



## Willing, Humble Service

August 2005

**Dear friends of CIU,**

It was one of those moments when I wished I had a camera in my hands. Early on a weekday morning I was jogging on the CIU campus. As I rounded a corner, there was Gregg Schulte. Gregg is our CIU vice president for business and operations. As usual, he was professionally dressed in a nice suit and tie, and he was headed for his office, well before the normal 8:00 a.m. start of the work day (again, as usual). And then, I saw him (even though he didn't see me) take a detour into the flower beds next to our administration building and start pulling weeds. That's right, the vice president of CIU pulling weeds! That "snap shot" is indelibly printed in my mind.

In fact, I have found out that Gregg has "adopted" certain flower beds at CIU, and is committed to doing his part in personally keeping those flower beds weed-free and attractive to the public. From his vice presidential vantage point of seeing the total CIU financial picture, Gregg knows that CIU's budget is very tight, and we are not able to hire all the physical plant employees (groundskeepers, custodians, etc.) that we need. So, rather than complaining about this, he pitches in to help out even though he already has heavy leadership and financial accounting responsibilities. And he does so joyfully! But I'm not surprised. Gregg is typical of so many of our CIU administrators, faculty and staff who work long hours, go the extra mile, and are willing to do whatever needs to be done to make CIU successful, even if a task is menial or falls outside of their normal responsibilities. It is an awesome privilege for me to be serving the Lord together with such people!

Recently, I was talking to a student who has just finished his first year of the three-year Master of Divinity program here at CIU. He raved about every one of his courses, and told ►

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# President's Letter

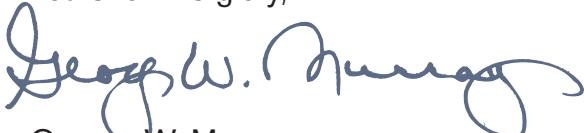
me that every new professor he had, quickly became his “favorite” teacher! He went on to say: “All of my professors at CIU are highly trained, professional, and excellent in how they teach, and yet every one of them is so humble and willing to help.”

Each year we have our students fill out professionally-designed surveys to learn where we can improve their living and learning experience. Of course, there are always things that our students want us to change and improve. But they consistently give “high grades” to our faculty. Besides praising their classroom competency, the students note that the CIU faculty is willing to spend extra time with them one-on-one outside of the classroom. They appreciate the way our professors know their names, have them in their homes, and help them individually, even with small details. Praise the Lord!

This is the way it ought to be, and this is the way it is so often here at CIU. In fact, my wife, instead of calling me the president, prefers to call me “CIU’s chief foot-washer.” This is in keeping with the words of Jesus who, as a leader speaking to a group of aspiring leaders, said: “If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you.” (John 13:14,15)

Will you thank the Lord with me right now for the incredible team of employees who are joyfully and humbly serving the Lord here at CIU? And will you pray that God will bless them for their selfless and joyful service? And don’t forget that their monthly salaries are partially dependent on the monthly gift income that comes from people like you! In June, we finished a period of 24 straight months when there were no pay cuts for any CIU employees, and we ended our fiscal year (June 30) with all salaries paid in full. Praise the Lord! But now, another fiscal year has begun, and we are as dependent on the gifts of God’s people as ever. Thank you for your partnership with us!

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray  
President

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