

Columbia International University

To Know Him And To Make Him Known



The Da Vinci Code Is Not The World's Best-Selling Book

June 2006

Dear friends of CIU,

Recently, I was in a Starbucks coffee shop and noticed a young African-American woman engrossed in the pages of a paperback book. As I walked past her, I couldn't help myself. I peered over her shoulder to discover what was consuming her attention. It was, you guessed it, *The Da Vinci Code*. Right? *Wrong!* Your wrong guess was based on the common misperception that Dan Brown's fictional book is currently the world's best seller. It isn't. Nor is the world's best-selling book *The Purpose-Driven Life* by Rick Warren, even though that book has sold *twice as many copies* as *The Da Vinci Code*! No, the world's best-selling book is still the Bible, God's Holy Word, given to us by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and miraculously preserved for us down through the centuries, despite numerous attempts to destroy it. And *that* is the book that the young lady was raptly reading in the coffee shop (more about her in a minute), and *that* is the book that is at the very center of the curriculum and life of Columbia International University.

“ The Bible, God's Holy Word, is at the very center of the curriculum and life of Columbia International University. ”

Will the Bible always be the world's best-selling book? Perhaps. But the Bible's popularity is not the reason why it is at the core of CIU's curriculum. The Bible is the center of all we teach and believe at CIU because it is the Word of God, and as such, it has functional authority over all areas of life. Everyone who gets a degree from our undergraduate school must major in Bible, as well as having the choice of another ministry-related major. At CIU, on the undergraduate and graduate levels, all of the language, math, science, social sciences, and humanities courses are “squared” with the plumb-line of God's Word. Our students are taught to carefully and honestly interpret and defend God's Word through ▶

President's Letter

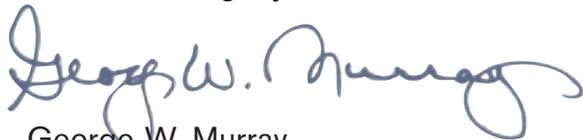
important courses like hermeneutics and apologetics. And, the expository preaching of God's Word is at the center of our weekly chapel program.

Interestingly, even though the Bible is dominant in our CIU curriculum, one of the most common CIU alumni comments is: "I wish I had taken more Bible courses at CIU." Why? Because God's Word is so relevant to every area of life and ministry. This is why many CIU grads have devoted their lives to the translation and distribution of God's Word among unreached people groups. This is why many CIU grads devote themselves to the preaching and teaching of God's Word as pastors and parachurch workers all across North America. This is why most CIU grads spend time alone and with their families in God's Word on a daily basis. And, this is why our vision for CIU is that we will continue to be a world center for biblical, transformational Great Commission training.

Now back to the young lady in the coffee shop. When I saw she was reading the best-selling book in the world, I stopped and said, "What a wonderful book! What part of the Bible are you reading?" She looked up at me with a smile and said: "The letter to the Romans!" With glowing face, she told me how she had recently come to faith in Christ, how she loved to read God's Word, and how her parents ridiculed her new-found faith and did not allow her to open the Bible at home. That's the reason she went to the coffee shop. I encouraged her to keep reading and studying God's Word, and I promised to pray for her.

Through that brief conversation God confirmed in my heart and mind the importance of what we are doing here at CIU: training men and women to understand, apply and teach God's Word. I am excited about the future! As you receive this letter, an additional 300 men and women just graduated from CIU and are taking the message of God's Word around the world! These graduates, equipped for ministry, full of optimism and enthusiasm, are going to make an impact for Christ on their world, and I look forward to watching that happen.

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President

P.S. Because you are a partner with us in training men and women for worldwide ministry, I would like to offer you a gift. Each donor to the CIU Annual Fund during the month of June will receive a CD of a chapel message, based on Isaiah 6, that I gave to our CIU student body this year. I hope it will encourage you in your personal study of God's Word. If a donation from you is simply out of the question, please let us know and we will gladly send you the CD anyway.

President's Letter