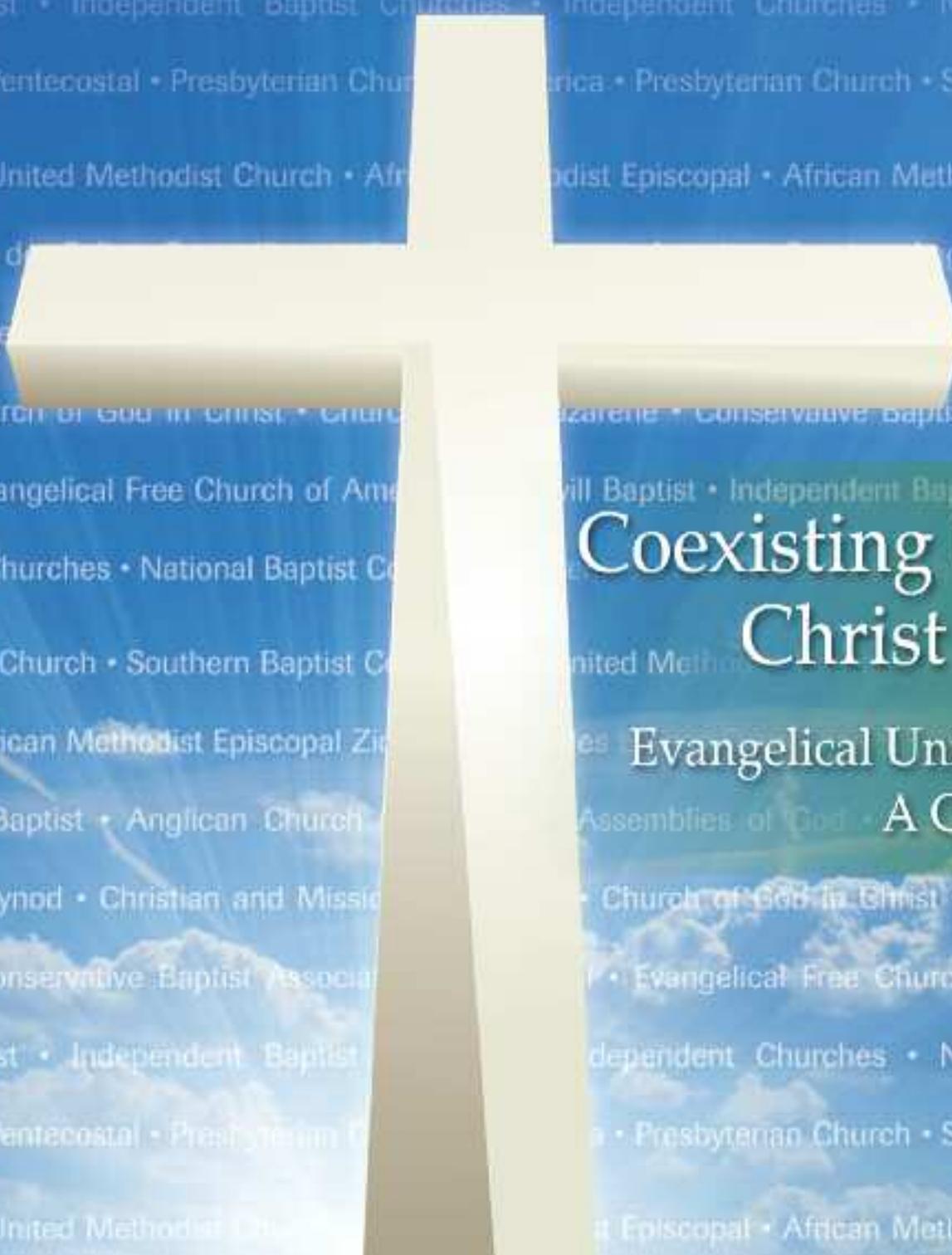


Spring 2010

www.ciu.edu

# Connection

*The magazine of Columbia International University*



## Coexisting Under Christ Alone

Evangelical Unity at CIU:  
A Core Value

Methodist • American Baptist • Anglican Church in America • Episcopal • Evangelical Free Church of America • Freewill Baptist • Independent Baptist Churches • National Baptist Convention • Pentecostal • Presbyterian Church in America • Presbyterian Church • Southern Baptist Convention • United Methodist Church • African Methodist Episcopal • African Methodist Episcopal Zion • Alliance of Baptists • Anglican Church in North America • Christian and Missionary Alliance • Church of God in Christ • Church of the Nazarene • Conservative Baptist Association • Episcopal • Evangelical Free Church of America • Freewill Baptist • Independent Baptist Churches • National Baptist Convention • Pentecostal • Presbyterian Church in America • Presbyterian Church • Southern Baptist Convention • United Methodist Church • African Methodist Episcopal • African Methodist Episcopal Zion • American Baptist • Anglican Church in North America • Christian and Missionary Alliance • Church of God in Christ • Church of the Nazarene • Conservative Baptist Association • Freewill Baptist • Independent Baptist Churches • National Baptist Convention • Pentecostal • Presbyterian Church in America • Presbyterian Church • Southern Baptist Convention • United Methodist Church • African Methodist Episcopal • African Methodist Episcopal Zion

Letter from the President

# Evangelical Unity at CIU

Dear friend of CIU,

Commitment to Evangelical Unity makes Columbia International University distinct. We welcome Christians of evangelical faith, accepting each other regardless of denominational or theological affinity. We encourage and edify each other and minister side by side. CIU students come from over 20 denominations, and nearly 25 percent of them either belong to a racial minority in the United States or is an international student. All this makes for a rich educational experience and reflects the unity Christ desires for His followers.

Jesus stressed unity among believers just before he went to the cross when he said:

*“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”* (John 13:34-35)

Although we may have cultural differences and have diverse theological and historical journeys, we major on the majors and minor on the minors. Not vice versa. Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Bible as the Word of God are always our primary focus. In Christ we find unity while celebrating and learning from our diversity.

In this edition of *Connection* magazine, discover how the CIU experience challenges alumni, students and professors by exposing them to fellow believers from other cultures and denominations. One of our alumni started a church that intentionally bridges the racial divide in his community. Other articles illustrate how the ministries Ben Lippen School and WMHK radio brought together believers in the Columbia area.

The authority of Scripture and the common life of the same Spirit define the limits of Evangelical Unity. In his article, CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin warns evangelicals to “contend earnestly for the faith” and avoid the temptation to draw the evangelical circle too large.

Of special interest is the report “Legacy – The Story of Walter Erikson and Edward Tritt.” These two CIU alumni were martyred in 1952 as they pioneered into the interior of New Guinea to share the love and forgiveness of Christ with people who had never heard of Him. Their CIU training and their purpose for going has not changed. At CIU we educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Please help us build bridges, not barriers, in the body of Christ.

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones  
President



# Connection

Columbia  
International  
University

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*



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*Pictured above:  
CIU core value stone located between the Rossi  
Student Center and WMHK Radio.*

## CIU Names Athletics Director; Prepares for Intercollegiate Athletics



Kim Abbott

For the first time in its 87-year history, Columbia International University has an athletics director. The announcement of Kim Abbott to the post is a major step toward CIU's entry into intercollegiate athletics.

Abbott has been serving as athletics director at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort where she oversaw that school's entry into intercollegiate athletics. She is also a former women's golf coach at the University of South Carolina.

CIU President, Dr. Bill Jones says much prayer and consultation went into the selection of Abbott for the position.

"Kim Abbott is uniquely qualified with the professional skills needed to have a successful athletics program and the spiritual foundation to do so consistent within our Christian value system," Jones said.

Abbott says she understands the positive influence of Christian coaches. Her father John Erickson, former University of Wisconsin basketball coach and a founder of the Milwaukee Bucks, was also the president of Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA) for 18 years and is a 2002 inductee into FCA's Hall of Champions.

"I grew up hearing and believing what the Rev. Billy Graham said that 'One coach will impact more young people in a year than the average person does in a lifetime.' I consider the athletic field to be my mission field," Abbott said.

Jones says for CIU, intercollegiate athletics is a way to develop Christian character in its students. "Our mission is to educate people from a biblical world view to impact the

nations with message of Christ, and that will be the same goal of our athletics program," Jones said.

The first sports to be organized will be men's and women's basketball, men's and women's soccer and women's volleyball, with cross-country a possibility in the near future. Plans are for the first teams to enter into intercollegiate competition in fall 2011.

Abbott was first introduced as the CIU athletics director to over 500 people at a luncheon in CIU's Moore Fitness Center on March 16 where Super Bowl championship coach Tony Dungy was



CIU President Bill Jones (right) presents former Indianapolis Colts coach Tony Dungy with a CIU athletic jersey.

the featured speaker. The luncheon was a benefit for the ministry "With Open Eyes." Dungy was presented with a personalized CIU athletic jersey by President Jones.

## R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Winner Interested in Government



2009 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship winner Tim Caiello

A home schooled student whose dream is to be involved in government, is the winner of the 2009 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship. Tim Caiello, 17, of Lexington, S.C. was awarded the full scholarship to Columbia International University following a weekend of intense competition on the campus of CIU Dec. 3-5.

Caiello, who will major in Humanities, has a passion for Christian apologetics and philosophy. His goal is to become a professor of government at a Christian university, or to be involved in law or government. He is the son of Kevin and Holly Caiello, both alumni of CIU. Caiello says he placed his trust in Christ when he was five years old, and serves in various capacities at St. Andrews Evangelical Church in Columbia, S.C.

In its fifth year, the 2009 McQuilkin Scholarship Weekend drew 61 qualified candidates – the largest in the history of the scholarship. The high school seniors came from 15 states and one from the country of Albania. The scholarship, named after the first president of CIU, is presented to a student of high academic ability who best embodies the motto of CIU: To know Him and to make Him known. The weekend is intense because the judges are always watching. Competing students participated in a holiday party, team-building challenges, worship services, a lunch with professors, a CIU undergraduate class, and a number of interviews.

This year's R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Weekend will be Dec. 2-4. For more information, see page 9 and visit [www.ciu.edu/rcmweekend](http://www.ciu.edu/rcmweekend).

## Unique Groundbreaking for CIU Apartment Community

Columbia International University broke ground Feb. 5 for an \$8.2 million CIU student apartment community named Pine View Apartments. But the groundbreaking ceremony was rather unique. While inclement weather forced the ceremony to be held indoors in Shortess Chapel, it did not keep the event from including the traditional turning of the earth.

CIU Senior Vice President for Development and Operations Keith Marion, CIU President Bill Jones, CIU Board Chairman Marvin Schuster, and local businessman Jeff Wheeler, who leads a foundation spearheading the funding of the apartment community, donned construction hard hats and picked up golden-headed shovels. One by one they turned symbolic soil that had been hauled on to the chapel stage.

The CIU Board of Trustees, students, faculty, staff and some alumni were on hand to celebrate.

Marion told the crowd that the dream to build apartments began around three years ago, and because of the prayers of faithful men and women, it's becoming reality.

"It's not about buildings, it's about you," Marion told the students. "And about making your preparation for ministry, wherever God calls you in the world, the most effective it can be. We want to enhance that by providing the opportunity for housing."

Land has been cleared, and the building of 204 apartment homes on 12 acres is underway.

Rick Swift, CIU dean of Student Life told the students the apartments will help them grow spiritually through the dynamic of community.

"Side by side investing in each other's lives," Swift explained. "Speaking into each other's lives – encouraging and praying for each other."

The CIU apartment community is expected to be completed in August, in time for students to move in for the fall semester.



[ Artist rendering of CIU's Pine View Apartments. ]



## CIU Alumni Respond to Haiti Earthquake

Though the shock of the Haiti earthquake may have passed from the forefront of our minds, for hundreds of thousands of displaced people it has not. There are many Columbia International University alumni living on these frontlines responding to the need. Here are just a few:

**Dan Shoemaker** (class of '80) served for 25 years in Haiti before becoming president of Reciprocal Ministries International (RMI). He flew to RMI's headquarters in Les Cayes, Haiti to coordinate relief aid with staff. They are assisting individuals, churches, and other organizations who are feeding refugees.

**Steve McGee** (Class of '92) is president of Ministries in Action (MIA) which is providing housing for medical teams in Port-au-Prince.

**Bresile St. Germain** (Class of '88 and Alumni of the Year '95) is Haitian director of MIA. He has been contacting Haitian pastors and churches with whom MIA has established a working relationship in the past.

**Sean Christensen** (Class of '98) serves with World Team and teaches at a Bible college in Les Cayes. The school has been closed since the earthquake, but he and his family have found other ways to serve. Their satellite Internet phone is being used for international communication and their truck has transported medical supplies, patients, and nurses. They are working in cooperation with local churches to expedite distribution of supplies among the refugees in Les Cayes.

In a correspondence with CIU's Alumni Ministries Office, Christensen said, "In the midst of such dark news we have the deep-seated joy of knowing that, in God's economy, we've frequently been privileged to see the beauty of Christ and His agenda emerge from the rubble of disaster. No doubt, God is at work and cares for those who are in need and grieving."



[ CIU alumnus Dan Shoemaker (in white hat) unloading medical supplies in Haiti. ]

## Letters to the Editor

*Response to our issue on Victorious Christian Living*

### Dear Editor,

As our nation has been descending down the path of polytheism, agnosticism and atheism for the past half-century or so, it really is crucial that the Body of Christ in America get to the heart of the gospel of Jesus Christ. (When) Connection magazine arrived ... I read it completely through. It was all good, but some things were especially meaningful to me, at this time in our nation's history. The first were comments by Dr. (Rick) Higgins that, "God just wants us to let Him work through us" and "But what I've learned is that preparing the messenger ... is much more important than preparing the message."

The second comment was by Dr. Roy King who said that "victorious Christian living comes down to the matter of the heart."

But the article that really caught my attention was the one by (President Emeritus) Robertson McQuilkin. What he said about *KNOWING* Christ was just awesome — "For only to the extent we become like Him, can we truly experience that intimate oneness *He so longs for.*" When I read that article, I said to myself, "That sounds like his father (CIU's first president R.C. McQuilkin) talking."

- Patricia L. Carson, Class of '62,  
Yreka, Calif.

\* \* \*

*Letters to the Editor are welcome. Correspondence must include your name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit for clarity and length. There is no guarantee your letter will be published, nor will letters be returned. Write to: Connection Editor, Columbia International University, 7435 Monticello Road, Columbia, SC 29203. Or e-mail [publicrelations@ciu.edu](mailto:publicrelations@ciu.edu).*

## Scholarship Honors Distinguished CIU Professor

For more than four decades, the generous spirit of CIU Distinguished Professor Emeritus Dr. Terry Hulbert has touched the lives of many through his teaching, leadership, and mission work. Now, because of a substantial donation, a scholarship has been set up to honor both Dr. Hulbert and his wife, Jean that will impact future generations of students in CIU Seminary & School of Missions.

Before coming to CIU, the Hulberts served in Zambia with the Africa Evangelical Fellowship (AEF), teaching at a rural Bible school and later founding the urban Theological College of Central Africa. He served as executive director of AEF before coming to CIU in 1972. Jean Hulbert assisted and ministered in various capacities during their time in Africa.

Dr. Hulbert's career at CIU began when he was asked by then president, Robertson McQuilkin, to establish the Graduate School of Bible and Missions, now called CIU Seminary & School of Missions. Since then he has served in many capacities at CIU, including as a dean, provost and interim president — but always as a professor.

The lives that Dr. Hulbert and Jean touched along the way included those of Bill and Mary Foyce Sigmon. The Sigmons first met the Hulberts about 40 years ago in Greensboro, N.C. Dr. Hulbert spoke at their church and then at missionary conferences they attended. The Sigmons solidified a friendship with the Hulberts built out of "sincere respect and appreciation" for the couple, that motivated them to recently donate \$200,000 to found the Dr. Terry and Jean Hulbert Scholarship. Because of another recent matching funds donation, the Hulbert scholarship was elevated to \$400,000.



[ Dr. Terry Hulbert ]

"The Lord just laid it on our hearts," says Bill Sigmon. "Everyone who knows (the Hulberts) have a great deal of respect for them, for the work they did in missions, and for his influence as a teacher. They're an intelligent, outstanding couple and we very much appreciate them."

Hulbert says he's thankful the Sigmons are investing in future CIU students.

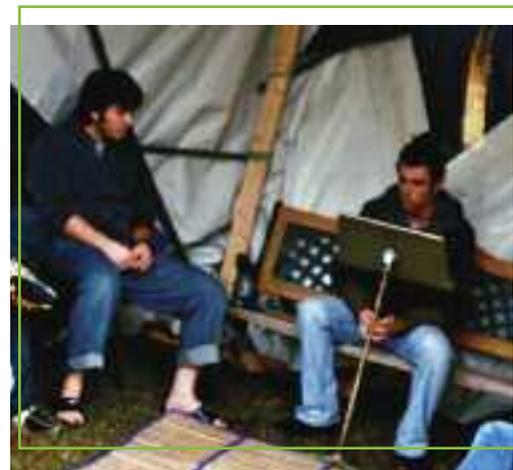
"My greatest privilege has been teaching the Word, so I would like to see this scholarship give others the opportunity to learn the Word and to teach it themselves," Hulbert said.

## CIU Students Read Through the Bible – Aloud

They wanted every word in the Word to be heard. Columbia International University students read through the Bible — aloud from Nov. 10 to Nov. 14. Despite heavy rains from the remnants of Tropical Storm Ida during the early part of the week, the outdoor reading continued inside a makeshift tent. The marathon came on the heels of "Authority of Scripture Week" at CIU. The Authority of Scripture is a CIU core value.

Senior Will Somerville, who helped organize the event, said he wanted to delight in Scripture and rejoice in it.

"So I had the idea, and I sent it out to others, Somerville said. "We decided it needed to be done. The Lord led us to this for His glory. It's been a real exciting thing to see students come together. To just gather and read God's Word." †



[ CIU students read through the Bible inside a makeshift tent. ]

# Is leading them difficult?



Leading people to become mature followers of Christ is a difficult job. This summer, let Columbia International University add to your leadership toolbox with three courses designed for you. Contact us to learn how you can complete these classes for Seminary or CEU credit.

Visit [www.ciu.edu/ministry](http://www.ciu.edu/ministry) to learn more.

JUNE 14-18, 2010  
PREACHING FOR SPIRITUAL CHANGE

JUNE 14-18, 2010  
MISSIONAL LEADERSHIP: CHARACTER,  
CONTEXT, AND CHALLENGE

JUNE 21-25, 2010  
SPIRITUAL MENTORING

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Undergraduate • Graduate • Seminary

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e-mail: [yessem@ciu.edu](mailto:yessem@ciu.edu)  
call: (800) 777-2227, ext. 5024

Columbia International University is an equal opportunity institution.

Place yourself in the shoes of a prospective or current student at Columbia International University. Imagine for a moment your sense of disappointment when you know for certain that God has kindled within your spirit a hunger for His Word and a desire to serve Him, but the cost of education seems insurmountable.

The annual cost to be a full-time student is about \$23,000.

Consider a four-year program and calculate inflation. By the time students finish a degree, they have incurred over \$100,000 of expenses — equivalent to a starter home in some parts of the country, several vehicles or at a minimum, a lifetime of carbon offsets).

# The POWER of One

**M**ost students and most families cannot afford these expenses by themselves. Some families have more than one child attending college at the same time, thus compounding the challenge of affording school. Other students have families of their own for whom they are responsible.

What can be done to help educate tomorrow's professional ministers as well as tomorrow's ministering professionals?

The cost of education at CIU is significantly underwritten through various financial scholarship programs funded by the charitable gifts of our alumni and friends. Roughly 40 percent of our students receive financial scholarship assistance through the One Student – One Class campaign.

Through The POWER of One – you can make a difference in the life of one student, one class at a time. Because we supplement the cost of education through reduced tuition and gift income, the average gift needed to place one student in one class for one day is equal to \$15. Of course, there are other thresholds of giving. Here is a breakdown:

One Day	.....\$15
One Week	.....\$75
One Month	.....\$300
One Semester	.....\$1,200
One Year	.....\$2,400

Multiply the POWER of One with your financial contribution to Columbia International University. You can give simply by using the envelope inside this edition of *Connection* magazine, or by visiting [www.ciu.edu/impact/alumniproject.html](http://www.ciu.edu/impact/alumniproject.html). †

**In Dr. Jack Layman's Progress of Redemption class I learned that God is not in a hurry and that he takes lots of time to grow and develop us. As a result, I am growing to rest in Him even when His work seems to be taking a long time! – Matt**

**I am grateful for Hule Goddard who teaches from His daily communion with God and Dr. Kevin McWilliams who is always passionate for the Word of God to be preached all over the world. These two and many others have been used by God to prepare me to preach the gospel of Jesus in my home country of Turkey. CIU is also a place of rest and encouragement for believers who are of the same passion – to know Him, and to make Him known. – Ozgur**

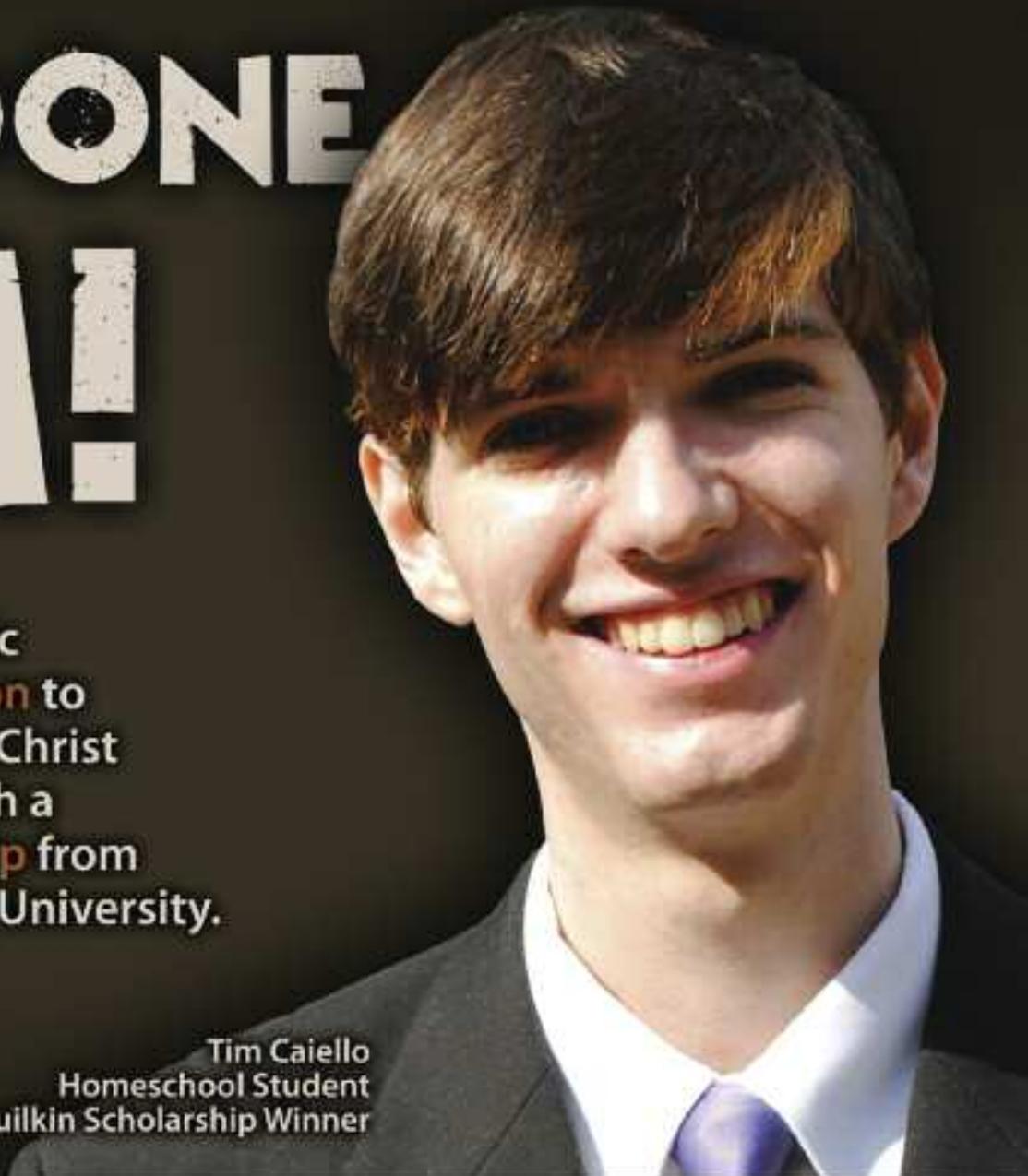
**Through Dr. Glenn Gentry's class, the Holy Spirit convicted and taught me that the Lord is sovereign and involved in every aspect of my life. This has changed my view on living my life for Jesus, and encouraged my faith in His sovereignty and goodness. – Sara**

**THE POWER OF  ONE**  
one student - one class

# WELL DONE TIM!

Tim's pursuit of academic excellence and passion to impact the nations for Christ was recognized with a full-tuition scholarship from Columbia International University.

Tim Caiello  
Homeschool Student  
2009 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Winner



In its fifth year, the 2009 McQuilkin Scholarship Weekend drew 61 qualified candidates – the largest in the history of the scholarship. The high school seniors were challenged with team-building activities and intense interviews. But they also had fun at a Christmas party, and got a "taste" of CIU by having lunch with professors, and attending classes.

**R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Weekend 2010** December 2-4, 2010 | Know any high school seniors who are up to the McQuilkin Weekend Challenge? Encourage them to register. They could be awarded a full-tuition scholarship! Plus, other scholarships will be awarded during the weekend! Direct them to [www.ciu.edu/rcmweekend](http://www.ciu.edu/rcmweekend) to find out more!

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Columbia International University admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

## Historical Perspective

By CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin

# Evangelical Unity at CIU THE HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Where did it come from? CIU's core value of "evangelical unity," that is. At CIU's founding in the 1920s, the battle between modernism and fundamentalism had become more and more acrimonious.

Many of those who believed strongly in the fundamentals of the faith became increasingly uneasy with the tone and methods of the "fighting fundies" or "separatists" as they were called. That is when the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE) was formed — those who believed the fundamental doctrines of Scripture but took a more positive approach. My father, CIU's first president Robert C. McQuilkin, participated in the founding of NAE. He believed the unity of the Body was of great importance, and was determined to "keep the unity of the Spirit in the bonds of peace" (Eph. 4:3).

McQuilkin urged students to be loyal to their church and denomination, but for him that loyalty came in second to loyalty to Christ and the unity of his body.

At the time, especially in the South, denominational loyalty was so strong there were jokes about Saint Peter cautioning the latest arrival in heaven, "Shhhh. Those \_\_\_\_\_ behind that wall think they're the only one's here!" McQuilkin urged students to be loyal to their church and denomination, but for him that loyalty came in second to loyalty to Christ and the unity of his body. For example, in the early days of the school McQuilkin's presbytery demanded that he put the school, then called Columbia Bible College (CBC), under their jurisdiction. He refused, insisting that CBC was INTERdenominational.

Another challenge to unity: there were deep doctrinal divides. New students at CIU were often astonished to find Reformed faculty teaching side-by-side with dispensational, for example. McQuilkin was not charismatic, "truly reformed," dispensational, or separatist, but he would not tolerate the bashing of any of these brothers in Christ.

But in the 70s the landscape began to change. Denominational loyalty became less and less an issue as most seemed to abandon such loyalties. And, more significant in the changing scene, doctrinal fidelity among those who considered themselves "evangelical" eroded. In the early 80s I gave a paper at the historic Council on Biblical Inerrancy. After a particularly bruising session over my paper, when I returned to my bedroom I mused aloud, "I'm no longer an evangelical." My roommate was an aging leader in the early Fundamentalist movement. He was asleep when I entered, but hearing my comment, sat bolt upright in bed. "What did you say?" I explained there was such a wide variety of doctrine among those who call themselves "evangelical" there is little usefulness left in the term. "Oh," he said, and lay back to his slumbers. He didn't seem surprised.

These days "Evangelicals" in ever increasing numbers accept multiple ways to God, moral relativity, denial of hell, and much more. It's time to return to Jude's admonition, "Contend earnestly for the faith" (Jude 3) — but always with humility and grace.

So today, as we contend earnestly for the faith, we do so in fellowship with all who name Jesus as lord, in partnership with all who adhere to historic orthodoxy, and minister with those who are doctrinally compatible. That's Evangelical Unity at Columbia International University. †



CIU's first president Robert C. McQuilkin

“You get so inundated with your own church, so it’s nice to step away from that for an evening and meet others in the community.”

– Danny Wilson, youth minister, North Trenholm Baptist Church

**Ben Lippen School**

By Deena C. Bouknight

# Ben Lippen School Promotes Evangelical Unity

## WITH PASTORS NIGHT EVENT

A focus on fun and fellowship was the theme for Pastors Night at Ben Lippen School. Pastors from throughout the Columbia area were treated to chili and “fixins,” door prizes, and free admission to Ben Lippen basketball games.

Ben Lippen Events Coordinator Jennifer Weeks says with 120 churches represented at Ben Lippen, the Pastors Night gives local clergy “a chance to learn more about Ben Lippen as a resource for the children in their congregations.”

“And it provides an opportunity for them to relax and fellowship with pastors of other denominations,” Weeks said.

The 800-member, Pre-K to 12th grade student body at Ben Lippen is made up of a wide variety of Christian denominations. Plus, there are at least 90 international boarding students from 11 different countries.

During a welcome address by Columbia International University Vice President for Christian School Education Mickey

Bowden, he told pastors that the goal of Ben Lippen School is to “permeate” the truth of God’s word into every class and every student. He said that pastors in the community help to build a spiritual foundation in the lives of the students that enables them to become shining lights for Christ in the world.

North Trenholm Baptist Church’s youth minister, Danny Wilson, says he came out to Pastors Night to support the school where his daughter, Brook, has attended since kindergarten. He was there with the church’s head pastor and education pastor.

“This is a great event to encourage fellowship among pastors,” Wilson said. “You get

so inundated with your own church, so it’s nice to step away from that for an evening and meet others in the community.”

Wilson also said he supports Ben Lippen because of its focus on Christian education and for its multidenominational community.

Brian Nacy, who pastors Abundant Life Bible Church in Mexico City, brought his wife and children to Pastors Night to support the school that has taught his daughter for the past year and a half while he has attended pastoral counseling classes at Columbia International University.

“We want to support the school whenever possible,” says Nacy, “and we love basketball!”

Most pastors were invited by someone in their congregation who has ties to Ben Lippen.

Lorenzo White, head pastor of Fathers House Ministries International in Columbia was invited by a member, Angela Lewis, who teaches middle school at Ben Lippen. White was also the speaker for Lewis’ class during a chapel service.

“We’re a nondenominational, interdenominational, Bible-believing church,” says White, “We have African-Americans, Caucasians, and Hispanics attending right now, and we have connections with missionary efforts in Haiti, Panama, Ethiopia, and India. I appreciate the same spirit that is represented here at Ben Lippen.”

“We have quite a few from our church who attend Ben Lippen,” says Kuong Wong, head pastor at Chinese Christian Church of Columbia. “Our children attended here for a time, and one is a graduate of CIU and one attends CIU, so we have ties here.”

Weeks says the event is also a chance for Ben Lippen to let churches know that the schools’ doors are open to all students, regardless of their family income. Last year alone, almost a half million dollars was provided in financial aid.

A little financial aid of sorts was given out at the Pastors Night, as well. Before heading into the gym for the boys basketball game, Pastor Wong found out he was the winner of a \$25 restaurant gift card. †

\* \* \*

*Deena C. Bouknight is a freelance writer/editor in Columbia, S.C.*



*Pastor Lorenzo White meets a fellow pastor at Ben Lippen’s Pastors Night.*

## In the Classroom

By Bryan Beyer, William Larkin, and John Harvey  
CIU Seminary & School of Missions Faculty Members

# Evangelical Unity in the CIU Classroom

At CIU, we believe in  
Evangelical Unity.

We believe in it so much that Evangelical  
Unity stands alongside the Authority of  
Scripture, Victorious Christian Living,  
World Evangelization, and  
Prayer & Faith  
as one of our  
five core

values. By “evangelical unity,” we mean  
we intend to include in our circle of  
fellowship as many evangelical Christians  
as possible and to exclude as few as  
possible. As we strive for this goal, we try  
to remain at the center of biblical tension.

We want to avoid dogmatism, by which  
we adopt a rigid stance where Scripture  
remains unclear according to our  
corporate understanding. On the other  
hand, we also want to avoid unhealthy  
compromise, by which we might adopt  
too loose a stance on an  
essential matter of doctrine.

Since its beginning, CIU has part-  
nered in ministry with other  
Christians and with other Christian  
organizations. We accept as fellow  
Christians all who by grace  
through faith confess Jesus Christ  
as God’s eternal Son and our Savior.  
We officially cooperate in spiritual endeavors  
with those who affirm the authority and trust-  
worthiness of Scripture. And we employ  
persons at CIU who affirm our doctrinal stan-  
dard and agree with established policies.

### CIU is Multi-Denominational

CIU’s evangelical unity, reflected in the  
denominational diversity of its faculty, staff,  
and students, provides rich opportunities for  
interaction and growth. We allow faculty to  
teach their own theological positions, though  
faculty agree to alert students when more than  
one evangelical interpretation or practice  
exists. Faculty members also agree to affirm  
and support their colleagues, respecting differ-  
ences of opinion on non-essential matters of  
doctrine. In fact, in the classroom, students  
find their professors expect them to wrestle  
with the evidence and reach their own bibli-  
cally-based conclusions. CIU undergraduate  
student Jon Shrack calls Evangelical Unity  
“huge on campus.”

“We’re different people, teamed up to fulfill  
the commandment that God gave us to go out  
in the world and make disciples,” Shrack said.

By “evangelical unity,” we mean we intend to include in our circle of fellowship as many evangelical Christians as possible and to exclude as few as possible.

CIU alumnus, The Rev. Jim Roberts, pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Clinton, S.C., says it was a “great joy” for him to be able to formulate what he believed in the context of evangelical unity.

“Discussions around the tables with my brothers in Christ from other denominations not only helped me become stronger in what I believe about the Reformed faith to which I hold, it also gave me a deep appreciation for those who love Christ and yet have different theological convictions,” Roberts said.

“The spirit (of evangelical unity) has followed me into ministry in the local church where I have learned to work side-by-side with those outside the Reformed faith for the sake of Christ.”



CIU student Freddie Folston – “Learning at CIU is truly a two-way street. Not only do I go to learn from them, but professors come to learn from us.”

### A Commitment to Ethnic Diversity

Of course, evangelical unity implies more than unity across theological lines. It also embraces evangelicals of other ethnic groups and shows itself in CIU’s commitment to ethnic diversity. Twenty-five years ago the CIU faculty and board of trustees adopted a statement on race relations. It affirmed that CIU will pursue racial harmony that will be evident in the personnel, programs, policies, curriculum, communications, and overall conduct of life at CIU.

A quarter of a century later, how is CIU doing? In terms of the overall student body, 22 percent are either minority (15%) or international (7%) students. For a closer look, consider several initiatives CIU Seminary & School of Missions is taking as it implements its mission statement “to equip Great Commission Christians to minister in multi-cultural communities.”

The seminary’s curriculum seeks to equip students in its diverse student body (18% African-American, 5% Asian, 2% Hispanic) for ministry in their own ethnic contexts. One example is the outgrowth of consultation with the seventh district of the African Methodist Episcopal Church. The seminary now offers four courses taught by AME church leaders. Students can avail themselves of instruction in AME history, AME polity and law, AME worship, and Wesleyan theology. Student Pamela M. Jacobs, an AME Itinerant Elder, is thankful for the courses.

“This AME package is a tremendous step in accommodating, preparing, and



Evangelist and CIU doctoral student Raphael Anzenberger has seen evangelical unity among believers in his native country of France.

equipping students in our denomination for ministry,” Jacobs said. “CIU has taken a great step forward in offering these courses.”

CIU has also entered into a partnership agreement with Allen University and similar discussions with Benedict College, both historically black institutions in Columbia.

Further, seminary dean Junias Venugopal has challenged the faculty to

“When I saw the professors show up at church, I was astonished, amazed and delighted.” – Freddie Folston, CIU student

visit churches where African-American students are ministering. Such experiences have been diverse in and of themselves. They have included worship at Bibleway Church of Atlas Road, where CIU alumnus Darrell Jackson leads a ministerial staff that has been, or is being equipped at CIU’s seminary; the ordination service of seminary alumna,

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## In the Classroom

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Venice Inabinet, at Zion Canaan Baptist Church; and a Christmas program at independent Agape Church, where student Freddie Folston is an elder and the minister of music.

The visit by CIU professors meant a lot to Folston.

"When I saw the professors show up at church, I was astonished, amazed and delighted," Folston said. "And my heart was overjoyed when I saw them fully involved in worship. This experience opened a whole new connection with faculty outside the classroom and campus. I realized that learning at CIU is truly a two-way street. Not only do I go to learn from them, but professors come to learn from us."

"There I was a white Presbyterian from North America worshiping and working with black Pentecostals from Southern Africa. Talk about evangelical unity!"

– CIU seminary professor John Harvey

### International is Our Middle Name

With "International" as its middle name, it is only natural that CIU's commitment to evangelical unity also extends outside the borders of the United States to Christian brothers and sisters of other nationalities. When former dean Ken Mulholland told seminary faculty member John Harvey, for example, to "get out of the country" for his first study leave in 1996, the four months away provided a crash course in meeting and ministering with Christians in other countries.

Perhaps the biggest contrast came during the three weeks Harvey spent in South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

"There I was a white Presbyterian from North America worshiping and working with black Pentecostals from Southern Africa. Talk about evangelical unity!" Harvey said.

"We were about as diverse as you could get, but we were all united in the task of sharing the gospel with others who needed to hear it."

On that same trip he met German Lutherans, members of the Zambian Reformed Church, members of a French evangelical church, and the congregations of two international Baptist churches in the Netherlands. It forever changed the way he thought about evangelical unity, but it is typical of the way in which CIU faculty members engage regularly in cross-cultural ministry and, so, help foster evangelical unity that crosses ethnic, cultural, and international lines.

French evangelist Raphael Anzenberger, a CIU doctoral student, says he appreciates the CIU core value of Evangelical Unity because it is important to his ministry.

"There is more to gain from evangelical unity in the body of Christ, than from

endless dissension," Anzenberger said. He speaks from experience.

Anzenberger says that in 2001, there was a historic breakthrough in the French church when Conservatives, Pentecostals, and Charismatics came together as one to give birth to the National Council of French Evangelicals.

"This unprecedented mark of unity is fostering great enthusiasm and opportunities to further God's Kingdom in a country historically divided by humanist monarchs," Anzenberger said.

Whether in the classroom, in the church, in the community, or on the mission field, CIU's commitment to Evangelical Unity marks its faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Focusing without compromise on essential evangelical



*CIU student Pamela Jacobs listens intently during a seminary class on leadership.*



*Undergraduate student Jon Shrack: "Teamed up ... to go out in the world ..."*

doctrines, while agreeing to disagree on the non-essentials that often hinder the progress of the gospel, enables CIU to fulfill its purpose of "educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ." †

# The Spirit of Giving

NEW CHRISTMAS PROMOTION  
CREATED A SPIRIT OF UNITY  
AMONG LISTENERS

at WMHK

**T**his past Christmas season 89.7 WMHK embarked on a new promotion called *The Spirit of Giving*. We got the idea from our sister station, New Life 91.9 in Charlotte, N.C. They've been doing this promotion for the past several years. Here's how it worked.

Listeners visited our website where they selected between one of two options. With the first option, listeners told us about a needy family and listed some of their specific needs. In the second option, listeners offered assistance to meet the needs of hurting families. The task of the radio station staff was to pair the families in need with families who were able to help. To maintain the anonymity of the families, we asked that those who were providing gifts drop them off at the radio station, then we would contact the families in need, and they would come to the radio station to receive their gifts.

Countless Christmas gifts and gift cards were purchased and donated to families who otherwise would not have had any gifts on Christmas morning. In fact, one listener who received gifts shared that they had "just lost [their] house." Columbia International University's Physical Plant gave by taking the time to do household repairs for a mother in

need. The mother was so touched that she and her daughter provided gifts for two other families on our list!

Another listener, Matt, wrote in about his cousin, Clint, who has a disability. He explained to us that the family "has been through a lot ... with the loss of their father, so for [them] to be able to contact the radio station and have them provide something for this family was a wonderful situation." The family received some everyday necessities, and computer repairs.

In a world marked by division, it was amazing how easily this promotion encouraged unity, especially evangelical unity! No one was concerned about denominational lines. The only agenda was families helping other families in need, and all the glory goes to Christ. We at 89.7 WMHK were blessed as we watched family after family reach out as the hands of Christ. Because of the generosity of these families and our kind sponsor, C&C Builders, over 70 individuals were helped, and gifts easily totaled \$10,000!

There are countless stories like the ones above; we wish that we could share them all with you! The promotion was the best that we have done in years! We were blessed to be able to share laughs, smiles, hugs, tears and prayers with many! †



**In a world marked by  
division, it was amazing  
how easily this promotion  
encouraged unity, especially  
evangelical unity!**

# The Story of Walter Erikson and Edward Tritt



The missionary labor  
of two Columbia  
International  
University students  
from almost 60 years  
ago is bearing fruit  
for a new generation.

**In September 1952**, Columbia International University (then called Columbia Bible College – CBC) graduates Walter Erikson, 39, and Edward Tritt, 32, were invited by government officials of what was then Dutch New Guinea – and today is the Indonesian province of West Papua – on a survey trip of the remote, western-most region known as the Bird’s Head. Erikson and Tritt were the first two missionaries sent to the country by The Evangelical Alliance Mission (TEAM).

**T**he men had served in the military during World War II — Erikson in the Coast Guard and Tritt in the Marines. After their military duty had ended, Erikson, a native of Elgin, Ill., and Tritt, of Omro, Wis., had come to study at Columbia Bible College, both of them passionately interested in missions.

Upon graduation, Erikson sailed for Dutch New Guinea, arriving in January 1951. For a year and a half, Erikson scouted out a base for TEAM’s pioneering work. The Catholic and Dutch Reformed churches had strong presences in the south and east, so Erikson eventually settled in Manokwari, a small city on the northwestern coast.

“Dear Ones,” he wrote to his family in May 1952, “I wonder if I should be out on the street witnessing for my wonderful Lord or be writing to you. I wonder which will bring most glory to Christ and reach the most people for Him... Haven’t time to write more now — souls are perishing.”

Tritt arrived in July 1952 and soon after, the men began planning a trip into the interior.

“We feel that we should go in and occupy this field NOW,” Tritt wrote to a family friend. “Many of these natives have never seen a white person and they are still living in the stone-age. Most of them worship the Devil himself and live in constant fear.”

### **No Undue Danger**

When the time came for Erikson and Tritt to depart on their trek, the Dutch official scheduled to accompany them was detained. But they were assured that they were in no undue danger, so they set off on their own by boat to the coastal

village of Saokorem. There, they hired 16 local carriers and a guide for the journey into the interior.

Trekking on foot in the mountainous region, the men encountered rugged and hostile jungle terrain. Rain hampered their progress, and they suffered debilitating ailments. On Sept. 13, Tritt notes in his diary: “Were on our way by 7:20. All went well until I threw up my breakfast.”

Daily the men were challenged by the rigors of the journey.

“The climbing was still rough [today] but not so much up,” Tritt notes on the 19th. “Shortly before we arrived at Siakwa, we had to stop and remove the blood suckers from our socks.”

As the journey became more arduous, relationships frayed. The group of carriers changed almost daily, as some deserted and others arrived. The language barrier hindered communication — a round-robin of Malay, Dutch, English and a local language — but the carriers clearly wanted to turn back. “At 1:45 we came into Wasari,” Tritt notes on the 20th. “Our carriers got scared about this time and said these people would kill us.”

*“We feel that we should go in and occupy this field NOW,” Tritt wrote to a family friend. “Many of these natives have never seen a white person and they are still living in the stone-age. Most of them worship the Devil himself and live in constant fear.”*

### **They Must Take the Gun**

Disagreements surfaced about their route. “The guide is taking us in an E and SE direction all the time,” Tritt writes on the 23rd. “We keep telling them that we want to go S but they don’t seem to want to do that.”

With every passing day, tensions increased. “Was awakened at 5 o’clock this morning by loud talking,” Tritt notes one day. “It sounded like one was saying something and all the rest were repeating what was said.” Another day, Erikson came

*Pictured opposite page: Ed Tritt in front of ship before departing for Dutch New Guinea. (Courtesy Stapf family.)*

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## Legacy

(continued from page 17)

upon a group of carriers, "some very stirred," and he "saw them snicker."

The brewing conflicts at last came to a head. The lead guide, Jeremias Waridjo, a former policeman known as a volatile man, was armed with a gun. On Sept. 25, Erikson and Tritt decided that to ensure the party's safety they must take the gun. Reports of the incident vary; the missionaries may have had to use force.

On Sept. 27, Tritt records that the party made camp at 4:30 p.m., after which they cooked a dinner of rice, potatoes, salmon and young bamboo. When darkness fell, the men retired to their hammocks.

Tritt's diary stops there.

Within days, the men were reported missing and a search party started out. Weeks went by. Finally, on Nov. 6, TEAM received a shocking call at its Chicago headquarters. It was taken by the switchboard operator, Beulah Stapf, who happened to be Tritt's fiancée.

"It was a telegram operator informing us of Walter and Ed's deaths," she said, weeping as she recalled the moment. "I had to tell the director. We were so broken. They were such fine young men."

Early on the morning of Sept. 28, the carriers had attacked the sleeping missionaries, bludgeoning them with firewood and hacking at them with machetes. Tritt died first, very near his hammock. Erikson, wounded, crawled to a nearby river cave, but died there. The search party found their bodies on Oct. 17 in the River Ainim near the village of Maoepas.

### "These Gave Everything."

TEAM missionaries Harold and Muriel Lovestrand, aboard a freighter in Singapore on their way to New Guinea to join the two pioneer missionaries, received a terse telegram: "These gave everything." Yet they sailed on.

At a missions conference at Tennessee Temple Bible School in Chattanooga, Tenn., TEAM's assistant general director



Above: Beulah Stapf, fiancée of Ed Tritt.  
(Courtesy Tritt Family.)

Right: Bulletin from TEAM announcing the deaths of Erikson and Tritt.  
(Courtesy TEAM.)

"It was a telegram operator informing us of Walter and Ed's deaths," she said, weeping as she recalled the moment. "I had to tell the director. We were so broken. They were such fine young men."  
— Beulah Stapf, Ed Tritt's fiancée



**Erikson's fiancée, Eleanor Johnson, served as an Evangelical Free Church nurse in the Congo for 10 years. She was preparing to depart the Congo to marry Walter in Singapore when word of their deaths came to her.**

Vernon Mortenson announced the men's fate. Ron and Charlene Hill responded promptly.

"We presented ourselves as replacements for Walter and Ed," recalled Hill from his home in Caseyville, Ill. "I went to the same church as Walter, and one night, when he was getting ready to go, we talked for a long time after the service. I surrendered that night to whatever God wanted me to do, and Walter prayed with me."

Other missionaries followed, many of them CBC graduates: Dick and Charlotte Griffiths, Davis and Ruth Hopkins, Henry and Margery Bock, Forrest and Dorothy Thorsby, Dick and Ruth Roesler, and Charles and Bernita Preston, among others. Dick Griffiths remembers reading about the men's deaths in a Philadelphia newspaper.

"The Lord called me to serve as a missionary somewhere," he said. "The 'somewhere' didn't hit me until I read a two-inch column in the *Evening Bulletin* about the martyrdom while I was at Faith Theological Seminary. The call to a specific place for missionary service came to me at that very moment."

Dennis Cochrane, who served in the southern highlands of Papua as a translator with Wycliffe, was inspired by a TEAM tract printed in the men's honor that challenged readers: "O God, / And shall my heart / Be cold— / When men go out to die / For Thee?"

Incredibly, as in the almost mythic story of Jim Elliot's party of missionaries killed in 1956 by the Aucas in the jungles of Ecuador, those closest to the men heeded the call. Beulah Stapf spent five years with TEAM in the Anggi Lakes area of the Bird's Head. Erikson's fiancée, Eleanor Johnson, served as an Evangelical Free Church nurse in the Congo for 10 years. She was preparing to depart the Congo to marry Walter in Singapore when word of their deaths came to her.

Both women grieved, yet they did not lose hope.

"I know you will pray that I will not be overcome by sorrow," Johnson wrote to her supporters, adding, "I consider it a great honor to have been engaged to one whom God chose to be a martyr."

That Johnson leaned on prayer even in her despair wouldn't have surprised anyone who knew her. "Eleanor was a prayer warrior," her sister Edith Culbreath said from her home in Atascadero, Calif. "If I or anybody else mentioned something

that needed prayer, she would immediately answer, 'Maybe we should pray now.'"

Johnson's colleagues in the Congo mourned with her. "I regretted that Eleanor's engagement to Walter would pull her away from the Congo — a little sanctified 'green eye,' there!" wrote Dr. H. Wilbert Norton in an e-mail. "But we rejoiced that she and Walter would do a great job in New Guinea."

Beulah Stapf composed a letter to Tritt's prayer supporters, something he planned to do after he returned from the trek — a letter in which he would announce their engagement. Instead, she wrote: "We do not always understand these things, but we know 'Our Lord Reigneth.'"

Stapf has fond memories of her days at CBC, and of her courtship with Tritt. "We had two dates, which we enjoyed, but then he didn't ask me out again," Stapf said.

But at the Summer Institute of Linguistics in Oklahoma one summer, fellow CBC student Cecil Hawkins helped fan the flames.

"Driving out there, Cecil asked me, 'Isn't there somebody you're interested in?' I told him about Ed," Stapf recalls.



*Eleanor E. Johnson,  
Walter Erikson's fiancée.  
(Courtesy Edith Culbreath.)*

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## Legacy

(continued from page 19)

“Cecil went in and told Ed, and he started paying attention to me again.”

“I later found out it was all a misunderstanding,” she adds. “I worked as a file clerk part time and needed my study time, so I couldn’t attend the student missions meetings on Saturday night. It turns out Ed thought I wasn’t interested in missions.”

Cecil Hawkins roomed with both Erikson and Tritt and remembers his classmates fondly. “Both Ed and Walter were good students, serious about missions,” he said from his home in Texas. “For a student service project, Walter chose just about the hardest assignment you could imagine — working with chain gangs at a prison farm.”

Stapf’s close friend Martha Duff Tripp regretted that their mission work separated the two women. “Beulah wanted to teach. She wasn’t interested in linguistics, as I was,” she said from her home in North Carolina. Tripp served as a Wycliffe translator with the Amuesha people of Peru for many years, partnering with Mary Ruth Wise, another CBC graduate.

Both Stapf and Johnson later married. Beulah Stapf Kruhmin and her husband Walter Kruhmin worked as missionaries to Hispanic communities in New Mexico, and she lives today in Aurora, Colo. Johnson married Harold Pearson, a California rice farmer, and continued to practice nursing. She died in February 2008 in Atascadero. Her family buried her with the wedding gown and ring she had chosen for her marriage to Erikson, along with photos of the two.

### Meanwhile, Back at CBC

Soon after the men died, a memorial service was held at CBC. At the service, 20 students dedicated themselves to missions. CBC students were so moved by the men’s sacrifice that the Student Foreign Missions Fellowship vowed to buy a much-needed plane for the Dutch New Guinea field. “It is the only way in which we can hope to reach the people of the interior in this generation,” Erikson and Tritt had written to prayer supporters.

Although CBC students were of modest means, the student body raised \$5,000 to buy a modified Piper Pacer floatplane, which arrived by boat on the New Guinea coast the last day of 1953. It was christened Pathfinder at a dedication ceremony on New Year’s Day 1954. Mission Aviation Fellowship based the plane in Wewak, where it served both Papua New Guinea and Dutch New Guinea for many years.

“I remember being flown in the plane to boarding school in the 1960s,” said Larry Lake, associate professor of writing at



*Ed Tritt's mother, Sarah Tritt, standing in front of the Piper Pacer float plane donated by CBC students in honor of the missionaries. (Courtesy Robert Tritt.)*

Messiah College, who grew up as a missionary kid in Dutch New Guinea.

Current CIU students have an ever-present reminder of the sacrifice of Erikson and Tritt. Their names are etched in a plaque on the university’s Martyrs Wall that memorializes alumni and students killed in the name of Christ. It’s located in the lobby of Memorial Residence Hall.

### Back to Bird’s Head

Three years after the killings, missionary colleague Harold Lovestrand hiked into the Bird’s Head to bring the men’s bones back to Manokwari. Missionaries there held a memorial service on Aug. 12, 1955.

“We buried them in a beautiful spot overlooking the bay,” recalled Lovestrand, who is now retired and living in Georgia. The graves and headstones are there to this day.

In 1959, the growing group of missionaries in Manokwari started the Erikson-Tritt Theological College to train national pastors and teachers. Today it is a thriving school with about 160 students.

In the fall of 2008, almost 50 years after the school opened, Pilipus Manggaprouw, a former student and current faculty member, journeyed into the Bird’s Head to research a book about the slain missionaries — *Mati Syahid Di Tanah Papua (Martyr in Papua)*. There, Manggaprouw encountered representatives of Saokorem, the carriers’ village.

Jeremias Waridjo’s son Yance and other relatives expressed despair over their lives. Neighboring villages had enjoyed vast advances in living standards, yet they had not. Five men had served time in prison for the murders of Erikson and Tripp. Their descendants believed themselves cursed and wanted to ask forgiveness of TEAM and the men’s families.

## Reconciliation

So it came to be that during a January 2009 public ceremony celebrating the 50th anniversary of the school, Yance Waridjo and two other villagers shook hands with TEAM's Papua area leader, Walter Kennedy; Erikson-Tritt faculty members Tandi Randa and Pilipus Manggaprouw; and retired TEAM missionary Ron Hill.



*On Mansinam Island off the main island of Papua stands a monument to the landing point of the first missionaries to the area. (Photo by Brent Preston of TEAM.)*

Hill read a letter from Beulah Stapf Kruhmin. "I want you to know that I have forgiven you," she wrote.

Tritt's brother, Robert, expressed similar feelings. "I was afraid for my mother, what this would do to her," he said from his home in Kenosha, Wis. "But she said that we are Christians, so we must forgive."

At first, TEAM believed the killings were motivated by robbery — the men's belongings were all taken, and Robert Tritt says this is what the families were told. Moreover, missionaries to the South Pacific at the time were encountering what were known as "cargo cults." Some nationals, desperate for the provisions that missionaries and the military had in abundance, believed that they could attain them if they performed the right rituals. Many people believed Erikson and Tritt were victims of such a cult.

In Manokwari, however, Tandi Randa grew up hearing the story of the carriers' fear in enemy territory. Not only that, but in the carriers' culture, the wresting of the gun would have been grounds for revenge. That the carriers killed the men, rather than desert them, could also have been due to their fear.

"They probably wanted the gun back," says TEAM's Kennedy. "They were likely traveling through enemy territory. Back then, as today, all isolated territories would be considered hostile unless you were invited in."

Whatever the motive, almost 60 years later, the result is the same. Evangelistic teams have traveled to Saokorem in the Kebar region, to

*A reconciliation ceremony led by Walter Kennedy of TEAM (left). (Photo courtesy Diane Kennedy.)*

present the gospel to people of the Amberbaken language group. Many have professed faith in Christ, and a church is planned.

Forgiveness and reconciliation is the central theme of the gospel. As it touches lives in this West Papuan village, even the timing of the reconciliation itself struck many as divinely chosen.

The day before the ceremony, Manokwari was rocked by a massive earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale. The epicenter of the earthquake, 90 miles northwest of the city, originated under a mountain in the Bird's Head — the site of the killings of Walter Erikson and Edward Tritt. †

\* \* \*

*Nancy B. Kennedy is a journalist and the author of two children's Bible story and science activity books. She is married to John J. Kennedy, a 1980 CIU graduate, and is the sister-in-law of Walter Kennedy (seminary certificate, 1978), mentioned in this article, and his wife Diane, (seminary certificate, 1981). Visit her website at [www.nancybkennedy.com](http://www.nancybkennedy.com).*

*Article reprinted from TEAMHorizons (Vol. 4.2; September 2009) and used by permission of TEAM. Adapted by the author for use by CIU.*

# A Cornerstone Bridges the Racial Divide

## Church Founded by CIU Alumnus Brings Racial Unity to Rural South

By John Heflick

**O**n Feb. 8, 1968 police shot into a crowd of African-American college students in Orangeburg, S.C. They were protesting the segregation of a local bowling alley. What became known as The Orangeburg Massacre brought deep South Carolina racial tensions to the surface, especially in the state's smaller cities and rural areas.

Born and raised in Orangeburg, Artie Davis, a 1991 graduate of CIU, was eight years old when he heard about the shootings. Attending a newly integrated public school, he knew the unwritten social rules about friendships among blacks and whites. You could have black friends at school, but they would never be close friends and you could never bring them home with you. Davis never understood those rules.

When Davis grew up, he decided to do something about the racial divide in his hometown. He planted a church. In 15 years, Cornerstone Community Church has grown from a small group in Davis' house to a vibrant, multi-ethnic church of 1,700

which meets in a former Winn Dixie supermarket. The racial divide that Davis grew up with doesn't appear to exist within Cornerstone; about half of the attendees are Caucasian and the other half African-American. The same is true of nearly every facet of Cornerstone, from the greeters, to the children's ministry, to the pastoral staff.



Artie Davis

How did this kind of church grow up in small town South Carolina? According to Davis, the first step toward the answer is remarkably simple, but probably the most difficult. Love everyone — no matter who they are. When you enter Cornerstone, that's just what you see. A large white guy with a burly beard and ponytail down his back wearing a biker jacket sincerely hugged a clean-cut black man in a pinstripe suit. The baby of a black single mom is coddled by a genteel, Southern matriarch.

Davis openly admits Cornerstone's environment is difficult to nurture and easy to break. The goal is for every attendee to be 80 percent satisfied 100 percent of the time. This principle applies to everything from the music, to the preaching, to the art on the walls and the decorations in the

## CIU First to Voluntarily Desegregate in S.C.

Columbia International University (then called Columbia Bible College – or CBC) was the first institution of higher education in South Carolina to voluntarily admit a black student. In the early 1960s, the federal government began to mandate the integration of Southern public colleges and began to enforce it with federal troops. In January 1963, a federal court ordered Clemson University to admit a black student named Harvey Gantt.

According to the book, "This Side of Heaven – Race, Ethnicity, and Christian Faith" by Robert J. Priest and Alvaro L. Nieves, the CBC board was already grappling with the issue. On March 29, 1963, the CBC board voted that "in the future no one be refused admission to the Bible College on the basis of race solely," becoming the first white institution of higher education in South Carolina to voluntarily desegregate.

On Sept. 5, 1963, Peter Spencer, a black Jamaican began classes at CBC. That same month, CBC President Dr. G. Allen Fleece reported to the board, "our first Negro student, Peter Spencer, from Jamaica, had the highest recommendation and has proven to be everything we could desire."

By 1964, CBC would accept its first African-American student, ahead of other private schools in South Carolina.

restrooms. To Davis, we need to be "alright with being uncomfortable" sometimes.

Although Cornerstone's ethnic makeup flows out of a love for all people, there's plenty of intentionality behind the scenes. For example, when staff members travel together, they are often paired with someone from a different background. On issues that affect the church, each cultural

# The Columbia International University Speaker's Bureau

view present is heard. Ethnic differences are even talked about from the pulpit. Their philosophy is that intentionality is necessary to bring nominal relationships into authentic ones.

It's this balance between love and intentionality that strikes college and young adult pastor, Michael Reid, as the greatest strength of Cornerstone.

"The diversity of the staff helps keep you grounded," Reid said. "There's always another point of view to consider. This helps us maintain our balance."

It's a desire to love all people into the arms of the Savior that's driving Cornerstone to enter into the next leg of the church's journey — planting new churches with similar passions throughout the Bible Belt. Davis calls the vision Pray2K. Cornerstone wants to plant 2,000 new churches in the next 20 years in cities with similar demographics as Orangeburg. Statistically, smaller cities have fewer new churches being planted, yet it's easier to influence the

**Love everyone  
- no matter  
who they are.**

local community in a small-town setting. Each location selected will have a diverse leadership team to lock in the multi-ethnic feel.

Eugenia McAlister, who works at a local university and volunteers at Cornerstone, says the church is being used by God to "pierce the divide of the community." †

**S**ome of the most respected and sought after Bible teachers, youth workers, church leaders, authors and apologists are available to speak at your next church event, ministry conference or retreat. The Columbia International University Speakers Bureau features men and women who are respected around the world for their scholarship, heart for God, and the ability to communicate truth in a way that is both challenging and practical. Among those on our list of engaging speakers are CIU president and evangelist Dr. Bill Jones and CIU Chancellor George Murray, who is a former missionary to Italy and a frequent speaker at missions conferences. Other available speakers include:

**Dr. Milt Uecker**, the dean of the CIU Graduate School specializes in the areas of educational philosophy, early childhood education, and curriculum. He is a national and international conference speaker and a contributor to the *Christian Early Education* and *Christian School Education* journals for the Association of Christian Schools International (ASCI). Dr. Uecker believes placing God's Word at the center of the curriculum is essential to the Christian school movement.

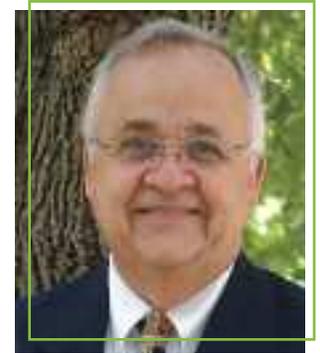
**Dr. Larry Dixon** is a professor of theology at CIU Seminary & School of Missions. He is well-known for his sense of humor and is the author of several books that focus on making theology lively and practical. His speaking ministry takes him to conferences, camps, retreats and seminars.

**Dr. David Cashin** is a professor of Intercultural Studies at CIU Seminary & School of Missions. His background includes pastoring churches in Sweden and serving as a missionary in Bangladesh. He is fluent in Bengali and Swedish and has extensive knowledge of seven other languages. He has also published numerous books and articles on Islam.

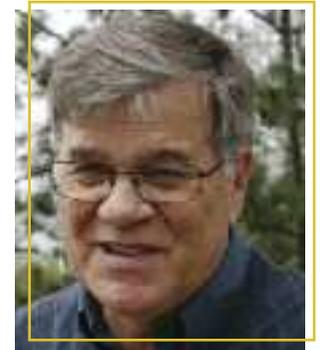
**Professor Andre Rogers** is the director of the Pastoral Ministries Program in CIU's Undergraduate School. He specializes in the areas of Bible doctrine and theology, and has a passion for preaching and teaching, focusing on the Old Testament characters of Samuel, David and Solomon, and the books of Joshua, Judges and Ruth.

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Visit [www.ciu.edu/speakers](http://www.ciu.edu/speakers) for the background and contact information of CIU faculty and staff who are ready to speak at your next event. Or contact Michelle MacGregor, director of University Recruitment & Relations at [mmacgregor@ciu.edu](mailto:mmacgregor@ciu.edu), (800) 777-2227, ext. 5336. †



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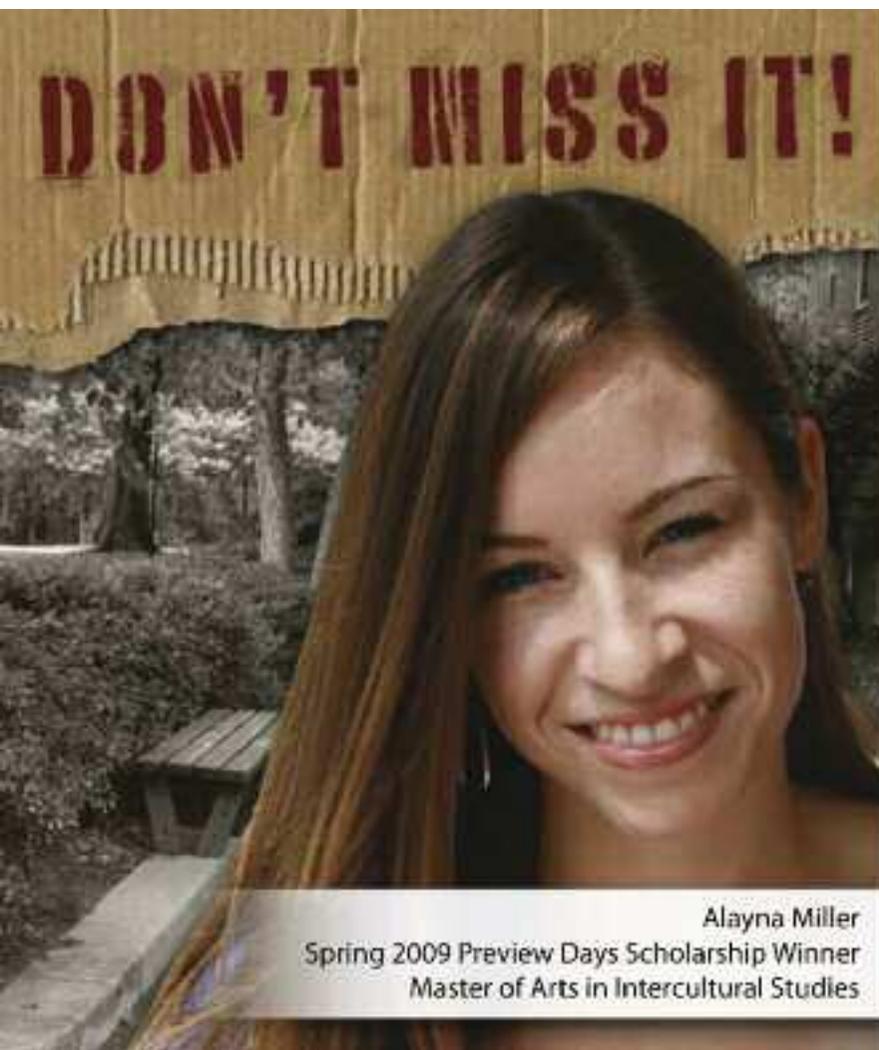
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Volume X, No. 1 • Spring 2010



Alayna Miller  
Spring 2009 Preview Days Scholarship Winner  
Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies

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—or—

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