

Columbia International University

To Know Him And To Make Him Known



The End and the Means

July 2006

Dear friends of CIU,

My “smile muscles” are still sore from congratulating 355 men and women who recently graduated from CIU. It was the largest graduating class in CIU’s 83-year history. Praise the Lord! But these new graduates are simply means to an end, and not the end in themselves. How exciting it is to see our graduates making intentional choices about vocation and location in order to fulfill Christ’s unchanging commission to reach the whole world for the glory of God! And that is the ultimate end for which we are striving at CIU: the glory of God through the preaching of the gospel and the growth of the church among all nations.

To accomplish that end, many means are necessary, whether they be students, or faculty and staff, or facilities.

Let me tell you some of the recent happenings at CIU in the “means” category.

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NEW FACILITIES

We currently have 51 buildings on our 400-acre Monticello Road campus here in Columbia (including the middle and high school buildings of Ben Lippen School). And, all of them are completely paid for with no mortgage debt whatsoever. With the solid approval of our CIU Board of Trustees, we have just taken a step of faith to expand our facilities by several buildings:

- 1) A classroom/office building and an all-purpose building for elementary students on the Ben Lippen portion of our Monticello Road campus (\$2.3 million). These buildings are well on their way to completion!
- 2) Another complex of classroom/office buildings for Ben Lippen elementary students on St. Andrews Road in northwest Columbia. These buildings are already constructed, are in a prime location, and were purchased from a local church (\$2.3 million). ▶

President's Letter

- 3) An indoor sports center for our college and graduate level students (\$3.6 million). This complex will include regulation-size basketball and volleyball courts, locker rooms, an exercise room, a weight room, and a large lobby area. We had a joyous groundbreaking ceremony for this new sports center just before graduation.

All of these new facilities will cost approximately \$8.2 million. As has been the case at CIU for many years, we do not begin construction or purchase of new facilities until we have one-half of the funds already in hand, and we will not borrow money from an outside source to complete construction or purchase land. Praise the Lord, we already have \$5 million in hand or pledged, and we are trusting the Lord for the additional \$3.2 million needed to complete these new facility projects. Please pray with us for the Lord's full provision!

PERSONNEL CHANGES

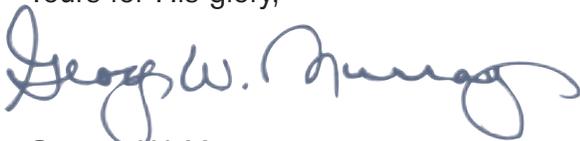
After a total of 28 years of outstanding service at CIU, Dr. Ralph Enlow, senior vice president and provost, left CIU at the end of this school year and has accepted the appointment of interim executive director of the Association for Biblical Higher Education in Orlando, Fla. Dr. Bill Jones, who has served as a professor at Columbia Biblical Seminary & School of Mission for the past 16 years has accepted my appointment as interim senior vice president and provost. Dr. Jones is already doing an excellent job in that role. We have also strengthened our academic program by adding new faculty at the undergraduate and graduate level.

DÉJÀ VU

Before CIU moved from its location in downtown Columbia to our current Monticello Road property along the Broad River, Dr. Robert C. McQuilkin, CIU's first president, used to hold well-attended Bible classes for the businessmen and women in the city. I am happy to report that CIU has gone back to the downtown section of Columbia where we are offering Bible courses (credit and non-credit) to local business people. We have already completed two successful courses, and this summer 20 people are enthusiastically enrolled in a class on the Bible book of Ephesians. Please pray that these classes will expand and grow!

All of these – new facilities, personnel changes and additions, downtown Bible classes – are simply means to the end of bringing glory to God through students whom we are training “To Know Him And To Make Him Known.” Your prayers and your gifts are making these means possible, and I am deeply grateful.

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President

President's Letter