



Letter from the President



Dr. Bill Jones

CIU Advances the Kingdom through Partnerships

September 2008

Dear friend of CIU,

Two weeks ago we launched the new 2008-09 school year at Columbia International University! It gives me great joy to mingle with the students and catch their excitement as they anticipate what God has in store for them through a new semester of classes and friendships.

Not only do we have new students, we have recently formed two new strategic partnerships. The American Heritage Dictionary defines partnership as “a relationship between individuals or groups that is characterized by mutual cooperation and responsibility ... as for the achievement of a specified goal.” What better goal exists than the advancement of the Kingdom of God? These partnerships strengthen our purpose at CIU: to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. You can learn more about these partnerships by visiting our website, www.ciu.edu, and clicking on “Services,” but let me give a brief description of each partnership.

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Seacoast Church: The first ministry

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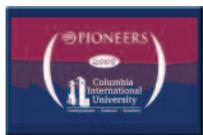
Undergraduate
Graduate School
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Ben Lippen School
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partnership focuses on USA ministry. Seacoast, which uses the Irmo facilities of Ben Lippen School (CIU's K4-12 Christian school) for Sunday worship services, refers to itself as "one church, many locations." Seacoast conceived of the "many locations" idea from a lack of space for the growing congregation at its main campus near Charleston, S.C. They planted other "satellite" campuses and have now grown to 13 Seacoast locations in three states.

As a result of their explosive growth, Seacoast saw the need for solid seminary training for their staff. During the partnership signing ceremony, Mac Lake, Seacoast's leadership development pastor, stressed the partnership with CIU will help Seacoast train new leaders "with solid character and a solid theological foundation," and will enhance Seacoast's "ability to grow the next generation of leaders." CIU has designed specialized leadership learning tracks that will do just that.



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Pioneers: The second partnership focuses on world

evangelization. Pioneers specializes in planting churches among unreached people groups around the world. Through the new partnership, CIU offers missionaries of Pioneers pre-field biblical missions training, lifelong learning opportunities, and special scholarships for their children.

Steve Richardson, director of Pioneers, USA, and a CIU Alumnus of the Year,

describes CIU as "one of the best places in the world to capture God's heart for the nations, while being equipped with the knowledge, character and skills required for ministry in some of the toughest locations."

As you pray for CIU, please remember our partnerships with Seacoast Church and Pioneers. Please pray that through these partnerships, we will powerfully educate their leaders from a biblical worldview so they might better impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Thank you for *your partnership* with us. Your financial contributions during this past year (07-08) proved the second highest ever in terms of giving. You gave so generously that you almost surpassed the highest year even though that year included a \$3.6 million estate gift. Please remember our financial needs as we begin another school year and help us get off to a great start.

Psalm 67:1-2

William H. Jones
President



CIU President Bill Jones (left) and Seacoast Senior Pastor Greg Surratt ink the partnership at a CIU chapel service.



Columbia International University

"To know Him and to make Him known"