

CIU

TODAY

Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing: Meet the Spiritual Formation Team

- + *Chaplaincy: "The Presence of God" along Monticello Road*
- + *Freshman Offers Counseling Outside Abortion Clinic*
- + *CIU Makes Powerful Impact at Providence Home for Men*

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CIU

TODAY

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Cover Photo: Trae Capers, Donna Thompson and Dan Coy lead CIU's new Spiritual Formation Team.

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Bob Holmes
Editor-in-Chief

Are we living by
"The Book?" Are
we careful to do
all that is written
in it so that we
take on the
image of Christ?

— Bob Holmes

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in touch!



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Living by The Book

Are we willing to reflect Christ in every aspect of our lives? What we do, what we say, how we relate to others, even in the way we dress?

Such questions bring to mind an episode of the original Star Trek. Yes, Star Trek.

The crew members of the Starship Enterprise found themselves on a planet where everyone acted and dressed as if they lived in Chicago in the days of the 1920s mobsters.

Captain Kirk and Mr. Spock dressed in wide-breasted suits with silk handkerchiefs in the jacket pockets. Fedora hats were tilted over one eye. They carried the old Tommy guns just like Al Capone and his gang would have used.

They were doing their best to fit in to find out why everyone on this planet was stuck in the gangster life of the 1920s. As it turned out, a previous spaceship had visited the planet and left behind a novel, "The Book" they called it, about gangster life in the 1920s. Everyone on the planet referred to "The Book" to guide them in how they carried out their lives. If it was in "The Book" they did exactly what it said.

Do you and I live by "The Book," that is, God's holy Word given to us by the One who created us?

After the death of Moses, his right hand man, Joshua, was now to lead Israel into the Promised Land. When instructing Joshua, God said:

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will achieve success. (Joshua 1:8) NASB

In the New Testament, the Apostle Paul challenges believers to take on the image of Christ in Colossians 3:10.

Put on your new nature, and be renewed as you learn to know your Creator and become like him. (NLT)

Are we living by "The Book?" Are we careful to do all that is written in it so that we become like Christ?

When we take "The Book" seriously, we reflect the One who wrote "The Book" and planet earth will notice. This is "Faith in Action," our theme for this edition of CIU Today.

Bob Holmes
CIU Today
Editor-in-Chief



Blessing Community with 40,000 Pounds of Potatoes

1,200 boxes of produce also distributed

Abby Carlson says she loves serving people. The sophomore Teacher Education major was among a large segment of the Columbia International University student body who bagged 40,000 pounds of potatoes during a November community service day at CIU.

Carlson and her classmates spent a good part of the day packing the potatoes in 3,000, 10-pound bags that were picked up by designated churches and charities who in turn, made them available to families in the Columbia area. Additionally, about 150 bags were offered to the general public.

Carlson says it makes her feel joyful to be of service as CIU prepares her for a life of ministry to others.

“There’s a whole world out there that I’m going to be in some day,”

Carlson said. “There are so many hurting people. To be able to help them while I’m here is such a blessing.”

Just a month prior, CIU students, faculty and staff volunteered to distribute 1,200 USDA-approved, fresh-produce boxes at two locations. At Temple Zion Baptist Church just a mile from CIU’s entrance, designated churches and neighborhood representatives received the boxes. At Pine Grove Elementary School in the St. Andrews area, the parents of students were the recipients.

The potatoes and produce boxes were secured through the Society of St. Andrew, a food rescue ministry headquartered in Virginia. Both distributions were organized through CIU’s Christian Service Learning Department. Assistant Dean and Director of Christian Service Learning

James McCall says community service is an important aspect of the CIU student experience.

“When I accepted this position, CIU President Dr. Mark Smith encouraged me to engage our students in serving the community in tangible ways.” McCall said. “In the life of Jesus we see an example of humble servant leadership, and this is the message and example we want to pass along to our students.” ■



President Dr. Mark Smith (center) meets with CIU African American leaders at retreat. They are joined by The Rev. David Spivey, pastor of Haven of Rest Bible Church in Galax, Virginia.



CIU President and African American Leaders "Go Deeper" at Retreat

In anticipation of a new year, Columbia International University Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Andre Rogers asked CIU President Dr. Mark Smith to "go deeper" with some of CIU's African American leaders at an early January leadership retreat.

Smith graciously accepted the opportunity and was eager to be a part of the spiritual growth. He encouraged the leaders to open their hearts to what the Spirit would do over the two-day retreat in Galax, Virginia. Using his book "Leading Change in Your World," Smith covered topics concerning leadership character, calling, competency, and confidence in God, just to name a few. ■



Ken Blackwell speaks to students in Chapel.

Notable Public Servant Named to CIU Board

Ken Blackwell, a nationally-known figure with an extensive career in public service is the newest member of the CIU Board of Trustees.

Blackwell has served as mayor of Cincinnati and Ohio treasurer and secretary of state. Additionally, he was undersecretary at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Human Rights Commission. Currently, Blackwell is the senior fellow for Human Rights and Constitutional Governance at the Family Research Council in Washington, D.C. ■



Responses to Justice: OT and NT Perspectives

For Old Testament Professor Dr. John Crutchfield and New Testament Professor Dr. Michael Naylor, finding the material to present the Bible's viewpoint of justice was difficult. Not difficult in the sense that there wasn't enough information but quite the opposite.

"We had an embarrassment of riches," Crutchfield said. "Which of the 20 awesome passages do we pick?"

In their part of a series of seminars devoted to justice, Crutchfield and Naylor looked at what the Old and New Testaments had to say about the topic in order to better live in today's society.

Crutchfield talked about how the concept of justice in the Old Testament is based on the character of God and it's tied to truthfulness and integrity.

"If you're skewing justice for the poor, who's not getting justice? The rich," Crutchfield said. "It's very important to root justice in integrity and truthfulness, not in skewing to the group in society that you think needs more help. That's not justice according to Torah."

Naylor highlighted how the New Testament shows justice through Jesus' life and that being followers of Christ will result in facing injustice. ■



CIU: One of the Best Values in the South

The U.S. News & World Report list of Best Colleges for 2020-2021 ranks Columbia International University in the top 10 for Best Value among Regional Universities in the South.

The calculation used by the magazine takes into account CIU's academic quality, as indicated by its 2021 U.S. News Best Colleges ranking (#42 in the South), and the 2019-2020 net cost of attendance for a student who received the average level of need-based financial aid.

In other words, the higher the quality of the program and the lower the cost, the better the deal.

Only schools ranked in or near the top half of their categories are included because U.S. News considers the most significant values to be among colleges that are above average academically. ■

Dr. John Maxwell Offers Powerful Messages on Leadership

"You must know your people to grow your people."

That's what Dr. John Maxwell advised a leadership forum at Columbia International University.

Maxwell, an international best-selling author who has spoken on leadership over 12,000 times, offered yet one more talk on the top before a masked Columbia area audience gathered in CIU's Shortess Chapel who were socially distanced because of COVID-19 concerns. The event was originally scheduled for March 2020, but moved to September because of the coronavirus outbreak in the spring.

Maxwell emphasized the importance of leaders bringing up new leaders asking two questions; what are you doing to develop yourself, and what are you doing to develop the leaders around you?

CIU President Dr. Mark Smith presented Maxwell with the CIU Global Impact Award which recognizes a public figure who reflects the core values of CIU and has made outstanding achievements for God's Kingdom. ■



▲
Dr. John Maxwell holds the
CIU Global Impact Award



Ben Lippen School Expanding to Northeast Columbia

The rapid growth at Ben Lippen School is leading to its expansion into the Northeast side of Columbia.

On Aug. 11, 2021, Ben Lippen will begin classes for grades Pre-K4 through second grade at Sandhills Community Church. A three-year plan includes expanding to serve students through the fourth grade. ■



Ben Lippen Trio Honored for Bluegrass and Traditional Music

Kendall Denny, Nathanael Cole and Hannah Sealy were awarded with 2020 Bill Wells Memorial Scholarships. Nathanael, a sophomore, plays mandolin, fiddle and bass. He was awarded \$200. Kendall plays guitar and Hannah plays guitar and mandolin. Each received a \$150 scholarship. ■



church 2021 refreshed

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

BRINGING ENCOURAGEMENT TO CHURCH LEADERS

First “Church Refreshed” Conference Hosted on Campus

As leaders of two different Columbia-area churches stood outside the doors of Shortess Chapel, they excitedly chatted about what they had just experienced inside at Columbia International University’s first “Church Refreshed” conference.

Malcolm Walls of Sandhills Community Church and Freddy Johnson of North Point church agreed that the day of encouragement was just what they needed as the nation moved into the second year of a pandemic.

“It has been informational and it has also been compelling to actually prompt me to act and move in faith to continue to do the things God wants me to do,” said Walls who serves as the pastor of Outreach and Next Steps at his church.

CIU brought in five well-known church leaders for Church Refreshed, who were greatly appreciated by Johnson who is the lead pastor at North Point.

“Different speakers with different styles of communication ... every session I’ve had something to take away from it,” Johnson said. “The reminder to us is that God has never given up on us and that He can accomplish things through us more than we can imagine.”

Nearly 200 people attended the event in person as COVID precautions were exercised, including masks. Over 80 people joined the event online. In the middle of the day, Church Refreshed host and organizer, Professor Dr. Andre Rogers said he had over 200 encouraging text messages from those watching online.

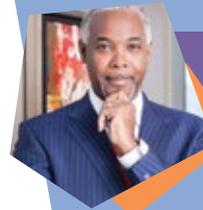
Professor Rogers summarized the day as “encouraging, elevating and equipping,” adding that another Church Refreshed conference is scheduled for Jan. 26, 2022. ■

Presented Speakers:



DR. MARK SMITH

CIU President
(Leadership & Community Impact)



BISHOP DALE BRONNER

Founder/Senior Pastor of Word of Faith Family Worship Cathedral in Austell, Georgia
(Vision and Entrepreneurship)



PASTOR GERALD BROOKS

Founding Pastor of Grace Church in Plano, Texas
(Prayer & Strategic Thinking)



PASTOR BENNY TATE

Senior Pastor of Rock Springs Church in Milner, Georgia
(Raising Multiplying Leaders)



PASTOR CONWAY EDWARDS

Founder and Lead Pastor of One Community Church in Plano, Texas
(Reaching/Preaching: Millennials & Generation Z)



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Local Sheriff's Deputies Encounter "The Presence of God" Along

MONTICELLO RD

By Bob Holmes
Photos by Kierston Smith

CIU Chaplaincy Professor Dr. Mike Langston knows from sitting in the passenger seat of a squad car what law enforcement officers are going through these days.

"Every time they come to work, they're putting their life on the line, and that is an underlying sense of anxiety for them," Langston said. "Because at any moment, in any situation where they're involved with a person, it could go really bad."

At the request of Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott, Langston is volunteering his time to train the sheriff's department chaplains and is himself riding with a deputy at least once each week.

"He has taken us to a different level," Lott says of Langston, a former U.S. Navy chaplain who has been ministering for over three decades. "What Mike brings is advanced training because of his experience as a



Langston prays with Richland County Sheriff Leon Lott at the dedication of the Monticello Road Sheriff's Department Substation.

chaplain in the military. He's our training guru."

Langston rides with the deputies who patrol the Monticello Road area just outside the CIU campus. They're headquartered at a substation built by CIU as part of its Monticello Road revitalization project. Among the deputies is Chaise Porter who has been patrolling the region for two years. Porter is a Christian who appreciates having Langston and other chaplains available when things get tough.

"There are situations I come into such as when someone has been beaten within an inch of their life ... where your brain can't comprehend what in the world is happening and how another human can do this — having someone on your side who can come with a listening ear or advice and encouragement is invaluable," Porter said.

Langston often describes a chaplain as "the bearer of the presence of God" at the office — in this case, the deputy's squad car.

"When I sit in their car, that becomes a safe place for them because God has shown up," Langston explains. "Then it becomes a sacred place. When they start talking about God, then it becomes a holy place because they are encountering the Living God. I think that's what chaplaincy brings to the workplace. I can speak truth to those officers as they are performing their jobs."

Langston adds that he is setting up an internship for CIU chaplaincy students at the sheriff's department. ■



Langston (left) with Deputy Ryan Moore.

Langston Honored

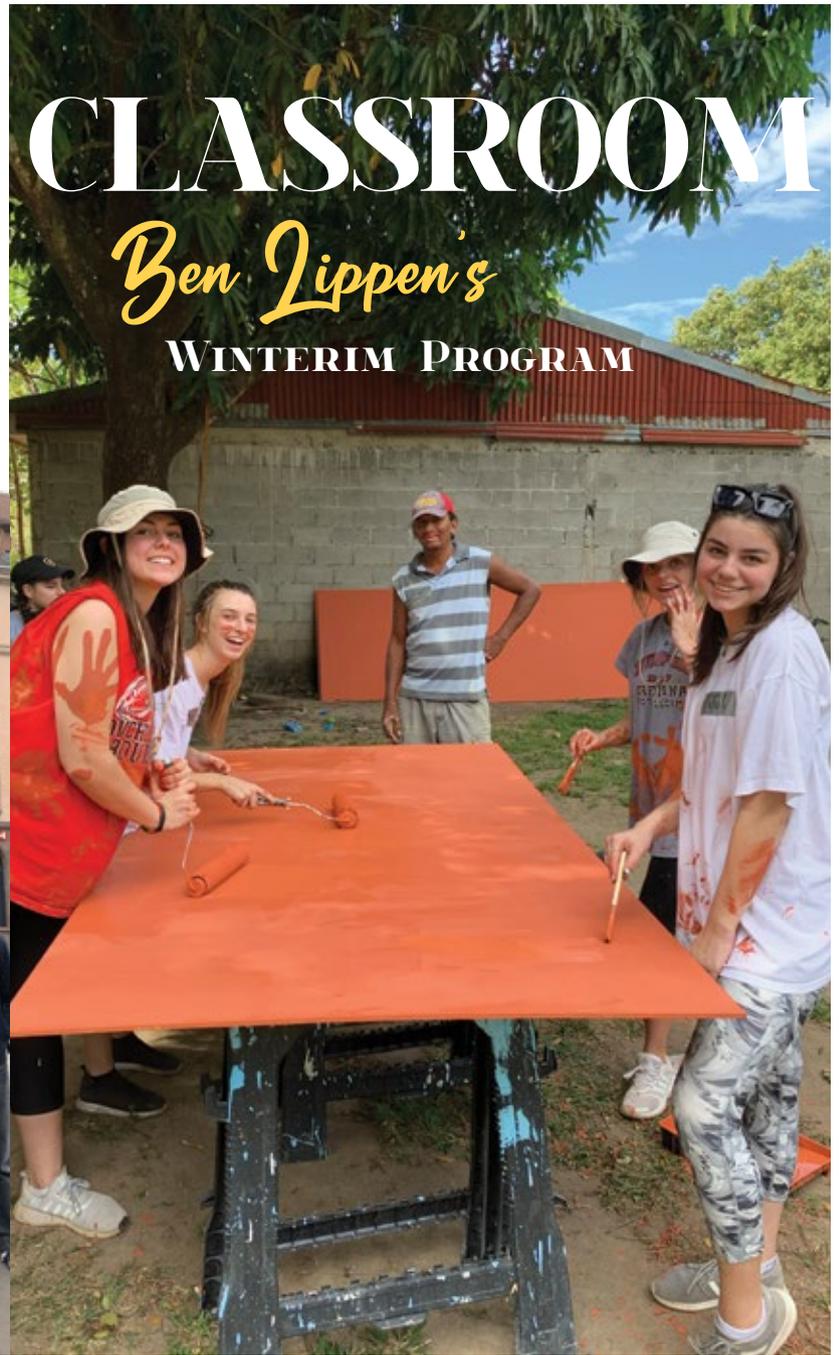
Dr. Mike Langston was honored with The G. William Dando Volunteer Service Award by the Military Chaplains Association (MCA) at their national meeting held on the CIU campus in October. The honor goes to a military chaplain who demonstrates exemplary volunteer service. He was recognized by the MCA for his volunteer training of South Carolina State Guard chaplains, and his leadership as the Guard's deputy commander, holding the rank of brigadier general.

Growing Students

Beyond THE CLASSROOM

Ben Lippen's

WINTERIM PROGRAM



By Max Russell
High School Principal

A highlight of a Ben Lippen student's high school career is the yearly opportunity he or she has to participate in the school's Winterim program. Winterim is a cornerstone of the Ben Lippen experience and one of the many activities that makes a Ben Lippen education unique. From South Carolina to China, and everywhere in between, with the Ben Lippen Winterim, students experience various cultures, serve the Lord on the mission field, participate in local or domestic service projects, try new academic pursuits or arts explorations, and so many more wonderful endeavors.

The Winterim opportunities change each year, giving students fresh choices as they progress through high school. The faculty and staff find areas of interest or current passions and organize weeklong experiences that initiate, build and deepen relationships while providing a wide variety of educational enrichment and service-learning skills outside the traditional classroom setting.



Students have served God by building houses in Costa Rica, leading a Bible school in Nicaragua, assisting in disaster relief in Haiti, leading a baseball camp in Cuba, serving at a Christian school in Belize, and doing prep work for bridge construction in the mountains of Panama.

“My favorite part of my Winterim was being able to connect with my group and the natives in Panama,” said a student on a 2020 trip to Panama. Students and parents fill out surveys anonymously about their experiences at the end of Winterim.

Meanwhile, a parent who traveled to Panama said her daughter “had an amazing experience and grew greatly in her walk with the Lord, loved serving the people of Panama, and truly bonded with her classmates. What a blessing!”

These mission trips give the students opportunities to develop lifelong skills, discover new friendships, and ultimately impact the world with God’s wonderful love.

Winterim has also taken students around the world on educational trips. Our students have walked the Great Wall in China, viewed Paris from the top of the Eiffel Tower and shopped the city’s Avenue des Champs-Élysées, visited the cathedrals of Barcelona, toured the ruins of the Roman Forum and Coliseum, and learned to curl in Canada.

A student on the “O, Canada” Winterim in 2020 said his favorite part was, “All of the fun activities that we wouldn’t be able to do in the South, such as curling and skiing.”



On the “Explore the Black Forest” (Germany) trip, a parent said, “This was an unbelievable blessing and opportunity for my son. He proved his maturity beyond my expectations. Thank you for this experience for my child to stretch and grow.”

Each year the Winterim program offers a handful of domestic experiences for the students to try. By staying within the United States, students have served on mission trips to New England (Massachusetts and Maine), Atlanta and Virginia. Students have also taken educational and cultural trips to Los Angeles, Nashville, New Orleans, New York, Orlando, Philadelphia, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, Washington, D.C. and many more wonderful U.S. locations. The students experience the culture and ambiance of the cities, visit top attractions and taste the local foods.

Although the trips are educational, students give back with a service project on each Winterim trip. Whether it is serving the homeless, picking up debris or environmental cleanup, the students always give back to the communities they visit.

After participating in the Joy Ranch Mission Trip in Virginia, a 2020 senior said, “For my final Winterim, I really wanted to do one where I could just serve the Lord and serve others, and this Winterim exceeded my expectations by 100 times.”

Many students decide to remain in South Carolina for Winterims, preferring to take lessons on Southern cooking, learn horseback riding, discover what goes on behind the scenes at the zoo, try their hand at leatherworking or painting and drawing. Additionally, they take part in adventure activities such as paintball, escape rooms, wall climbing, perambulating (hiking), visiting historic sites, and serving with charity and service organizations.

No matter whether Ben Lippen students travel near or far, Winterim gives them the opportunity to personally grow, serve others and draw closer to God. As Ben Lippen School seeks to “Dream Big, Pray Much, and Serve Others,” Winterim truly makes the educational experience unique for each student. ■

Learn more about the Ben Lippen experience at BenLippen.com.



A Moment of Hope

FOR DESPERATE WOMEN

CIU Freshman is a Sidewalk Counselor Outside Planned Parenthood | By Alex Brickey

I have a job that stands between life and death.

I meet women who are about to make a decision that will impact them for the rest of their lives.

I offer an alternative to abortion through a Columbia ministry called A Moment of Hope.

I'm a CIU freshman who became acquainted with the ministry during my youth. My father was the pastor of a Spanish-speaking church for four years, and would occasionally help at A Moment of Hope as a Spanish translator.

Through this, I saw and heard about a family who had been lied to about their child being born with deformities. However, after receiving help from A Moment of Hope and connecting this family with other doctors, the family discovered that their child at worst may have slightly yellow teeth. After hearing this, the family decided to keep their baby, and a few months later, the baby was born without the slightest hint of deformities or yellow in her teeth.

When I learned over the summer that A Moment of Hope was hiring sidewalk counselors, I knew that it was something that I

was interested in and a cause I am passionate about. A week later I applied and was hired as an intern.



During my first few days on the pavement outside of the Columbia Planned Parenthood office, I was trained on how to talk to abortion-minded clients coming to the clinic, and how to politely tell them about the alternatives to abortion. Soon I had my first opportunity to talk to a woman and give her some resources. However, not every day is as easy as that one. The impact that abortion has had on people that aborted their child is oftentimes not talked

about. Just weeks after my initial training, I watched as a couple came out of the clinic. The woman was crying and the man helped steady her as she hobbled to their car.

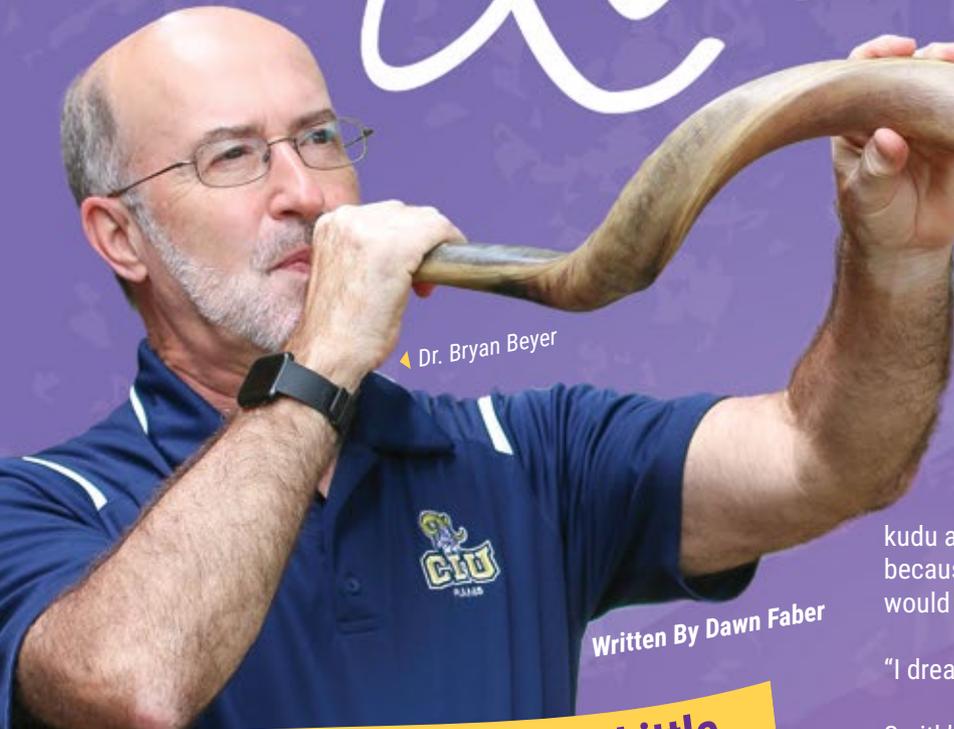
Since starting at A Moment of Hope I have spoken with many people who were going into Planned Parenthood to consider an abortion. Some have been open to listening to what I have to say, and others have cursed me out and sped away. Regardless of how they act, it is always hard when they choose abortion. But when the staff of A Moment of Hope learns that a woman has decided to keep their baby, it makes the work well worth it. ■



"I was trained on how to talk to abortion-minded clients coming to the clinic, and how to politely tell them about the alternatives to abortion." –Alex Brickey

OBSERVING Lent

WITH A
BRYAN BEYER
SHOFAR



Dr. Bryan Beyer

Written By Dawn Faber

Columbia Resident Gets a Little Help from CIU Professor

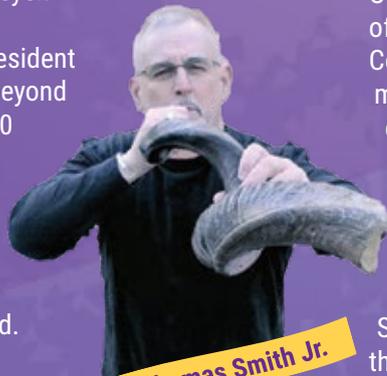
It's common sound at every important CIU event. You can count on it. It's the sound of the shofar blown by longtime CIU Bible Professor Dr. Bryan Beyer.

But with the help of Beyer, Columbia resident W. Thomas Smith Jr. took the sound beyond campus to 40 Columbia locations in 40 days during Lent.

As a historian, Smith understands the significance of the Shofar. Known as the Lord's horn, it's perhaps the oldest wind instrument in the world.

"There isn't any other horn that can produce the sound of the shofar," Smith said.

While Smith desired to play the shofar, he didn't have one. He connected with Beyer, a Hebrew scholar who has traveled to Israel with CIU students on numerous occasions. Within 24 hours of an email to Beyer, Smith possessed a beautiful shofar, the horn of the



W. Thomas Smith Jr.

kudu antelope. Beyer says Smith contacting him was a blessing because more people in Columbia would hear the shofar, plus it would also give him "an excuse to return to Jerusalem to get more!"

"I dream of the day every new CIU student gets one," Beyer joked.

Smith's first observance of Lent was blowing the shofar in the sanctuary of his church, Northeast Presbyterian. For the next 39 days, he blew the shofar as a form of worship throughout the city and surrounding areas. He met with resistance because of liability issues at a few locations such as the Township Auditorium and the tallest building in South Carolina, The Capitol Center. But Smith says "all of a sudden they would say, 'OK, come on.'"

Other destinations included Sesquicentennial State Park, the site of the Battle of Camden, the Saluda River, the Broad River, and Congaree National Park. Numerous monuments and churches also made the list. Smith visited all of the local hospitals including the outdoor tents set up for COVID testing. Nurses and hospital staff waved and gave air hugs while calling out, "Thank you! We know what you are doing, thank you!"

"It was truly extraordinary," Smith said.

Smith even blew it in an empty parking lot — empty except for the three feral cats who attentively sat in a row in front of him about 10 feet away. But Smith mostly played alone in worship to the Lord with no audience.

And all that makes Professor Beyer very happy.

"The shofar blast reminds Christians of our Jewish roots and the special place the shofar plays in that heritage," Beyer said. ■

CIU Makes a Powerful Impact



By Bob Holmes

There are probably few ministries in the Columbia area that have felt the positive, powerful impact of Columbia International University than Providence Home, a transitional home for men in recovery who desire to overcome substance abuse.

For the last 16 years, the 57-year-old ministry on North Main Street has been under the direction of two CIU alumni. Ken Ritchie, a former CIU staff member who graduated from the Seminary in 1990, served as Providence Home executive director from 2004 until his retirement in 2013. Rob Settle was then appointed to take his place. Settle earned a bachelor's degree in 1982 and Seminary degree in 2000. He would later serve as an administrator at Ben Lippen School before coming to Providence Home.

"God has always developed me and called me to be a shepherd," Settle said when asked why he serves at Providence Home. "Anywhere I've gone I've had that shepherding aspect in my life."

But he says another part of his background also helps at a place like Providence Home. He studied Law Enforcement in junior college and used to be the police chief and a pastor at the same time in the small town of Cameron, South Carolina.

"The joke was that if Rob stops you, do you know what happens? You have to listen to four of Rob's messages," Settle recalled with a laugh.

At Providence Home, Settle says he ministers to guys he would have stopped as a police chief. When he interviewed for the Providence Home position,

▲ A shepherd's heart: Rob Settle (center, blue shirt), with some of the men of Providence Home. (Photo provided)

▼ Rob Settle (right) prays with board member and former CIU employee Henry Hennagan (left) and volunteer David Coleman.

Ritchie, the outgoing executive director, told him he was “perfect for the job” because he understood both criminal justice and Christianity.

“So for me to come in here and minister to guys who have been in prison, minister to guys who have been in trouble with the law, to have a shepherd’s heart and a law enforcement background is a comfort for the guys,” Settle said. “I love these men, no matter what background they’ve come from. But I still believe in justice and mercy, but if I err, I err on the side of mercy.”

From Homeless to Board Member

A longtime CIU influence at Providence Home is a man who used to be on the receiving end of the ministry. CIU Postmaster J.W. Hayes is on the Providence Home Board of Directors. But his introduction to Providence Home was a need to stave off hunger in the days when the ministry offered daily meals to the homeless. Hayes had addictions that led him to live on the streets until New Year’s Eve 1989 when he came to repentance through Christ in a jail cell. Now, he often speaks to the Providence Home residents from personal experience.

“I was right where they are. And because of where I am now, I know what God can do.”

Hayes has had a steady job in CIU’s post office for 28 years, offering a living example of God’s grace to the Providence Home residents.

“I’ve come full circle. I’m a tax paying, law-abiding citizen. I’m real proud of that,” Hayes says. “I don’t take that lightly. The Lord just changed my whole insight.”

A Female Perspective

A newer Providence Home Board member is CIU Assistant Athletics Director Kim Abbott who says in a



“I was right where they are. And because of where I am now, I know what God can do.”

—J.W. Hayes, CIU Postmaster and Providence Home Board member

YouTube video on the Providence Home website that she is “all in” at the ministry. Abbott joined the board in 2019 soon after the death of her father, John Erickson, who had a big influence on her life. Erickson was a former University of Wisconsin basketball coach and former president of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA).

“I’m sensitive to the role of my father as he was a protector, and a provider, and an encourager,” Abbott said. “There are men who come to Providence Home that have lost that, and are seeking that, and they can find that in their heavenly Father (at Providence Home). It’s a special ministry, very practical, for men.”

Other CIU influence past and present include:

- Chas Sulita, a 1982 alumnus, is a Providence Home case worker
- The late Dr. Bob Kallgren, who served at CIU as a vice president, was the chairman of the Providence Home Board for several years
- Henry Hennagan, a former CIU

staff member, is a current Providence Home Board member

- Ken Ritchie is still involved as a board member.

An Even Greater Love

As Providence Home celebrates a new modern dorm and the expansion of other facilities on its growing campus, Settle says God is teaching him more important lessons than how to read architectural drawings.

“I almost get a little teary-eyed when I think about some of this,” Settle begins, saying that his shepherd’s heart “has gone to a new level,” and noting the deaths of some current and former Providence Home residents.

“I have a greater love for men like these, much more than when I first came in. It’s much deeper now. Life is short. My heart is so much more compassionate for them. None of us are promised tomorrow.” ■

—The author of this article, Bob Holmes, served as a Providence Home board member for 12 years, most of those years as board secretary.



Keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing

By Dan Coy
Associate Dean for
Spiritual Formation

Spiritual Formation Team Developed



DAN COY

As the Columbia International University enrollment continues to grow, and many diverse backgrounds emerge, it prompts us to focus on fostering a healthy campus culture. The spiritual life and formation of each student's faith is a major priority as we strive to keep the main thing, the main thing.



DONNA THOMPSON

As the new associate dean for spiritual formation, I am joined by an amazing team that includes alumnus and local pastor, The Rev. Travien L. Capers and longtime CIU staff member Donna Thompson who both serve as assistant deans for spiritual formation. It is an honor to join such an amazing campus family spanning nearly 100 years of "Knowing Him and Making Him Known." We have been seeking God and assembling team members who meet weekly with students to discover their true needs and enhance spiritual formation in their personal lives.



TRAVIEN "TRAE" CAPERS

This newly formed Spiritual Formation Department in Student Life is assigned three goals:

1. Deep Prayer Culture

Prayer & Faith is a CIU core value that began in the 1920s with a group of faithful praying ladies who desired a Bible school in the South. Today, we are committed to campus Prayer Days, 24 hours set aside from classes and solely devoted to prayer, meditating on God, and serving our community. For example, at a Prayer Day this year, students gathered in groups and prayed through the fruit of the Spirit as they walked the perimeter of the lake at The Prayer Towers.

2. A “Deeper Life”

Twice this year, Dr. Michael Avery of Deeper Life Ministries visited campus to speak in Chapel. He warned about shallow Christianity in today’s American church and the “new norm” of self-centered, emotionally driven, and intellectually empty faith. However, he said deep Christians know God, their souls are biblically nourished, their lives are marked by total surrender to God, and they manifest the mind of Christ and character of Him (Phil. 2:5-8). Diverse speakers and musicians joined us in classes, Chapel, or over a cup of coffee to help us focus on the CIU core value of Victorious Christian Living.

3. Community Groups

Students meet in their group seven times during the semester. Faculty and staff who lead the groups, report a growing maturity and passion among the students as they pray for one another’s needs. A theme is posted each week as we focus on being more like Christ in everything we do.



The spiritual life and formation of each student’s faith is a major priority...

These three goals are incorporated into the classroom (both traditional and online), athletics, student organizations, Chapel and special events.

Our campus has adopted an approach of listening, learning, loving and then leading as we move together to accomplish God’s best in His Kingdom. God is so faithful and is helping us accomplish His plan.

We are in this thing together, “All in” is in my daily signature as we continue to work as a campus family to stay close to Jesus through full surrender to His leadership. ■



Dr. Michael Avery takes time to chat with students after Chapel.

“Speaking into the Hearts” of CIU’s Students

Dr. Michael Avery chuckles when asked if he thinks of himself as a grandfather figure to college-age students. Avery, who serves as CIU’s minister-in-residence, says life coach is a better term for his outreach to students. The warm, easy delivery of the 64-year-old former pastor connects with those a couple generations behind him.

“What I do have, that a lot of grandfathers have, is life experience, and that’s what they’re short on,” said Avery, president of Deeper Life Ministries headquartered in Ohio.

When he’s not speaking on the Victorious Christian Life in Chapel, he can be seen sharing his life experience with students over coffee in the Rossi Student Center.

“I have a real heart and love for them because they are so real and honest,” Avery said. “You can talk to them very plainly and they accept it. As a matter of fact, they reject everything else. They can smell baloney from a mile away.”

And Avery adds that they are very open at this stage of life and very honest about their own spiritual needs.

“It really gives you an opportunity to speak into their heart,” Avery notes with affection in his voice. “That’s what I love so much about them, as well as having an opportunity to form the way they think about their own spiritual life.” ■

ACADEMICS



Guatemalan Ambassador is CIU International Scholar in Residence

By Bob Holmes

Manuel Espina has served as an ambassador — in more ways than one.

For over two years Espina served as Guatemala's ambassador to the United States. Today, he still represents his country as a leadership consultant in Washington, D.C. But he is also an ambassador of Someone greater than a country's president.

"I was telling the students today that we are ambassadors of God," Espina said after speaking to a CIU missions class. "We should make it that every meeting we go to, every person that we meet, we represent Jesus of Nazareth. That is a great responsibility, but as well, it is a great joy."

Espina is CIU's international scholar in residence, passing along words

of wisdom and knowledge from his experiences of rubbing shoulders with world leaders. He made his first trip to CIU in September, and plans on visiting about once each month.

"Ambassador Espina spoke to my theology of mission students," said the dean of CIU Intercultural Studies, Dr. Ed Smither. "It was good for them to see a concrete example of a businessman and diplomat living out the gospel in the public square through his God-honoring work as a diplomat, but also his witness to other world leaders."

So far, a common question Espina has fielded from students is how a believer tows the line between representing an earthly government and a Heavenly Kingdom.

"You have to have the same integrity in your home, in your work and in your society," Espina notes, adding that requires accountability. He has been meeting with an accountability group for more than 13 years.

"We are very disciplined in coming together every week to have accountability talks," Espina said. "We talk through the deepest secrets that we have and the deepest joys we have."

He also adds a warning.

"Every leader without an accountability team will sooner or later fail." Espina said. "We have to have accountability to one another."

Professor Smither noted that his students saw in Espina, a diplomat

TO MAN
HIM KNOW

"I was telling the students today that we are ambassadors of God. We should make it that every meeting we go to, every person that we meet, we represent Jesus of Nazareth. That is a great responsibility, but as well, it is a great joy."

– Manuel Espina

▲ Espina shares his testimony in Chapel.

◀ Espina speaks to a CIU Intercultural Studies class.

▶ Espina with Micah Smith, son of CIU President Mark Smith. Micah was adopted from Guatemala.



who possesses a high level of cultural intelligence.

"In his work, he has learned how to navigate other cultures but also helped the U.S. government to gain an accurate read on matters facing Central America such as economics and immigration," Smither said.

After speaking to a number of CIU classes, Espina has been so impressed with the school that he hopes his two children will enroll at CIU when the time comes.

"I not only feel a part of this university, I love this university — the spirit and the culture. My kids are going to come here." ■

Missions Scholar Brings Decades of Experience to the Classroom

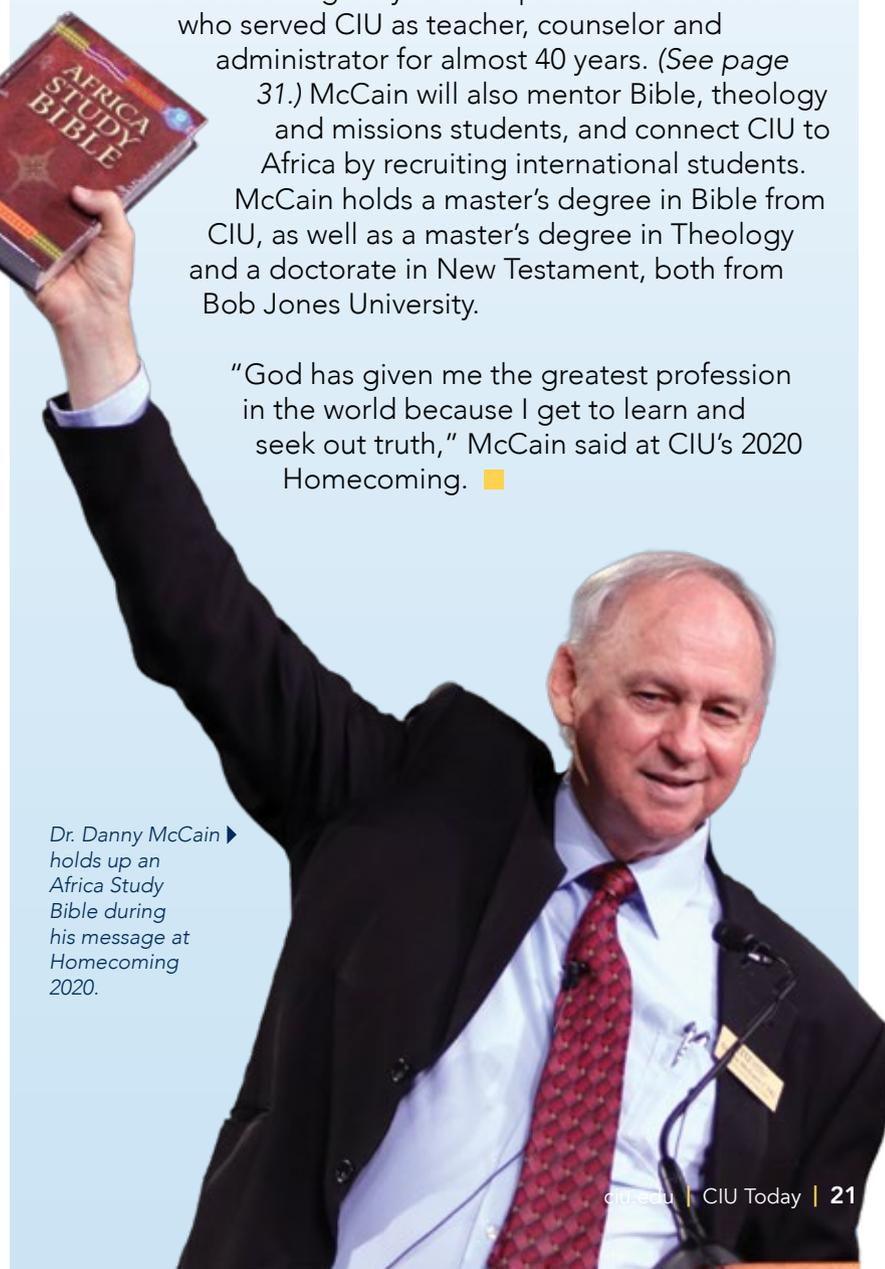
A Columbia International University alumnus with 30 years of missionary experience in Nigeria, will return to his alma mater as international missions scholar in residence in the 2021-22 school year.

Dr. Danny McCain, the 2020 Alumnus of the Year from the Class of 1974, founded the world renowned International Institute for Christian Studies (now Global Scholars), initiating Christian studies projects, and recruiting and equipping Christian academics in public universities internationally. He is also a professor of Biblical Theology at the University of Jos Nigeria.

McCain will teach two CIU courses each semester in Theology or Bible. His theology course is patterned after the model taught by the late professor Buck Hatch who served CIU as teacher, counselor and administrator for almost 40 years. (See page 31.) McCain will also mentor Bible, theology and missions students, and connect CIU to Africa by recruiting international students. McCain holds a master's degree in Bible from CIU, as well as a master's degree in Theology and a doctorate in New Testament, both from Bob Jones University.

"God has given me the greatest profession in the world because I get to learn and seek out truth," McCain said at CIU's 2020 Homecoming. ■

▶ Dr. Danny McCain holds up an Africa Study Bible during his message at Homecoming 2020.





RAMS SPORTS NEWS

James is NAIA National Champion for Second Consecutive Year



CIU sophomore John Hunter James took first place in the men's pole vault at the NAIA Indoor Track & Field National Championships for the second consecutive year. He cleared 5.20 meters at Nationals in 2020, and then moved to even higher heights as he vaulted 5.25 meters in 2021. The mark is the highest cleared by anyone at the NAIA Indoor National Track & Field Championships since 2010.

"I am nothing but thankful to have the chance to honor God," said James.

With his top finish, James notches NAIA All-American status for the second time in his CIU career. He is the only athlete from any sport in CIU history to be named an NAIA All-American. ■

Esports and Men's Volleyball Begin This Fall

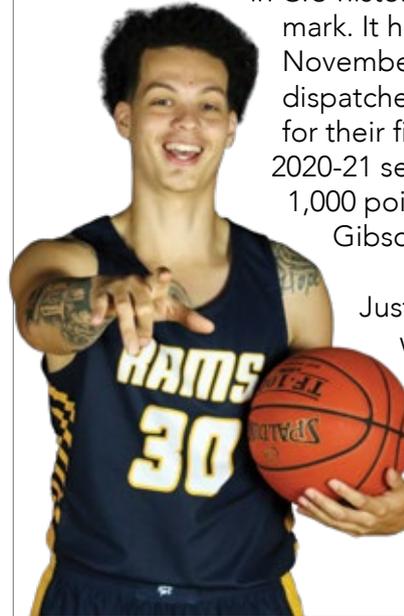
Esports is one of the fastest-growing intercollegiate sports in the country. The Rams will compete in the National Association of Collegiate Esports (NACE). The association has over 170 member schools and more than 5,000 student-athletes. CIU will sponsor several games in the inaugural year including Rocket League, NBA 2K, Madden NFL and FIFA.

Meanwhile, CIU is also adding men's volleyball to compete in the NAIA and NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association). ■



Men's Basketball Has New Career Point Leader

Corey Benton is only the second men's basketball player in CIU history to reach the 1,000-point mark. It happened on a memorable November evening when the Rams dispatched the #24 Union Bulldogs for their first conference win of the 2020-21 season. The first Ram to reach 1,000 points was 2017 alumnus Ryan Gibson.



Just under a month later, Benton would go on to pass Gibson in total points in a game versus Truett McConnell. Perhaps most impressive, Benton becomes CIU's all-time leader in points in just his third year with the Rams. ■

Jake Montgomery Earns NCCAA All-American Status for Third Straight Year

Along with an impressive third-place result for CIU Golf in the 2020 NCCAA (National Christian College Athletic Association) Men's Golf Championship, senior Jake Montgomery was named an NCCAA All-American for the third time in his college career. Montgomery consistently led the team on the course, averaging a score of 72 in the 2020 season.

Montgomery has been named an NCCAA All-American more times than any other CIU athlete and is the only Ram to receive the honor more than once. ■





FALCONS SPORTS NEWS

Well-Known Football Coach Named to Lead Ben Lippen Program



Stephen Cagle

A name familiar to football fans in South Carolina is the new head football coach at Ben Lippen High School.

Stephen Cagle brings with him a wealth of football knowledge and experience, along with a passion for connecting with student athletes and helping them grow as both football players as well as young men. He will also serve as football program director.

He is the son of Coach Mark Cagle, who is known in the Columbia area for his success at three Columbia area high schools. The younger Cagle was breaking down game film at the age of 13 with his father. Learning the intricacies of football with his dad helped prepare him for his own impressive football career.

Stephen Cagle played college football for five years for the Charleston Southern Buccaneers as a quarterback before moving to tight end. The Bucs were 40-16 during Cagle's time there. While attending Charleston Southern, he earned his bachelor's degree in physical education, and a master's degree in education.

Cagle comes to the Falcons from White Knoll High School in Lexington County where he was an assistant coach for four years.

Cagle says he and his family are excited to join the Ben Lippen family adding that he wants to establish "a consistent championship culture that honors Jesus Christ."

Ben Lippen Athletic Director Shannon Glenn calls Cagle "the brightest young football coach in the state."

"His knowledge of the game, passion for kids, love for Christ and commitment to excellence make him the perfect addition to our Athletic Department," Glenn added.

Cagle replaces James Reynolds, who spent three seasons with the Falcons. ■

Ben Lippen Wins First Wrestling State Title in a Thriller

It all came down to the final match of the South Carolina Independent School Association (SCISA) 3A wrestling championship in February. Ben Lippen senior J.C. Green entered the mat needing a pin in the heavyweight division with his team trailing cross-town rival Hammond.

Green delivered as he pinned Hammond's Henry Cole with 46.2 seconds left in the final period to give Falcons a 41-38 win over the Skyhawks for the school's first wrestling state championship.

The State newspaper in Columbia reported Ben Lippen coach Burt Medlin was in tears following the match as his players lifted him and Green up on their shoulders in celebration. ■



Photo by Ashley Medlin

Creating Community in Changing Times: RENOVATING “THE MERRY ROOM”

By Dr. Shirl S. Schiffman

It started with a dilemma and a dream.

The dilemma was triggered by dramatic changes in graduate-level higher education in America in the last few decades. While earning a master’s degree in the past often meant moving to a campus for full-time study, today’s students are more likely to be juggling jobs and families while shoehorning part-time graduate education into busy schedules. Seminaries and graduate schools adapted by offering once-a-week, intensive, and online courses, and even totally online degrees. The net result was fewer graduate students on residential campuses.

This is what posed the dilemma for CIU’s GradLife Council (GLC), the student government team elected to minister to the university’s on-campus seminary and graduate students. Attendance at GLC-planned chapels and community events kept dropping — not for lack of interest, but simply because fewer people were around.

Searching for a solution, seminarian Colleen (Forsythe) Dobbins (’18), GLC president for 2015-2016, realized that prime time for graduate and seminary student interaction had become before and after classes and during class

breaks. Her team started supplying free (good!) coffee in “The Merry Room,” a break room in the McQuilkin Building, as well as snacks and lunches after GLC chapels. Students appreciated the concern and participation picked up.

That’s when a dream took shape. The Merry Room was functional, but had not been updated in nearly 20 years. By itself it was too small for all the needs. What if “The Merry Room” was renovated to create not just a space, but an ambiance designed to calm and nurture today’s busy students and encourage fellowship? What if a larger space outside the kitchen could be re-purposed to support that goal?

It took a lot of prayer, nearly five years, and the combined efforts of many people for the dream to become a reality, but the beautiful renovation was completed in 2020. The team included GLC leaders, faculty, and two talented designers, Amy Young and Jolie Churchill, both wives of CIU staff members. CIU administrators and Physical Plant staff gave permission to renovate the glassed-in hallway outside the Merry Room as part of the design. Individual and group seating was planned with lighting and built-in charging stations.

How “The Merry Room” Got Its Name

The Schuster building was built to accommodate the growth of Columbia Biblical Seminary and the College of Education. Completed in 1998, the new structure was artfully connected to the older Robertson McQuilkin Building (also renovated) with a glassed-in hallway. Architects also created a kitchen-vending area that was named in honor of longtime CIU board member Frank Merry Sr. A civil engineer, Merry served as advisor on the construction of several CIU buildings.



After renovations: Includes improved study space just outside The Merry Room.



Before renovations

The Merry family has many connections to CIU. Frank Merry Sr. was a 1957 graduate of Ben Lippen School. Marion, Frank Sr.’s widow, is one of CIU’s current Praying Ladies. Their children are CIU alumni: Frank Merry Jr. (’91) and wife Delinda (’92); daughter Jill (’95) and son Mark (’97). Brian Merry, Frank Sr.’s older brother, worked at CIU. Frank Merry Sr. died in 1998. A plaque in his honor is prominently displayed in The Merry Room. ■

One challenge was funding. CIU plans regular maintenance of campus facilities, but no allocation had been made for the kind of renovation envisioned. Contributions from successive GLC and Student Life budgets and interested individuals funded much of the kitchen renovation in 2017. For a while it seemed the hallway project would not be possible. Then, through a gracious gift from the family of Frank Merry, that dream too became a reality.

CIU Physical Plant staff did a beautiful job on the project helped by some outside contractors. Ethan Young (’18), GLC president for 2016-2017, moved the project forward. GLC faculty advisor, Dr. Ben Noonan, kept a steady hand on the workflow and budget as project manager.

It all came together — a demonstration of God’s work through His people to accomplish what would otherwise have been impossible. “The Merry Room” has brought a touch of home to our seminary and graduate students now, and it will for many years to come. ■

—Dr. Shirl S. Schiffman, Professor Emeritus, Ministry Studies, retired in 2019 after 30 years on the CIU faculty.

▼ A plaque in honor of Frank Merry Sr. is displayed in The Merry Room



“That Little Bible College in the South”

By Greta Clinton, Strategic Projects Manager

Jerry S. and Marvin S. are two of the Columbus, Georgia business leaders behind the creation and continued funding of the Bertha Smith Memorial Scholarship, which has blessed Columbia International University students for a decade with much needed scholarship support.

Jerry and Marvin first met Miss Bertha at their home church many years ago. She was a dynamo, a soul-winner, and an amazing woman of God right up until her death in 1988 at nearly 100.

Several years ago, they created the scholarship in her honor to help teach others about her legacy. They chose to create this scholarship at CIU because Miss Bertha was passionate about the “little Bible college in the south that was sending preachers all over the world.” In fact, they shared, “She talked about CIU all the time.”

Who is Bertha Smith?

She is the unknown successor of the more famous, early missionary to China, Lottie Moon. Moon served in China from 1873 – 1912. When she returned from China after 40 years, Smith was sent there by the Foreign Mission Board



(now IMB) and served in China and Taiwan for 42 years (1917 – 1958).

Miss Bertha was a simple and straightforward woman, born and raised near Cowpens, South Carolina. She felt a call to missions in college and a call to be single in this pursuit. She shares her struggles in making this decision in her biography, “Miss Bertha, Woman of Revival” by Lewis Drummond. After weeping and struggling for hours in prayer over the tension of leaving home, possibly for years, it came to her that Christ left the glories of heaven for 33 years and died a shameful death for her. “Yes, Lord, if that is what you want,” she answered. She shares that at that moment, “A joy filled my heart which has never left me.”

Miss Bertha lived out the victorious Christian life. When she felt a pain or a need, she surrendered it to Christ in faith that He would care for it. When she felt the loneliness of her singleness and missed having children of her own,

she asked God to give her spiritual children in their place. God mightily answered this request. She was a soul-winning machine. Through her work thousands came to know Christ.

In fact, God put her at the center of the Shantung revival of 1927 which started in the port city of Chefoo, China. That revival planted the seeds for the explosion of the Chinese Christian church which is still growing and moving across that country.

Jerry believes that knowing about people like Bertha Smith makes us all stronger. He added that “knowing her as I did for 15 years, hearing her speak and talk to me has made my life better.” Through their scholarship, Jerry and Marvin seek not only to honor her legacy, but also to assist others who desire CIU’s unique education and equipping to impact the world for Christ. ■





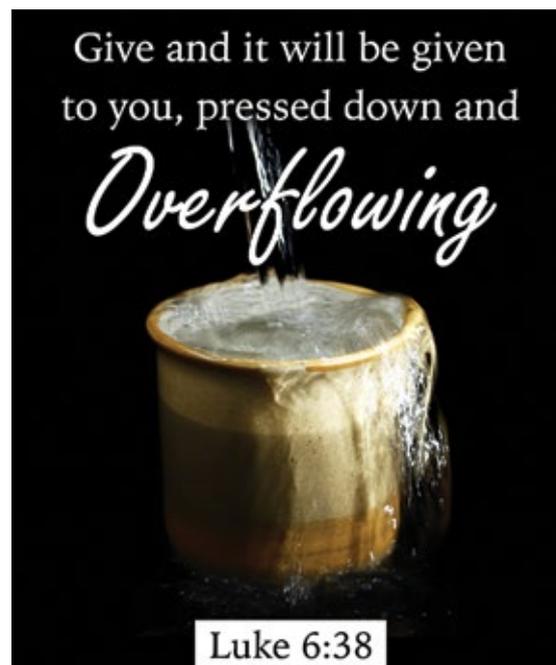
Ellie's Generosity Overflowed

Ellie was a learner, a servant, a pioneer, and a steward. She first came to Columbia International University in 1954 for her master's degree but stayed on to serve as administrative assistant to CIU's second president G. Allen Fleece.

God had a calling on her life, and Ellie left CIU to pioneer as a single missionary to Laos for 18 years. When she returned home, she became a prayer warrior, missions committee member, and treasurer in her home church in New York and worked as a medical assistant to "give more generously to God's work."

Ellie cared for her family and CIU in her estate plan. Through a lead trust, she provided a steady income for her brother after her death. When he died, the remainder of Ellie's estate was gifted to CIU.

In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus says, "Give and it will be given to you, pressed down and overflowing," (6:38). Ellie's generosity overflowed! She is remembered with love by all who knew her. Praise God for this faithful steward! ■



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~
15

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\$197,050

Has Been Awarded

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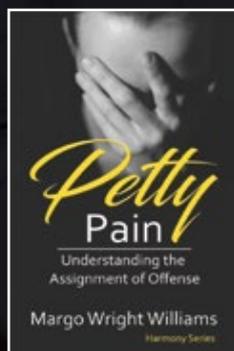
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- Send to: CIU Advancement Office
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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

"It was the best time of my life"

Columbia International University alumna, the Rev. Margo Williams wears many hats: student, author, teacher, wife of 32 years, and mother of two. A self-confessed "lifelong learner and discipler," she earned her Master of Divinity in Educational Ministry from Columbia Biblical Seminary at CIU.



Margo Wright Williams

Author of the penetrating and insightful book, "Petty Pain."

When asked why she came to CIU, Williams said that the Holy Spirit nudged her as she commuted past the campus each morning, telling her to pay attention to the sign because someday she would be in school there.

When the time came for her to pursue a master's degree in response to God's call on her life, and to transition from a business career to ministry, Williams enrolled at CIU.

She recalls that driving up and down International Boulevard each day "was the best time of my life," and credits her degree with equipping her for her current work/ministry of

teaching business to seventh and eighth graders at Dutch Fork Middle School in Irmo, South Carolina.

Even though she grew up in a small church in rural South Carolina, Williams dreamed of going to foreign lands. This dream came back into focus at CIU where she worked with one of her favorite instructors, Intercultural Studies Professor Dr. David Cashin. Eventually, she formed her own mission team and took a group to Uganda in 2019. She has also made trips to the Dalit people in India and to South Sudan.

Williams has taught a weekly Bible study class to female inmates in

the South Carolina Department of Corrections. In fact, it was her work with the prison inmates that sparked her recently published book, "Petty Pain: Understanding the Assignment of Offense," a timely exploration of the destructive impact of anger in one's life and the power of forgiveness.

Williams is working on another writing project — a doctoral dissertation. Upon completion, she is hoping to expand her ministry and discipling roles as she follows God's call on her life. ■

*By Peggy Lee Manoogian
Director of Alumni Relations*

COLUMBIA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

RECENT ALUMNI

Recognition Award

Columbia International University annually recognizes recent alumni for their distinguished accomplishments in the marketplace, on the mission field or in church ministry. They are a faithful example of CIU's five core values. Read more at ciu.edu/RARA.



ALICIA YODER ('11)
Creator & Director,
The Jesus is Better Podcast

Alicia met and married her husband, Christopher ('10) while earning her B.A. in Elementary Education at CIU. After teaching for several years, she started a blog about enjoying Jesus in the busyness of life – something she's continually learning as a wife, mother of three, homeschooler and involved church member. Alicia has also created a Bible story podcast for kids called "The Jesus is Better Podcast: Bible Stories with Gospel Joy." Listen to her podcast at aliciayoder.com.

Why Alicia is thankful for CIU:

"I enjoyed meeting so many students who also wanted to study the Bible and know Jesus more."



KEN KATAYAMA ('11, '21)
President,
Crossover Global

Ken is an influencer for the Great Commission and an advocate for unreached people groups. A Brazilian native, Ken graduated from CIU with a B.A. in Bible, and an M.A. in Muslim Studies ('21). At age 19 he joined Crossover Global, which seeks to provide gospel access to unreached peoples of the world by planting multiplying churches. He has traveled and ministered in 30 countries and is fluent in English, Portuguese and Spanish.

Ken's advice to students:

"Make it count. Not a lot of people get a chance to do what you're doing. Do it well."

Ken's advice to alumni:

"Paul's encouragement to Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:5 – 'Fulfill your ministry.'"



CHRISTIAN MARKLE ('13)
Director of Development,
Oliver Gospel

Christian earned his B.A. in Communications in 2013. He serves as the Director of Development at Oliver Gospel, a multifaceted ministry that has been serving the Columbia area for 132 years, and is the oldest rescue mission in the Southeast. His desire is to create opportunities for the community to partner with the mission for the purpose of life transformation.

Why Christian attended CIU:

"I am the last of five siblings who all attended CIU. I saw my brothers and sisters, who were pretty great to begin with, leave for college, and come home better people – more respectful, more spiritual. I wanted that, too."

Is there someone you would like to nominate?

Please visit ciu.edu/nominate or contact the Alumni Office via phone or email: (803) 807-5500 / alumni@ciu.edu.

CIU HOMECOMING 2020

BLUE & GOLD

CIU's Homecoming/Family & Friends Weekend 2020 was a huge success! At a time when most schools cancelled Homecoming, CIU had over 600 alumni, students and friends participate in on-campus and virtual celebrations. In fact, alumni joined the virtual celebrations from over 23 countries and 31 states.

While adhering to safety procedures and social distancing, hundreds of people attended the Alumni of the Year Chapel on Friday morning in person and via livestream. Dr. Danny McCain, founder of Global Scholars, was honored. He encouraged students and alumni to follow their ideas, dreams and passions and not to be afraid of failure.

Friday night, CIU's Music Showcase was a big hit – with students and alumni listening in person and online. CIU's amazing Ambassador Choir gave a wonderful performance, followed by pie and fireworks on The Quad.

Over 200 alumni and students connected at the 2nd Annual Global Networking Event on Saturday morning, a worldwide **ALL VIRTUAL** experience with faculty and staff hosting 30 separate Zoom meetings. One participant said, *"It ended up being just a super encouraging time of hearing how others were serving in various ministry capacities and of praying for one another!"* ■

Save the Date!

CIU HOMECOMING & FAMILY WEEKEND 2021

Thursday, Friday & Saturday, November 4-6



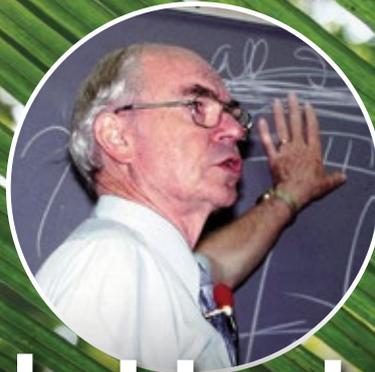
2021 ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Chaplain (Col.) Larry Dabeck ('89, '98)

Dabeck serves as command chaplain at U.S. Army South in San Antonio, Texas

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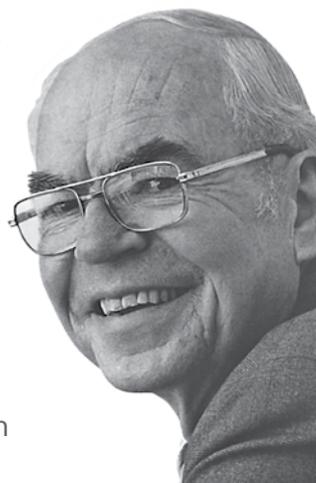
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James M. "Buck" Hatch served **Columbia International University** as teacher, counselor and administrator for almost 40 years. A pioneer in the field of biblical counseling, Hatch taught and counseled not from a platform of strength, but from his own experience of brokenness and pain.

Alumni of his college classes and participants in his seminars testify that the basic principles he taught have remained a part of their lives through the years.



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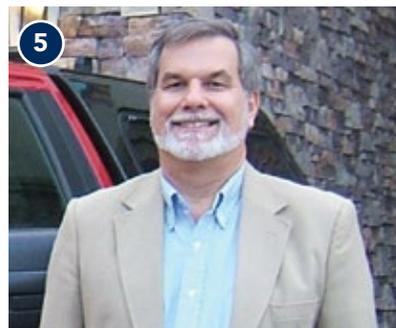
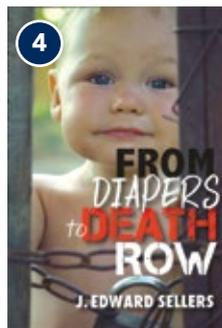
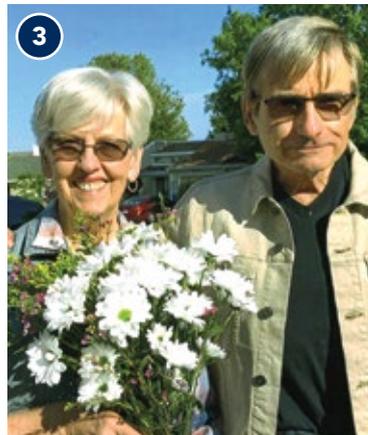
“Many of the teachers I've had over the years had a profound and lasting impact on my life. But one stands out above all the rest – even now nearly 50 years since he was my teacher - James "Buck" Hatch. –Ralph Enlow ('72, '82)”

ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

- 1 Betty Yount ('55)** has moved to live with family in Florence, South Carolina and is proud to wear her CIU sweatshirt. ✉ bbyount@bellsouth.net
- 2 Cecil ('65) and Phyllis ('65) Beach** are beginning their 43rd year in Christian education. They are thankful for the solid foundation in Bible knowledge and Christian living they received at CIU, especially Professors Sells, Hatch, Shepherd, Petty and Hutchinson. ✉ cecilbeach@northsideministries.com
- 3 Marty Bowie ('71)** writes Christian poetry and songs and shares them with people wherever he goes. He and his wife, Phyllis, live in Virginia. ✉ blessedmarty@live.com
- 4 John Sellers ('72/87)** and his wife Pat retired to Washington, Iowa after serving over 25 years with Youth for Christ. John's new book, "From Diapers to Death Row" is based on 30 years of working with high-risk kids and their families. ✉ sweetchili401@gmail.com
- Beverly Graves ('73)** retired from nursing three years ago to care for her husband, John, who passed away on Jan. 10, 2020. ✉ bgra899@bellsouth.net

Hilda Ribí Ryan ('75) has two Amazon published books for piano teachers and two books for piano students. She also posts a weekly two-minute video on a pedagogy topic for piano teachers on social media titled, "Quick Tips for Piano Teachers." ✉ hryan.777@gmail.com

- 5 Fred Schmid ('79)** retired in December 2020 from Magna Services of America. He and his wife, Kathleen, live in Michigan. ✉ fredschmid@hotmail.com
- 6 Lynn Kuitems ('80)** God opened the door for Lynn to move to Dennisville, New Jersey to start a Child Evangelism Fellowship ministry. She planned her first event as an outreach to the deaf community where **Sue Thomas ('85)** was the speaker. ✉ packingqueen@yahoo.com
- 7 George ('83) and Kathy ('83) Ridgeway** George was ordained as a PCA teaching elder and served as a Navy chaplain, meaning the Ridgeways lived mostly overseas. After George retired, they moved to the Chicago area to care for aging parents. Now they spend time with grandkids in Washington, D.C. ✉ georgeandkathy@gmail.com
- 8 Jackie (Hutsko) Scott ('86)** wrote "Your Life is Re-markable!" challenging readers into deeper heart transformation and an objective look at their life. ✉ djscott@swissmail.org



9 Michael Chetelat ('90) is the founder and president of the Christian Business Network (CBN) enabling God's people to become thoroughly equipped, well connected, and fully empowered to represent Christ with integrity and excellence in the marketplace.

✉ president@christianbusinessnetwork.com

10 Mike Garrett ('90) published a new book with his wife Rhonda called "Love Needs," addressing 30 love languages for couples to consider rather than the more popular five. Mike is the executive director of Christian Counseling Associates Raleigh.

✉ mikegarrettphd@gmail.com

11 Gary ('90) and Judi Ogle ('90) work with En Gedi Retreat, a free vacation home for pastors and missionaries in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. Judi is also the nurse manager at the local pregnancy care center.

✉ wypafl@gmail.com

Mike ('95) and Cindy Gingerich returned to Iowa in March of 2020 after 21 years of service with Action International Ministries in the Philippines. Mike plans to use the interpersonal skills and wit he honed on the mission field to change lives and sell used cars in rural Iowa while Cindy assists her aging parents.

✉ gingeriches@gmail.com

Chris ('95/'03) and Jen ('04) Newkirk with their four children have relocated to Cumming, Georgia where Chris serves as a sales professional for American Signature and Jennifer teaches elementary school.

✉ TeamNewkirk@gmail.com

Scott ('01) and Chandra Johnson moved back to their hometown of Sumter, South Carolina to care for Scott's parents. Scott teaches computer science at Westside Christian Academy and is youth pastor at Grace Baptist Church.

✉ scott4youth1975@gmail.com

Paul Bishop ('01) used his experience as a leader in Celebrate Recovery to publish "Recovering from Dysfunction: You are Not Alone!" The book takes ordinary individuals from the pages of Scripture to tell their stories in a fresh way, assisting the reader in applying valuable principles of recovery.

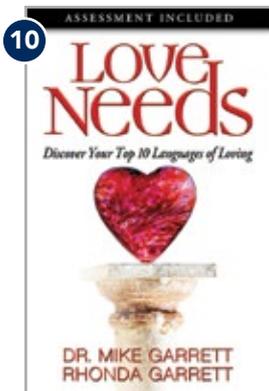
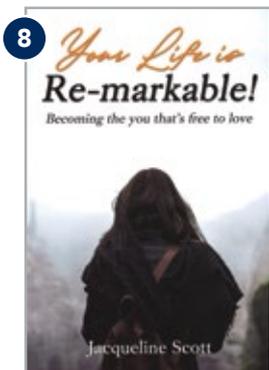
✉ paul@fblex.org

12 Aaron and Jaclyn (Scott) ('06) Anderson live in southern Florida where he pastors a Southern Baptist Church. Jaclyn is in nursing school while the last of their four girls, Madison, Eden, Mercy and Ivy are now all in school, ending Jaclyn's 10 years as a stay-at-home mom.

✉ daddysnamesake@gmail.com



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ALUMNI CLASS NOTES

Jonathan Slater ('10) lives in Aiken, South Carolina with his wife and children and works remotely as a business coach for EMyth Worldwide.

✉ jonathan.david.slater@gmail.com

13 Blake ('16) and Kathy McDaniel live in Texas where Blake serves with the Navigators as Eurasia mobilization director and church mobilization director.

✉ blakemcdaniel@austin.rr.com

Clarke McGriff ('19) retired in 2011 as an army chaplain after serving for 30 years. He is now the pastor of Green Hill Baptist Church in Lugoff, South Carolina.

✉ clarkemcgriff@gmail.com

14 Andreas ('18) and Anna Bickert Andreas serves with the German Mission Organization "SRS e.V." In his

ministry, he is involved with three Christian sports clubs, 100 churches, and 1,300 athletes.

✉ abickert@srsonline.de

Jordan Dill ('19) is a hospice chaplain at Encompass Health in Augusta, Georgia. He has been recently ordained and endorsed for chaplaincy by the Full Gospel Churches, one step closer to active duty Navy chaplain. He and his wife, Jennifer, have two boys.

✉ jwdill28@gmail.com

15 The Cross Family – a legacy of CIU alumni – Walter ('38), William ('40), Howard ('46), David ('64), Barbara ('64), Sylvia and James Graves ('65), Nancy ('67), Jerry ('67), Peggy ('68), Wilma ('69), Shannon and Carlton Deal ('86), Beth Graves ('86), Shelly ('90) and Mark Vivian ('91), Kyle Vivian ('14), and Aynsley Vivian (current student).



In Memoriam

Mildred Johnson ('41) – August 2020
Esther Wimmer Brouwer ('47) – November 2020
Doris Lawson Kraus ('50) – October 2020
Helen Nuckles Hunt ('52) – July 2020
Eleanor Michel Iwan ('52) – December 2020
Anne McQuilkin Priest ('52) – February 2021
Robert 'Bob' Gray ('53) – August 2020
Barbara Rumsey ('53) – January 2020
Kathleen Crockett Ward ('53) – March 2020
Grace Thorpe ('54) – January 2020
Joan Marshall Dinkins ('55) – January 2021
Rebecca Lennon Mahler Parent ('55)
– November 2020
Lois Rathbun Taylor ('55) – September 2020
Joy Berends ('56) – December 2020
Curtis Dean ('56) – December 2020
Bobby Phillips ('57) – January 2021
Hazel B. Chapin ('58) – August 2020
Brenty Nicely ('59) – September 2020
Scott Nyborg ('59) – July 2020
Victor Wilkinson ('59) – February 2020
Joseph Essington ('60) – March 2020
Kenneth Mick ('60) – December 2020
Carol Trent ('60) – January 2021
Lois Hummon ('61) – July 2020

Carolyn Hersey Woodburn ('61) – January 2021
Marie Ringhausen ('63) – April 2020
Ruth Gallacher ('64) – June 2020
Harry McNeely ('64) – December 2020
Harry "Bob" Moyer ('64) – January 2021
David Scorza ('65) – February 2021
Wallace "Wally" Early Jr. ('65) – September 2020
Bonnie Gevas Nixon ('65) – November 2020
Arthur Hayman ('66) – November 2020
William Jones ('66) – July 2020
Alleene Petty Kracht ('69) – December 2020
Joel Sylvester ('70) – August 2020
George Gillian ('70) – September 2020
Anne Worthington ('71) – February 2020
Gerald "Jerry" Dunlap ('77) – August 2020
Kent Philip Ranger ('79) – August 2020
Fred Kerr ('82) – December 2020
Sara "Sally" Boyles ('84) – February 2021
Clinton Lee ('88) – December 2020
Milton "Ed" Pomelear ('90) – November 2020
Keri Lyn Ladd ('94) – December 2020
Steven Myers ('94) – January 2021
Mark Whaley ('95) – December 2020
Mary Weierich ('97) – December 2020
Belinda Guerrero ('18) – January 2021

Richard "Dick" Corley – former faculty
– September 2020
Betty Sullins – former staff – January 2021
Prudence Bedell – Honorary alumna and former staff
– February 2021

Anne McQuilkin Priest ('52), passed away February 2021. She was the youngest daughter of CIU's first president Robert C. McQuilkin and his wife Marguerite. Anne and her husband, Perry ('52), were missionaries to the Siriono people in Bolivia through Wycliffe Bible Translators for over 30 years. They later served in Nigeria and began a Bible translation and literacy project among the Jibu people. Anne was one of CIU's current Praying Ladies.

Alleene Petty Kracht ('69), passed away December 2020. She and her husband Doug ('68) were honored as Alumni of the Year in 2019. She was a skilled teacher, guiding students with learning differences. She taught the Scriptures she loved, and she led the current Praying Ladies group at CIU for several years – a true prayer warrior.



Be Ready: Our Hope is in Jesus

Erected at Ground Zero of the 9-11 terrorist attack, is a memorial to a moment in time few of us will ever forget. It depicts three firemen raising the U.S. flag hours after the attack.

In New Jersey, an eight-foot Firemen's Monument features a fireman holding in his left arm, a small girl in her nightdress, and a lantern in his right arm.

In an earlier era, Currier and Ives honored firefighters with a lithography depicting a firefighter pulling his engine out of the firehouse. It's titled "The American Fireman, Always Ready."

The firefighter is always ready. The fire station door is up, boots and coats set by the door, someone is always awake to receive calls. They are ready.

As Christians, we should apply the fireman's creed to our spiritual life. We must always be ready for the Lord's return. This brings great hope to the Christian. With all the turmoil and trials of this life, the beautiful hope of Christ's soon return lifts the spirit of those who love the Lord. I Thessalonians 4:16-18 gives these words for encouragement:

¹⁶For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left

will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Bible Prophecy

It is evident in reading or listening to the news that prophecy concerning Christ's second coming is being fulfilled. The 20th and the 21st century have seen more of that prophecy fulfilled than any other time in history. I believe that we are close to our Lord's return. It's a passion of my heart to see people ready themselves for this glorious occasion.

Daniel 12 says that at the time of the end *"many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."* Knowledge has increased in the last 20 years: new cures for illness, new scientific discoveries and new progress in electronic devices.

In Matthew 24, Jesus says that *"nation will rise against nation,"* and *"there will be famines and earthquakes."* Additionally, *"many false prophets shall arise."* The news includes many ways these prophecies are being fulfilled, and their frequency coming closer together.

Furthermore, in the same chapter Jesus said, *"this gospel must be preached in all the world for a witness to all nations, and then the end will come."* This is still the mission of CIU.

We must be ready and we must prepare for these days. Don't forget the signs of His coming:

*"But know this, that in the **last days** perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!" (2 Timothy 3:1-5).*

As we prepare, be encouraged by the old Norman J. Clayton hymn, "My Hope is in the Lord."

My hope is in the Lord
Who gave Himself for me
And paid the price
Of all my sin at Calvary.

CHORUS:

For me He died;
For me He lives,
And everlasting life
And light He freely gives.

Yours for His glory,

Dr. Mark A. Smith
President



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The Future of Global Mission Conference November 2-5, 2022

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Share your favorite memory at ciu.edu/mystory.