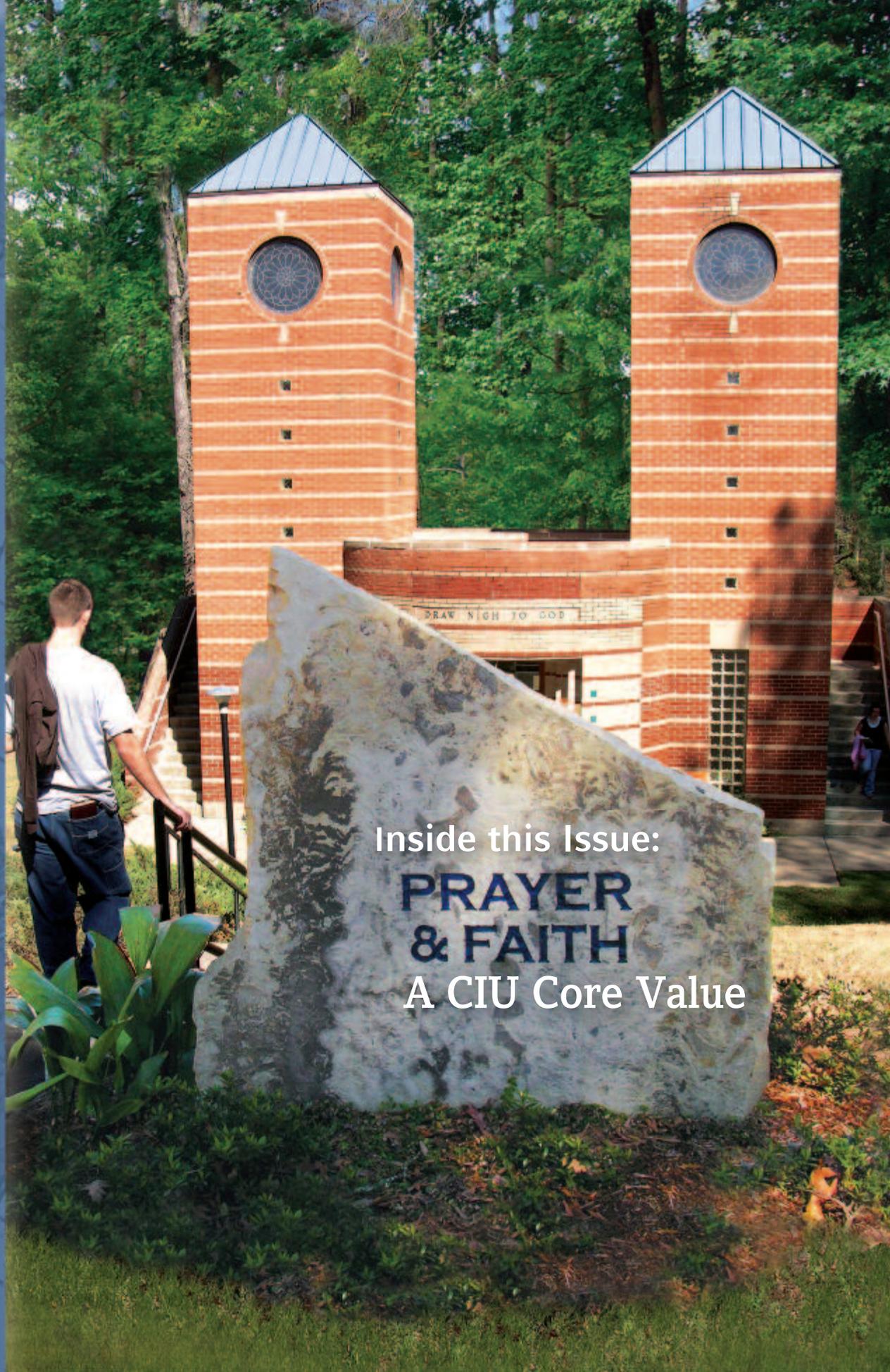


Spring 2008

# Connection



Inside this Issue:

**PRAYER  
& FAITH**

A CIU Core Value

[www.ciu.edu](http://www.ciu.edu)

Columbia International University



# Letter from the President



*Dr. William (Bill) H. Jones  
President*

Dear friend of CIU,

This edition of "Connection" magazine, dedicated to the CIU core value of Prayer & Faith, reminds me of something that happened to me 30 years ago as a young businessman. While operating a couple of successful tire stores, my partner and I decided to also begin manufacturing recapped tires. As it turned out, we should have stuck to retail. Our manufactured tires piled up in our warehouse; no one wanted them. I understood why. Though 25 years-of-age at the time, I looked 17 at the oldest. Would you buy a recapped tire made by a 17-year-old? After losing tens of thousands of dollars, we found ourselves down to \$3.50, with payroll for both stores and the manufacturing plant due in 24 hours.

Right there in our warehouse, surrounded by hundreds of tires, I knelt to pray about our dire financial situation. Moments after praying, a man who owned a chain of tire stores around the East Coast entered our showroom. I knew that if he purchased our tires, it would help us not only make payroll the next day, but give us the credibility needed for other stores to buy our tires.

After giving the man a tour of the plant and our inventory, he said, "I'll take them." I asked, "How many?" He said, "All of them." From that day forward, the plant operated profitably.

Yes, God answered my prayer. But this story illustrates what I have warned the CIU student body NOT to do: I made prayer my **last chance**, not my **first choice**. I had put my faith in the past success of the business and not in the present daily care of the Father God.

Though I did not get it right, King Hezekiah of the Old Testament did. In 2 Kings 18-19, the cruel Assyrian army threatened Jerusalem. Hezekiah, however, made prayer his first choice, not his last chance. Read his magnificent prayer in II Kings 19:15-19. God miraculously defeated Assyria and spared Jerusalem from devastation.

When we make prayer our first choice, and not our last chance, God promises that we will walk in peace (Philippians 4:6-7), grow in our understanding of God's faithfulness (Psalm 27:1-7), and allow people who need God to see the difference Christ makes in our lives (Matthew 5:16).

This issue of "Connection" also addresses the topic of faith. As Hebrews 11:1 tells us, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." Recall that faith drove a small group of praying women over 85 years ago to look ahead and see the impact a Christ-centered college would make on the world. Without the foundation of faith, CIU would not exist today.

Charles Wesley wrote a hymn of 11 stanzas about faith. The most popular stanza has provided an anthem for the Victorious Christian Life (another CIU core value) movement for a hundred years:

Faith, mighty faith, the promise sees,  
And looks to that alone;  
Laughs at life's impossibilities,  
And cries, It shall be done!

As you read through this edition of "Connection," please pray that CIU will go boldly into the future with Prayer & Faith continuing as our foundation.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones  
President

# Connection

Columbia  
International  
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*Cover: The Prayer & Faith core value stone stands in front of the CIU Prayer Towers.*



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

*Pictured above: A candlelight worship service at the CIU Prayer Towers.*



*An artist's rendering of Memorial Residence Hall following renovations.*

## Memorial Residence Hall Renovation Underway

Excuse our mess! Memorial Residence Hall is undergoing a \$1.4 million renovation.

A peek inside the windows of the men's living quarters may not show signs of progress right now: ripped-up carpet, missing ceiling panels, and doors off their hinges. But by August, the residents of Memorial will experience an entirely different look.

Not only will the walls, ceilings and floors undergo changes, so will the furnishings. Outdated chairs, beds and desks will be replaced. Modern amenities will be added including microwave/refrigerator combos and wireless Internet service. The landscaping around the building will also be spruced up, giving the north side of the campus a fresh look. Keith Marion, the CIU vice president for development and operations says the plan is to have students residing in the renovated residence hall in the fall 2008 semester. He says an anonymous donor has contributed \$1 million toward the renovation.

"It is interesting and humbling to note that someone who does not

personally know any of the students in Memorial, and is not a CIU alumnus, would write a check for \$1 million so that our students can have a better living environment as they prepare to serve Christ," Marion said.

Rick Swift, the CIU dean of students says the residence halls are "home" for a significant number of students and he would like for them to have a positive experience with CIU's version of an extreme home make-over.

"The furniture in Memorial has been fixed to the floor since the building's construction in 1960," Swift noted. "The new furniture, however, will be modular giving the students multiple ways to arrange the furniture in their rooms, thus greater flexibility for their living and study space. The desks and electrical systems in the residence hall were built before the age of computers and all the peripherals that come along with computers. This renovation gives us the chance to upgrade these systems to better serve the students needs."

Memorial Residence Hall is named in honor of those who have given their lives in service to the Lord on the mission field.

## First December Commencement Exercises at CIU

For the first time in its 84-year history, Columbia International University held December commencement exercises. CIU President Dr. William H. Jones presented degrees to 87 candidates including 37 from the CIU Undergraduate School, 17 from the CIU Graduate School, and 33 from the CIU Seminary & School of Missions.

CIU Registrar Wanda Burch says a December commencement provides a service to students completing a midyear degree.

"A number of students will save the costs of return travel to CIU for a commencement ceremony in May," Burch said. "It provides closure and an opportunity to say farewell upon completion of their degree rather than creating a lapse in time between completion and celebration."

The commencement address was delivered by Dr. Brian Simmons, the vice president for University Advancement at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind.

Simmons' address focused on Micah 6:8 "He has shown you, O man, what is good;

And what does the LORD require of you  
But to do justly,  
To love mercy,  
And to walk humbly with God?"



He told the graduates that focusing on the verse will help them to “align with God’s plan” for their lives.

The new CIU tradition of presenting a bag of seeds to each graduate was carried out at the ceremony. The seeds symbolize the gospel and each graduate was encouraged by President Jones to “sow the seed.”

## Annual Missions Strategy Seminar: “Together for God’s Greater Glory”

Reconciliation in the church was a major topic for the 2008 Missions Strategy Seminar at Columbia International University from Jan. 17-Jan. 19. This was the fourth year CIU hosted the event. Over 100 people attended.

The theme was “Together for God’s Greater Glory” based on John 17:23:

“I am in them and you are in me. May they experience such perfect unity that the world will know that you sent me and that you love them as much as you love me.” (NLT)

Another emphasis of the seminar was mobilization of the African-American church for missions.

CIU missions professor Dr. David Cashin says combining the themes of reconciliation and missions was a natural fit.

“Reconciliation isn’t finished until we’ve developed relationships with one another, and we’re partnering together for missions,” Cashin said. “The missionary cause is the thing that draws the church together.”

The keynote speakers were Pastor Randy Nabors from New City Fellowship, a multi-cultural church in Chattanooga, Tenn., and Dr. Michael Johnson, a

surgeon/missionary serving in Nairobi, Kenya.

People attending the conference joined the CIU student body for a chapel service that focused on racial reconciliation. Speaking to the group, the dean of the CIU Undergraduate School, Dr. Pat Blewett said, “If our unity is struggling, we’re not focusing on Christ. We forget that all are equal at the foot of the cross.”

Conference breakout sessions included discussions on using the Jesus film in missions, developing a missions-minded church, and how churches can use the latest Internet technologies to spread the gospel.

Perhaps the most dynamic moments of the three days were the prayer sessions when circles of people of diverse ethnic backgrounds joined hands to pray for God’s greater glory in their ministries.



*A circle of prayer at the Missions Strategy Seminar.*

*(continued on page 6)*



*CIU students pray with neighborhood residents along Monticello Road near the CIU campus.*

## CIU Students Join with Neighborhood Residents for Prayer Walk

Instead of sleeping in on an October Saturday morning, dozens of Columbia International University students, faculty, and staff joined with residents of nearby neighborhoods to pray for the community.

CIU Dean of Students Rick Swift says CIU was contacted by the Crane Creek Pastoral Alliance and invited to participate in a prayer chain along Monticello from CIU’s entrance, to two miles south near I-20.

“The pastors expressed a real burden for different things going on in the neighborhoods along Monticello Road and, since we sit in the middle of the community in which these churches minister, it was our pleasure to stand with these congregations to pray for our neighbors,” Swift said.

The CIU family and residents prayed for the people living in the community and the businesses that line Monticello Road. Some of the students approached curious onlookers to ask how they could pray for them.

Among those praying was CIU Chancellor George Murray who has long had a burden for CIU’s neighbors, and CIU Vice President for Corporate Planning Bob Kallgren.

Later that day, some of the neighbors joined in the annual CIU Harvest Fest on the CIU campus.

## 2008 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Winner Has Heart for Children

A high school senior whose career goal is to minister to orphans and special needs children, is the

recipient of Columbia International University's 2008 R.C. McQuilkin Leadership Scholarship.

Stephanie Livesay, 17, of Lakeland, Fla. was chosen from among 41 students from 11 states and two foreign countries during a weekend competition on the CIU campus in Columbia,

Nov. 29 – Dec. 1. The event included participation in a class, interviews with school officials, group discussions and other group activities. The scholarship is presented to a student of high academic ability who best embodies CIU's motto "To know Him and to make Him known." The scholarship is named after CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin, and covers full tuition for four years.

CIU President Bill Jones telephoned Stephanie to tell her she was awarded the scholarship. "I asked the president if he was serious," Stephanie said. "I was very surprised and amazed at how God can provide in the most unexpected ways. I definitely did not expect to receive this scholarship. I'm very thankful for it."



*Stephanie Livesay, 2008 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship winner.*

Stephanie attended high school at Lakeland Christian School where she sang in the choir and vocal ensemble, and assisted autistic children as a teacher's aide. She was also the senior class secretary, president of the school's National Honor Society, and served as the football statistician. Stephanie was also involved in her church and community during her high school years. She participated in the youth group activities at Lake Morton Community Church, and traveled to Ukraine on a missions trip. She also taught piano lessons to the children at a women's shelter, and volunteered at a summer camp.

Stephanie, who is majoring in Bible and Teacher Education, says she would like to use her CIU training to either work with orphans in a foreign country or in a camp ministry for special needs children.

"I definitely feel called to further the kingdom (of God) by reaching out to children," Stephanie said. "I've had a passion for them for the past four or five years."

## CIU Chancellor Recognized for 40 Years of Ministry

Dr. George Murray, chancellor of Columbia International University, was recognized at a CIU chapel service for 40 years of ministry. A plaque commemorating the achievement was presented to Murray by undergraduate dean Dr. Pat Blewett on behalf of the undergraduate faculty.

Murray said he was "extremely grateful for the support of the faculty" and that the honor was "a complete surprise."

Murray's ministry service at CIU has included the role of president from 2000-2007. He was named chancellor in July 2007. For 15 years he was a member of CIU's board of trustees. Murray came to CIU from The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM), where he served as executive director. Other ministry experience has included 10 years as general director of Bible Christian Union (BCU), a mission agency which merged with TEAM

in 1994. Prior to that, he and his wife, Annette, were church planters in Italy, also with BCU, for 13 years.

Murray is an experienced missionary, teacher, preacher, writer and evangelist. He has traveled and ministered across North America and in 72 countries.



*Dr. George Murray (center) being honored by Dr. Pat Blewett (right) and CIU President Dr. Bill Jones.*

## New Technology Allows CIU Radio Stations to Grow

New Life 91.9, WRCM is on the brink of going digital (HD Radio) and upgrading from 10,000 to 30,000 watts. This means the station will soon be broadcasting a clearer and stronger signal in the Charlotte, N.C. area. The upgrade to HD will also allow CIU's broadcasting division to add two additional stations: Nueva Vida and Morph Radio. For months, Nueva Vida and MorphRadio have only been available for streaming online. These two new stations have been a team project of New Life 91.9 and CIU's Columbia station 89.7 WMHK.

Nueva Vida ("New Life" in English) is a Spanish Christian station and MorphRadio is a youth-oriented Christian station. The

name "morph" comes from the word, "metamorphosis" which is how the Apostle Paul describes transformation in Christ in Romans 12:1-2.

CIU Broadcasting is promoting Morph Radio as "Music For A Change" and has big plans for using the station as a platform for promoting the CIU core value of Victorious Christian Living.

"We'll be partnering with ministries that help teens deal with today's tough issues like drugs, sexual temptation, depression, suicide and gangs," WMHK General Manager Jerry Grimes said. "The idea is to find Christian teens who have overcome these problems by trusting God and to tell their stories as a means of helping others."



To hear MorphRadio and Nueva Vida online, log on to [www.morphradio.com](http://www.morphradio.com) and [www.newlife919nuevavida.com](http://www.newlife919nuevavida.com).

## Ben Lippen School Names New Head Football Coach

Ben Lippen School has named Reggie Shaw as the head coach of the high school varsity football team.

Shaw joined Ben Lippen's football program last fall serving as offensive coordinator. Prior to coming to Ben Lippen School, he helped lead several successful programs at schools around South Carolina including James F. Byrnes High School, Fairfield Central High School, and Newberry College. Shaw is a graduate of Newberry College where he was awarded the Best Offensive Lineman Award.

Ben Lippen School Athletic Director Bill Currier says Shaw has a broad knowledge of the game of football.

"We are thrilled to have someone with Coach Shaw's experience and coaching credentials," Currier said. "He has been involved with winning teams and knows what it takes to build a successful program. His focus has always been the kids he's coaching, their character development, and their walk with Christ."

Off the field, Shaw has a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and has taught a variety of courses including Biology, Zoology, and Physical Science. He was named Fairfield District Teacher of the Year, Fairfield County Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year, and has coordinated football lunch buddy and reading buddy programs at the elementary level. He is involved in the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. Shaw says he is excited about leading the Falcon football team.

"Ben Lippen is a great school with a rich heritage and a wonderful staff," Shaw said. "We will continue to build a quality football program here. Our primary goal is to produce competitive, unselfish young men through a great athletic experience."



*New Ben Lippen School football coach Reggie Shaw.*

# You may be an Answer to Prayer

By Frank Bedell  
Director of Development

Prayer & Faith is one of Columbia International University's core values that defines who we are, what we stand for, and why we exist. Though we have differences as to how we individually and corporately exercise prayer and faith, there is no question that we believe God delights in answering the prayers of His people offered in faith.

*"... there is no question that we believe God delights in answering the prayers of His people offered in faith."*

Here are three examples of what this looks like at CIU:

1. **In celebration of his 93rd birthday, a good friend of CIU received a card signed by 33 CIU students. In response he wrote:**

"In regards to your recent mailings to me - I am overwhelmed. To say the least I'm speechless or in this case writeless so about all I can write is thanks - thanks - thanks, to all involved. There were 33 wishes and you took the time to spell it out for me. Will you please cash this check and distribute \$10.00 each to the 33 of you. Each use as they see fit and call it old Joe's birthday..."

2. **Once a month a group of women gather in the Alumni Center to pray for CIU, all of the school's ministries, and the alumni.** Having watched God at work through CIU since my association in 1973, I am confident that this practice is duplicated individually, within church families, and in small groups all across the globe.

3. **The third example of what Prayer & Faith looks like at CIU is an answer to prayer that came while meeting with an alumna and her husband.** Her mother had passed away and the couple had asked to meet with me to share a gift from her estate. This



is a family rich in CIU history. The mother was an alumna and the couple has two daughters who have graduated from CIU. There are three teachers in the family - each one a CIU alumnus. Can you imagine my heartfelt joy when two checks totaling a very generous gift were presented?

Whether your gift to CIU is in the form of a \$10 gift to students, remembrance in your prayers, or a substantial financial gift; all are gratefully received, and I believe, an answer to our individual and corporate exercise of prayer and faith. ■

# Prayer: Lifeblood of CIU

Robert C. McQuilkin once wrote a pamphlet, "Prayer: Fundamental or Supplemental?" For him prayer was fundamental. But prayer as fundamental at Columbia International University did not begin with McQuilkin. The school was born in prayer. Prayer is in its DNA. It began with a handful of praying women.

Gripped by the moral, economic, and educational need of the mill workers of Columbia, Emily Dick began Bible classes for them. But her vision was much bigger. How could the society-transforming impact of those Bible classes expand to the Southeast? It would need teachers. And where would those teachers come from? She shared her dream of a Bible training school in the South with her sister and their friends. The impossible dream! So they went to their knees and the "praying women" gave birth to Southern Bible Institute, the forerunner to CIU.

Several years after the founding of that small evening school, they invited the charismatic young preacher of the Victorious Life to come and lead the fledgling institution. Robert McQuilkin had moved them powerfully by his preaching so the "praying women" approached him. Feeling this was God's call, McQuilkin accepted.

The method of growing that fledgling institution was called, "prayer and faith." Prayer was to be fundamental, not supplemental. There were monthly days of



*Woman of Prayer: Emily Dick.*



*CIU's first president, and father of the author, Robert C. McQuilkin.*

prayer, Tuesday night prayer meetings when the community was invited to share, and daily prayer following chapel. Every area of ministry, every advance, was prayer fueled, but perhaps prayer for finances was the most visible. Full salaries at CIU are not guaranteed and depend on gift income. As a matter of fact, in the early days when no tuition was charged, 100 percent of the salaries depended

on the gift income. But for 85 years the Lord has heard those prayers for gifts and He has provided. Then there was the purchase of the men's campus in the 1930s and '40s, with "Thanksgiving prayer goals," when the bank note came due annually at Thanksgiving. Sometimes the money needed came in at the last moment, and occasionally to the very penny. But always those goals were met. Subsequent prayer included goals for buildings. Occasionally the goals were not met, but that historic campaign went down in the annals of CIU as a string of landmark victories.

There was prayer for students – laborers for the harvest, prayer for faculty, and prayer for every program advance. Many of those were audaciously pace-setting and "impossible." There were times in CIU history when very few seemed to participate in prayer, at least in public meetings. But the faithful band of "praying women" (and men!) ignited the fires and fanned the flames of spiritual advance.

Prayer: Fundamental, not supplemental. ■

**"Prayer is in (CIU's) DNA."**

# The Importance of Prayer and Faith to Me

Ever since I can remember, God has poured out His light on my life through my parents.

By their example I have seen what following Him looks like. I do not credit them for my decision to claim Christ as my Savior because ultimately God chose me and by His Spirit's prompting I made that decision. But they did teach me about who God is and how much He loves us. This year I have really taken my faith as my own. I want to follow God with everything I am but as a human it is impossible without God's help. Around Thanksgiving, I was constantly praying that God would "turn my world upside down" if that is what it took to follow Him. He did. On Dec. 10, 2007 my Daddy was diagnosed with stage IV lung cancer. But if lung cancer is not bad enough, before they caught it, it had already metastasized to his hip and some of his lymph nodes. My world was shaken to its core. He has never smoked and he had a very healthy lifestyle. He always ate nutritious foods and worked out regularly. The doctor told him that 0.3 in 25,000 men with lifestyles like his get lung cancer. This statistic alone proves that God chose my Daddy and chose our family to get this disease so that we may be drawn closer to Him and allow Him to carry us because we cannot walk alone. And by allowing Him to do those things, we may reflect His goodness to a world full of pain and hopelessness.

Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." It then goes on to say that "without faith it is impossible to please God." (11:6). Faith is important because first of



all, it is impossible to please God without it. We cannot see God, therefore faith is required to believe not only that He exists but that He is good. This is perhaps the hardest thing when the world feels like it is falling apart. Questions of doubt enter our minds, such as,

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## "THIS YEAR I HAVE REALLY

---

"How can a good God allow or even choose for this to happen to me?" This is why faith is imperative. Our minds cannot comprehend God or the reasons why He allows awful things to happen. But we must have faith that He is good or we are hopeless. God's goodness



*Clockwise from far left:  
Garner-Leigh with her "Daddy"  
Steve Caswell.*

*The Caswell family at  
Christmas. Front, left to right:  
Melanie (mother), Jamie-Keith,  
Steve (father), Garner-Leigh.  
Back, left to right: Abbey-Hill,  
Claxton-Grace, Davis-Brooke.*

*Vacationing at the beach.*

never changes. He was, is, and will always be good. But I think prayer is important because God pours out His goodness on us when we ask Him. In Matthew 7 it says that if we ask it will be given to us. God wants to lavish us with His goodness but we must ask Him. And

6:19-20, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure. It enters the inner sanctuary behind the curtain, where Jesus, who went before us, has entered on our behalf." God never promised that He would take away our pain but He gives us hope through Jesus to "anchor" our souls when that pain comes. What Jesus did on the cross is our "anchor" of hope. Jesus died to give us life and this is the reason for the hope that we have, this is proof that God is good. God has

## TAKEN MY FAITH AS MY OWN."

here is another reason faith is necessary because we must ask God believing (or having faith) that He will answer. Faith and prayer bring us to God and that is why they are important. They help us draw closer to Him and receive the hope given at the cross. Hebrews

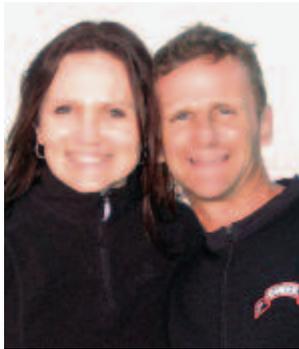
really blessed our family with people bringing food and sending cards, but especially through their prayers. I know God is going to heal my Daddy, but please continue to beg Him with me because, like I said before, He wants us to ask. ■

By David and Mia Curlin

# I Will Follow Him

## Military Chaplain Follows Christ as Wife Follows Him

Army Capt. David Curlin and his wife Mia are both graduates of CIU, David from the Seminary & School of Missions, and Mia from the Undergraduate School. David was commissioned into the Army as a chaplain in January 2003.



He recently served his second one-year deployment in Iraq and has been away from his family for three out of five years. They have four children: Paschal (8), Masada (6), Jerusha (4), Leeba (1).

Prayer & Faith has kept them strong and together despite the separation. "Connection" magazine has asked each of them to write about their experience.

### From David's Perspective

During an intense season of prayer and fasting while serving as a missionary in Albania, I received God's call to the chaplaincy. Although I had prior military service, this call came as a complete shock as I had never considered that the chaplaincy might be a legitimate fulfillment of a boyhood calling to serve Christ as a cross-cultural missionary. In fact, previously, I had never felt more out of place than during my period of active service with the U.S. Army. For that reason, I initially dismissed the call altogether, and then when the call began to crystallize, made the decision to apply for the Air Force chaplaincy which I felt was culturally a better fit for me in terms of disposition and gifting. However, hours before submitting my Air Force applica-

*While in Iraq, David finds a unique way to communicate with his family.*



“... Mia and I, feel certain that we are doing what God created us to do.” – David

tion, I heard God's voice challenging me, "David, do you think your lifelong preparation has been to prepare you to enjoy an easy life? Get back in the Army." I knew from that moment on, that God was calling me to the challenges of Army culture and ministry.

I mention the circumstances of my original calling as a chaplain because that call has made all the ensuing challenges so much easier to handle. I have spent three of the last five years entirely separated

from my wife, Mia, and my four young children. Yet, for the most part, the burden has seemed unusually light because we, Mia and I, feel certain that we are doing what God created us to do. That brings us joy. I intentionally mention Mia at this point because it would be impossible to do this job without her joyful affirmation as she bears the brunt of the burden of separation. Mia's consistent encouragement and recognition of God's hand, even in 15 months of separation, have freed me to abandon myself to the service of my men.

Over the past five years I have grown to be a huge advocate of chaplain ministry in the Army. At U.S. government expense, the Army asks me to serve its soldiers by providing spiritual direction, life coaching, and moral and ethical guidance. I have unrestricted access to some of our society's most broken members, as well as its future

“... I never once felt alone or abandoned.” – Mia



The Curlin family together at Thanksgiving.

leaders. I am an insider in this ministry. Sharing the daily drudgery, danger and joy, I live among the lost and the faithful with a matchless opportunity to speak into their lives and love them in Christ's name. Additionally, the high profile that the war has received has been a catalyst for vast numbers of Christians to take an invaluable prayer interest in the ministry. I imagine that only eternity will reveal the movements and grace that this prayer has engendered.

## From Mia's Perspective

After 13 years of being married to David, I often hear the echo of his mother's words at our wedding reception: "Mia, your life will not always be easy, but it will NEVER be boring." She made this comment after I sang to David the song *I will Follow Him* from the movie "Sister Act." Little did I imagine at the time all that would be entailed in keeping this promise.

In all the chaos of our lives, the constant moves, transitions, having babies and changing cultures, there has been one constant, God's love. Yes, "I am His and He is mine." In the long days of separation during deployments, I never once felt alone or abandoned. Even though the load I had to carry with four little children was physically, emotionally and mentally exhausting, I daily experienced the assurance of His love as I believed, "He will carry me through." I never felt separated either from God or from David. We kept our communication alive through phone calls, web-cams and snail mail. I am certain that we spent more quality time together than many couples and families who live in the same house. I know no other children who have more than 70 cards and letters each from their dad personally addressed and stamped, a treasure to be enjoyed for a lifetime.

David and I definitely have our differences but one thing that excites us both is making the Lord known wherever we find ourselves. It is my joy to regularly see David among people who would normally not consider Christ. My daily prayer is that David would be a picture of Christ to his men; that they would taste and see that the Lord is good in the same way we ourselves have been privileged to taste and that as a result, they would trust and follow Him.

I see the Lord's hand in preparing me for the task of supporting my husband in the military. Although I am a foreigner (born in Czechoslovakia), I have never felt like one in military circles. There is an immediate bond, a commonality with all the wives. I am one of them. I go through the same things they do, and therefore have a constantly open door for ministry! I am content in my role, thankful the Lord has called us to be a part of what He is accomplishing in this group of people.

Following my husband wherever he goes is easier for me when I know that we both are following God's tracks.

The Army may separate us but *who shall separate us from the love of Christ?*

*Shall trouble or hardship....or danger or sword?*

*...No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death or life,.... Nor any powers...will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8)*

My strength was never in the presumptuous assurance that David would return safely from Iraq. It was in the assurance that Jesus is on His way.

*"There isn't a mountain too high; there isn't an ocean too deep to keep me away, away from His love." ("Sister Act")* ■

By Dr. David Osterlund,  
Director, CIU Prison Initiative

# Practicing Prayer & Faith — Within the Walls

## CIU Core Values are an Important Part of the Prison Initiative

*Editor's Note: The 15 inmates in the CIU Prison Initiative are in their fourth semester as they work toward earning a 70 credit hour Associate of Arts degree from CIU. The purpose of the Prison Initiative is to train inmates "to live in accordance with biblical principles and equip them for the unique ministry opportunities afforded by their incarceration." (See "Connection," Spring 2007.)*

**T**his morning, I failed to have my devotion time. I got to the prison, had a time of singing and prayer with the men and returned to CIU to attack the issues of the day. Before I got to my office, a fellow teacher wanted to talk — and we discussed prison things and prayed together. A meeting with my secretary followed and now it is 3:00 p.m. That's when I realized what I had done. This is exactly what I warn the men about — business pushing out a personal time of prayer. As a part of their training, and as a bedrock requirement, the men in the CIU Prison Initiative are expected to have a daily devotional time, preferably the first thing in the morning.

The men follow a Bible reading schedule and are asked to respond verbally and in written form what they have learned, discovered, and applied. We ask the men:

- **Observation:** What does (the Bible passage) say? What have I not seen before?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** How should this change my life?

Here are a few Scripture passages which speak of prayer and faith, and some of the responses that the men provided:

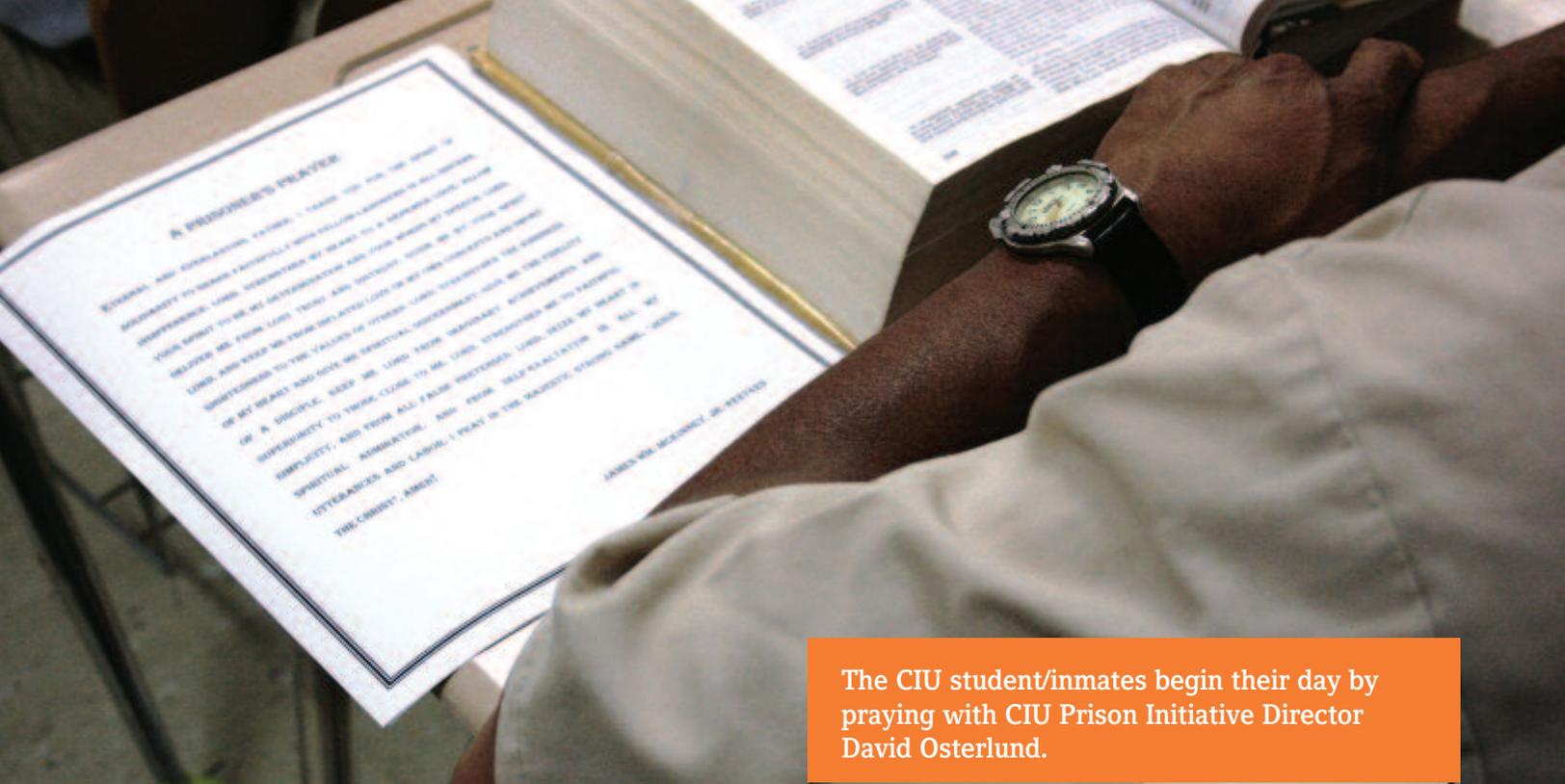


**Isaiah 22:22** So he shall open, and no one shall shut; And he shall shut, and no one shall open.

**Application:** Many doors have opened for me this year and I thank the Lord for them. We need to look for the open door and keep the vision of the door being open. — *Leon W.*

**Psalms 3:5** I lay down and slept; I awoke, for the Lord sustained me.

**Interpretation:** I am able to lie down and have peaceful sleep as I pray every night for a good dream. It tells me when I awake that the Lord will be with me.



The CIU student/inmates begin their day by praying with CIU Prison Initiative Director David Osterlund.

A CIU student/inmate reads "A Prisoner's Prayer" during devotions.



“ ... the men in the CIU Prison Initiative are expected to have a daily devotional time ... ”

**Application:** It shows me I should be leaning on God more throughout the day. Sustain means that he will help me to endure. – *Billy K.*

**Observation:** God provides all our needs when we rest in him. He guards our hearts and minds as we sleep and nudges us awake each morning, with his oh so gentle touch.

**Interpretation:** When the burdens of life, stress, worries and family matters weigh heavy on your mind and heart, sleep and true peace can seem far, far away and an impossibility. But by casting your cares unto the Lord, he will lovingly comfort you.

**Application:** I have cried out to the Lord and He has awakened me. He keeps me and helps me with His empowering grace. I sleep peacefully knowing and trusting in Him. God gives me a supernatural calmness on the inside. – *Anonymous*

**Acts 14:19-20** Then Jews from Antioch and Iconium came there, and having persuaded the multitudes, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing him to be dead. However, when the disciples gathered around him, he rose up and went into the city. And the next day he departed with Barnabas to Derbe.

**Interpretation:** When the world has overburdened us with pain and despair, we are to stand regardless.

**Application:** Through it all, we need to learn to trust in God, because His word says He will make a way out of no way. A way out of no way! – *Anonymous*

The men in the Prison Initiative are seeking to live a life of prayer and faith. As they do, please join me in praying with the men, that He will keep making “a way out of no way!” within the walls. ■

By Gary Morland,  
Network Program Director, New Life 91.9

# Gary Learns a Lesson on Prayer & Faith

## How God Spoke to Me on the Job



*Gary Morland*

well-known TV anchor-turned-pastor. The two-time national award-winning radio personality who was looking for more from his radio career. Maybe we should consider that team we know on the West Coast – would they move? Then there was the incredibly professional New York City personality ... and more.

They were all highly qualified. We were excited about each of them. One by one we walked with each through the process and we would get down the road and then the road would dead end.

You have to let the Lord lead, right? He brings the job applicants to your attention and you do the normal

**H**ow long should it take to hire someone? For a new radio morning show host it's usually several months – you post the ads and announcements and you screen the audio auditions that come in. One or two stand out and you interview and get to know them.

They need to be serious followers of Jesus and they need to fit our unique CIU distinctives.

Bingo! That was Eric. I liked him right away.

But it was early in the game – and few other interesting candidates were in front of us: The local

thing – you talk and listen and ask questions. In doing that, you're actually saying to the Lord, "Is it him?"

But this goes on month after month. And Eric is still a candidate. At one point Eric called and had another job offer. What should he do? Are we any closer to a decision? We told him he'd have to decide without factoring us in as a choice. I hated the idea of losing him. But the Lord was still bringing people to our attention. I wondered, where is faith in this situation?

In the beginning, my praying was routine: "Dear Lord, help us find the right guy." After nine months I was praying on and off during the day. It was on my

**"And I can hear Him say...  
'I do not want just your routine prayers. I want to walk with you.'"**

mind so often that even in the morning in the shower I'd say, "Lord! What are you telling us?"

Eric didn't take his job offer. Every step of the way, as each of the other candidates dropped out, he was still available. Obviously, there comes a point where you step back and ask yourself what the Lord has to do to prove what He's doing. If He wanted this guy for us, is there any more He could have done to show us?

We hired Eric. When he gets here, it will be a year since we first talked to him.

When it now seems obvious the Lord had this in mind all along, I ask why did we have to go down such a long road? And I can hear Him say, "I wanted you praying in the shower and throughout the day. I do not want just your routine prayers. I want to walk with you."

That's what I want, too. ■



## ANNOUNCING



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COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

By Bob Holmes,  
"Connection" Editor

**J**eremy Kingsley's book was rejected 61 times over a period of nearly seven years. A lot of people would have given up much sooner. But the counter-cultural message of the book by the CIU alumnus burned in his heart. He told "Connection" magazine he knew the message was right. His mentors confirmed it. The book's title? "Be Last: Descending to Greatness." It will be out this summer.

A book about humility is not what you normally see front and center at the local Christian book store. As a matter of fact, the publisher, Tyndale, had already rejected the book once four years prior. But Kingsley would not give up.



# Be Last

## The Prayer & Faith of Jeremy Kingsley is Rooted in Humility

Kingsley is primarily known as a featured speaker on Christian college campuses and at Christian concerts through Onelife Ministries, a non-profit, faith-based organization he founded. He is also a church consultant.

Kingsley is a polite, soft-spoken man with an "aw shucks," down-home appeal. It's hard to imagine that there could be a mean streak in his lanky body. But he says rejection after rejection of his book brought him to his knees as he fasted and asked the Lord to help him stay humble.

"I could have gotten bitter," Kingsley recalls. "But I wanted it to be a humility thing. (I prayed) if I have to take these rejections as a piece of humility, I need to be OK with that. I don't want to get bitter. Keep helping my heart in pushing to pursue this (book), if this is really of You. Help me not to give up."

While the continuous rejection of his book has taught him a lot about prayer in recent years, he learned the importance of faith much earlier in life.

**"This small Bible college in South Carolina"**

After playing three years on the varsity basketball team in high school in Washington, D.C., and

scoring over 1,000 points, Kingsley was named the Conference Most Valuable Player his senior year. Colleges were pursuing him. And so was Jesus.

One of his high school teachers was a CIU alumnus named David First. "This guy had such an intimate relationship with Jesus, it blew me away," Kingsley recalls. "I asked him 'How did you get to know Jesus so good?' He said, 'I went down to this small Bible college in South Carolina and these people poured into me and really had a huge impact on my life. That's where I learned to know Jesus more.'" First was talking about CIU, then called Columbia Bible College, where there was no collegiate sports program.





Kingsley speaks at the Sunshine Music Festival.

That's when Kingsley went home and told his father that he was moving to South Carolina after graduation because he needed to know Jesus better. His father was just fine with the decision. But not everyone understood, and his faith was tested before graduation.

Just a couple weeks before graduation, the father of one of his friends wanted to know if it was true that he was going to a Bible college and not playing college basketball.

"He looked at me as serious as he could look and said, 'That's going to be the biggest mistake you ever make.' And he just walked away," Kingsley recalls.

He remembers praying, "Am I making a huge mistake? I don't think I am. I know You gave me a gift, (basketball), but I think that gift had a season and that's over. I think I'm supposed to go."

Kingsley completed his CIU undergraduate degree in 1994 and earned his Master of Arts in Teaching at CIU in 1996.

## Be Last

For Kingsley, effective prayer and faith has humility at its core. And that brings us back to his book. He realizes the title "Be Last" may not be attractive even to many

Christians. "It's about as counter-cultural as you can get," he said with a laugh.

But then he gets serious, even emotional, when he talks about the humility of Jesus.

"He was last in His birth. Mary and Joseph weren't a king and a queen. He didn't come in cashmere diapers. There was no diamond studded crown. He was born in a garage bathroom. (That's Kingsley's modern vernacular for 'laid in manger.')

"He was hanging out with people with leprosy. Helping people who

struggle with sin issues. Adulterers and prostitutes. He was being last. And then to die on the cross, it was the ultimate act of putting something before himself," Kingsley said with a quiver in his voice.

Kingsley says the "me first" mentality of the world has crept into the church.

"We struggle to have our opinion, our words, our actions, our ideas, our preferences first," Kingsley said.

"If God would use the book to say, 'Can I remind you, if I didn't do that, why would you? That wasn't my theory. That wasn't my philosophy. My philosophy of ministry was be last. The Son of man came to serve and not be served.' Can you imagine if we took that (seriously) and it really took off?"

Kingsley gives examples of his servant-minded mentors who put away errant shopping carts at Wal-Mart. And his wife who purposely purchases the dented canned goods at the grocery store so others don't have to.

As for himself, he recalls a recent concert in New Mexico where hundreds of young people came forward to know more about Christ. Before counseling the youths, he stopped into what he calls "one of the nastiest restrooms I've ever seen."

"Jesus tapped me on the shoulder and said, 'Hey, you want to be humble? Then before you go out there, and talk to all those kids, why don't you clean this up for me?'"

With no one around, and no one knowing about it, Kingsley picked up the wet toilet paper and paper

**"The Son of man came to serve and not be served."**

towels and even cleaned the toilet seats. As he did, he prayed, "If you can be born in a garage bathroom, and you're King of Kings, I can clean up this toilet for a few minutes before I talk to those kids."

There's a formula on the back of "Be Last" that Kingsley likes to quote:

Humility + Service = Greatness.

"If you pray that, and you want to be great, you might get a tap in the bathroom." ■

By Donna Douglass  
Triathlete, Student, CIU Seminary & School of Missions

# Lessons for the Race of Life

“Father, keep us safe today as we race in this triathlon, and let us be lights for You in all we do and say. Amen.”

The athletes in our little circle raise their head at the end of the prayer and refocus on the race about to begin. Our yellow Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) jerseys melt back into the crowd. My husband and I share one more kiss then split to join separate groups of racers according to their age and gender.

In the early dawn light, I'm cold, wearing just swim gear. Adrenaline brings a modicum of warmth. But I also feel the arms of God wrap around me. I'm nervous, wanting so much to win – that I might stand on the victor's platform as a bright yellow banner for FCA, but more importantly, as a banner for God.

I don't know if this moment could be called prayer, but I have a vague image of God holding me. If I were to put words to my heart's desires as I press into His chest, I would say, “I want to win for You.” He might reply, “Whatever you do, do as unto My Son.” I'd add, “Whatever happens in this race today, let it bring You glory.” He'd calm me with, “I work all things together for good.”

The words have been only shadows of thoughts, yet I am comforted. He alone controls the outcome, yet I'm impassioned to race for Him today, to let all my

actions, all my striving, and all my effort, be filled with grace and selflessness. A talent for triathlon

is His gift to me; each race is my offering to Him.

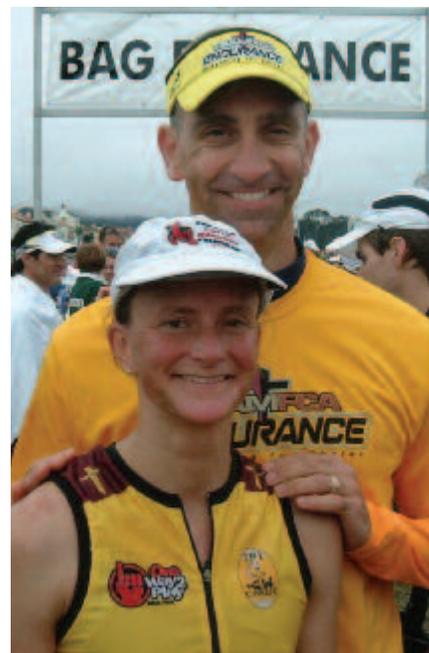
A horn sounds. I'm splashing through the shallow water, then diving in and swimming hard, trying to get beyond the flail of arms and legs. I focus on each stroke. My lungs burn for air. I rehearse the transition to my bike in my mind, then move through it deliberately. I make each pedal stroke as efficiently as possible. My legs cry out for mercy.

I transition to the run quickly, but carefully. Twila Paris' lyrics, “For the glory of the Lord, I have been created,” echo in my head to the beat of my pounding footsteps. Everything hurts by now. “For the glory of the Lord,” is my prayer as the finish line approaches with painful slowness.

Suddenly the race is over. The pain is past. I have endured. I have even been victorious. For the glory of the Lord.

On some days, I ponder the struggle of this life and I remember the wonder of finishing the race for the glory of God. I find strength in the confidence that someday, I'll feel that joy infinitely stronger, as I

“A talent for triathlon is His gift to me; each race is my offering to Him.”



*Donna Douglass and her husband Richard after a competition. Like his wife, Richard also competes in triathlons with FCA, serves in the Air Force, and is a CIU seminary student.*

cross the finish line into heaven. Jesus will slip that medal over my head and it will say, “Well done, good and faithful servant.” ■

## About the author

*Donna Douglass is currently the top female amateur triathlete in South Carolina, and uses triathlon as a platform for ministry through Fellowship of Christian Athletes – Endurance. Prior to enrolling in seminary, Douglass was an active duty Air Force captain, where she became the first woman to fly the F-117 Stealth Fighter. She is also a freelance writer whose tales of the front lines have been published in the National Endowment for the Arts' books “Operation Homecoming” (2004) and “Grace Under Fire” (2007), in Officer Christian Fellowship's “Command” magazine (2003) and online at PCAnews.com (2003).*

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McNeal serves as the Missional Leadership Specialist for the Leadership Network, and has served as a denominational executive and leadership development coach. He has contributed to numerous denominational publications and church leadership journals and is the author of five books.

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*George Murray is the chancellor and former president of Columbia International University (CIU).*



*Joe Stowell is teaching pastor at Harvest Bible Chapel in Chicago, and former president of Moody Bible Institute.*



*Crawford Loritts is senior pastor of Fellowship Bible Church in Roswell, Ga., and has served on the staff of Campus Crusade for Christ.*



*Sinclair Ferguson is senior minister of First Presbyterian Church in Columbia, S.C. and professor at Westminster Theological Seminary.*



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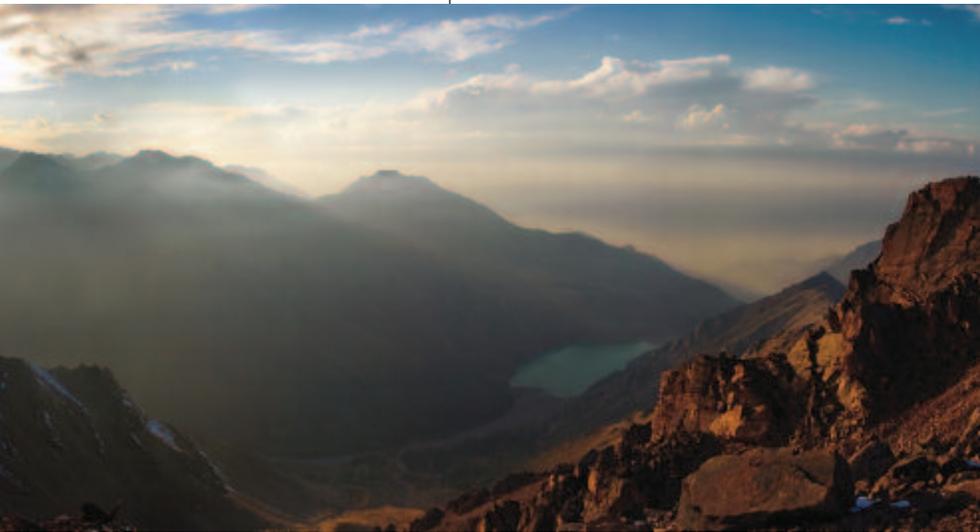
 Columbia International University  
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# Our Fight to Stay

By Reginald and Becky, Humanitarian Workers

*Editor's note: CIU alumni Reginald and Becky (not their real names) minister in a Central Asian country coordinating a variety of humanitarian work. The following is an account of the power of prayer and faith as Reginald describes his recent confrontation with a government official:*



“I wondered if eight years of work and 14 years in the country were coming to an end.”

Our visas were due to expire in a few hours. Although we had tried to renew them three weeks prior, the visa official had been uncooperative.

I wondered if eight years of work and 14 years in the country were coming to an end. We had to be willing to lay everything down. I thought about the impact on Becky, our newborn son, and our national team. I wrestled all night, asking the Lord to allow us to stay but to do what would bring Him the most glory.

At times I felt like Paul before King Agrippa (Acts 26) giving a defense of the gospel. While other times I felt like one of Jesus' disciples being told not to worry about what to say before government authorities (Matthew 10). The

Department of Justice official asked me to state my confession. I told him I am a follower of Jesus Christ. I shared how I became a believer at age 25 while flying in the Navy and that my life hasn't been the same since. I also told him I have a master's degree in business and follow Christ in my business practices.

Because some of my work includes speaking with religious organizations, the official said that I needed a missionary registration. I expressed my willingness to acquire a missionary registration assuming that would not only satisfy the government officials, but allow me to do all of the work listed: agriculture, teaching English, AIDS prevention, and orphan care. But he insisted that business and religion cannot be mixed.

We met for nearly two hours going round and round in search of a workable solution.

I explained that I wanted to be effective in my work and that there are two worldviews: one with God and one without God. When medical intervention is used to treat alcoholism or drug addiction, the success rate is about three percent. But when the rehabilitation center brings God into the treatment process the success is close to 80 percent. I told him life is too short and I don't want to waste my time on three percent.

The official said that working with God was better, that he was afraid for his children concerning AIDS and that we should find a compromise. “Thank you, Jesus,” I thought.

The compromise included changing a few words in my visa request. I would take out references to “religion” and replace them with “legal organizations,” which would cover the religious institutions through which we've been doing our work. As the meeting came to a close I was thankful the Lord had shown up and that it turned out to be a great day. ■

# New Books Authored by CIU Professors

For information on purchasing these books, contact the CIU Bookstore at (800) 777-2227, ext. 5263 or [Bookstore@ciu.edu](mailto:Bookstore@ciu.edu).

## Singing the Names of God

Lyrics exploring the names of God, sung to traditional and contemporary hymn tunes

By former CIU Professor G. William Supplee

For four decades, Bill Supplee was a professor and director of music at CIU. He also directed CIU's Ambassador Choir. His book "Singing the Names of God" is designed to encourage pastors,

music directors and worship leaders to teach the names and attributes of God, and to lead believers to know Him and the power of His multifaceted character. Published by Columbia International University.

## From Bible Hermeneutics to Exegesis and Application

By Dr. Alex Luc

Written in Chinese, Dr. Alex Luc's book on Bible interpretation, will meet an important need posed by the rapidly growing Chinese Christian population worldwide. "From Bible Hermeneutics to

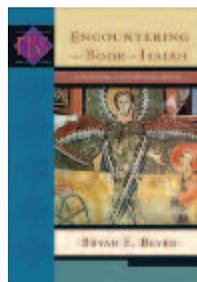
Exegesis and Application" is designed to show church leaders and pastors (many of whom still lack formal training) how to move from biblically based hermeneutical principles, to exegesis, and to life and ministry application. The format of the book allows readers to start at either the beginner or advanced level. Included are practice questions and answers, as well as 125

illustrative examples. Published by Christian Renewal Ministries.

## Encountering the Book of Isaiah: A Historical and Theological Survey

By Dr. Bryan E. Beyer

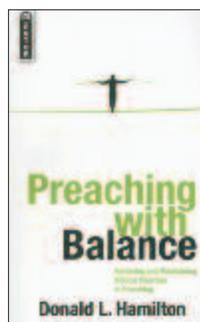
In this recent addition to the "Encountering Biblical Studies" series, Dr. Bryan Beyer, professor of Old Testament, offers a comprehensive introduction to the book of Isaiah that surveys the book's content, its meaning in its original context, and its application for people today. Beyer presents the prophet's recurring themes of remnant, the sovereignty of God, the Day of the Lord, covenant obligations, Messiah, and God and the nations. He gives special attention to Isaiah's use of geographical issues to illustrate his message, Isaiah's place in the canon of Scripture, and the implications of the book for mission. Published by Baker Academic.



## Preaching with Balance: Achieving and Maintaining Biblical Priorities in Preaching

By Dr. Donald L. Hamilton

"Preaching with Balance" focuses on the philosophy of preaching and helps readers approach the various aspects of

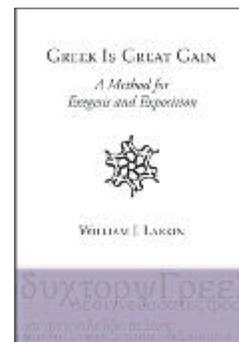


preaching as part of an integrated whole. To achieve this, Dr. Don Hamilton utilizes seven steps, each having to do with the pursuit of balance in some aspect of pulpit ministry: theology, the preacher as a person, biblical foundations, preaching purpose, sermon variety, sermon content, and delivery. The book also includes four appendices dealing with matters such as long range pulpit planning, series preaching and evaluation. Published by Christian Focus Publications.

## Greek is Great Gain: A Method for Exegesis and Exposition

By Dr. William Larkin

"Greek is Great Gain" is a companion to "Greek is Good Grief: Laying the Foundation for Exegesis and Exposition" by CIU professor Dr. John Harvey. "Greek is Great Gain" provides guidance whether for maintaining Greek reading proficiency, doing weekly immediate preparation of sermons or lessons, planning for preaching and teaching, or pursuing periodic professional development through in-depth study in the Scriptures. In all, "Greek is Great Gain" seeks to be a practical manual. Employing Philippians as its primary biblical database, it presents the steps of a comprehensive exegetical method supported with explanation, resources, and examples. Published by Wipf and Stock Publishers.





# 6th Annual TCS/MK Re-Entry Retreats

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