

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



“I Thank God That CBC Was Not Rich” ***Mailbox Experiences - Part II***

June 2005

Dear friends of CIU,

As you know, I write a CIU President's letter every month. Some of you may assume that my doing so is a “one way” activity. I write the letters, and you read them. The fact of the matter is that I often get letters from you in response. So, besides writing, I also do my share of reading! About a year ago I wrote a letter entitled “Mailbox Experiences” and I received quite a few letters in response. All of the writers were alumni who had studied at CIU, and they each affirmed two things: 1) They had all had at least one “mailbox experience” while studying at CIU; and 2) They all continued having “mailbox experiences” after leaving CIU.

***“Mailbox experiences
still happen regularly
at CIU.”***

Now just in case you don't remember what is meant by the term “mailbox experience,” let me remind you. It refers to a time of God's amazing provision, usually (but not always) of a financial need. At CIU this comes most commonly in the form of a letter, sometimes anonymous, in a student's mailbox. Included is a check or cash to cover a critical need. Thus the expression “mailbox experience.” It still happens regularly here at CIU. In fact, it is an expression of one of the CIU core values that we teach and model: prayer and faith.

I rejoice when a student comes to CIU with the ability to pay all the expenses of room, board and tuition. But I am equally excited when a student tells me that he or she does *not* have adequate funding to cover all CIU expenses. Why does that excite me? Because I know if such a student is here in the will of God, that the Lord will provide in answer to believing prayer, often in amazing ways. And I know that the process of trusting God and seeing Him provide will deepen that student's faith and will be a wonderful preparation for trusting God for even greater things in the years after leaving CIU. *And that is the main point of this letter: We teach and model the core value of* ▶

President's Letter

prayer and faith here at CIU, with the deep desire that all our graduates will live in the reality of that core value after they leave CIU.

The letters I received from graduates in response to my first “Mailbox Experience” letter certainly bear testimony to this. Let me quote several of them for you:

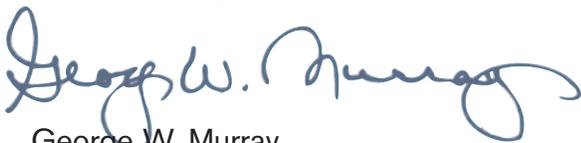
- ❖ *“I, too, had my ‘mailbox experiences’ while at CBC – long ago. The Lord is always faithful – even today. May He continue to prove that to you and to your entire student body.”*
- ❖ *“I’d like to report that ‘mailbox experiences’ continue even after CIU. I’m sure this doesn’t surprise you. God has done the same for me off and on these past few years, always the amount needed and no way the sender could have known much about the need. God is so faithful and loves to ‘make our day’ like this. I’m sure He smiles each time.”*
- ❖ *“I thank God that CBC was not rich, and many of the students were not from wealthy families. The school understood and accepted us, and led the student body from time to time to depend on God for financial need. This kind of training we seldom get from other sources, and it is valuable in ministry.”*

Interestingly, each of the three letters above (and others) included a check with instructions from the writer to use the funds to give a “mailbox experience” to a current CIU student facing a real need. We were more than happy to do so. Honestly, we could use some more checks like that!

But whether or not you help one of our students to have a “mailbox experience,” will you pray with us that many of those currently studying here will learn to trust the Lord to meet all of their needs? And, more importantly, will you pray that they will take that core value of prayer and faith with them, no matter where they go and no matter what they do? Thank you so much!

One last word before I close: *Our CIU fiscal year ends this month (June 30).* As you may have previously heard, our gift income prayer target this year is \$2.5 million, and of that \$1,118,022 has been received. You may think that your small gift in the face of such a large remaining need will not make a difference, but it does! Most of CIU’s annual gift income is supplied by thousands of small, modest gifts, and we are truly grateful for each one. Thank you for standing with us over this past year.

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President