

CIU

TODAY

FALL 2025

REMEMBERING CIU'S FOURTH PRESIDENT
Dr. Johnny Miller

1944-2025

CIU **TODAY**

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On the cover:

CIU's fourth president, Dr. Johnny Miller



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A Sturdy Educational Foundation: 3-Legged Stool

I invite you once again to join us on our journey down the tracks to the exciting second century of CIU's mission to educate students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

In each edition of CIU Today magazine, we are using a train illustration to review eight historic non-negotiables, each vital to keeping CIU on the right track for the future. In this edition, we feature our Educational Triad, also known as the 3-Legged Stool — three educational “legs” or components that provide a balanced, biblical education for the head, heart and hands of our students.

Head

The first leg on the stool is academic excellence — with the Bible at the core. It doesn't matter if the program is Missions, Counseling, Biology, Business or any one of our dozens of undergraduate and graduate programs, we want to honor God with the distinction of graduating top scholars in their field. That begins with faculty members committed to the success of each student, as well as integrating the biblical truth into each subject area.

Heart

The second leg of the stool focuses on spiritual growth or one's “heart,” the component by which students grow in maturity in Christ. Students are encouraged in their Christian walk in various ways including challenging chapel messages, personal mentoring sessions, and residence hall prayer meetings. Even our online students share devotional thoughts in their cohorts. It is also common to see a professor meeting one-on-one with a student in the cafeteria where issues of the heart are often the topic.

Hands

The third leg of the stool is ministry skills development as students learn practical ways to impact people for Christ. This component focuses on competence and may be characterized by educating one's “hands.” Not only are our students involved in local churches each week, but they also minister in the community and around the world.

Head, Heart, Hands. Three sturdy legs of an educational philosophy that safely guides CIU down the tracks toward the next century. We want our students academically prepared, spiritually equipped and professionally trained.

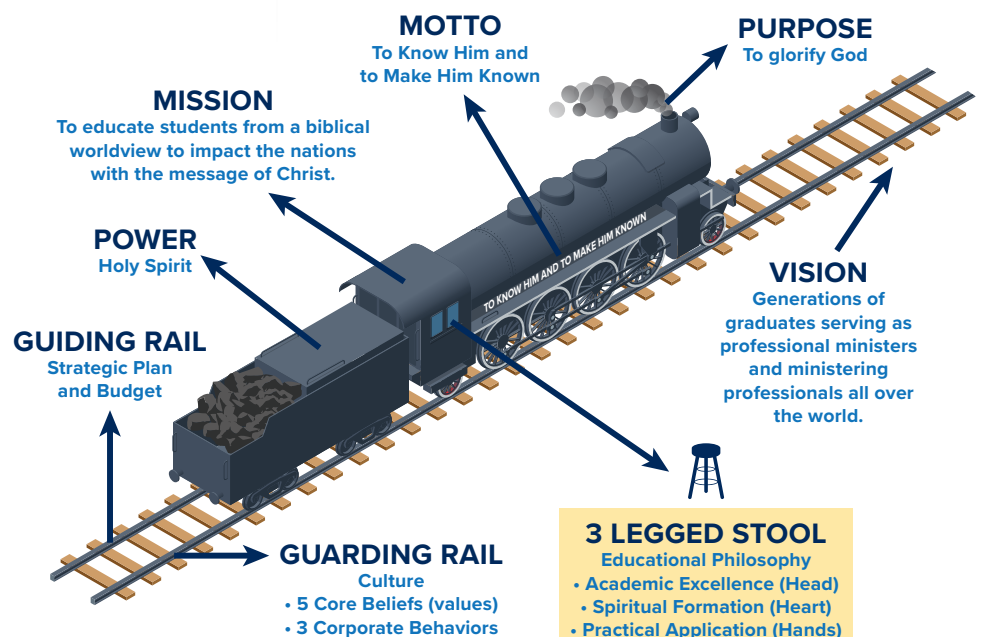
Thank you again for riding on this train with us. Your prayers and support are vital to keep us “on track” for the future.

In the next edition of CIU Today, we will continue to highlight another of the eight non-negotiables from our train illustration.

For His glory,



Bill Jones
President

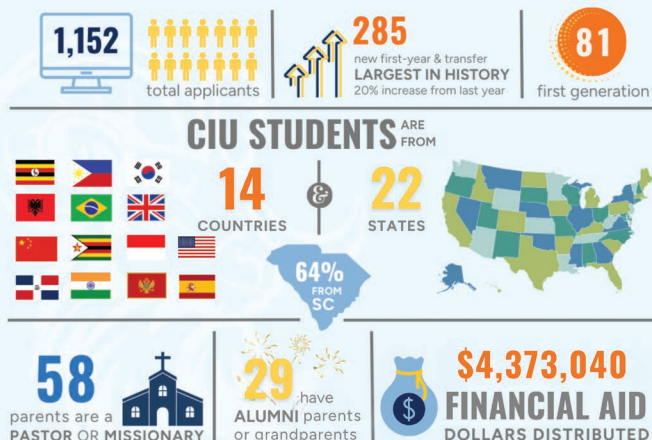


CIU Celebrates

Multiplying Kingdom Impact!

Total CIU enrollment has climbed to 3,179 students, a more than 8% increase from last year's final census. Traditional undergraduate enrollment rose to 662 students, led by an entering class of 287 students, our largest to date. Graduate and online programs also experienced substantial growth, reaching more than 2,250 students combined. Among the growing CIU academic programs are undergraduate Nursing & Health Sciences and Clinical Mental Health Counseling for master's and doctoral degrees. ■

CIU Incoming Class Profile



RamServe

Hundreds of Students Aid Community

No foolin'! The calendar may have shown it was April 1, but over 300 Columbia International University students were not joking around on April Fools Day as they spanned out across the South Carolina Midlands for the fifth annual RAMServe community service day. The ram is the CIU mascot, but each spring RAM stands for "Renewal Around the Midlands."

The CIU students were joined by students from Columbia College and a number of nonprofits from around the community in the beautification, cleanup and repair efforts.

Two CIU students offered their reflections on the day as they served in two different ways, in two separate locations.

"The Hands and Feet of Jesus"

Shoshannah Crompton was assigned to assist at the Salvation Army Thrift Store in Columbia. She called it "a valuable opportunity to work alongside members of the community that students, like myself, might otherwise not encounter."

She sorted donated clothes, shoes, picture frames, and linens, throwing away unusable items in the dumpster and prepping good-quality items to be sold in the store. She wrote:

"I appreciated that RAMServe provided this experience for me and the opportunity to serve my community in a simple, humble way — doing work for God's children by simply sorting clothes. Easy, honest work often brings one to realize the unique joy that can be found in being the hands and feet of Jesus." ■



"A Humbling Experience"

Meanwhile, Becca Kohlmyer was assigned to a neighborhood not far from the CIU campus where her group participated in various projects including house repairs, power washing a sidewalk and litter pickup. She wrote:

"I think we as students can often get caught up in our own little worlds, especially with the stress of assignments and due dates looming over us constantly. We live in a culture that really emphasizes the individual and it can be hard to escape that sometimes and realize there are people who have their own lives and stories. That was something I thought about a lot as I met the people we were helping out and saw how grateful they were for our work.

It isn't easy to take that posture of serving, but it is a humbling experience and how we're called to be as believers and followers of Jesus." ■

Exciting Firsts and a Farewell Spring Commencement

1ST GRADUATES OF THE SEMINARY'S NEW ENGAGE PROGRAM

Will Stroud and Lucky Lee Detty were all smiles as they posed for a photo in the CIU Quad with Seminary Dean Dr. David Croteau. They had just crossed the stage of Shortess Chapel in commencement ceremonies where they received their master's degrees. The Engage program is unique because the students



work with one or more field mentors in their ministry context to develop the knowledge and skills needed to demonstrate competency in a given ministry area. Detty says the Engage program took away his excuses for not pursuing a master's degree.

"It was affordable, I was going to have one-on-one help, and the thing that I loved about it was that I could focus on the things that mattered to me, which was becoming better at communicating the Word of God," said Detty. ■

1ST BIOMEDICAL SCIENCES MAJOR READY FOR DENTAL SCHOOL

Meanwhile, at the commencement ceremony for undergraduate students, Brandon Hunt stood tall literally and figurately among the graduates gathered outside Shortess Chapel. At 6'9" Hunt played basketball for the CIU Rams, and was now representing another CIU first — the first graduate of the Biomedical Sciences program to enter dental school. He scored in the 90th percentile on the Dental Aptitude Test, and will train to be an oral surgeon.

"It feels amazing to be a part of the pioneering of this (Biomedical) program and just knowing how much it's expanding and how exciting the future is for this program," said Hunt. "I'm just glad to be a part of the first round of it." ■

1ST TIME ON CAMPUS AND IN THE USA

"Natalie" was among six students from China who made the trip to the CIU campus to walk across the Shortess Chapel stage. A total of 80 students from China earned master's degrees online through CIU's Kepha Institute.

For Natalie, a private school teacher in China, it was the first time she has been in the United States. As for her CIU education, she said having Christ at the heart of the master's program was the most important aspect of it.

"It's not about your degree. It's not about the paper you show people," Natalie said. "As long as you have the heart, the passion, the strength and power from Christ, then you can do the work." ■

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER FAREWELL

The speaker at both commencement ceremonies was Dr. Rick Christman. It was one of his last functions as CIU's executive vice president. Christman also served as the third interim president in CIU's 102-year history in 2023 and 2024.

"That's been one of my fondest memories ... being able to work with the faculty and staff and administration. CIU is blessed with world-class faculty."

Christman is now the president of Kingswood University in Sussex, New Brunswick, Canada.

Replacing Christman as senior vice president is Dr. Michael Johnson, who also continues to serve as dean of the College of Education. ■

CIU's Third President Remembered with Commencement Robe

Cary Ramsay fondly recalls her stepfather imparting wisdom to her over pancake breakfasts.

"To go back and think of the influence he had and the wisdom he has given me over the years, the advice — he even helped me pick my husband!"

Her stepfather was Columbia International University's third president, **Robertson McQuilkin**.

The memories and influence of McQuilkin came back more vividly for Ramsay during the May 2025 CIU commencement when she walked the stage of Shortess Chapel to receive her Master of Arts in Clinical Counseling degree wearing the same robe Robertson wore when he was president.

"I thought I would just really love to honor him," Ramsay said. "He played a really big role in my life. It meant a lot to me."

Ramsay was already an adult when her mother, CIU alumna Dr. Deb McQuilkin ('82), married Robertson in 2005, following the death of his first wife Muriel in 2003. Muriel had suffered from Alzheimer's disease, and Robertson's tender, personal care for her over a 13-year period is documented in the book, "A Promise Kept." Ramsay says Robertson, who died in 2016, continued to model the example of a loving husband with her mother, and would be an influence on her choosing a spouse. ■



Cary Ramsay receives her degree from President Dr. Bill Jones.



Hoops for Hope

Sharing the Gospel Through CIU Basketball

Kids look up to Johnny Wysong. And not just because he's six feet, six inches tall. But the forward for the Columbia International University Rams basketball team is also a role model.

Wysong was one of several Rams who volunteered for the annual weeklong Hoops for Hope summer basketball camp, an evangelistic outreach to children from lower-income Columbia neighborhoods, hosted by the CIU men's and women's basketball teams.

"It's pretty awesome," said Wysong. "Our opportunity to do this is a blessing ... giving them the Word of God ... to plant the seed. It's awesome. Just the coolest thing."

While Wysong and his teammates were corralling the 60-plus campers, ages 9-14, guiding them to their next station for either games or a devotional, the Rams Head Basketball Coach Tony Stockman, was making sure everything was running smoothly.

"Basketball is what draws them in," Stockman said. "I tell people all the time, basketball is my ministry. That's something I've been blessed with — the talent, opportunity and resources. We just work hard at it. And the better we are at it the more people I think we can influence. (Hoops for Hope) is a part of that." ■



Rams Softball Taking the Gospel to Guatemala

The Columbia International University Rams softball team travelled to Guatemala with the ministry Athletes in Action for nine days on the diamond over the summer.

The Rams played seven games against the Guatemala national team to help them prepare for the Pan American Games, and also played two games against the junior national team.

Rams Head Coach Sara Allen reports that after each game the teams met at the pitcher's circle to hear one of her players share a testimony as the Rams led in prayer.

"We also conducted three coach's clinics for local coaches from the youth to the national level, concentrating on hitting, pitching and game strategy," Allen said. "We were able to share why we play and coach with love and faith."

Off the field the team travelled to a school in a Mayan Village outside of Guatemala City. It's operated by Unum International, a Christian nonprofit that provides aid and relief in Guatemala. There the team enjoyed a half day of activities with the children of the school.

Allen says that over the nine days the team had many opportunities for building relationships and meaningful conversations.

"We had a great time and received an invitation to return again," Allen noted. ■



Dressed for Success

AT THE BUSINESS AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER (BCDC)

Imagine you are a college senior who gets that exciting phone call from an employer — they want to interview you for a job.

But wait! You just realized you have the wardrobe of a college student. All that casual wear in your dorm closet just won't do in that face to face interview with a potential employer. You also don't have the financial means to buy a new suit of clothes. What will you do?

For Columbia International University students there is a quick answer. It is the Business Clothing Closet at the Business and Career Development Center (BCDC) and available for all students. There, students will find business casual and business formal clothing for men and women.

Dean of the Cook School of Business, Dr. Amy Dubois, says the clothes are donated by “generous folks who love CIU students and want to invest in their future in a practical way.”

“We recently had a senior take a suit jacket for an interview with a financial firm, and I am happy to report he got the job,” Dubois said, “and will enjoy his suit jacket in his new position!”

“We tell students that if they will use it, they can keep it,” Dubois added. “If they just need it for one thing, we ask them to clean and return it.”

The Business and Career Development Center provides career services for all CIU students and is located in the William H. Jones Center. ■

CIU Nursing **Solidifying Hearts for Missions**

Columbia International University nursing students ministered to over 600 patients in the Dominican Republic during a weeklong medical mission trip this summer.

Six students and one full-time and one adjunct faculty member took part in mobile medical clinics in the Caribbean nation.

Angela Conder, the dean of the School of Nursing reports that the students used their skills in a variety of scenarios including triage and pharmacy, which included seeing patients from a wide range of ages from babies to older adults.

Conder describes the trip as full of joy, as they ministered both physically and spiritually.

Among the nursing students on the trip was senior Liesl Carabetta of Columbia, who says it was such an amazing experience that it is hard for her to put it into words.

“This trip solidified my heart for missions and really helped me see what I can do once I graduate as a nurse,” Carabetta said. “It truly opened my eyes to the impact I can have on others, even if it's just a smile or a hug. This trip changed me in so many personal ways that it brings tears of joy to my eyes. My hope is to continue medical missions and visit different countries to serve Jesus through healing.” ■



Scholarships That Open Doors



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- ✓ **Together, we can make CIU more accessible
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Dr. Johnny Miller

Remembering Dr. Johnny Miller: *A Gentle Leader with a Steadfast Conviction*

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

When I first joined Columbia International University in 1992 as a news anchor, I often noticed a distinguished figure passing through Ridderhof Building. Each late afternoon, as I prepared the day's final newscasts, I would see him walk quietly down the hallway — impeccably dressed, with a certain composed demeanor about him. He would nod hello to each staff member before putting on his hat and heading home to his house on The Pointe.

That man was Dr. Johnny Miller, the fourth president of CIU, who went home to be with the Lord on Easter Sunday this year (*see page 18*). His passing brought back memories of his steady leadership, his gentle spirit, and his unwavering commitment to CIU's mission of preparing students to know Christ and make Him known.

Leading with Grace and Courage

Though he was known for his quiet and thoughtful demeanor, Dr. Miller was never hesitant to take a stand when it mattered. I saw this firsthand at WMHK in the early 1990s. As a network affiliate of United Press International, we occasionally carried national news stories of a sensitive

nature. Dr. Miller called a meeting to discuss a particular story. He listened patiently to our perspective, asked thoughtful questions, and ultimately entrusted us to handle the matter.

His approach left a lasting impression on me. He was discerning yet humble — willing to guide, but just as willing to trust those under his leadership.

I remember him publicly standing firm on biblical convictions. He boldly went on the air live to explain the biblical reasoning to our listeners behind decisions when he felt it was necessary.

I also remember his willingness to speak out on the important issues of the day. He commended state leaders for efforts to restrict partial-birth abortion and called on the broader Christian community to stand for life. And in the 1990s, he publicly urged the removal of the Confederate flag from atop the South Carolina State House, saying, "If my Black brothers and sisters see it as racist, then I want to serve them."

He was a man of quiet strength who would not shrink from speaking truth in love.

A Shepherd's Heart

For all his administrative responsibilities, Dr. Miller's heart was always with people. My fondest memory of Dr. Miller is more personal. One day as he was making that late day walk through the radio station, instead of heading out the back door, he made a sharp left turn into my news studio. He had somehow learned that my father had recently passed away, and sat down across from me to offer his condolences. (I still tear up as I write this.)

As the busy president of a university, he didn't have to do that. But he did. And I understand why.

One of my final conversations with him was for the book on CIU's history that I co-authored, "A Century of God's Faithfulness." I asked him that as president, if he saw himself more of a pastor or CEO.

"My basic bent is toward pastor — to see people's lives transformed by Christ," is what he told me.

That indeed was Dr. Johnny Miller. ■

Bob Holmes was a news anchor/reporter for WMHK Radio, which was operated from the CIU campus.





CIU: A One-of-a-Kind Institution

Vibrant, Global, Biblical

Over the past 102 years, Columbia International University has undergone remarkable growth and transformation. As we move into CIU's second century, it's a good moment to reflect on where we stand today and where the road ahead might lead.

One helpful way to understand CIU's current identity is by looking at a couple of the "clubs" we belong to. Think of these as associations that connect us with other institutions sharing similar missions and values. Two particular "clubs" offer insight into the unique space CIU occupies in Christian higher education.

The first is the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE). ABHE is the accrediting body for Bible colleges in North America, and CIU has been part of it from the beginning. In fact, we were among the founding institutions and received accreditation in 1948. Today, ABHE includes various levels of membership — ranging from institutions accredited by other agencies, to programmatic members (where only some programs

are accredited), to full institutional members. CIU is a full institutional member, meaning we meet the highest level of ABHE's expectations: all undergraduates take required biblical and theological studies, every program integrates a biblical worldview, we have ministry programs and students engage in Christian service.

Other full members include institutions such as Appalachian Bible College, Lancaster Bible College, Moody Bible Institute and Prairie College. Some well-known Christian universities such as Cairn University and Johnson University participate at the programmatic level but are not full members.

The second organization we belong to is the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities (CCCU). Unlike ABHE, the CCCU is not an accreditor — it's an association of comprehensive Christian universities. Its focus is broader, encompassing liberal arts and professional education through a Christian lens. CCCU membership has several levels: international affiliate, collaborative, associate and governing.

For many years, CIU was an associate member. But in 2023, we were granted full governing membership — the highest level — which confirms that CIU meets CCCU's standards for adhering to traditional evangelical theology, curriculum, campus culture and faculty hiring.

This places CIU in a peer group with institutions such as Asbury University, Biola University, Covenant College, Houghton University, John Brown University, Messiah University, Taylor University and Wheaton College.

What makes this truly special is that CIU is the only institution in the world that is both a full institutional member of ABHE and a full governing member of CCCU. That's not just an administrative oddity — it's a reflection of our distinct mission and identity. We fully embrace the DNA of a Bible college while also living out the vision of a comprehensive Christian university. We're not halfway members of either — we're all in, on both counts.

This dual identity mirrors CIU's historic academic development. Like branches



growing on a tree, our offerings have expanded while remaining rooted in the same biblical foundation.

In the 1930s, we added graduate programs. In 1940, we launched Ben Lippen School, CIU's Christian Pre-K to 12th grade college preparatory school. The 1980s brought distance education and the start of teacher education. In the 1990s, we launched our psychology program and established our Korntal, Germany partnership. In the 2000s, we went online. The 2010s brought business and Chinese language programs. And in the 2020s, we've added science and nursing.

All these branches serve the same purpose: to help CIU fulfill its mission of educating students from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Today, CIU is a vibrant, global institution. We have:

- Over 600 traditional undergraduate students,
- Over 500 Ph.D. students,
- More than 1,000 students in Chinese-language programs,
- 500+ students learning online from around the world,
- About 200 students at our Korntal campus,
- And about 1,200 students at Ben Lippen School.

Each of these elements is part of the CIU family. None is “more CIU” than the others. Every program and location have been added with intentionality — because it helps us fulfill our Christ-centered mission.

Looking ahead, CIU will continue to expand its reach while remaining grounded in its roots. Ministry preparation will always be at the heart of what we do. That's why we've recently developed a new program in our Seminary that combines formal biblical and theological education with hands-on ministry training at real-world ministry sites. It's a fresh way to equip those called to serve the church.

For students pursuing professional vocations, we will keep adding programs that meet real-world needs — particularly in counseling, business, science, health care, and nursing. These programs will be offered at various levels and through various formats, from traditional residential to online and hybrid.

In short, we will continue doing what we've always done: adapt and grow in order to better equip students to make a global impact for Christ.

CIU is a one-of-a-kind institution. In a world where Christian colleges often lean either toward a Bible-college model or a comprehensive university

model, CIU boldly embraces both. We offer a Christ-centered, international education that integrates biblical and theological study with a broad liberal arts and graduate curriculum — preparing students for life, ministry and diverse professional callings.

As we step confidently into our second century, we remain rooted in our purpose and committed to the motto that has guided us from the beginning: “To Know Him and to Make Him Known.” ■



By Dr. Jim Lanpher
CIU Provost

***“Looking ahead,
CIU will continue
to expand its reach
while remaining
grounded in its
roots.”***

A man with short brown hair, wearing a dark green long-sleeved shirt and blue jeans, is sitting cross-legged in a field of tall, dry grass. He is looking down at an open Bible he is holding in his hands. The Bible has a red bookmark. The background is a soft-focus field of grass under warm, golden light, suggesting late afternoon or early morning. The text "FASTING FROM NOISE" is in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "Feasting on Scripture" is in a yellow, italicized, serif font.

FASTING FROM NOISE *Feasting on Scripture*



By Dr. Michael Lyons
Associate Professor of Old
Testament & Hebrew

I read a lot. I know that is probably not a surprise since I am a professor and served as a pastor. But seriously, I love books. The smell of them, the weight in my hands, the feel of the pages turning, the impression a pencil makes against their pages, the satisfaction of a well-ordered bookshelf — it all delights me.

But this past January, I realized something unsettling: I was being shaped more by books, podcasts, and audiobooks than by the Word of God. I assigned to my Hebrew students an exercise to recite aloud every week the Hebrew text of Psalm 1. And as I was meditating on the Psalm myself, I suddenly saw how I was influenced by so many things beyond “delighting in the law of the LORD” (Psalm 1:2, ESV). Books are not bad things — in fact, most lead me to love God more. But still, I sensed that I needed to enter a season of fasting, fasting from all the noises that influenced my thinking.

So I gave up reading books and listening to audiobooks/podcasts for Lent. The Church season of Lent is not required by Scripture. Sometimes people have used Lent to enforce a more legalistic Christianity. But I have found the season of Lent to help me pursue God in a more disciplined, specific way. And this was no exception.

During Lent, I read and listened to nothing except Scripture (except, of course, preparing my classes!). I woke up reading the Old Testament and went to bed reading the New Testament. I worked my way through chronological readings during the evenings. On my commutes, I listened to the Gospels. Over breakfast, I read the Psalms and Pauline epistles to my kids. A small group of students even joined me by reading Isaiah aloud for an hour every Monday during Lent.

It was transformative. I was able to get through the entire Bible and read the Gospels four times, all within the 40 days of Lent. Reading so much Scripture in such a short period of time saturated my heart and mind. This all came to a climactic moment on Good Friday. As I sat in a friend’s Good Friday worship service, I listened as their service worked its way through the story of the Bible by way of Scripture and song. From the first words of Genesis being read to selections from Isaiah, I felt my throat tighten and blinked back tears. Then, as the service moved to portions of the Gospel and the congregation sang “*Full atonement, can*

it be?” I was undone. The weeks of immersive reading of Scripture came back to me, and my mind raced around all the texts I had absorbed over the last weeks of Lent. God’s Word fell powerfully upon me and imprinted itself deep into my heart. Christ, the Living Word, had come to me.

The final hammer fell on me just a few days later on Monday, the day after Easter. The small group of students and I finished reading Isaiah aloud. As we came to Isaiah’s final chapter, 66:1-2 captured everything of what the last weeks of Lent were about for me: “Thus says the LORD: Heaven is my throne, and the earth is my footstool; what is the house that you would build for me, and what is the place of my rest? All these things my hand has made, and so all these things came to be, declares the LORD. *But this is the one to whom I will look: he who is humble and contrite in spirit and trembles at my word*” (ESV).

Oh that we would be shaped more by the Word of God than all the other noises around us!

We are drowning in a sea of digital noise: YouTube. Instagram. TikTok. Facebook. Substack. Email. X. Podcasts. Netflix. Prime. Hulu. Disney+. Audible. Spotify. Hoopla. Libby. News sites. AI. and more. Algorithms increasingly shape what we listen to, what we watch, and what we think about. Endless scrolling on our phones imprisons us in constant distraction. The ambitions of the culture around us and the values that it professes and inhabits slowly demand allegiance of our minds and hearts. Yes, even Christians.

We are so influenced by things external to God’s Word. Even in the world of ministry and missions, the latest books and theories are constantly touted as the key to our success. But they will all pass away, and all that will remain are the most sacred, holy, God-breathed Scriptures.

That’s what overwhelmed me that night at the Good Friday service. Lent exposed how much I need the Word of God. I need to hear it. I need to read it. I need to feel it. I need to see it. I need to think it. I need to believe it.

Am I reading books again? Yes. But my soul depends on feeding on the Word of God. As Deuteronomy 8:3 says, “... man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord” (ESV). So open your Bible. Feast daily on Christ, the Living Word. In a world full of fleeting voices, His is the only one that gives life.

Pray for us professors to abide in the Word ourselves so that the Word of God might overflow from us to our students. ■

***“Oh that we would be shaped more by the Word of God
than all the other noises around us!”***

THE GREATEST CREATION MIRACLE



*By David A. DeWitt, Ph.D.
Dean, College of
Arts & Sciences*

The evidence from general revelation is accessible to everyone through observation of natural laws and processes. As stated in Romans 1:20 (NIV), “For since the creation of the world God’s invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.” This verse emphasizes that the natural world is a testament to God’s power and divine nature. The Creator established the universe to follow laws so that we can learn about Him as we learn about what He made. However, the God who made the natural laws is not bound by them and can perform miracles. But of all of the miracles of creation, which one is the greatest?

THE VASTNESS OF SPACE

In Genesis 1, it says that God created the two great lights (sun and moon) on day four. This is followed by a statement that seems to trivialize stars as it just says, “He made the stars also.” God also invited Abraham to “count the stars, if you can.” Interestingly, it is possible to count the stars in the night sky that are visible to the naked eye. But it is impossible to count the actual number of stars in the universe. The universe is so big and filled with so many billions of galaxies filled with millions of stars it is incomprehensible. Indeed, the space covered by the tip of a pencil held at arm’s length would cover millions of stars. The Psalmist wrote: “The Heavens declare the glory of God” and “When I consider your heavens the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars which you have set in place, what is man that you are mindful of him, the son of man that you are mindful of him?” While the vastness of space is impressive and tells us of the power of God, this is not the greatest creation miracle.

UNIQUE FEATURES OF EARTH

Earth is the only planet in the solar system that experiences both solar and lunar eclipses, showcasing its unique position and design. This phenomenon occurs because of the precise sizes and distances of the Earth, moon, and sun. The moon’s diameter is about 400 times smaller than the sun’s, but it is also about 400 times closer to Earth, allowing it to cover the sun during a solar eclipse. This remarkable alignment is not found on any other known planet, highlighting Earth’s special place in the cosmos. Moreover, there are many other special features of Earth including liquid water, a tilted axis that allows for seasons, a magnetic field that diverts cosmic rays, and a nitrogen/oxygen atmosphere. All of these and more are required for life on earth to exist. Isaiah 45:18 says “...he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited...” This is impressive, but not the greatest creation miracle.

HUMAN FETAL DEVELOPMENT

About 19 days after conception the neural tube develops into the brain and spinal cord. This early stage of development is crucial for the formation of the central nervous system. By three to four weeks, the heart starts beating, eye development begins, and limb buds appear. These milestones mark the beginning of the formation of vital organs and structures. All organs and organ systems are established by the end of week eight.

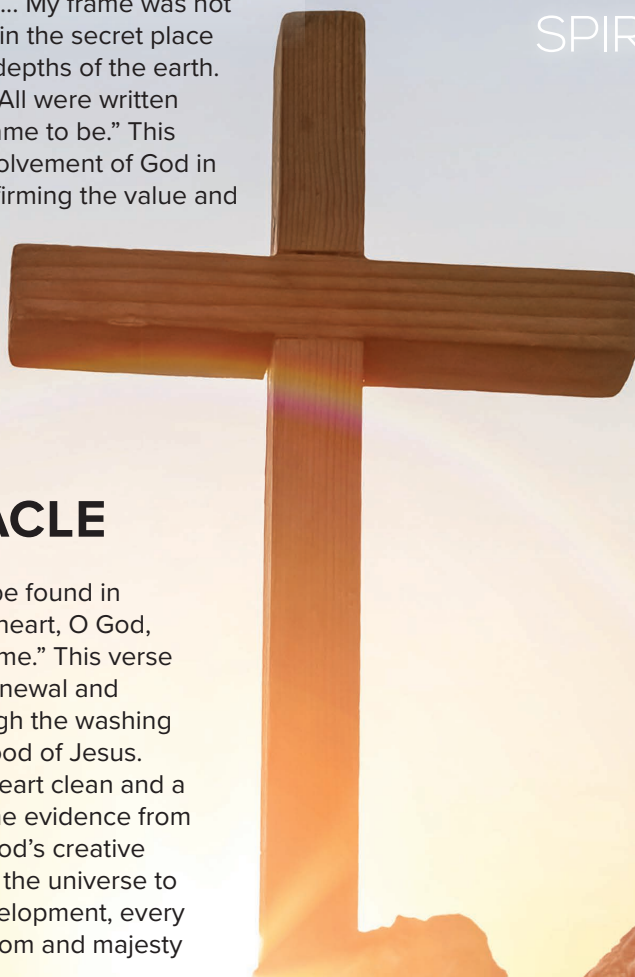
Psalm 139:13-16 beautifully captures the wonder of human creation: "For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made ... My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place when I was woven together in the depths of the earth. Your eyes saw my unformed body. All were written in your book before one of them came to be." This passage highlights the intimate involvement of God in the formation of each individual, affirming the value and dignity of human life. While amazing, human development is not the greatest creation miracle.

THE GREATEST CREATION MIRACLE

The greatest creation miracle can be found in Psalm 51:10: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me." This verse highlights the miracle of spiritual renewal and transformation, which comes through the washing of regeneration by the precious blood of Jesus. The blood of Christ makes a dirty heart clean and a dead person alive. In conclusion, the evidence from nature points to the greatness of God's creative power. From the intricate design of the universe to the detailed process of human development, every aspect of creation reflects the wisdom and majesty of the Creator. ■

"CREATE IN ME A CLEAN
HEART, O GOD, AND
RENEW A STEADFAST
SPIRIT WITHIN ME."

PSALM 51:10



DISPATCHES FROM ABIGAIL JONES

A CIU STUDENT IN COSTA RICA

CIU senior Abigail Jones, a Biblical Studies major, has over a dozen relatives who graduated from CIU.

She grew up in Costa Rica with the Cabécar tribe, an indigenous people group. The Cabécar live in the remote Talamanca region of eastern Costa Rica, and are the nation's largest indigenous group with a population of nearly 17,000.

Abigail's grandparents are alumni Aziel ('68) and Marian Jones who arrived in Costa Rica in 1952. They hiked into the tribal area and began to live among the Cabécar. They learned the language and developed a written form, as they translated the New Testament into Cabécar.

Her father, alumnus Timothy Jones ('85) revised the translation and added some of the Old Testament. Gospel seeds planted over the decades have begun to produce Christ followers.

Abigail's uncle David Jones ('91), also works with the Cabécar tribe. Her uncle Peter Jones ('75) teaches the Bible in a Swedish Bible school in Cyprus.

This summer, it was Abigail's turn. Abigail, who is fluent in Cabécar, and is friends with many of the Cabécar families, traveled home to Costa Rica where she taught a one-week Bible class. She wrote back to the States with the following dispatches.



Abigail Jones

WEEK 1

Two days after I got home was our monthly all-day Bible study. I drove the truck for over an hour into the mountains to pick people up and bring them to the study and then drove them back into the mountains at the end of the day. It was so nice to see people I have known for years and to see the new people who have come along in the last few months. I have been thinking a lot about all the years that my grandparents labored here, seeing little spiritual fruit. But they had faith in the work that God would eventually do in these mountains as His Word and His message spread. My dad was raised among the Cabécar people, and he raised my sibling and I here also.

So, I never had to experience leaving "home" to come to these people since this has always been my home and they have always been a part of my life. I thank the Lord for how He has faithfully worked in this people group through the power of the gospel and the transformation He has brought through the Word. I also thank the Lord that I have been blessed to see the fruits of the work that started over 70 years ago.

WEEK 2

I travelled to one of the main churches in the mountains. It was such a blessing to praise the Lord with them again. Although I have a church in Columbia, this is my home church. These are the people who have been here since I was a small child, loving me and watching me grow up. It was special to reconnect with them. I received several invitations from various ones asking me to visit them. So, Lord willing, I will take a few days next week and drink coffee and eat bananas with my friends in the mountains. I am truly blessed to know these people.

As I prepare to help teach a Bible course, I try to put myself in the shoes of the students. It is so encouraging to see many of my friends here have such a deep desire to seek the Lord in His Word, yet they have such a gap in their understanding because they do not have the complete Bible or external resources to study the context of Scriptures. I am very thankful for this opportunity to use the tools that CIU has given me to help the people here gain a clearer understanding of the text.

WEEK 3

As I continued preparing for the course, I was hit with a deep sense of "I am not qualified to do this." Psalm 25:4-5 became my prayer: "Make me to know your ways, O LORD; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all the day long." I am blessed to have friends, classmates, and even professors encouraging me throughout this time. Several of them reminded me that ultimately it is not I that is qualified but that my sufficiency comes from God.

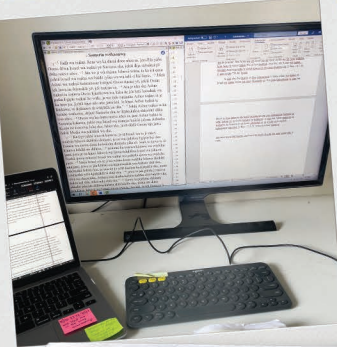
I kept on working and finally started writing out the material in Cabécar (a challenge because I've never had to write in their language much). I thought about my time at CIU and I realized how much God has already prepared me for this. Through difficult assignments, many hours doing my own work and grading others', and professors who have taken the time to mentor me, I am probably as prepared as I can be. The reality is that the students are at such a disadvantage when it comes to history and context, that every little and seemingly insignificant thing we can explain to them is going to be helpful to them.



WEEK 5

I've been very busy as the course begins next Monday. I have been putting the finishing touches on the lesson plan. I asked my dad to proofread my writing since I speak "daily-life Cabécar" and I am not used to writing about history in their language. I think if he had used a red pen, it really would have looked like a crime scene! I also made an outline of the historical events that we will be studying along with Scripture, and it was so fun to see the material in their language!

Then there are the logistics. About 15 people are coming. Thankfully, we have plenty of space, but we still have to figure out where to house everyone. We also have to recruit people to help with the cooking. For food, my dad bought about 20 cheap chickens, and then the ladies spent a morning butchering the chickens and then another day butchering one of our pigs. We also have to get enough sacks of green bananas for everyone to eat, as a meal is not a meal without bananas.



WEEK 4

I took a break from studying and preparation to visit family in the North Pacific region of Costa Rica. The few days I was away, as I was surrounded by people who do not love God, I felt very isolated. I thought a lot about my desire to serve Christ wherever He should take me, and I realized just how nonsensical it is in the eyes of the world. When people I am close to question or taunt me for living for His Kingdom, I rest in the truth that those who wait for the Lord are never put to shame.

WEEK 6

Praise God, the course went really well! I am also thankful for how patient the students were with me, especially since it is the first time I have ever had to prepare course materials and then teach. When I butchered their language trying to explain things, they were very kind and encouraged me throughout.

The purpose of the course was to help them understand key historical events from the time of David to the gospels, the main point being that the throne is the LORD's and even throughout the divided kingdoms and foreign kings, His everlasting Kingship remains. A lot of them had never read Kings, Daniel, Ezra or Nehemiah because these are drafted but not published in their language.

God has revealed Himself to His people here in this little corner of the earth. He is raising up disciples and building His church in these mountains!

It was an opportunity to share what I have learned under great professors at CIU. When leaving, one of the students said to me, "Go and finish studying so that you can come back and teach us again." I am so thankful for the experience and for all that it taught me!



REMEMBERING CIU'S FOURTH PRESIDENT

Dr. Johnny Miller

1944-2025

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer



Johnny Miller photo in Inauguration Program

Columbia International University's fourth president, Dr. Johnny Miller was remembered for his steady leadership of CIU through most of the 1990s, his pastoral heart, and his love for family during a celebration of life in CIU's Shortess Chapel. Over 200 people attended including family, colleagues and CIU alumni.

Miller passed away on Sunday April 20 at age 81. But April 20 was not just any Sunday.

CIU President Dr. Bill Jones opened the celebration by noting Miller wrote the day's order of the service 12 years ago.

"Of interest ... he asked that the hymn 'Up From the Grave He Arose' be sung at his funeral," Jones began. "Some of you may not know, he passed Easter morning."

"Remember Your Leaders Who Taught You"

Among those offering tributes was CIU alumnus Jeremy Kingsley ('94/'96) of OneLife Ministries and OneLife Leadership. Kingsley considered Miller a lifelong mentor with whom he met with regularly for 30 years, beginning during Kingsley's years as a CIU graduate student.



Learn more about Dr. Johnny Miller, hear his past chapel messages and read his guide “As We Age,” on preparing for your later years of life, at the CIU Alumni Classics website: ciuclassics.org

Fighting back tears, Kingsley talked about the last time he met with Miller, who was then “older and weaker, but his heart and insight were as strong and steady as ever.

“So I brought my notebook like I always did, ready to write as fast as I could to try to capture every drop of wisdom that he would share,” Kingsley continued. “His fingerprints are on every sermon I preach, every team I lead and every believer I disciple. His voice will always echo with love, truth and encouragement in our hearts and ministries. Hebrews 13:7 says ‘remember your leaders who taught you the Word of God, think of all the good that has come from their lives and imitate their faith.’”

From Student to Fellow Pastor

Another CIU alumnus, Dr. Brad Mullen ('82) noted how his relationship with Miller changed over years. First, as a CIU student, Miller was his professor. When Mullen became a faculty member, he was Miller's colleague. When Miller became CIU president, he was Mullen's boss.

But Mullen mostly recalled when he and Miller later served together in the pastorate at Calvary Church in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

“He never put the spotlight on himself,” Mullen said. “He always redirected it to someone else, and then to the Lord. So, then what I say is ‘thank you, Lord, bless you Lord, for the godly life, and the wonderful ministry legacy led by Johnny Miller, and that that would continue on until Jesus comes.’”

Paw Paw's Love for Maw Maw

Miller's five grandchildren also offered their memories, including Christina Haselden ('22). She recalled how her classmates used to ask her what it was like to be the granddaughter of a former president whose picture hung on the wall of the Administration Building and whose name was on the CIU baseball field wall. She would respond that the grandchildren only knew him as “Paw Paw.”

Haselden also recalled her grandfather's love for her grandmother Jeanne. They were married for 61 years. Through tears she recalled how last Christmas, even though “Paw Paw” was in advanced stages of Parkinson's disease, he insisted on getting Jeanne a personally purchased gift.

“When we opened presents, I noticed that Paw Paw's gift to Maw Maw was wrapped in a Wal-Mart bag,” Haselden explained. “He said he didn't have the fine motor skills to wrap it, but he insisted on getting her something without any help, even if that means it was still in a Wal-Mart bag ... His love for Maw Maw has been an example to me of how to treat those you love, and that love for Maw Maw was definitely passed on to me.”

“Johnny Would Want You To Know”

Giving the eulogy was Miller's pastor, Jack Arrington of Fellowship Bible Church in Columbia. When Miller wrote out his funeral plans in 2013 he listed

among the potential Bible passages to be preached, Isaiah 49:1-7.

He says, “It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob and to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also make You a light of the nations So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth.” (Isaiah 49:6)

“Jesus Himself said, ‘I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’ That's the person to Whom Johnny gave his life,” Arrington said.

“When you understand Who that Person is, when you see what that Person has done, when you trust in Him, when you believe that He is God's salvation to the nations, like Johnny you'll say, ‘His purpose has got to be my purpose. I've got to live so that the nations hear the gospel. So the nations are brought to the light of Christ,’” Arrington continued.

“That is what Johnny lived for. It was his all-consuming purpose in life. He would want to be sure ... that you knew Jesus Christ was your Savior. That you had been rescued from the dominion of darkness ...

“So, let me ask you a question for Johnny ... Do you know Jesus Christ as the Light of the world? ... Trusting Him to bring you forgiveness and eternal life through His death, His burial and resurrection? Johnny would want to know that you are absolutely trusting Him and that you know Him as your Savior.” ■

DR. BILL ALLAN ('24)

Encouraging the Churches of Canada

“A Steady Pair of Hands, and Very Fine Leadership”

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

Dr. Bill Allan is concerned about the future leadership of the evangelical churches in Canada where the average age of a pastor is 53 years old.

Allan is the president of the 140-member Associated Gospel Churches (AGC) of Canada. Its mission is “to glorify God by partnering together in obedience to the Great Commandment and the Great Commission” as they support member churches, pastors and associate staff.

Allan’s concern is what led him to Columbia International University’s Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership program and his dissertation on Stewardship and Succession Planning.

“We have a pipeline crisis of the next generation,” Allan said in an online interview in May. “We are not able to find enough pastors to pastor our current churches. How are we going to train and prepare the next generation of leaders? I’m challenging all of our pastors to develop a succession plan.”

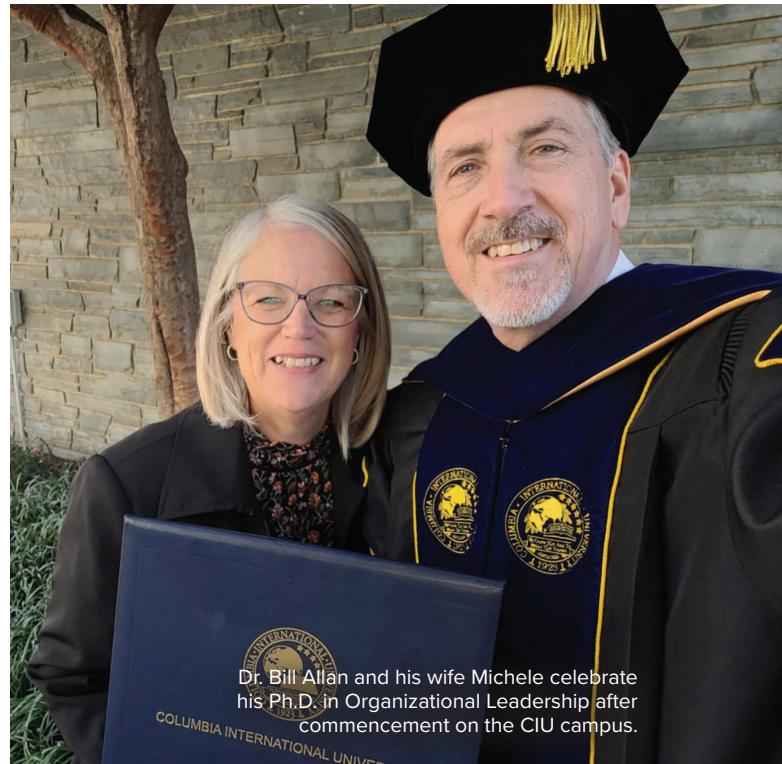
Allan appreciated that the Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership integrated biblical truth to everyday ministry, adding that “It wasn’t taught from a point of theory, it’s real-world, real-ministry application.

“When I thought about doing this (doctoral program), I talked to our national board and I said, ‘I don’t want to do a doctoral program just to have the three letters behind my name, or the doctor title in front of my name. I wanted this to be of value to us as an association.’”

Recognizing CIU’s History and Mission

Allan first learned about CIU when he served as a missionary in Peru with World Team for 28 years where he met a number of fellow missionaries who were CIU alumni.

“I was looking for a doctoral program that didn’t require me to take five years off of ministry and become a full-time student,” Allan said. “One of the first places I looked was CIU just because of the



Dr. Bill Allan and his wife Michele celebrate his Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership after commencement on the CIU campus.



Dr. Bill Allan speaks at an Associated Gospel Churches conference.

“

I don't want to do a doctoral program just to have the three letters behind my name, or the doctor title in front of my name. I wanted this to be of value to us as an association.”

DR. BILL ALLAN ('24)

history with our mission. The program just really fit where I was in ministry and (my family's) life at this time.”

AGC celebrated its 100th anniversary last spring at its Ottawa 2025 national conference where Allan challenged member churches to:

1. Remain people of the Word
2. Focus on church planting
3. Develop an intentional pathway to leadership and pastoral succession for the next generation.

He reminded the conference that everybody is in a leadership role for a time and a task.

“And if God has put you here for a time, how are you then preparing for the next leader so that the church continues to do what God has called it to do ... so that it doesn't become about you as an individual?”

The keynote speaker at the conference was Dr. Johnathan Griffiths, pastor of The Metropolitan (The Met) Bible Church in Ottawa. He appreciates Allan's leadership saying he has “a huge amount of accumulated wisdom, firm doctrinal commitments and a pastor's heart.”

“He's got a side capacity for work — it means he is available to lead and give personal guidance and church-level guidance to those who are in need,” Griffiths said in a phone interview. “So we feel with Bill at the helm, we have a steady pair of hands, and very fine leadership which we appreciate a great deal.”

Addressing Canada's “Culture of Death”

Allan has also taken a leadership role when it comes to speaking out about cultural/political issues in Canada, especially life issues such as abortion.

“To say it bluntly, we have a culture of death in Canada that is growing and concerns us as evangelical leaders,” Allan said.

He and his wife Michele have three married daughters and 10 grandchildren. For them, the life issues are personal. He says when the youngest grandchild was in the womb at 14 weeks, the family was told that there was a 95% chance that she would be born with Down syndrome.

“The first words out of the doctor's mouth were, ‘Do you want to terminate?’” recalled Allan.

“It just angered us as grandparents and evangelical believers because we have a value that God is sovereign, and if this child is going to be born with Down syndrome, that is part of His perfect plan for her life. And she was,” said Allan. “She is now 13 months old. A beautiful little baby. I can't imagine deciding to take her life because she has an extra chromosome.”

Biblical Model for Leadership

As Allan reflected back on his experience in CIU's Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership program, he said its emphasis on steward leadership has given him “a solid biblical base to see that steward leadership is really the biblical model for leadership.”

He says his favorite Bible parable is the Parable of the Talents where “God entrusted His servants something of great value.”

“If we look at stewardship, everything I have whether it is my education, organization I lead, or the material things that I have, I'm a steward, everything belongs to God, and I'm here to accomplish His objectives, not my objectives.” ■



You can learn more about CIU's Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership program at
ciu.edu/program/phd-organizational-leadership



DR. MARK SANDBERG ('04)

A Call to Latvia; A Call to Five Continents

*CIU Alumnus Has Over a Dozen Countries
Represented at His Church*

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

If you go to church at Communitas International Church this Sunday morning, you'll be worshipping alongside believers from four to five different continents! Sound exciting? You better get the family ready early. It's in Latvia.

The Eastern European country, a former satellite of the old Soviet Union, is on the Baltic Sea nestled between Estonia, Lithuania, Belarus and Russia where missionary and pastor Dr. Mark Sandberg serves a small, but diverse Baptist congregation in the capital city of Riga. The 60 to 70 people who attend are from 15 to 18 different countries. He calls that "a picture of the Kingdom of God."

"When I'm in America ... everyone looks the same," Sandberg said in an online interview. "I tell them 'you're a lot more boring.' It's a joke but it's true. (In Latvia) have such diversity that gives me great joy that I get to be a part

of that every Sunday morning."

Sandberg is a 2004 Master of Divinity graduate of the CIU Seminary & School of Counseling. He has served in Latvia for 32 years, much of that time in theological education and teaching private lessons in English at the Latvian University. He planted Communitas International Church eight years ago. He notes that the diversity of his church comes from a large international student population in Riga.

"We have a number of students from India, Sri Lanka, and we have some Africans, even some other Europeans who come to Latvia to study medicine. There is a medical university that has a large international division," Sandberg explained. "(And) we usually have some embassy people and military people because Latvia is a part of NATO."

CIU's Influence: "Scholars and Godly Men"

Sandberg is also a lecturer and director of research at the Latvian Bible Center, and serves on the school's board. The Center describes itself as an interdenominational non-formal educational institution that prepares men and women with Christ-centered theological knowledge, enabling them to apply this knowledge in the workplace, congregations and the wider society of Latvia.

Sandberg mostly teaches a number of courses at the Bible Center, but his primary field is in the New Testament.

"I very much have CIU to thank for that," said Sandberg, specifically mentioning some of his professors: the late Dr. Bill Larkin, Dr. John Harvey and Dr. Don Howell.

"I appreciate them. They were life-changing for me," Sandberg added. "They were scholars and godly men."

"One of the things I grew to appreciate more and more about CIU was the balance between academics, ministry and Christian life. There were godly professors who encouraged good work, but they didn't make academics like a kind of god. They kept it in balance."

Sandberg actually attended CIU twice. He began his degree in the late 1980s and early 1990s under CIU's third president Robertson McQuilkin, whom he calls "such an amazing, godly man," and still often refers to McQuilkin's famous quote about living "at the center of biblical tension."

After a time on the mission field in Latvia, Sandberg returned to CIU to finish his degree in 2002 under CIU's fifth president Dr. George Murray. He liked what he saw about CIU leadership.

"There was something well-grounded about CIU. There was always good leadership. The CIU values were genuine values (and genuinely lived out," adding, "Of course as a missionary, I appreciate the mission emphasis."



Mark Sandberg with his wife Vēsma, his sons Justin (top right) and Brendan and daughter Anna.

His Wife's Ministry

While studying at CIU, Sandberg and his Latvian wife Vēsma, lived in what was known as "The Village," a CIU-owned mobile home park of mostly married graduate students located at the edge of campus off Frost Avenue. Today they have three adult children, the youngest of whom was adopted out of an orphanage at two-years old. That adoption led Vēsma to her own ministry. She helped start the Latvian Christian Alliance for Orphans, and now serves as a social worker with foster/adoptive families. The Alliance has been so successful, that they now assist government workers and school teachers in the effective care of vulnerable children and families. He says the government officials notice something different about them.

"Of course, it's because all them are Christians and all of them have the spirit of God," Sandberg said. "Her ministry is pretty amazing. I'm quite proud of what she and her colleagues do."

Reluctant Leader

Despite over three decades of ministry in Latvia, Sandberg calls himself, "a reluctant leader."

"Sometimes I tell people the one mistake God has ever made was calling me to be a pastor," Sandberg jokes. "And yet I know He called me to do it. And He uses that."

In the end, he says we are not to rely on our own strength, but on God's strength.

"God uses us, when we choose to be where He wants us to be. Whether we feel like we fit there or not, is not the primary question. The primary question is, are we where God wants us to be, and if we are, then we know that God is going to be there. It's the right place to be." ■

“

One of the things I grew to appreciate more and more about CIU was the balance between academics, ministry and Christian life.”

DR. MARK SANDBERG ('04)



DR. SAFIA J. YUN ('23)

CIU Alumna Delves Deep into Study of “The Fear of the Evil Eye”

Longtime Missionary Examines Topic Vital to Reaching Muslim Women

By Dr. Safia J. Yun

Safia J. Yun earned a Ph.D. from CIU’s College of Intercultural Studies in 2023. She is a passionate cross-cultural worker with over 16 years of experience serving the unreached in South Asia. For the past seven years, she has focused her efforts in the Middle East, equipping cross-cultural workers with the essential tools and insights to effectively connect with underserved communities and share the message of Christ. This excerpt is from her book “Fear of the Evil Eye: A Missional Approach Toward the Envious Gaze Among Young Jordanian Muslim Women,” which is published by Wipf & Stock.

In a world where the Evil Eye is often dismissed as mere superstition, young, university-educated Jordanian Muslim women reveal a different story: “The Evil Eye is real, and we were raised with it.” *Fear of the Evil Eye: A Missional Approach Toward the Envious Gaze Among Young Jordanian Muslim Women* explores the deep roots of folk Islam in Jordan, with implications stretching across the Middle East and beyond.

These young Muslim women affirm that the most dangerous Evil Eye comes not from strangers, but from

family and friends, those closest to them. While anyone can cast the Evil Eye, the greatest harm arises within intimate circles where envy eats away at the soul. It springs from a sense of deficit and worldview of limited good, which fosters competition. The notion of limited good and concern for honor and shame produces a preoccupation with envy. Such thinking is rooted in ancient thought, where all things in life, including friends, love, and honor, were limited, and any good fortune was viewed as a threat to one’s rival groups. The Evil Eye is so deeply embedded in the culture that the word for “eye” (*ayn*) and

the word for “envy” (*hasad*) are used interchangeably. Among friends and family, this envy is not just an emotion; it is a force believed to cause actual harm, leading to deep-seated fear, suspicion and broken relationships.

The Evil Eye and Young Women

What makes this study unique is its focus on young, highly educated Jordanian women — a group rarely included in research on the Evil Eye. Some may assume that only the older generation clings to such beliefs, but the women interviewed (average age 25) reveal otherwise. They, too, navigate the tension between tradition and modernity, between fear and faith.

Unlike their mothers, who relied on amulets for protection, these women turn to the sacred texts of the Qur’an and Hadith as a remedy. By doing so, they can claim orthodoxy in a conservative society like Jordan. Yet, in practice, the Qur’an is often used as a powerful tool of incantation, blended with folk practices to ward off harm and cure wrongs.

Through captivating narratives and original field research, this book delves into the intricate dynamics of envy and the pervasive belief in the Evil Eye. It offers a profound exploration of how these young Muslim women confront their fears and challenges; it invites readers into a conversation about divine generosity and protection.

Equipping Cross-Cultural Workers

When I moved to Jordan, I quickly recognized the prevalence of envy and the Evil Eye among women. This realization led me to deeper research, not just to understand, but to equip other cross-cultural workers who are unfamiliar with folk beliefs and practices of Muslims. I sensed the danger of dismissing these fears as mere superstition.

If Christian workers overlook the Evil Eye reality, they will miss an opportunity to bring the freedom of Christ to those bound by fear of the Evil Eye. To minister effectively, we must understand the depth of the problem, and how beliefs shape lives and relationships. As long as Western cross-cultural workers regard the Evil Eye as an old superstition among ignorant or backward Muslims, these educated young Muslim women will have little chance of hearing the freedom that Christ alone can bring. Being equipped with a deeper understanding of this folk belief among Muslim women, cross-cultural workers can lead these women into a journey of discovering the truth of who God is, and the peace that only Christ can provide.

The Urgency

One half of the women interviewed said they experienced harm from a relative or a friend. The need for truth and light in this spiritual struggle is urgent. The young women admit that the Evil Eye springs from an unclean heart, so this is a good place to start in Christian witness. Ministry is not just engaging Islam but about meeting Muslims where they are. Cross-cultural workers must bring Jesus into every setting and boldly pray in His powerful name. They must also proclaim the true nature of God: He is a generous and gracious giver who blesses without limitation. While Muslims often say *Allah Kareem* (God is generous), few grasp its depth of meaning. Christian workers must demonstrate God’s kindness and abundance; they must model a life free from the fear of envy.

I am deeply grateful for the mentorship of CIU Adjunct Professor Dr. Warren Larson and his profound knowledge of folk Islam, which encouraged me to conduct this research. I hope the study will equip others to understand, engage, and respond to the spiritual realities that shape the lives of these young Muslim women.

The way out of fear comes through biblical truth that offers freedom. It is about a God who blesses abundantly and shields against the harm of envy. Let us embrace this truth and, through generosity and prayer, light the way for Muslim women to find freedom in Christ’s name. ■



Dr. Safia J. Yun ('23)



You can learn more about CIU’s Ph.D. in Intercultural Studies program at ciu.edu/program/phd-intercultural-studies



Dr. Ben Porter
CIU Vice President of Christian Education
Head of School at Ben Lippen School

“
Dr. Porter’s many years of sacrificial service at Ben Lippen demonstrate his faithfulness and dedication to our students.”

DR. MICHAEL JOHNSON
CIU Senior Vice President

DR. BEN PORTER ('20)

New Ben Lippen Head of School

*Desires to be Faithful
Steward Leader*

By Bob Holmes, Senior Writer

Dr. Ben Porter told his Columbia International University academic advisor, Dr. Debbie Moore, that he would one day be the head of school at Ben Lippen, CIU’s Christian Pre-K to 12th grade college preparatory school.

Porter doesn’t remember that, joking, “I must have been very inspired at that moment.”

But Moore remembers it.

“I asked, ‘What are you going to do with this Ph.D.?’ Ben mentioned that he would eventually like to be head of school at Ben Lippen,” Moore said, adding, “I have watched over the years since that comment as God prepared him for this role.”

Those 15 years of preparation included, among other positions, serving as Ben Lippen athletic director, elementary principal, the director of CREST (Ben Lippen School online), and associate head of school.

Porter, who holds a master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from CIU, as well as a Ph.D. in Educational Leadership, called his new position a “common sense next step” as he desired to be obedient to God.

“My obedience was not in getting the position, my obedience as in the process,” Porter said. “Whether I got the position or I didn’t, I felt like I was obedient through following the process and taking the next step. I have no doubt that this is His plan and His purpose.”

In March of this year, Porter was named CIU Vice President of Christian Education and Head of School at Ben Lippen.

His promotion does not surprise those who have known Porter through his years at Ben Lippen School. Among them is CIU Senior Vice President Dr. Michael Johnson who served as Ben Lippen interim head of school before Porter's appointment.

"Dr. Porter's many years of sacrificial service at Ben Lippen demonstrate his faithfulness and dedication to our students," said Johnson, who is also dean of the CIU College of Education. "Through various positions and with wisdom, he has provided steady leadership for educating students from a biblical worldview."

Ben Lippen School is enjoying record enrollment with over 1,200 students. Porter says that is because "God blessed the hiring of our teachers," leading to a quality Christ-centered education.

"Because at the end of the day, they love God, they love students, they love teaching," Porter said. "That is a pretty nice trio to have when you are trying to impact kids at a deeper level. Because that's where the rubber meets the road. We've been very blessed with who God brought here."

As Porter looks ahead to the future, he looks back at the foundational principle of steward leadership he learned in his program that is guiding him both professionally as well as personally.

"The idea that it's God's prerogative to put before us whatever in life. It's our responsibility to respond in a way

that gives Him glory," Porter said. "That concept, and really every decision we make in life, is a stewardship decision."

Porter went on to explain that it was during his Ph.D. studies that the steward leadership concept was applied by him at the personal level when his wife Margaret miscarried.

"That class really had an impact ... it really allowed me to lead my family through that situation," Porter said. "It recognizes that God is sovereign and we're not. I don't have to understand it, but I do have a responsibility to handle that in a way that still brings Him glory."

This kind of leadership inside the schoolhouse and at home doesn't surprise Professor Moore, who was not only Porter's advisor, but also one of his instructors. She notes that in one of his master's degree assignments he created a discipleship program to guide young men in becoming men of God.

"His assignments always encouraged me with his depth of spiritual insight," Moore said. "I could always read and feel the passion he had for not only the academic growth of his students, but their spiritual growth as well."

"My prayer is that others will see his heart to serve God as I saw it poured out, in not one assignment, but all his assignments." ■



Ben Porter with Ben Lippen students

EXPERIENCE TOUTED AS CIU ATHLETICS ANNOUNCES NEW HEAD COACHES



CIU Baseball
Head Coach
Rocky Musgraves

BASEBALL

Rocky Musgraves is the second head baseball coach in the history of the Rams' program. Musgraves has more than 30 years of coaching experience across the NCAA Division I, NCAA Division II, NAIA, and NJCAA levels, bringing a career résumé that includes nearly 800 collegiate victories (787-467), 18 conference, regional, and super-regional

championships, and a steadfast commitment to developing student-athletes spiritually, academically and athletically.

Musgraves comes to CIU after serving as the inaugural head coach at John Melvin University (JMU) in Louisiana, where he built the Millers into a formidable program in just three seasons.

"I'm beyond excited to join the CIU athletic program and return to NAIA Baseball," said Musgraves. "I want to thank President Dr. Bill Jones and Director of Athletics Stefan Vasiloff for the opportunity to carry out the Christ-led mission of CIU. I look forward to meeting the guys and getting to work."

Musgraves replaces CIU baseball's founding head coach, Jonathan Johnson who is pursuing new professional ventures. Johnson led the Rams to the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) World Series title in 2021. ■



CIU Track and Field and
Cross Country Head
Coach **Justin Carver**

TRACK AND FIELD AND CROSS COUNTRY

Veteran NAIA coach **Justin Carver** is the new head coach for the CIU track and field and cross country programs. Carver brings more than 15 years of collegiate coaching experience, most recently at York University in Nebraska, where he served as head coach for track

and field and cross country since 2011. Under his leadership, the program produced 14 NAIA All-Americans, over 150 NCCAA All-Americans, and 26 NCCAA National Champions.

"While it's never easy to leave a place that's meant so much, I'm excited for the new challenges and opportunities ahead," said Carver. "CIU is a special place, I'm excited to be a part of it. I have high expectations for myself and the program as we move forward."

Carver replaces Benny Morgan who is retiring from collegiate coaching. ■

ESPORTS



CIU Esports
Head Coach
Reggie White

Reggie White is the new Esports head coach. He has been a part of the program since its inception in 2021 in various capacities, including as an athlete and, most recently, assisting in the broadcast of CIU Overwatch and CIU Super Smash Bros.

White has a wealth of knowledge, specifically in Overwatch, as a former Overwatch athlete. But his gaming IQ is spread across a plethora of titles in both PC and console games.

"I believe in the value of hard work, healthy competition, and the joy that comes from using our God-given talents to grow both in the game and in life," said White. "My mission is to build a team culture where we compete with excellence, have fun, and most importantly, leave a Christ-centered impact on each other and our campus community." ■

GOLF



CIU Interim
Head Golf Coach
Major McWhorter

Major McWhorter has been named interim head coach for men's golf after Jake Montgomery's departure. Montgomery has rejoined the professional circuit as a player after three years of leading the Rams.

McWhorter assisted Montgomery for the last two seasons. He is a four-year letter winner for CIU golf and owns and operates a golf instruction business.

"I'm excited to take over as interim head coach at CIU. We have a great group of guys and a ton of potential in this program," McWhorter said. ■

CHAMPIONSHIPS

DEANDRE LEITH ADDS TO CIU LEGACY WITH MORE NCCAA CHAMPIONSHIPS

Deandre Leith delivered a first-place performance for the Rams in the Men's Discus Throw and the Men's Shot Put at the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA) Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The event was held in early May at CIU for the third year in a row.

In the discus, Leith, a senior, achieved a distance of 50.62m, his farthest throw in his career at the NCCAA Outdoor Championships. Leith has won the discus an impressive four straight years at the championships.

Leith's first place finish in the shot put was measured at 17.05 meters. He was named an NCCAA All-American.

Elijah Seawright, a sophomore, also secured NCCAA All-American status, taking first in the triple jump with a mark of 14.70 meters.

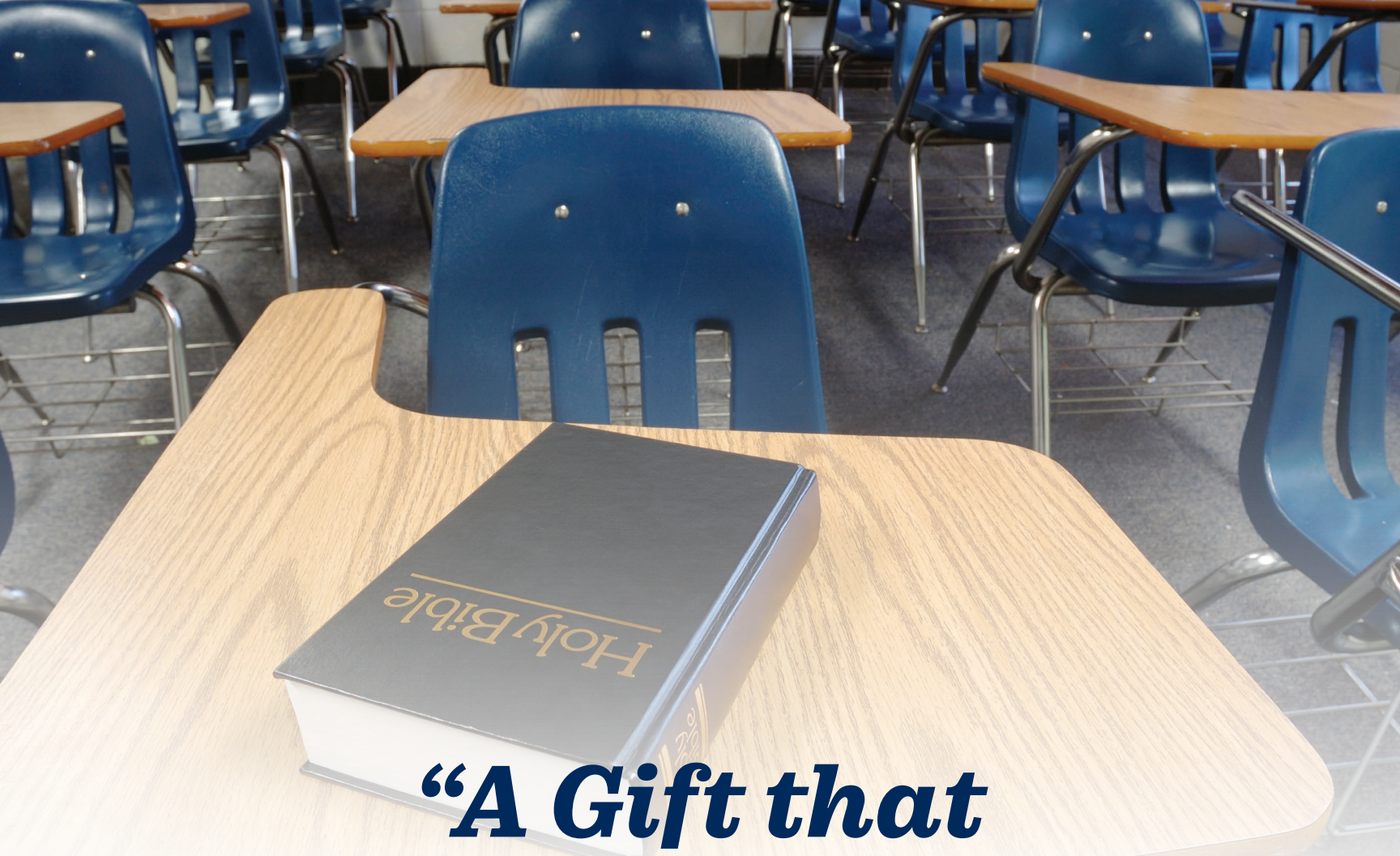
On the women's side, three CIU athletes earned NCCAA All-American status: Coral Curry, Morgan Johnson, and Kloey Pickens. ■

APPALACHIAN ATHLETIC CONFERENCE OUTDOOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kloey Pickens won her fourth AAC shot put title, and Leith and Seawright also took home individual championships at the 2025 AAC Outdoor Championships in April.

Pickens, a senior, won the women's shot put with a mark of 12.74 meters. Leith won his third AAC Men's Discus Championship with a throw of 50.78 meters. Seawright won his second AAC men's triple jump championship, and his first at the outdoor championships, with a mark of 14.72 meters. ■





“A Gift that Means Something”

Carolyn Tucker’s Passion for Bible Teaching

By Professor Emerita Dr. Sandra Archer Young

Carolyn Clark Tucker, co-founder of national retail giant Shoe Show, Inc., is passionate about something often considered a rarity: teaching the Bible in public schools. In January of 2025, she presented CIU with a generous gift providing scholarships for students, particularly Bible Teaching majors. This gift was inspired by the life of Mary Elizabeth McMurray, a 1939 CIU graduate who taught elective Bible courses to high schoolers in Cabarrus County, North Carolina for 45 years.

While Carolyn was never taught by Elizabeth McMurray, also known as “Lib,” her investment is nonetheless quite personal: one of those high schoolers taught by McMurray was Carolyn’s husband, Robert Tucker, who came to Christ under McMurray’s ministry. That act of evangelism cemented a relationship between the Tuckers, McMurray, and ultimately Columbia International University (then Columbia Bible College).

The Tuckers grew up in Kannapolis, North Carolina, a

quaint, tree-lined Southern town in Cabarrus County, not far from Charlotte. Yet long before the Tuckers founded a thriving business, they were high school students at A.L. Brown High School. Robert, two years ahead of Carolyn, one day found himself sitting in McMurray’s classroom. McMurray’s engagement with the Bible Club movement ultimately led him beyond the classroom. Robert Tucker’s life was changed when McMurray drove a carload of students to Cheraw, South Carolina to a Bible Club retreat.

In the mid-20th century, the Bible Teaching program was a staple at CIU with students teaching in Bible Clubs, church Sunday schools, youth groups and even at the Department of Juvenile Justice.

After their marriage Robert and Carolyn attended a local Methodist church for several years. During this time, the Lord began to bless their business. The couple opened their first Shoe Show location on Main Street in downtown Kannapolis in 1960. Robert, a shrewd and progressive

businessman, leaned heavily on Carolyn whose skills in fashion design were reflected in the opening of each new store. The original store evolved into a chain of retail stores under the names of Shoe Show, Shoe Dept., Shoe Show Mega, Shoe Dept. Encore, Shoebilee and Burlington Shoes. Today the company operates approximately 1,100 stores in 47 states.

As the business flourished, so did the couple's relationship with the Lord. They joined North Kannapolis Baptist Church and served faithfully at this church with their four children, Jacqueline, Robert, Greg and Lisa.

Robert Tucker passed away in 2023. Yet today, due to McMurray's devotion to teaching the Bible to young adults, Carolyn continues to regularly invest in CIU, which has produced Bible Teaching graduates on the college and eventually the graduate level for over 60 years. She commends the long, steady presence of Bible teachers in the town of Kannapolis.

"One of these teachers taught grammar grades right out of high school and one taught high school and they stayed with us probably 45 years," said Carolyn. "Can you imagine how many lives were changed? Bob's life was changed because of Bible teaching in the schools."

Why did she recently give so liberally to CIU? "I wanted the McMurray Scholarship to mean something," says Carolyn of her gift.

While few programs currently prepare students for teaching Bible in the public schools, CIU's Bible Teaching graduates are not only employed in local and national



You can learn more about CIU's Bible Teaching program at ciu.edu/program/bs-bible-teaching

Bible teaching positions, but have also taught English in international schools in China and taught the Bible to schools in Indonesia.

Dr. Anita Cooper, current CIU Bible Teaching program director explains the unique value of the program.

"The core requires a lot of Bible courses that are foundational to the Bible teaching classes that I teach," she says. "Students have knowledge of the Bible but what demonstrates that they know the Bible is that they can apply it not only to their lives, but also to the lives of other people."

Today Carolyn, now 84, continues to serve her church in leadership roles. Her gift to CIU firmly establishes the teaching legacy of Mary Elizabeth McMurray. It also ensures that future CIU students have the means to complete a Bible-rich academic program that provides solid biblical content to young educators whose ultimate goal is to spread the gospel.

In May, CIU honored the life of Elizabeth McMurray with a posthumous honorary doctorate. Carolyn was notified of the decision with a visit from CIU President Dr. Bill Jones and his wife Debby who presented Carolyn with a flower and a note that read:

Thank you, Tucker Family
For honoring the legacy of Dr. Elizabeth McMurray
Teacher, Evangelist, Woman of the Word



Learn more about Carolyn and Robert Tucker including Carolyn's 10-acre Tucker Garden in Concord, North Carolina in the extended version of this article at ciu.edu/a-gift-that-means-something



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1 KEN NISSEN ('54) After graduating from CBC, Ken was drafted into the army during the Korean War. After the war, he returned to Columbia and earned a master's degree in education administration from the University of South Carolina. He then worked in the state school system, and in South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation until retirement. ✉ knissen@bellsouth.net

ROSE (MONDA) MCQUAY ('55) was married to **EARL MCQUAY ('54)**. They served at First Baptist Church in Leesville, South Carolina where Earl was called to pastor during his senior year. Earl passed away in 2017. Rose now lives in Florida. ✉ rosemcquay31@gmail.com

2 J. ALLEN THOMPSON ('55) After graduating from Prairie Bible Institute, Allen earned a Bachelor of Arts in Education from CBC. He and his wife, Marilyn, went directly to Cuba, the country where he was born and raised as a missionary child. He took every one of Buck Hatch's courses, because they gave him a foundation in biblical truth. He translated them into Spanish for the Cuban Seminary. ✉ jallenth5@gmail.com

REBECCA "BECKY" (MCALISTER) ALLISON ('55) taught school for two years, before her late husband, **WINFRID ('54)**, was called to the pastorate where he served for 25 years until his death. They had four children.

SHIRLEY (BURNETT) FRYE ('55) married Thorton Frye and moved to Portsmouth, Virginia where he pastored a church, and she played the piano and organ for the church for over 60 years. Her father was led to the Lord by CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin at his Businessmen's Bible Class in downtown Columbia.

3 GAY (HARTZELL) BORTH ('65) is adjusting to widowhood after her husband, **VERN ('64)**, passed away in February 2025. She is a full-time caregiver to their daughter, and has a phone ministry to younger mothers. They had four children and fostered many other children. ✉ gazellehart@hotmail.com

4 WILMA (CODDINGTON) FORSTER ('65) is retired from Wycliffe Bible Translators. But she remains in close touch with her people group (Kuna of Panama/Colombia) and the translation teams with whom she and her husband, **KEITH ('66)**, ministered. They raised three children. ✉ Wilma_forster@wycliffe.org

5 LARRY MCCULLOUGH ('65) serves as a part-time accreditation evaluator for the Distance Education Accrediting Commission in Washington, D.C., doing several site visits and program reviews annually. He and his wife, Ruth, are involved in their local church and enjoy spending as much time as they can with their families.

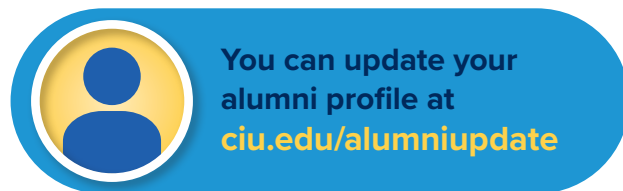
✉ Ldmccullough37@yahoo.com

6 LIBBY (BRINTON) PALMER ('65) is a retired RN and is involved in a Precept upon Precept Bible study. Her husband, **BILL ('64)**, passed away in 2020. She has three children. Libby and Bill served in Colombia, South America. ✉ billibsam@comcast.net

ELEANOR (HOLMES) PAULING ('65) directed her church's children's program for over 30 years. She was also a Child Evangelism Fellowship director from 1966-1971, then a substitute teacher for 10 years at a Christian School. ✉ jepauling@windstream.net

7 THOMAS "MACY" PETTY ('65) is chairman of the Evangelism Committee at his church and serves as a "Stephen Minister," a lay ministry providing one-on-one care for church members. His wife Margaret plays cello in several orchestras, teaches private cello lessons, provides music for weddings and special occasions and is on the music faculty at High Point University. ✉ macypetty@gmail.com

BLANCHARD ROMAIN III ('65) is part of a new PCA church plant for the New Castle, Neshannock, and New Wilmington areas of Pennsylvania. His wife, **BARBARA ('59)**, passed away in 2024. ✉ Bromaine3@gmail.com



You can update your alumni profile at ciu.edu/alumniupdate

8 CAROLYN (NOVAK) STEGER ('65) is a retired RN, and continues to volunteer with children and adult groups at her church. She is also involved with Sunday school, mothers of preschoolers, adult grief groups, food pantry and Bible studies. Her husband **CHARLES ('62)**, passed away in 2019.

✉ Stegers5c@gmail.com

PHYLLIS BEDWELL ('66) is serving at a Hispanic church plant in San Antonio, Texas. For 55 years she served with Latin America Mission/Mesa Global in Bible teaching, youth, music and mission-training in Costa Rica and Monterrey, Mexico.

✉ rpbedwell@live.com.mx

9 SELENE (LEWIS) MATTHEWS ('75) retired in 2020 after teaching for 35 years at Culpeper Christian School in Culpepper, Virginia. Her husband, **DAVID ('69)** passed away the same year. She is now a substitute teacher at Culpepper Christian and at Fresta Valley Christian School in Marshall, Virginia, where her daughters, Melanie and Meredith are teachers. She has eight grandchildren.

✉ selene.l.matthews@gmail.com

10 ED REULE ('75) pastored for many years at Calvary church in Charlotte, North Carolina. His wife (Terri) of 30 years passed away in 2005. He has been involved in ministry working with churches and sports teams (providing chaplains) with Cede Sports for the last 25 years. He presently lives in Blowing Rock, North Carolina, teaching a men's Bible study and hanging with his four grandchildren. ✉ edwardreule@yahoo.com

DOUG ('83) AND MARGARET (ROSS) GRENAWALT ('83) have served 40 years with Christar ministering to South Asians, first in Pakistan for 18 years, then in Chicago for 17 years. They relocated to Wisconsin for their retirement ministry in summer 2025. ✉ dougsahib@yahoo.com

JACQUI ASBURY ('85) completed her doctorate in Educational Leadership from Liberty University. Her capstone project focused on supporting a low-income elementary school's professional development program to serve English language learners. She is teaching Intercultural Studies at Grand Canyon University online and an ESOL Teacher Training course through University of Arizona Global Campus.

✉ AsburyConsult@aol.com

LINDA RUTLAND ('93) ministers to the homeless with the assistance from her church. They distribute Blessing Bags, opening the opportunity to talk about Christ and plant the seed that can make a difference.

✉ lindarutland3@gmail.com

11 TONY FLOYD ('97) has been appointed point person (global lead) for church planting with SIM. He advises church planters on how to plant and grow the church. He and his wife, **CARRIE (DIBBLE) FLOYD ('96)** served in rural church planting in Paraguay and hope to return in the future. ✉ tony.floyd@sim.org

12 WAYNE COOPER ('99) graduated from Talbot School of Theology with a Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Formation and released a new book, "Healing the Souls of Black Men."

✉ wayneccooper@earthlink.net

13 WILLIAM "BILL" FOX ('02) ministers to behaviorally-challenged children in Monmouth, Maine. He also opens his farm to the community for visits and farm camps. ✉ wfoxmonmouth@gmail.com



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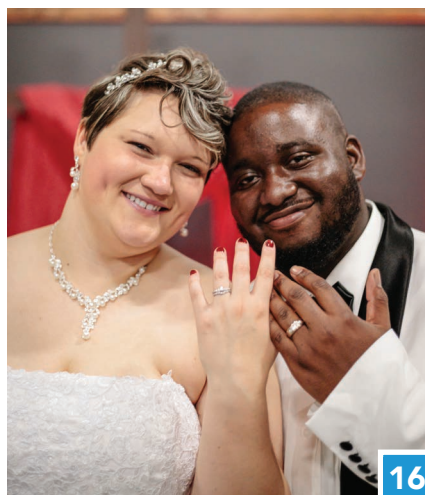
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JAYAKUMAR RAMACHANDRAN ('08) is assisting church planting leaders in Bangalore, India and is committed to making disciples. ✉ jkbbcm@gmail.com

CALEB ('14) AND EMILY (HOWELL) ('14) BETHEA along with Easton, Genevieve and Beckett welcomed Henley Crew Bethea to their family in August 2025.

STEVEN ('14) AND KELLY (RICHARDSON) ('15) WHEELER along with siblings Juniper, Joseph, Ruth and Arlene, welcomed Mary to their family in June. ✉ kellyruthwheeler@gmail.com

BLAKE ('16) AND RAENA (HANNINK) ('15) TINDLE along with Holland, Evie and Anna welcomed David Merel Tindle to their family in August 2025. ✉ raenahannink@gmail.com

14 PEYTON AND ALLIE (WYNN) MILLS ('16) welcomed Amelia Joan into their family in July 2025. ✉ allieewynn@gmail.com

SHANE ('17) AND TORI (RICHARDSON) VELDHIJZEN ('17) along with Liliias, Finlay, and Robin welcomed Whitaker into their family in July 2025. ✉ shane.veldhuizen@gmail.com

15 MYKAELA SHOUSE ('19) was accepted to the Disney College Program where she opened Connections Eatery and Cafe in EPCOT, as well as became the first College Program participant to become a Guest Relations cast member. She also became an EPCOT property orientation facilitator and loves to help new Walt Disney World cast members. ✉ mykaelashouse@gmail.com

ELIAZAR BABA ('21) has been appointed provost of ECWA Theological Seminary Karu, Abuja, Nigeria. They have 700 students, 27 faculty and staff members and offer undergraduate and postgraduate programs. ✉ eliazarbaba@yahoo.com

16 ISAIAH ('22) AND HANNAH (HARDEE) MITCHELL ('22) married in August 2024. In February 2025, they moved to Mount Vernon, Illinois to serve as the worship and family pastors at LifePointe Church. ✉ softballgal370@gmail.com

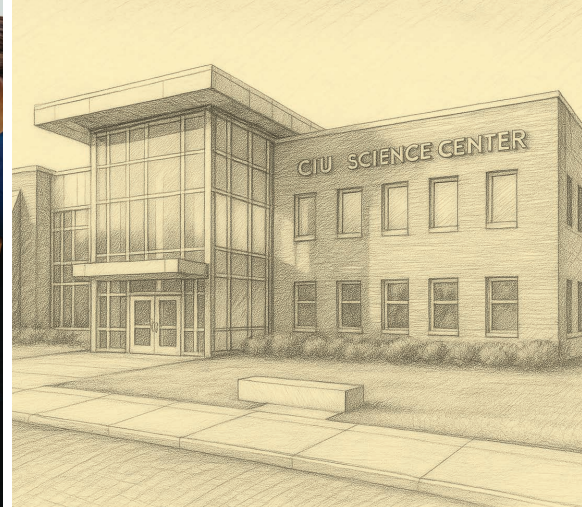
17 JASMINE CHAMBERS ('25) is associate head coach for the Newberry College Wolves volleyball program in Newberry, South Carolina. ✉ chambersjasmine15@gmail.com

IN MEMORIAM

BETTY BOWMAN NOELL ('46) – June 2025
MILDRED NAILE HALL ('48) – Sept. 2024
CAROL BREMER MAHNKE ('50) – Feb. 2025
MARY HARRINGTON SHELLEY ('53) – Apr. 2025
WINIFRED HUSTON CURRIER ('54) – Apr. 2025
BARBARA OSWALT WILLIAMS ('56) – May 2025
JUNE PINSON FOSTER ('56) – June 2025
ASHTON JAMES ('57) – Mar. 2025
ROGER WALKWITZ ('57) – Sept. 2024
LONNIE DALE DEATON ('58) – Sept. 2024
RUSSELL MILLER ('59) – June 2025

BABARA EDMUNDS ADOLPH ('62) – Jan. 2025
DONNA KOSSEN SANFORD ('62) – May 2024
DOROTHY "DITA" GLAHN BYERS ('63) – June 2025
GLENN FELTY ('65) – June 2025
ROBERT LOFTIN ('65) – Oct. 2024
RICHARD GREGORY ('66) – Mar. 2025
MARY "POLLY" PARKER ELNIFF ('68) – Mar. 2024
BENJAMIN OWENS ('68) – Feb. 2025
LANA GREGORY MELLOR ('68) – Apr. 2024
JANA SHIELDS ('69) – Oct. 2024
CESAR VEGA ('71) – July 2025

JACKIE ATKINSON ('73) – Oct. 2024
HENRY LAZENBY ('74) – Mar. 2025
IRIS HOLMES BASTON ('76) – Apr. 2025
TERRY RAINEY ('78) – Mar. 2025
LESTER ODOM ('79) – July 2025
CONNIE LEIGHTON-COX ('85) – Apr. 2025
BRENDA RICH ('88) – Mar. 2025
RICHARD MILLER ('91) – Jan. 2025
TIMOTHY DEMING ('92) – Apr. 2025
DONALD HALL (FORMER FAC/STAFF) – Feb. 2025
SIGRID LEPIK (FORMER FAC/STAFF) – May 2025



▲ This new center will prepare health care workers to serve with excellence where compassion and truth are desperately needed. *(This is not the actual rendering. We are still in the design planning phase.)*

NEW CIU CENTER FOR HEALTH SCIENCES & NURSING

What if Every Exam Room Became a Mission Field?

A 30,000-square foot teaching home for simulation, skills lab and team-based learning is in the planning stages at CIU. This new center will educate students to become caregivers who treat illness with excellence and speak words of eternal hope.

Why Now?

The need for nurses and health care workers is critical. Ranked among the top four states with severe shortages, South Carolina faces a projected shortfall of 12,000 nurses and 3,000 physicians over the next 10 years. Over one third of CIU's incoming students are interested in a health care career.

Why CIU?

Every interaction with a patient and their family is an opportunity for a health care professional to be the hands and feet of Christ, offering a word of encouragement, a moment of prayer or life-giving hope.

CIU pursues excellence professionally and academically as it trains professional ministers and ministering professionals. CIU's new nursing program has a track record of success with the first two graduating classes achieving a 100% pass rate on the National Licensing exam (NCLEX). These students have also completed a rigorous Bible core that allows them to open the Scriptures with confidence.

Ways to Partner

- Pray** Lord, please bless this work for Your glory
- Give**
- Give a thoughtful gift
 - Become a monthly partner
 - Sponsor a room in the Center
- Share** Do you know someone who might want to partner with CIU? Share this info with them!



Learn more, share and give at
ciu.edu/healthcenter

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CIU HOMECOMING 2025

November 12 - 15, 2025



We can't wait to welcome you home!

This fall, Homecoming brings alumni, students and families together to share memories, worship, laughter – and to make new memories you'll treasure. Whether it's been five or fifty years, you'll find familiar faces, favorite spots and that unmistakable CIU spirit!

Don't miss the President's Banquet

**Friday Nov. 14, 2025
at 6:00 p.m.
Moore Fitness Center**

Learn more and register at ciu.edu/homecoming