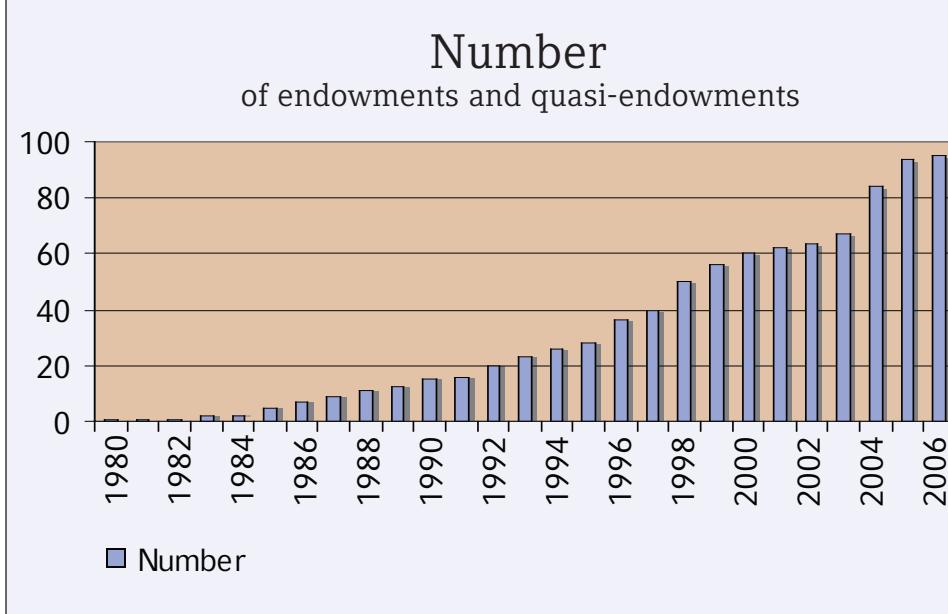
**E**ach year the Columbia International University Development Office hosts donors and student scholarship recipients at our Scholarship Luncheon. This event is the highlight of the year for many of our donors – those who have created endowments, quasi-endowments and recurring scholarships – because they get to meet the students who have benefited from their generosity.

There are 95 endowments and quasi-endowments generating over \$400,000 in student aid for the 2005–2006 school year and numerous other scholarships generating over \$300,000 for a total of \$700,000. The Scholarship Luncheon provides an opportunity to celebrate God's great provision.

Establishing an endowed or quasi-endowed scholarship requires a minimum gift of \$10,000. Such scholarships can be established in memory or in honor of a loved one. But for many donors the scholarships are simply a vehicle for making a contribution to CIU that will generate student scholarships in perpetuity.

CIU awards five percent of the fund balance in student scholarship aid each year and reinvests the difference so that scholarships continue to grow on an annual basis.

*Experience the blessings that come from helping CIU students reach their full potential by establishing an endowment or scholarship.*



*The above graph shows how endowments and quasi-endowments have grown over the years at CIU.*

Experience the blessings that come from helping CIU students reach their full potential by establishing an endowment or scholarship. For details, give me a call in the Development Office at 1-800-777-2227, ext. 3064 or e-mail me at [fbedell@ciu.edu](mailto:fbedell@ciu.edu).

# The “Story” Behind “Indescribable”

## CIU Grad Pens Christian Music Hit



If you listen to contemporary Christian music or sing contemporary praise music at your church, you probably have heard the song “Indescribable,” made famous by Christian singer and worship leader Chris Tomlin. What you may not know is that “Indescribable” was written by 2003 CIU graduate Laura Story.

Story found the inspiration for “Indescribable” driving on Interstate 40 through the mountains between Asheville, N.C. and Knoxville, Tenn.

“It’s just gorgeous there. It was fall and the leaves were changing and the sun was setting,” Story recalls.

“It was one of those moments when I wanted to sing and at first just nothing really came out. And that’s what made me ponder this idea of God really not being able to be contained in our frail word. We just can’t even begin to describe His majesty. That was the concept for the song. I just kind of started singing some words and scribbling them on a bank receipt or something or whatever it was I could find in my car.”

Even though most people associate the song with Tomlin, Story says it has broadened her ministry. She is hearing from people all over the world telling her about how God has used her song in their lives.

Story has been involved with music since she was a child growing up in Spartanburg, S.C. She learned the piano at age seven and the stand up bass at 10. She went on to perform with the Christian band Siler’s Bald. Laura started her college career at the University of South Carolina where she spent her freshman year. Then on a mission trip she met

evangelist Adrian Despres who asked her what she wanted to do with her life. Her two passions were music and the Bible. Despres said, “It sounds like you need to go to CIU.” She applied, was accepted and started a couple of weeks later.

CIU’s influence on Story was profound. She credits the school with preparing her for music ministry and teaching her to hide God’s Word in her heart. Laura fondly remembers music professor Larry Shackley who “was patient with me even when I wasn’t taking school seriously,” and Kevin and Lanie McWilliams who “taught my husband and me about marriage.” Kevin McWilliams is an undergraduate professor at CIU and Lanie serves in Student Affairs.

Story’s plans to live in Nashville, the epicenter of the Christian music industry were changed when she re-connected with her high school sweetheart. They were married about two years ago and live in Atlanta where Laura is a worship leader. She would like to be a mom someday but always sees herself writing and performing. As a matter of fact, listen to the new Caedmon’s Call CD “In the Company of Angels II.” You’ll find another song written by Laura Story. It’s called “Rest Upon Us.”

\*\*\*\*\*



### About the Author

Steve Sunshine is Morning Show Host and Assistant Program Director at 89.7 WMHK Radio in Columbia, S.C.

## Radio

By Jerry Grimes, WMHK General Manager  
with Joe Paulo, WRCM General Manager

# WMHK & WRCM: *At the “Core” of CIU*

If you say “broadcasting” today, people are likely to think of microphones, towers and rooms full of technical equipment with banks of buttons. But there was a time when broadcasting was associated more with farming than technology. In fact, if you look the word up in the dictionary, you will still find a secondary meaning of “to sow seed over a wide area.”

The seed-sowing definition perfectly describes the Columbia International University approach to radio broadcasting with its stations, 89.7 WMHK in Columbia, and New Life 91.9 WRCM in Charlotte, N.C. Combined, these two powerhouses reach nearly a quarter million people every week, making them among the top 10 most listened to Christian stations in the United States. And thanks to the Internet, CIU’s broadcasting impact is being felt not just in the Carolinas, but around the world as well.

My colleague, Joe Paulo, general manager of WRCM says, “Not a day goes by that we don’t hear how someone was impacted by the gospel of Jesus Christ because of our radio stations. The calls, letters, e-mails and visits from listeners tell the story of how God is using WMHK and WRCM to make a difference in people’s lives.”

Sometimes the connection between our broadcasting and CIU is overt, and sometimes it’s more subtle. But at the forefront of it all are CIU’s mission “*To Know Him And To Make Him Known*,” and the university’s Five Core Values.

### The Authority of Scripture

For example, The Authority of Scripture is expressed in countless ways through the music and features on WRCM and WMHK.

Every song we play is in keeping with biblical principles. The lyrics are either derived from Scripture or quote God’s Word directly. Both stations also promote daily Bible reading by distributing more than 75,000 free Bible reading guides each year.

Paulo says the stations also seek to create an environment that promotes obedience to God’s Word, especially in regard to family relationships.

“We’re the stations moms and dads can listen to in the car with their kids and never be embarrassed,” Paulo said.

### Victorious Christian Living

Both stations are committed to promoting the CIU Core Value of Victorious Christian Living, but here the effort is often less direct than with the Authority of Scripture.

For example, WRCM has pioneered the “Pajama Party” weekend for grown up ladies. The idea was to give busy women a chance to relax and hear teaching about living the deeper Christian life from WRCM personalities Leslie Nease and Shelly Mitchell. The event sold out quickly and attracted 170 women.

At WMHK, we have plans to team up with other CIU departments and develop an annual conference for youth focused on discipleship and life transformation.



### World Evangelization

Evangelism is taken seriously at WRCM and WMHK. In February, for example, a crowd of more than 400 mostly teens responded to the gospel at “Winter Jam,” an event hosted by WMHK which drew more than 11,000.

Last year, WRCM partnered with Campus Crusade for Christ and a local church for the Jesus Video Project. Over 350,000 DVDs telling the gospel story were distributed to Charlotte-area homes.

In addition, the stations annually join forces to invite listeners to participate in a short-term mission project. In 2003 and 2004, more than 40 listeners traveled with radio station staff to the Dominican Republic to work with orphans. This year, a trip to Brazil is being planned for July.

## Prayer & Faith

Although many Christian universities that own radio ministries must devote resources to subsidize their station's budgets, CIU is blessed that WRCM and WMHK are both self-supporting. That means that WRCM and WMHK must each raise up to \$1.5 million annually to stay on the air.

The financial needs of WMHK and WRCM allow the stations to demonstrate another CIU Core Value, Prayer & Faith. We constantly remind our listeners that this is God's work, and we are exercising faith in trusting Him to provide for us.

Our stations take opportunities to draw parallels between our exercise of prayer and faith and the individual listener's life.

## Evangelical Unity

Expressing "Evangelical Unity" on WMHK and WRCM is more implicit.

WRCM annually hosts The Carolina's Largest Baby Shower, benefiting crisis pregnancy centers. The station broadcasts live from a different location every day during the week of the Baby Shower and collects donations of diapers, formula, clothing and other much needed items for families that are struggling.

WMHK sponsors "Bears for Caring," an outreach to children traumatized at the scene of a crime or accident. More than 20,000 new stuffed animals have been collected from our station's listeners over the past three years. Each listener is urged to "bag their bear" with a note of encouragement for the child, using Scripture.

As Joe Paulo says: "When our stations sponsor concerts, events or community service projects, we see the Body of Christ reaching across denominational lines to worship, learn, grow or serve. It's an amazing aspect of our ministry."

## Synergy with CIU

WMHK and WRCM have specific target audiences, but because the ministries are so successful at reaching their respective markets, the stations have broad support from the CIU Board of Trustees, administra-



Clockwise from top: Toby Mac in concert in Columbia; diapers collected for the Carolina's Largest Baby Shower; and Third Day performs in Charlotte.

tion, faculty and staff. Nowhere is synergy more evident than in the students attending CIU and Ben Lippen who first heard about the schools on WMHK or WRCM.

CIU support goes back to the first broadcast day. The first words spoken on WMHK 30 years ago were in a prayer by then CIU President Robertson McQuilkin:

"Father, we praise you. Tonight we praise you especially of the gift of speech. Here we are, human beings created in your image with this ability to communicate what is on our minds. We thank you in this hour for the gift of WMHK, this radio station which you have given to our people in the Midlands of South Carolina. We ask you tonight that you will use it for your glory, always and forever. In the name of Christ, Amen."



## About the authors

*Jerry Grimes earned a Master of Arts degree from Columbia International University in Leadership, Evangelism and Discipleship in May 2005 and has over 20 years of broadcasting experience. Prior to coming to WMHK, he was director of Audience Development for WIS-TV in Columbia. Grimes is also an ordained pastor at Sandhills Community Church in Columbia.*

*Joe Paulo is a graduate of Liberty University. He has been in broadcasting since 1990. Prior to coming to New Life 91.9, he worked for the Charlotte Mecklenburg Public School System.*

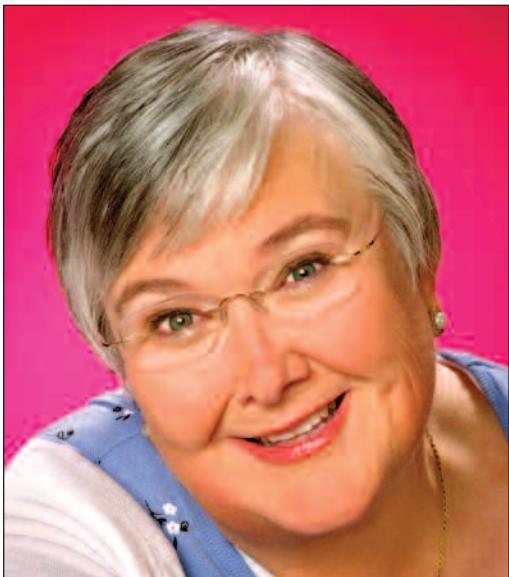


*"Not a day goes by that we don't hear how someone was impacted by the gospel of Jesus Christ because of our radio stations."*

- WRCM General Manager  
Joe Paulo



By Bob Holmes



# Sue Thomas F.B.Eye

## *CIU Was a Turning Point for the Woman Who Inspired TV Show*

**Sue Thomas stood in shame** and humility before the committee of CIU professors and administrators. Non-stop tears gushed from her eyes and streamed down her face. Her deafness and speech impediment only made it worse. The committee had a hard time understanding her.

But the 34-year-old seminary student, who had been deaf since she was 18 months old, managed to get out enough coherent words. She confessed that the last seven months of her life was a lie. She had many on campus convinced that she had terminal cancer. Feeling lonely in her deafness, she had made up the story to get attention.

"I will never forget looking across that room and seeing (CIU) President (Robertson) McQuilkin with his head in his hands, and with tears, shaking his head," Thomas recalls.

Even now, 20 years later in a telephone interview conducted through her assistant, Thomas was overcome with emotion, as she looked back on that day and the sinful attitude toward her disability that led up to the meeting with the committee.

"I had a real sick mind, but I thought if God was not about to change my plight, I would change it in any way I could so I could be with people and make them understand."

Thomas was allowed to stay at CIU with the stipulation that she would undergo counseling. She says it was a turning point in her life where the seeds of a new ministry were planted.

"One of the most difficult things that came out of that (meeting), is when (former CIU professor) Bill Crabb looked at me, and said, 'Some day you will have a ministry that will be worldwide. God will take you around the world.'" Even though it became her heart's desire "to go to every nation and stand before every generation, and proclaim the love and the forgiveness of Jesus Christ," Thomas still carried too much shame to believe it.

But the Pax TV network show, *Sue Thomas: F.B.EYE* proved otherwise. The show, which is based on Thomas' experiences as an F.B.I. lip-reader in her pre-CIU days, is now seen around the world, opening up opportunities for Thomas to share her faith in Jesus Christ.

*"It has given me a platform. It has opened the door to so many different places to share my faith."*

"Who would ever imagine that God would lead me through the journey so that one day I would end up with this TV show, *Sue Thomas F.B.EYE*, that would be seen by some two million people on a weekly basis here in the United States and be seen in 54 nations around the world?" Thomas asked with enthusiasm that is typical of her personality.

"It has given me a platform. It has opened the door to so many different places to share my faith. I joke with people, 'if God gets so serious, about giving the gospel to His people, He will even call out the F.B.I. to get the job done!'"

The show's birth goes back to 1990 after Thomas' autobiography *Silent Night* was published. It spawned an unsuccessful attempt to make a movie based on her life. But the screenwriters thought it might make a good TV show. They pitched the idea to PAX TV and in October 2002, the first episode of *Sue Thomas: F.B.EYE* was aired on the cable network.

At the television information website [imdb.com](http://imdb.com), Joshua Brunken describes *Sue Thomas: F.B.EYE* as "the adventures of Sue Thomas at the FBI in Washington, D.C. She's one hard-headed, soft-hearted woman whose talent for reading lips helps crack crimes and bag the bad guys in places listening devices can't penetrate. With her hearing-ear dog, Levi, Sue's a glutton for jeopardy — and there's (almost) nothing she won't do to bring notorious criminals to justice. This remarkable, edge-of-your-seat drama is an inspiring tribute to the ability of the human spirit to overcome adversity and achieve great things."

Thomas has had some input into the show from the outset.

"I told the producers from the beginning that I want this show to be for moms and dads and the kids. One that the families could watch together. I wanted it to be humorous. I wanted it to be a show the family could talk about after they finish watching it. I wanted them to have moral lessons in it."

On the show, Thomas is portrayed by actress Deanne Bray, who like Thomas, is hearing-impaired in real life.

"I was very happy for that. She makes me look real good – tall and blond. I couldn't ask for anyone to make me look any better!" Thomas laughed.

The program is very popular among the hearing-impaired, but there is a central theme that Thomas hopes all people will come away with after watching

the show: Hope. Thomas, who now suffers from multiple sclerosis and is going blind, says there are days when her spirits are down, but she doesn't stay there.

"By having the belief in Christ Jesus, He picks me up. Jesus walks before me to prepare the way, or walks along my side to uphold me. And those are the days He gets behind me and gives me a swift kick to keep me goin'. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow. That's the message I want to give everybody, no matter what our lot might be. No matter what affliction we might have. God has allowed it! We don't blame Him for it. But rather we need to brace it. To learn through it. Because every single thing that comes our way is to build our character so that we become more like Him."

At age 55, Thomas, who lives in Ohio, refuses to slow down despite her disabilities. She speaks at women's retreats, churches, public schools, and corporations around the world where the TV show is popular. But her heart is with the church.

She recently purchased 113 acres in Vermont to build a lifelong dream: a retreat center where even those whose hearing is normal can be still and hear God's

voice. Part of a wooded area would be designated for absolute silence. No talking will be allowed, only the silent communion with God that Thomas has experienced for much of her life.

Thomas says it will be a place where people can "be renewed and restored, so they can continue their journey of knowing Him and making Him known."

"It will be definitely a (place for) spiritual renewal for God's people from all walks of life. A place where healing can take place. I know what it's like to be broken and to be healed and restored. And I know what it's like to be used. I want to give to as many people as I can."

\* \* \* \*

## About the author

*Bob Holmes is the editor of Connection and Communications Coordinator at Columbia International University.*



*Sue Thomas (left) on the set of Sue Thomas F.B.EYE with actress Deanne Bray who plays her on the show and their "hearing-ear" dogs.*



by Philip Yancey

# Words Set Free

## Popular Christian Author Finds Spiritual Companions in Words



This week I got a letter from Indonesia written in fractured English: "I been reading your book *The Jesus I Never Knew*. These truly a blessing. I read them three times. many times I couldn't sleep at night thinking what you wrote. Your book help me see Jesus not only a person who lived and died on earth 2000 ago, but also a real person that risen 2000 ago that still reacheable until today."

Whenever I get such a letter, I give thanks for the privilege of working with words and for the unlikely linkages they make possible. I know no more isolated occupation than writing. "We read to know that we're not alone," said one of the students tutored by C. S. Lewis in the movie *Shadowlands*. Yes, and we write in desperate hope that we're not alone, hoping that the sometimes-tedious tasks of researching, composing, and polishing words will eventually set in motion a chain that links us to others.

As a student at CIU (CBC back then) I thought I would end up on the mission field. I even took a summer course in German, with plans to go to Vienna, Austria, and work with university students. That never happened, and how glad I am. My own faith was so unformed back then, and my personality so introverted, that I would have done more harm than good in Europe.

Writing afforded a way to work out my faith, word by word. As a journalist I sought out people I could learn from, people who ultimately pointed me toward Jesus (I wrote about some of them in *Soul Survivor*). And to

my astonishment God eventually began to use my words to encourage others in their faith.

A woman in Lebanon told me how much my book *Disappointment with God* meant to her. She read it a few pages a night in the midst of the civil war there, descending 13 flights of stairs in a darkened stairway to a bomb shelter underground and reading by the light of a kerosene lamp. Another woman in Beirut wrote that my book *What's So Amazing About Grace?* helped her have a better attitude toward the P.L.O. guerrillas who had stolen her apartment. I read such letters and think to myself, *I really had in mind a chronic illness not a civil war, and neighbors who play loud music not guerrillas who move in uninvited*. Again and again God has surprised me by using words written with mixed motives by my impure self to bear fruit in ways I never could have imagined.

In *Whose Religion Is Christianity?* the Ghanaian theologian Lamin Sanneh points out that Christianity is a religion of words, and missions in places like Africa only took off as the Bible was translated into the indigenous language, thus setting it free to permeate a culture. God does not overwhelm us with images, eschewing idols. God approaches us in the most freedom-enhancing way imaginable: through words.

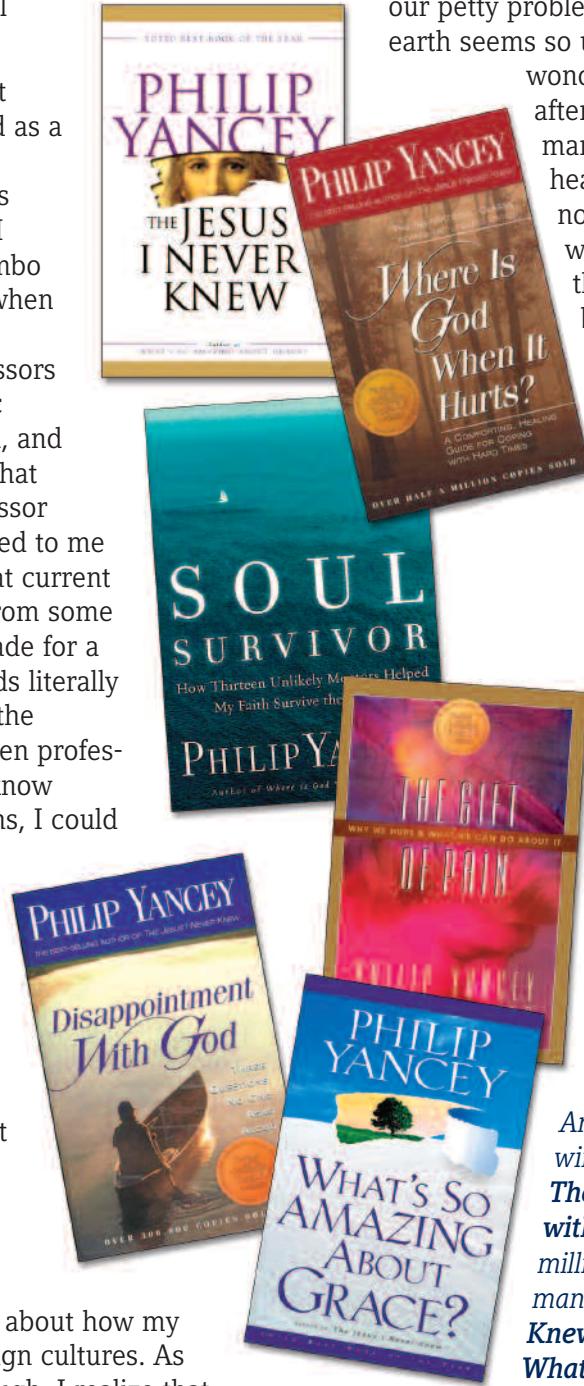
We can easily reject words, of course. On the other hand, words have a way of penetrating barriers. Think of a time when a Mormon or Jehovah's Witness missionary came to your door: immediately defenses go up. But words are far less threatening. Someone in Indonesia can pick up a book about Jesus and decide

# God approaches us in the most freedom-enhancing way imaginable: through words.

to read it, confident that if she finds it unconvincing, she'll simply put it down.

I have written openly about some of the struggles I had as a student at CIU/CBC (and received some angry letters from alumni in response). I attended the school at a limbo time between presidents, when academic standards were lagging. Two former professors have written me apologetic letters. "I was not qualified, and had no business teaching that course," one adjunct professor said. That, plus what seemed to me to be enforced legalism that current students only hear about from some of the older generation, made for a time of inner turmoil. Words literally saved my life, penetrating the boundaries of campus. When professors of apologetics didn't know answers to crucial questions, I could find them in authors like C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton. One of the greatest gifts a college or university can give students is to direct them toward writers who will remain companions well beyond the few years spent in higher education.

I have an entire bookcase devoted to copies of my books published in foreign languages. I used to worry about how my words would relate to foreign cultures. As I travel internationally, though, I realize that we human beings are alike. We face the same basic issues: growing up, sex drives, temptation, romance, ambition, money, children, illness, death. We wonder



how a God who created the universe can care about our petty problems, and why God's intervention on earth seems so unpredictable and sporadic. We

wonder about holiness and sin, life and afterlife, pleasure and pain. Though they manifest themselves in different ways, at heart the same realities confront us all, no matter the culture we live in, and we writers simply try to tell the truth about those realities. Looking back, I guess I became a foreign missionary after all.

\* \* \* \*

## About the author

Philip Yancey earned an undergraduate degree from Columbia International University in 1970. He also earned graduate degrees in Communications and English from Wheaton College Graduate School and the University of Chicago.

Yancey has had more than 600 of his articles appear in 80 different publications, including *Reader's Digest*, *Publisher's Weekly*, *National Wildlife*, *Saturday Evening Post*, *Christian Century* and *The Reformed Journal*. He writes articles and a monthly column for *Christianity Today* magazine, which he serves as editor at large.

Among his 16 books are the award-winning *Where Is God When It Hurts*, *The Student Bible*, and *Disappointment with God*. These have sold more than five million copies. Christian bookstore managers selected *The Jesus I Never Knew* as the 1996 Book of the Year, and *What's So Amazing About Grace?* won the same award in 1998. His most recent books are *The Bible Jesus Read*, *Reaching for the Invisible God*, *Soul Survivor*, and *Rumors of Another World*.

By Kelly Smith

# Creating Community Online

## CIU Seizes on the Internet Explosion

**It is hard to imagine** what life would be like in 2006 without the Internet. In 10 short years it has gone from the domain of computer programmers to a mainstream communications medium used by over one billion people worldwide. And, it's growing rapidly, especially in the non-Western world. In the time that it takes for you to read this article, over 100 people will have begun to use the Internet for the first time! In China alone, Internet usage increased by 400 percent between 2000 and 2005. That "computes" to over 110 million additional people online.<sup>1</sup> It has

become a worldwide phenomenon, and one that is here to stay.

Like the explosion of printed material that followed Gutenberg's invention of the printing press, the Internet has opened up avenues of communication that have never before been available. This is great news for the spread of the gospel. International and cultural boundaries are blurred, communication is virtually instantaneous, and ideas can propagate at amazing rates across the globe. While there are many dangers in using the Internet and great potential for evil, it is also a medium that is increasingly being used for evangelism and discipleship. It is providing avenues for communicating biblical truth in areas which are closed to traditional mission work. New or secret believers can be followed-up online in locations where there are no Christians, or where it would not be safe for one to worship or be discipled openly. Missionaries can now have almost instant contact with their supporters and churches. Training and education can be conducted remotely. In fact, there is a website totally dedicated to "internet evangelism," including a Worldwide Internet Evangelism Day.<sup>2</sup>

How is CIU utilizing the Internet? The CIU website has been providing online information for prospective and current students, donors, friends, and alumni



**CIU alumni – it's simple to sign up for a CIU NetCommunity account!**

Go to <http://www.ciu.edu/alumni> and click the 'Login' link at the top right of the page. Click on the 'Request New Account' button. We'll get back with you in a few days with your login username and temporary password.

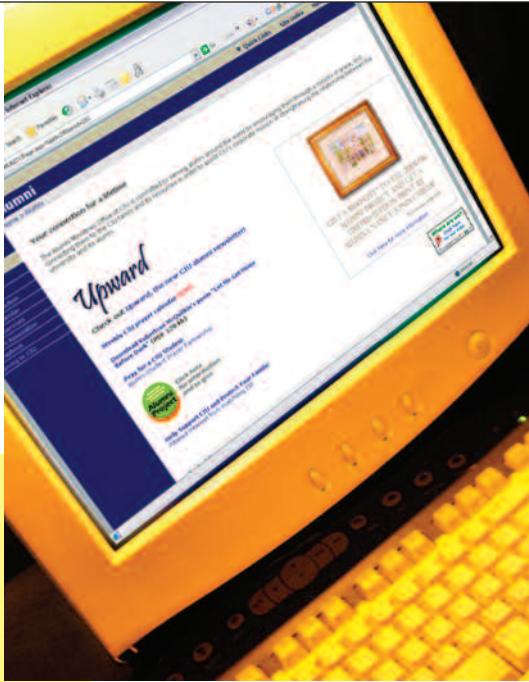
since 1996. Distance Learning has long been a part of the services that we offer through the Internet. In recent years, CIUOnline has provided a forum for students to interact around their current classes, online registration, web mail, job listings, and a place to find many other online resources. E-mail and the Internet have become an indispensable part of what we do.

CIU Alumni Ministries is taking it a step further. Our ministry approach can be summarized as building

bridges between alumni and providing tools for life's toolbox. In creating our new alumni website, we are offering a resource called NetCommunity with the desire of accomplishing both goals. Our hope is that CIU NetCommunity will provide connections for all alumni of Columbia International University worldwide. Through this website, alumni may access a password-protected alumni directory, find current prayer requests, register for events, connect with classmates, download mp3s of classic CIU chapel messages, check personal giving records, and much more in the months to come!

CIU NetCommunity provides the structure for alumni to stay connected with old friends and to meet new friends who live in the same town or just down the street. Our desire is that the new online community will help multiply stories such as that of Sylvia Rushton (BC '55) and Jane Baker (BC '05). These two alumnae, both in public education in Florida, gradu-

**Through the CIU NetCommunity website, alumni may access a password-protected alumni directory, find current prayer requests, register for events, connect with classmates, download mp3s of classic CIU chapel messages, check personal giving records, and much more in the months to come!**



ated from CIU exactly 50 years apart. Through a recent alumni gathering, they met for the first time and discovered that they live just blocks away from each other. A new friendship has been forged. NetCommunity has the potential to connect our alumni in much the same way, down the street or around the world.

One exciting upcoming feature of CIU NetCommunity is a filtered Internet service that we're calling CIUFamily. Offering filtered high-speed and DSL Internet service throughout the United States, we can help to provide a safe Internet experience for the families of CIU alumni, students, and friends. It's also a way of supporting the university, as a portion of each month's subscription fees come directly back to CIU. We're anticipating that filtered Internet access through CIUFamily will be available this summer.

<sup>1</sup>Source: *Internet World Statistics*: <http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats3.htm>

<sup>2</sup>Website for information on Internet Evangelism Day: <http://ied.gospelcom.net>

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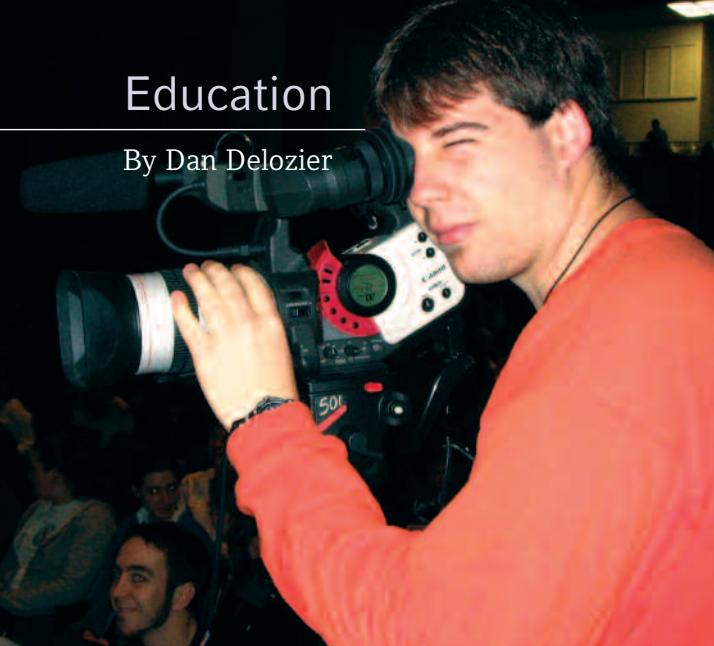
## About the author

*Kelly Smith is originally from a small town on the prairies of Kansas. He hopes to move overseas to serve as a missionary in Southeast Asia within the next few years. He is currently finishing up a master's degree at Columbia Biblical Seminary & School of Missions and works as the E-Communications specialist in the Alumni Ministries office at CIU.*



## Education

By Dan Delozier



# Communicating Creatively

## CIU Communication Program Draws from the Past While Embracing Today's Technology

I remember arriving on the campus of Columbia International University in the summer of 1995 to assume my new role as the chairman of the Communication program. I was excited. A Bible college graduate, a photographer and self-confessed media and computer junkie, this was my dream job.

That summer the college purchased a computer for me. A 133 MHz processor, with 64 mg of ram and, the most exciting aspect of the computer, a revolutionary new operating system called Windows 95. For days following its arrival, faculty and staff members made visits to my office, for what I thought was an example of Southern hospitality, but what I later realized was their desire to see my new computer.

A lot has changed in the media field since those first few months at CIU. Courses I taught in media theory, accessing the Internet, using e-mail, have given way to courses in marketing, video production, web page development, leadership, sign language and radio broadcasting.

Billy Graham said it well, "It is time for the church to use the technology to make a statement that in the midst of chaos, emptiness, and despair, there is hope in the person of Jesus Christ."

The "AGE OF COMMUNICATION" is growing rapidly! iPods, video cell phones, HDTV, the Internet (and its 76 million websites), *The Chronicles of Narnia*, *The Passion of the Christ*, *The Jesus Film*, desktop digital software, and digital cameras when combined with the established media of radio, video, and the performing arts are giving today's communicators powerful tools to *communicate Christ creatively*.

The purpose of the Communication program is to assist students in the development of skills that will enable them to utilize, appropriately and creatively, the latest technology

# Christ

for the communication of the gospel. Students majoring in the Communication program build a foundation for careers in radio broadcasting, computer technology, video production, missions, church related ministries, deaf ministries and the performing arts.

The dynamic that exists between the ever-changing and emerging new technologies, is that, at its core, the end product of communication does not change. When you come right down to it, people still need to hear or see (read) the words of life. The challenge for us here at CIU, and the Communication program specifically, is to provide creative ways to get the gospel to those who need to read and/or see it.

An example is the digital revolution. iTunes affords us the opportunity to store and have access to music. On the PC that I'm writing this article, I currently have over 500 songs covering my musical tastes from the past 45 years. My son-in-law has over 1500 songs in his iTunes folder. Impressive, yes! Practical? Maybe not. iTunes is only too happy to tell me that it would take 1.4 days to listen to my music catalog.

But let's put this into perspective. iTunes affords me the access to 500 songs, available only a few mouse clicks away. One might think that a program of this nature would be a great tool for allowing people to hear the gospel, spoken or in music. But is it?

Disconnect my computer from the wall, and the battery runs my PC for an hour before it shuts down. Not very good in the bush or in the deserts of Africa or in the Amazon Jungle where power is not readily accessible. What to do? Look to the past!

Technology, often considered to be the cure for the future, often can't meet the needs of the present. Joy Ridderhof, for whom CIU's Ridderhof Media Center is named, created a device that rivals today's technology, communicates the Word of God creatively and can be distributed the world over in any language and requires no power, except human power. It's called, Card Talk! A simple, yet exquisite piece of cardboard with a metal needle, that folds flat and opens into an A-frame configuration. When a record, yes an old-fashioned seven inch piece of vinyl with grooves on each side, is placed onto Card Talk, any person can turn the record to hear the gospel in their language.

The goal for the Communication program at CIU is to challenge today's students to be tomorrow's Joy Ridderhof, using technology to communicate Christ

*Opposite page, top to bottom: Communication student Josh Hazard focuses a camera during World Christian Week; Communication student Josie Linderholm directs production crew during World Christian Week; and Communication students on the set of a television production.*

*Right: Card Talk, an innovative creation of Joy Ridderhof, a member of CIU's first graduating class in 1925. By manually turning the record, people in remote locations have heard the gospel.*



creatively. We want students to excel in their understanding of the Word of God, to comprehend the present and future of technology, to anticipate the next digital revolution and to be willing to be used by God whether it is in the marketplace, mission or ministry. Simply stated, the CIU Communication department is teaching our students to INCARNATE the message with their lives, as well as COMMUNICATE the message via media techniques.

The simplicity of the gospel is found in the words of the Book. The Holy Spirit chose to give us a word book not a picture book, a video, or song. It's the words that bring life as Peter confesses in John 6:68, "*Lord to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life.*" (NASB).

In a world of 76 million web sites, 500 channel cable TV, movies, music, iPods, DVDs, video cell phones, and PCs, it still comes down to the words that people hear and words that they read that will make a difference in where they will spend eternity, the words of Life.

\* \* \* \*



## About the author

*Dan Delozier is the chairman of the Communication program at Columbia International University.*

By Bob Holmes

# Ben Lippen Alumnus Sam Gado

## *talks about his new celebrity status*

**Sam Gado remembers** the time he became very open with a news reporter. That's when NFL veteran and teammate Kabeer Gbaja-Biamila pulled the Green Bay Packers rookie aside.

"Sam there's one thing I want you to know, these people are not your friends," Gado recalls Gbaja-Biamila telling him. "Even if you think it's off the record, if it makes a good story, they'll write it."

It was the former Ben Lippen Falcon's first hard lesson in dealing with the media and sudden fame that is his after becoming the starting running back for the Packers this past season.

Gado, a native of Nigeria, came to America with his parents at the age of nine when his father began seminary studies at Columbia International University, the parent organization of Ben Lippen School. He graduated from Ben Lippen High School in 2001, and went on to play football at Liberty University where he started only two games, but still managed to make it to the NFL, signing as an undrafted free agent with the Kansas City Chiefs. He was cut from the Chief's squad before the season, but the Packers picked him up and used him as a practice squad player. His big break came when four other Packer running backs went down with injuries.

In his second game he scored a touchdown in front of the hometown crowd at Lambeau Field and was immediately in the media spotlight.

"I've never had seven or eight reporters breathing down my neck waiting to see what I was going to say," Gado said.



It didn't take long for Gado to share the media spotlight with his Alma Mater, Ben Lippen. It happened after his first NFL start against the Atlanta Falcons at the Georgia Dome on his 23rd birthday. In that game he rushed for 103 yards and scored three touchdowns. Even though he had a great game, he was surprised when he was told he was wanted at the podium for the post-game news conference. He immediately thought about the Ben Lippen T-shirt his former Ben Lippen coach Marty Simpson had given him before the game for just such a time.

"I didn't think that it would happen, but I took the shirt just in case," Gado recalled.

"After the game when they told me I would be at the press conference I thought well, there's no question which shirt I was going to be wearing. I had to laugh because it turned out just as Coach Simpson anticipated it would. I got to explain what Ben Lippen is, and what it means to me."

It was then that the national sports media learned that Ben Lippen is not a person, but a Scottish phrase that means "Mountain of Trust."

The media exposure has given Gado a national platform to also talk about his trust in Jesus Christ. But he says he has to be careful.

"Though the name of Jesus Christ is very powerful and potent, society has gotten so used to it. The devil has done a good job of turning people off. Many of us athletes proclaim Jesus Christ, but off the field don't represent Him the best. I've learned to know when and where to say, 'Jesus, Jesus, Jesus' and sometimes find other ways to give credit to God."

One of the most frequent questions Gado gets from reporters is, "How do you explain how you got here?" He says they usually don't understand when he tells them it's a work of God.

"It wasn't my hard work, it wasn't my dedication. It was strictly God's will for me to be here. That's the hardest thing to get across (to the media.)"

As Gado excelled in football at Ben Lippen, it became his dream to play in the pros. But he says that dream was not in its rightful place in his heart. So God

humbled him during his college career at Liberty. Not only did he spend a lot of time on the bench, when he did get into the game it was often in positions he didn't want to play.

"My approach (to playing in the NFL) by the time I got to my senior year was, 'God, this is something I want to do, but you're going to have to make it happen if it's your will.' I was just going to give it one year, and if it didn't happen I was moving on."

But it did happen. Gado became a starter in Week 10, rushing for 582 yards and scoring seven touchdowns for the season. That was enough to provide him with the star status that Americans admire and so many



© Jim Biever/Green Bay Packers



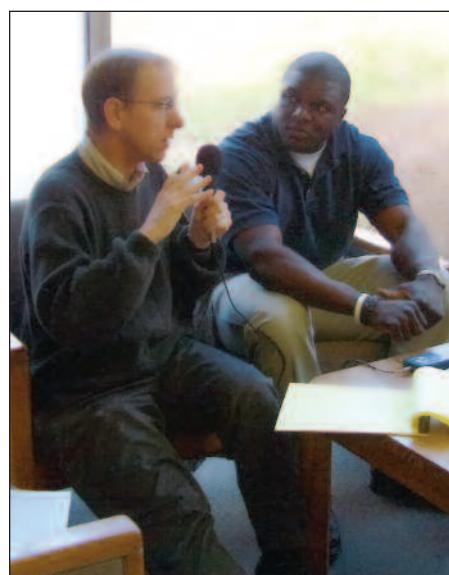
© Jim Biever/Green Bay Packers

kids look up to. Because of his new fame, speaking opportunities have abounded at schools and churches.

So does Gado see himself as a role model?

"There are so many kids out there that emulate every single thing (athletes) do. From the way we dress to the way we talk to the way we carry ourselves. So, yes, whether I believe I am one or not, I am (a role model)."

\* \* \* \*



Connection editor Bob Holmes interviews Sam Gado.

## About the author

*Bob Holmes is the editor of Connection and Communications Coordinator at Columbia International University.*

## Video

By Walt and Sue Johnston



# Missionary Couple Uses Videos to Train Believers in The Philippines

**H**ow do you adequately disciple new believers where evangelism and church growth is exploding? That was a question we tackled soon after arriving in the Philippines in 1987 to do church planting.

Filipinos seemed to be enthusiastically sharing their newfound faith with friends and loved ones. Statistics backed up our assessment. From 1975-2005 evangelical churches multiplied from 5,000 to 60,000 churches! That's a 120% increase! Truly, there was no problem with evangelism, but rather with the discipleship of these new believers. Traditional methods of training such as Bible schools would not be adequate. Nor could the few number of trained pastors and lay leaders disciple this massive number.

Recognizing that Filipinos overall do not read but that practically every house did have access to a TV and VCR, we explored the possibility of using video to equip and train. Through further research, we discovered 70 percent of all Filipino pastors have no formal biblical training. We also found that most available training was done in English, usually took place in Manila, and was cost prohibitive to a majority of pastors. In addition, the videos that were available came from the United States, were in English, and taught from an American viewpoint. They often didn't address Filipino cultural issues.

Recognizing that good Filipino teachers were emerging, but that they simply couldn't reach all the people, videos seemed like the bridge needed to help fill the gap.

In 1994, we began producing a series of pilot videos from our bedroom. Not having any prior video knowledge caused us to step out in faith and rely on the Lord. After the release of these videos, Filipino church leaders asked for more. They definitely met a need. Following a trip to the United States for more training, we gradually became more skilled in producing videos. The Lord

blessed and provided both equipment and increasing Filipino staff committed to the mission of Kaagapay Video: To create biblically sound, high quality Christian videos for the strengthening and equipping of the evangelical Filipino Church in evangelism and discipleship impacting Filipinos locally and globally.

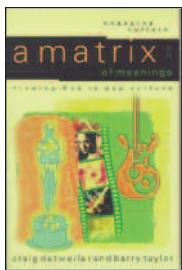
E-mails from Filipinos living around the world, including the Middle East, confirm that God is using Kaagapay to disciple these believers, and in turn, reach out to the world around them. Even remote tribes in the mountains get to hear gifted godly speakers! God has even allowed some of the videos to be sold in the major secular book-store of the Philippines. Presently, Kaagapay distributes about 18 different titles including *Mahal Ko Ang Aking Asawa* (*Love Your Spouse - The Biblical Basis of Marriage*), *How to Put Order in Your Church - A Study of Titus*, and *Truth Encounter - Examining Catholicism*. There is even a popular children series. Over 35,000 videos have been sold and with an average of 10-20 people watching each video, approximately 300,000-600,000 people have been ministered to. God is doing far beyond what we ever imagined!

Our biblical and cross-cultural training at Columbia International University formed the platform for the vision and direction of our ministry. CIU gave us a solid biblical foundation as well as molding our hearts to be sensitive to God's leading and the needs of the people we minister to. We continue to be grateful for our years at CIU.

## About the authors

*Walt Johnston graduated from CIU in 1985 with an MDIV in cross-cultural ministries. Sue Johnston graduated in 1987 with an MA in Christian Education-cross-cultural. They serve with SEND International and have been in the Philippines 19 years. They have three children: Hannah-18, Caleb-16 and Zach-14.*

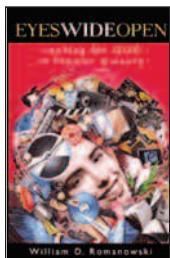
## Recommended Reading from the Authors in this Edition of Connection



**A Matrix of Meanings - Finding God in Pop Culture** by Craig Detweiler and Barry Taylor attempts to create a constructive theology out of pop culture.

The authors analyze its elements and ask "What are they doing?" "What do they represent?" and "What do they say about the world in which we live?" They explore the meaning of celebrity idolization by examining Bono, Britney, and the cast of "Friends." Detweiler and Taylor ask what successful advertising campaigns such as Nike's "Just do it" say about our society. Published by Baker Academic.

In *Epic – The Story God Is Telling and the Role That Is Yours to Play*, a retelling of the gospel in four acts, **John Eldredge** invites us to revisit the drama of life, viewing God not only as the author but also as the lead actor, exploring His motives and His heart. Eldredge examines the power of story, the universal longing for a "plot" that makes sense deep inside us, our desire for a meaningful role to play, our love of books and movies, and how all of this points us to the gospel itself. Published by Thomas Nelson.



**Eyes Wide Open** by William D. Romanowski offers a fascinating approach to popular culture. William Romanowski

analyzes familiar, well-loved movies and television characters from *Pretty Woman* to Homer Simpson. He speaks with expertise on films from *Titanic* to *Casablanca* and music from Mozart to Springsteen, bringing sources as diverse as Shakespeare and Allan Bloom into the discussion. Published by Brazos Press.

In *Finding God in the Movies: 33 Films of Reel Faith*, authors Catherine M. Barsotti and Robert K. Johnston analyze 33 films by exploring key biblical themes such as forgiveness, faith, and repentance. The book can be used for small group discussion. It contains production notes and film synopses, relevant Scripture texts, theological reflection, recommended video clips, and discussion questions.



**Mark Ramsey's Fresh Air: Marketing Gurus on Radio** asks: What's the best way to market



radio stations in the future? Many of America's top marketing gurus take a fresh look at the industry through their expert lenses. Published by iUniverse.

**Lamin Sanneh's** engaging narrative *Whose Religion Is Christianity? The Gospel beyond the West* takes the form of a self-interview in which he asks ques-

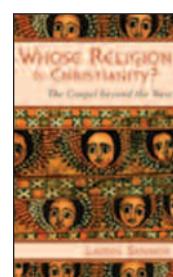
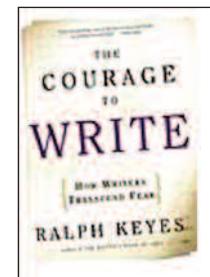
tions about the cross-cultural expansion of Christianity and provides insightful answers and meaningful predictions about the future. When it comes to communicating the gospel, Sanneh notes that Christianity is a religion of words and that Bible translation is key to missions. Published by Eerdmans Publishing Company.

Ralph Keyes has taught writing for more than 30 years. In *The Courage to Write: How Writers Transcend Fear*,

he assures budding writers that anxiety is felt by authors at every level, but it can be harnessed to produce honest and disciplined work. He includes the comments of many accomplished writers on how they overcame their own anxieties to produce great works. Published by Henry Holt and Company.



**Silent Night** by Sue Thomas with S. Rickly Christian. For CIU graduate Sue Thomas, communication has always been a challenge. She has been deaf since she was 18 months old. This is her story of how she broke the sound barrier and became a lip-reader for the F.B.I. Her unusual status with the agency was the inspiration for the TV show *Sue Thomas F.B.Eye*. Sue's story includes her time as a seminary student at CIU, a pivotal point in her life and ministry. Published by Tyndale.





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