

Guarding CIU's Biblical Ethos

June 2014

Dear friend of CIU,

Five months ago, Columbia International University lost two renowned Bible scholars when Dr. Terry Hulbert and Dr. Bill Larkin went home to be with the Lord. The two professors totaled nearly eight decades of impact on CIU students and worldwide biblical scholarship.



Dr. William H. Jones



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Dr. Hulbert came to CIU in 1972 as dean of the seminary, and over the next 40 years he would also serve in other administrative positions. But he always loved to teach the Bible and when he returned to the classroom full time, he embraced the latest technology, introducing Bible students to the very places biblical characters lived through his "Walking in Their Sandals" CDs.

Dr. Larkin invested in studying God's Word as deeply as possible, so he could teach as accurately as possible. He taught for 38 years at CIU until his retirement in 2013. A long list of accomplishments marked his ministry, including his authorship or co-authorship of several books and Bible commentaries.

I recently had the honor of being on the floor of the S.C. Senate as CIU alumnus Senator Darrell Jackson took the unprompted initiative to honor both Dr. Hulbert and Dr. Larkin with Senate resolutions that detailed their many accomplishments. Not only does Senator Jackson represent Richland County in the state legislature, he also serves as the pastor of one of the largest churches in Columbia. My heart warmed as he took to the podium and remembered two professors who helped shape his ministry.

In the absence of such distinguished Bible professors you may be wondering if the emphasis on Scripture at CIU will remain the same. The answer remains "YES" – so much so that the present Bible faculty members understand well their important role in terms of guarding CIU's biblical ethos. The Authority of Scripture continues as a CIU core value – our functional authority, speaking as final truth on every aspect of our life.



CIU Provost Dr. James Lanpher displays the State Senate resolutions honoring Drs. Hulbert and Larkin.

That ethos centers around the conversations I have in regular meetings with CIU's newest outstanding young Bible professors. In the past year and a half I have gotten to know them well, and I'd like to introduce them to you.

Dr. David Croteau teaches New Testament and Greek. Before coming to CIU he served as associate professor of biblical studies at Liberty University

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The president meets with Bible professors (left to right) President Dr. Bill Jones, Dr. Michael Galdamez, Dr. Mike Naylor, Dr. David Croteau, Dr. Markus Klausli, Dr. Ed Smither (Intercultural Studies professor), Dr. Brian Gault.

for seven years. Dr. Croteau has taught in Tanzania and South Korea, and holds membership in the Evangelical Theological Society. He holds a Ph.D. from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Dr. Brian Gault, who earned his Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College – Jewish Institute of Religion, teaches Old Testament and Hebrew. Before coming to CIU, he served on a church staff in Cincinnati. Dr. Gault holds membership in the Evangelical Theological Society and his writings include a monograph on the Song of Songs and a commentary on the Minor Prophets.

Dr. Michael Galdamez, who earned his undergraduate degree at CIU and his Ph.D. from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, teaches Bible

and Theology. His background includes serving as a youth pastor and senior pastor at churches in Kentucky and Georgia.

Dr. Markus Klausli taught at the CIU campus in Korntal, Germany for six years. He joined the CIU faculty on the Columbia campus last year and teaches New Testament and Greek. Dr. Klausli earned his Master of Divinity degree at CIU and his Ph.D. from Dallas Theological Seminary. He has ministry experience as a pastoral assistant and missionary.

Dr. Mike Naylor enjoys working with Koine Greek and teaching the New Testament. His doctoral research focused on Revelation and John's depiction of Jesus. Prior to Dr. Naylor's Ph.D. studies at the University of Edinburgh, he served as a youth director, worship leader and associate pastor.

There will be another young Bible professor joining this group. **Dr. Ben Noonan** begins his service at CIU on July 1 as assistant professor of Old Testament and Hebrew. He has a Ph.D. from Hebrew Union College in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Studies. Dr. Noonan has served as a visiting assistant professor at Xavier University and as an adjunct instructor for Liberty University Online. This summer he is teaching at the Evangelical Theological College in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

Just like Drs. Hulbert and Larkin, each of these professors believes in the authority of God's Word and biblical scholarship, passing on the importance of both to CIU students at the undergraduate and seminary level. They touch the lives of students daily, not only in the classroom, but through their Chapel messages and their personal interaction with the students. Stop by the CIU cafeteria sometime and notice how many of these professors share their knowledge and their lives with our students as they eat their lunch/dinner together.

As we wrap up CIU's 90th anniversary celebration this month, we still hold to the Bible as the certain foundation on which everything else stands, just as we did at our founding in 1923. Join us in praying that we live out this value daily.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones, President