

Fall 2008

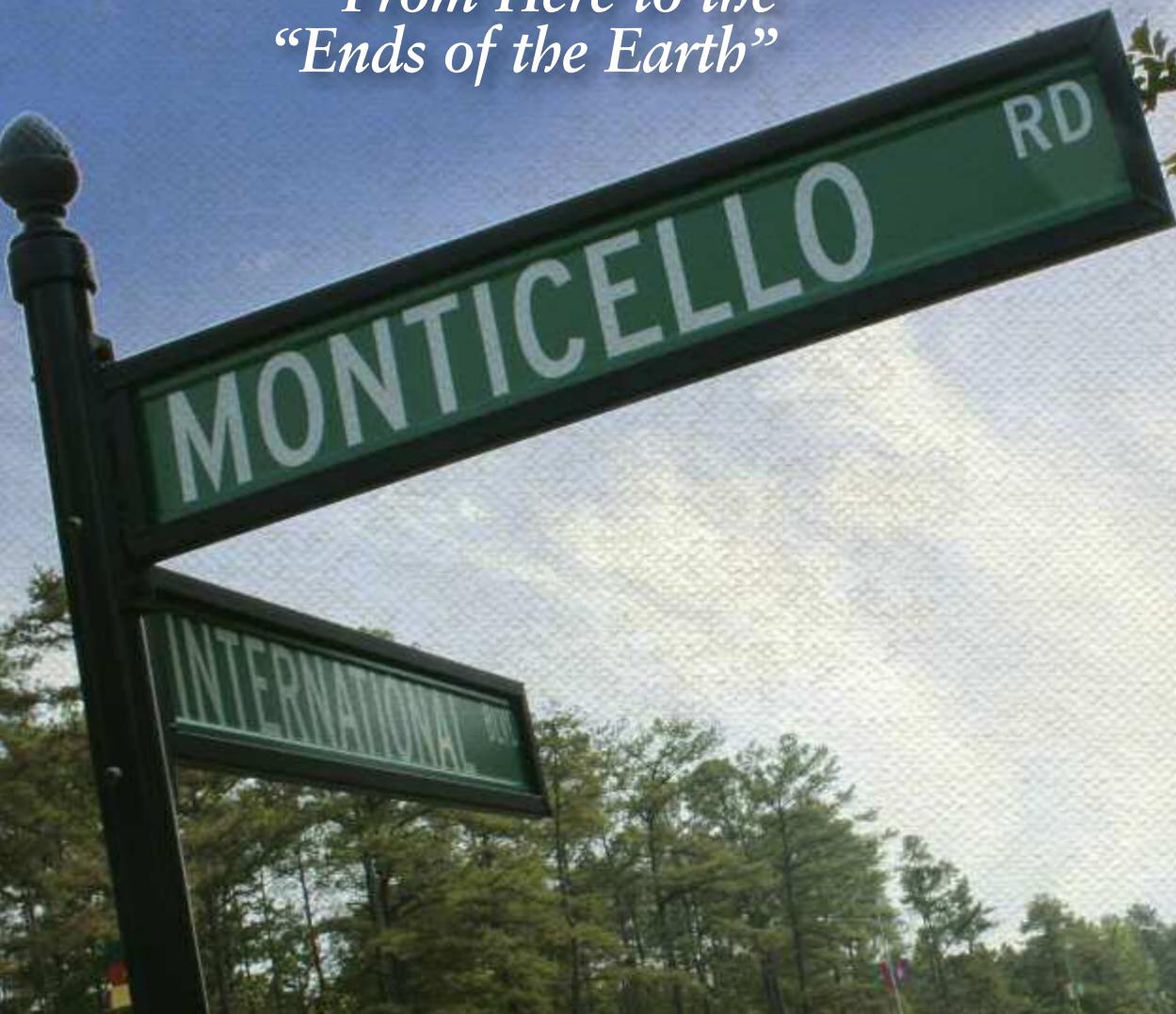
# Connection

The magazine of Columbia International University

[www.ciu.edu](http://www.ciu.edu)

## World Evangelization:

*From Here to the  
“Ends of the Earth”*





Top: Bill Jones and "Bob" in North Africa.  
Bottom: "Mary" and "Dan" pose with their child and Bill Jones in Central Europe.

## Letter from the President

# CIU Graduates on the Front Lines of World Evangelization

Columbia International University graduates long for others to know Christ. I've observed their commitment through the years, but this dedication became even more evident this summer as my daughter Lauren (a student in the CIU Seminary & School of Missions) and I traveled to seven countries on five continents where many of our alumni serve. The trip provided an opportunity for me to greet many of them as I preached the gospel and trained church planters.

Many of our CIU graduates spread the message of Christ in spiritually hardened places where the spiritual warfare feels palpable. I'd like to tell you about a few of them while preserving their anonymity. As you know, they endure relentless opposition from Muslim extremists who fiercely oppose the gospel.

"John" and "Sarah" serve in a country in the Middle East. "John" earned his Master of Divinity degree from CIU with an emphasis in Muslim studies. As he recalled his days at CIU, "John" said his professors set a wonderful example for him. He said, "The stories from the previous missionaries who now are professors were what encouraged me the most. Their availability to the student body was very important to me."

"Bob" serves in a predominately Muslim nation in North Africa. Interestingly, "Bob" said his training at CIU came from the classroom, as well as his on-campus job as a carpenter in the Physical Plant. He said he learned that "it is God alone that I live to please. When you are in another country planting seeds, you do not have the same fellowship of people around giving you a pat on the back for the work you do."

Working a low position at an esteemed school taught me the importance of that."

I visited with many other CIU graduates while on our trip, including "Dan" and "Mary," who mentor church planters in Central Europe, and "Matthew," who serves as a counselor in the Middle East.

We dedicate this edition of *Connection* magazine to World Evangelization, one of Columbia International University's five core values. All of our core values remain at the heart of our mission to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. Please remember to pray for our graduates and for our ministry here at CIU — a training ground for sowers of the gospel.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones  
President



"Matthew" and Bill Jones in the Middle East.

# Connection

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International  
University

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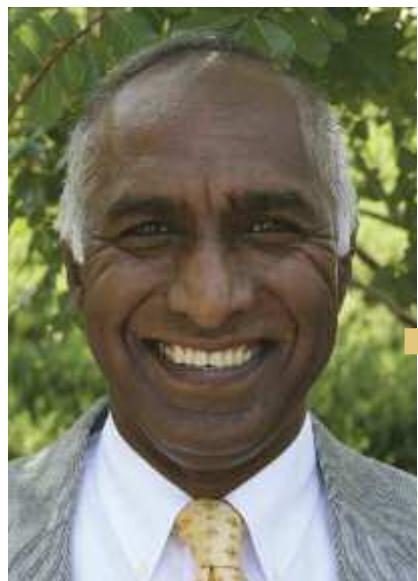
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*Pictured above: A CIU core value stone in front of the CIU Alumni Center.*

*Cover: The entrance to Columbia International University.*



Dr. Junias Venugopal



Joe Paulo

## Promotions & Transitions

**Dr. Junias Venugopal** has been named vice president for educational affairs at Columbia International University.

Venugopal will provide leadership and coordination of the academic programs at the Undergraduate School, the Graduate School and the Seminary & School of Missions, as well as CIU's European campus in Korntal, Germany. He will continue to also serve as dean of the seminary, a position he has held since 2004.

Venugopal served in his native country of India and in the Philippines before coming to CIU. His work in Asia included serving as a church pastor, and as dean of the Asia Graduate School of Theology-Philippines. He has also worked in the marketplace in India and the United States.

Meanwhile, veteran radio broadcaster **Joe Paulo** has been appointed director of Columbia International University's Broadcasting division. Paulo has been with CIU 12 years, serving as on-air announcer and general manager of New Life 91.9 WRCM, a CIU radio station in Charlotte, N.C. In his new role, Paulo will provide the leadership for both of CIU's award-winning stations WRCM and 89.7 WMHK in Columbia, S.C.

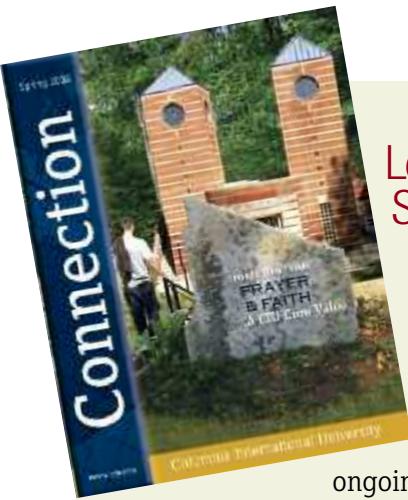
At WMHK, Paulo replaces former General Manager Jerry Grimes who left WMHK in July to become donor marketing director at Christian radio network WAY-FM.

## MKs Connect at CIU

The transition to college life is always a big step for a young person. Imagine taking that step all the way across the ocean to start college in a foreign country! That is what it feels like for many MKs (missionary kids) who have spent most of their lives overseas. Even though they are American citizens, the United States actually feels like a foreign country to them, since they have spent so little time there. In August, Columbia International University partnered with MRC (Missionary Resources Connection) to host a one-week Re-entry Retreat for MKs who were returning to the U.S. for college. The re-entry retreat offered them the opportunity to learn about the practical aspects of living in the U.S., as well as make connections with other MKs who understand and have had similar experiences. There were seminars and sessions about a wide range of helpful topics, as well as hands-on practical activities such as shopping and cooking, and lots of fun and games.



MKs go shopping.



## Letters in response to the Spring '08 Connection

Thank you for the excellent CIU Connection magazine for Spring 2008. I read it from cover to cover and enjoyed each and every article — thanking God for the foundation of prayer at CBC (CIU) and the ongoing life of faith & prayer that reaches

all around the world.

Such a great variety of articles and yet all for God's glory. I lived my CBC days in the early 70s and will always be grateful for my time there. God bless and keep up the good work.

— Marilyn Garter, Wyoming, Mich.

*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).*

## Memorial Residence Hall Renovations Complete

The \$1.4 million renovation of **Memorial Residence Hall** that began last winter was completed in time for the students' arrival in August. The renovations include microwave ovens and refrigerators in each room, and modular furniture that gives students multiple ways to arrange their rooms according to their personal styles. The lobby is tastefully decorated with new chairs, couches, artwork and carpeting. Outside, the landscaping has been spruced up with several new crepe myrtle trees.

Memorial Residence Hall is named in honor of those who have given their lives in service to the Lord. Plaques bearing their names and the circumstances surrounding their deaths are displayed in the lobby of the residence.

At a dedication ceremony for the men's residence, CIU senior David Haron said, "There is something fresher about the atmosphere in Memorial now. It feels more like home."

The family of Georgia businessman Marvin Schuster made a significant financial contribution toward the renovation. Schuster, a CIU trustee told the students, "You students are such quality (students). You deserve a good bed."

(Continued on page 6.)

I was disturbed by the article on page 12 about a military chaplain named David Curlin. Here is a man of God who is shown carrying an explosive on his shoulder with the names of family members written on it. Explosives are not meant to bring people to Christ, but are meant to destroy them. I'm sure that he meant it in fun, but the optics just don't look right. Can you imagine Christ carrying a bomb on His shoulders saying, "Hello guys" in jest? American evangelicalism is becoming hopelessly intertwined with the dubious goals of politicians. We have forgotten that we are in this world, but not of it. Our methods and goals are much grander than any human institution.

— George Ostojic ('77)  
LaChine QC, Canada



*The lobby of Memorial Residence Hall.*

## CIU Forms Partnerships

Columbia International University has shaken hands on two strategic partnerships. One is with South Carolina-based **Seacoast Church**, and the other is with missions agency **Pioneers**. CIU President Bill Jones says the partnerships "will strengthen CIU's purpose to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ."

Seacoast Church, which uses the Irmo facilities of Ben Lippen School (CIU's K4-12 Christian school) for Sunday worship services, has seen explosive growth and consequently, the need for solid seminary training for its staff. CIU has designed specialized leadership learning tracks for Seacoast.

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



The Ben Lippen School Falcons celebrate.

## History-Making Win

It was a real nail-biter. But the **Ben Lippen School Falcons** pulled out a victory over Northwood Academy to win their first SCISA baseball title in school history. The final score was 5-4, as the Falcons swept the best-of-three SCISA 3A championship series on their home field on the campus of Columbia International University. The baseball team is coached by CIU graduate Brent Walsh.

## Congratulations

History was made at the 2008 commencement for the Columbia International University Graduate School and the CIU Seminary & School of Missions. On May 17, **Tom Burkett** became the first graduate of CIU's Doctor of Education program.

Dr. Burkett was involved in the founding of Banner Christian School in Richmond, Va. Since the start of his tenure as administrator of that school, its enrollment has increased from 77 to over 200 students encompassing grades K4 through 12.

After being granted a study leave by the board of Banner Christian School to complete his degree, Burkett has now returned to full-time leadership responsibilities at the school.



Dr. Tom Burkett and family

## Coming Up

Columbia International University's **Youth Ministry department** is hosting its first retreat for youth workers Feb. 23-25. "Rhythm of Grace" is designed for CIU alumni who work with teens and young adults. The event will include a time of prayer, discussion, play, eating, laughing, and resting. The emphasis will be on pacing and walking in Jesus' rhythm. The retreat's theme comes from the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28-30: "Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest...Learn the unforced rhythms of grace (MSG)."

The event has been underwritten and the only cost is getting to Columbia. Contact Karen "KC" Close in the Youth Ministry office at (803) 807-5465 or e-mail [kclose@ciu.edu](mailto:kclose@ciu.edu). There is limited availability and reservations will be taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

# What's the DIFFERENCE?

A God-centered education.

*"I chose CIU because I want to have a God-centered education ... I know that at CIU I will be grounded in Biblical studies as well as my major of choice."*

**Matt Lewis**

*2006 Ben Lippen graduate and Fall 2008 CIU transfer student*

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**Columbia  
International  
University**

*"To know Him and to make Him known"*

**BEN LIPPEN**

## Development

By Frank Bedell, Director of Development

# Efficiency vs. Effectiveness

I read a clever story that highlighted the difference between efficiency and effectiveness.

Two men were having a discussion.

The first man said, "I am so efficient, I can fold 100 parachutes in an hour."

The second man said, "I am so effective, I can fold 100 parachutes and every single one of them will open right."

Whose parachute do you want to use?

Finding a balance between efficiency and effectiveness is valuable and implementing a balance is positive – except when you want your parachute to open 100 percent of the time.

The "One Student – One Class" project is a model of efficiency and effectiveness. As a matter of efficiency, your gift is leveraged with tuition income to enroll students. A gift of \$15 places one student in one class for one day. Likewise, a gift of \$2,400 places the same student in a class for the whole year. That is efficiency!

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

But what good is efficiency without effectiveness? Here is the testimony of two students:

Charissa, an Applied English major, offers her heartfelt thanks: "Two words summarize my CIU experience; **rich** and **treasured**. The faculty and staff maintain excellence in academics as they instill in me a desire for prayer and personal discipline. I drew heavily on this solid foundation as I recently



taught and ministered in India. I am deeply grateful for your generosity."

Lee from Spartanburg, S.C. says: "Words cannot express the large role that CIU plays within my ministry and studies. The spiritual transformation that has taken place in my life, which I believe is a direct result of the intense study of the Word of God, has prepared me for workplace ministry and everyday life. I thank God for the call He has placed on my life, and I also praise Him for the opportunity to study at Columbia International University."

This is effectiveness!

Your gift today immediately impacts the effectiveness of our students as they study and share the love of Jesus with our community.

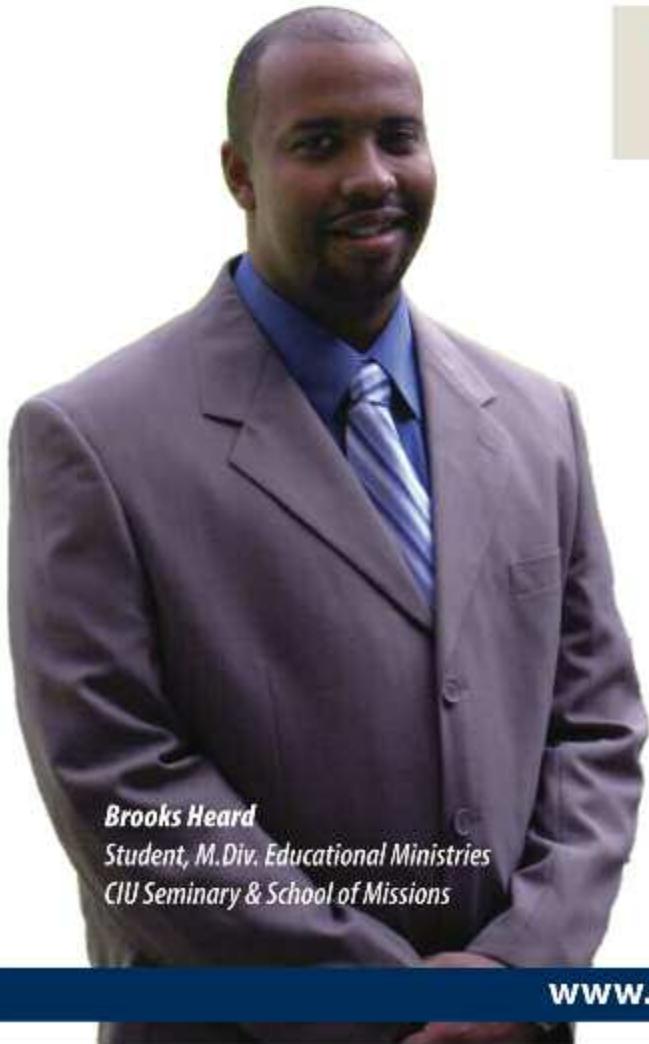
To make a gift you may use the enclosed response envelope or make an online gift by visiting [www.ciuministries.com/impact/effective.html](http://www.ciuministries.com/impact/effective.html).

Finding  
a balance  
between  
efficiency and  
effectiveness is  
valuable ...

# Pastor, is God calling you to take your skills to the next level?

Columbia International University can provide you and your ministry staff the solid biblical education and growth opportunities to help you lead your church to become all that God designed it to be.

Degree and certificate programs are available from undergraduate through doctoral levels, and many classes are offered in flexible evening, weekend, or distance formats.



*"As a minister, I have found so much value in being able to study and learn with others who have a heart for God and desire to faithfully serve His people with their lives." —Brooks Heard*



Contact us today to request a campus visit.

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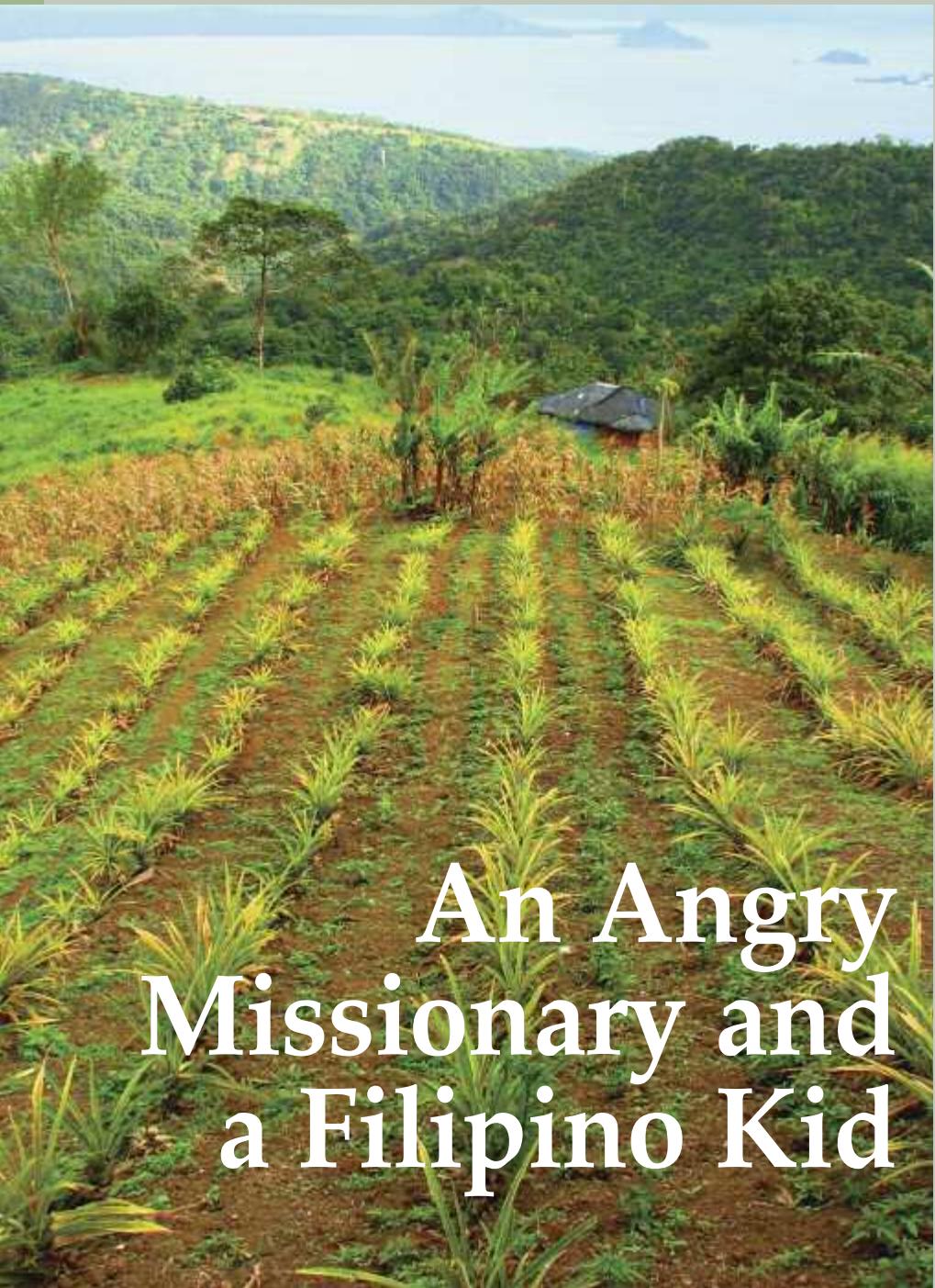
7435 Monticello Road • Columbia, South Carolina

**Brooks Heard**  
Student, M.Div. Educational Ministries  
CIU Seminary & School of Missions

[www.ciu.edu/pastor](http://www.ciu.edu/pastor)

## **Undergraduate School**

By Cliff Bedell  
CIU Professor of Intercultural Studies



# An Angry Missionary and a Filipino Kid

Long-time CIU instructor confesses his miscues as a young missionary

A hot day! Sitting in a two-bench bus built on a lengthened jeep chassis, waiting. The driver knew that to make the trip without a full bus was a waste of gasoline. So...more waiting.

I was a young missionary on my way to an interior village to have a Bible study with my friend, Marianito (say “mah-ree-ah-KNEE-toe”). I was carrying my Bible in the Tagalog language. Did I tell you it was hot?

Finally, after what seemed like a foretaste of eternity, the little bus was full enough to make the trip profitable. We drove out of town on the two-lane macadam road and turned off onto the dirt road. Coconut trees everywhere. Small rice plantations in the valleys. Here and there a small house on stilts roofed with coconut-leaf shingles.

Finally we arrived at the banks of the river. I got out, took off my shoes, socks, and pants, and carefully taught my feet to pick smooth stones as I waded across, amusing the nationals.

Ah, the shade of the coconut plantation! Cooler here! I put my pants, socks and shoes back on. Getting closer now! Marianito and his family lived in a house among the coconut trees. He harvested coconut and farmed far up on the steep slopes of the mountains.

I wasn't climbing any mountains today! The coconut plantation was located on the plains, and there was Marianito's house! I stopped a respectful distance from the little home and called my culturally-correct greeting: “There is a person!”

A young village boy of 12 or 13 years of age, barefoot and dressed only in a pair of work pants and a tattered shirt, appeared in the open doorway. “Father isn't here! He's up on the mountain!”

Did you know that sometimes missionaries become quite angry? This one did! “He stood me up!” I seethed, as I looked into the distance at the steep, purple mountains.

The boy was shy but did not forget his manners. “Climb the stairs, sir!” he invited. I did, properly leaving my shoes at the bottom of the ladder-stair.

"Please sit down here!" the boy motioned at the bench placed before the "picture window" (no glass needed). I sat down, still seething.

The boy was Marianito's son, Romy. He was so shy that I knew I would not be able to hold a conversation with him, so I decided to talk to God instead.

"Father," I complained, "I've made this long trip and there's no one here!"

A Voice within seemed to reply, "No one?"

"Well, no one but this boy!"

"Isn't he someone?" said the Inner Voice.

I stopped feeling sorry for myself and began to talk with Romy about Jesus Christ, and that afternoon, like a ripe mango falling from a massive tree, Romy "fell" into the kingdom of God.

The Father kept Romy as a part of our lives for the next few years. Romy would ride with us to town on Sunday afternoons with a sack of rice and a bundle of

A year later they were married with my wife and me as godparents, and shortly thereafter the couple was on their way to Indonesia as missionaries.

Reports filtered back over the years. "Tatang (approximating 'Daddy'), by God's grace we are in charge of Every Home Crusade with 100 Indonesian evangelists at my disposal! We have left gospel literature in over 70 percent of Indonesian homes!"

Then there was an attempted coup by atheistic Communists to overthrow the democratic Indonesian government! In response the Indonesian government, largely Muslim, opened the door to religious education in the public schools! Romy and Edna grasped the opportunity and trained hundreds of Indonesian Christians to enter the classrooms of the nation, teaching the Bible during the academic year and harvesting a crop of converts to Christ in summer camps.

---

*...like a ripe mango falling from a massive tree, Romy "fell" into the kingdom of God.*

---

firewood for his host and hostess in town – he was studying in high school!

Fast forward a few years. Romy had joined the army of young college students in Metro Manila. Then to my surprise, Romy was a groundskeeper at our mission headquarters. Next he became my student at Febias College of Bible!

It was the last class of the morning in Philippine Sociology and Edna, a lovely young lady with beautiful long black hair, stood erect in response to my sociological question. Behind her sat Romy, and as she recited, he mischievously leaned over and yanked her hair! The bell rang, ending the class, and an angry young woman spun around to rebuke an audacious young man!

Thirty years later, Romy was visiting our home in Columbia when I mustered my courage and confessed to him my anger at his father for standing me up the day Romy had come to know Jesus.

"Tatang," Romy softly replied, "Father planned things that way. He told me he was going to climb the mountain and farm, and he also told me you would be arriving. He said to me, 'Son, Mr. Bedell will come while I am away. Listen very carefully to anything he may tell you!'"

I learned a lot from remembering how God worked with Romy, so this semester in class at CIU maybe I'll be slower to become angry when a young man won't stop whispering to the pretty girl in the seat next to him. Maybe God's molding another Romy and Edna! ■



*Professor Cliff Bedell and his wife Pru are former missionaries to the Philippines. Professor Bedell, a graduate of Wheaton and the University of Georgia, was named an honorary alumnus of CIU in August. He's been a faculty member of CIU since 1973.*

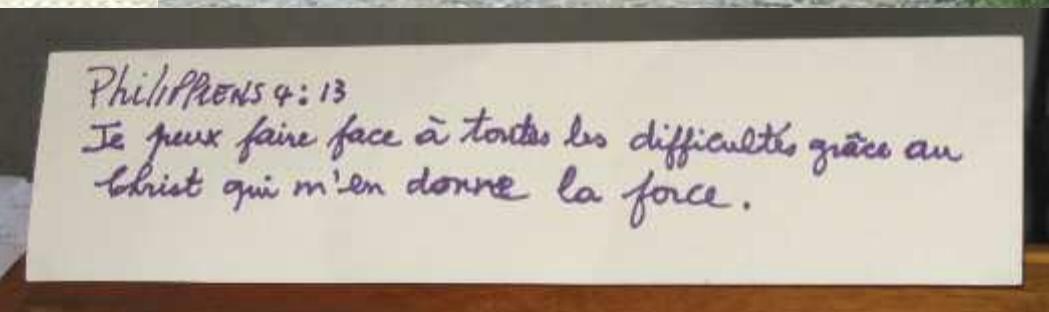
## Graduate School

By Dr. James Watson  
CIU Professor of Education

# CIU: Reaching Haiti!

CIU makes an impact in Haitian schools

**I**t is important that we develop... (French translation given)... an approach to classroom management... (French translation given)... that reflects the Divine Nature... (French translation given). This is what would have been heard in a Haitian classroom in the fall of 2007 as I taught a group of Haitian school leaders, primarily leaders of Christian schools.



The Great Commission calls us to make disciples, baptize them, and teach them. It was in response to the "to teach" that I accepted an invitation to teach in a Master of Education program in Haiti. The program was being offered through the efforts of the Universidad Facultad Latinoamericana de Estudios Teológicos (FLET) and hosted on the grounds of Baptist Haiti Mission. CIU's core value of World Evangelization was well represented in this endeavor! FLET's immediate past president is Dr. Larry McCullough who is a CIU graduate. The new president, Dr. Jeffrey DeLeon, is a CIU graduate and serves on CIU's Board of Trustees. Baptist Haiti Mission was founded over 60 years ago and was directed for many years by Wallace and Eleanor Turnbull. Mrs. Turnbull attended CIU for a part of her training.

*Philippians 4:13  
in French, the  
language of  
Haiti.*

# ...the students are the children of village leaders, including voodoo witch doctors.



The vision for this master's degree program calls for training the leaders of Haitian Christian schools to develop a biblical worldview that is expressed in a Christian educational philosophy and, through this foundation, to establish quality Christian schools. My mission was to assist the leaders in developing biblical philosophies of, and biblical principles for, classroom management.

The students represented mission organizations and Christian school ministries that are impacting over 100,000 Haitian children for Christ.

In addition, several of the students are making a difference through their ministries in the public and higher education sectors throughout Haiti. One of the men in the class is the director for all northern Haitian public schools. In many of the Christian schools represented, the students are the children of village leaders, including voodoo witch doctors. In the fall of 2007, over 3,000 children made professions of faith during the spiritual emphasis days of these schools.

As the leaders are implementing the principles and truths learned in their classes, generations of Haitians are being impacted. One student came to

me after a class and shared how a child whom he had taken into his home was causing him and his wife much grief, so much so that they were contemplating asking the child to leave.

However, after hearing

a biblical approach to discipline, he couldn't wait to go home and share with his wife how they might more effectively reach this troubled child. With tears in his eyes, he thanked me for coming to Haiti.

The superintendent of education for the 350 Baptist Haiti Mission schools, Pastor Solect Jean Baptiste, told me about the impact of the class on his schools. He wrote, "During the spiritual retreat, all of the coordinators were trained to train the teachers on the importance of discipline in the Christian schools. They know it is important that a Christian school has a good discipline process and can't run in the same way as the secular schools. The teachers learned how to deal with each discipline situation, and the need to be

a part of the solution, not of the problem – and how they have to reflect the image of God when they correct the students."

The words of Isaiah are so fitting for the Haitian situation:

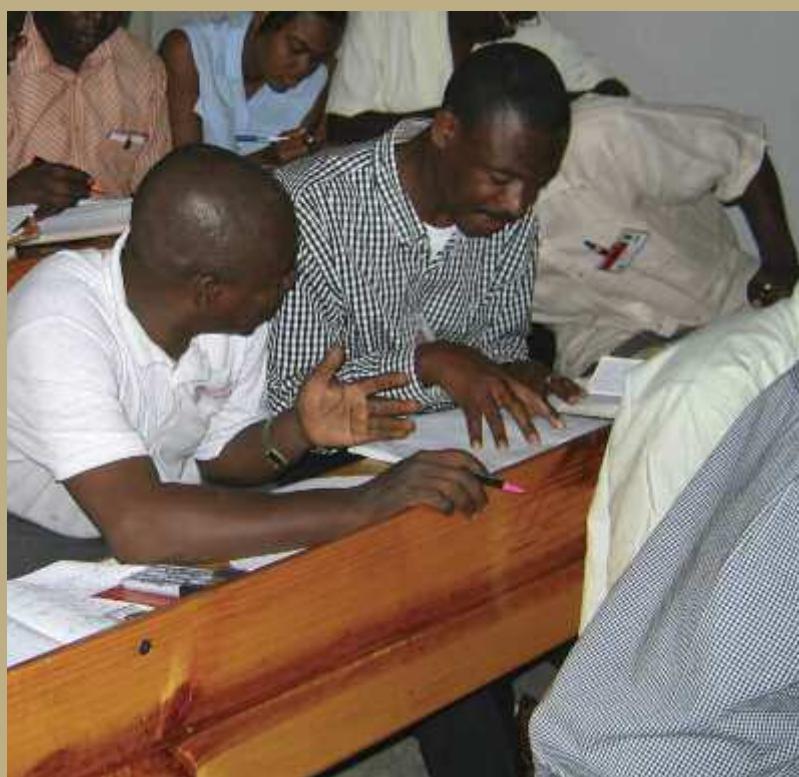
When men tell you to consult mediums and spiritists, who whisper and mutter, should not a people inquire of their God? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, they have no light of dawn. Distressed and hungry, they will roam through the land; when they are famished, they will become enraged and, looking upward, will curse their king and their God. Then

they will look toward the earth and see only distress and darkness and fearful gloom, and they will be thrust into utter darkness. Nevertheless ... the people walking in darkness have seen a great light... (Isaiah 8:19-9:2)

As is very often the case for those involved in mission opportunities, I was the one who was impacted as I watched these students eagerly soak up the riches of God's Word in the midst of their nation's poverty.

The need is great in Haiti and there is much to do. But each course that is being taught is having a ripple effect. Leaders are more successfully implementing a Christian philosophy of education into their schools and children are being transformed into the nature of Christ. Through the emphasis of world evangelization, CIU is having a significant impact in spreading the Light of Christ to the leaders and children of Haiti! ■

Eager students in Dr. Jim Watson's class in Haiti.



## Seminary & School of Missions

By Don N. Howell, Jr.  
CIU Professor of Bible, Greek and New Testament

*Former missionary to Japan shares his heart for “the islands”*

# Hope for the Islands

“My righteousness draws near speedily, my salvation is on the way, and my arm will bring justice to the nations. The islands will look to me and wait in hope for my arm.”  
(Isaiah 51:5)

*Don Howell as a missionary to Japan in the 1980s, and a church he visited in Micronesia this past summer.*

Isaiah casts his prophetic vision forward to a day when the Servant of the Lord, through His sacrifice, will provide salvation for all and commission His missionary people to traverse the vast oceans and declare His saving mercies even to the most distant and isolated islands. As I write, I have just returned from a month of ministry in Micronesia, a series of islands in the Western

Pacific composed of the four states of Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae and Pohnpei, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, as well as the Republic of Palau.

The believers in Palau gathered in June to celebrate the coming of the gospel to their island 79 years

ago. Today there are vibrant congregations of Christian believers under national leadership across these islands. Many of the pastors have received their training at the Pacific Islands Bible College (PIBC) located on Guam, where I was privileged to teach the book of Hebrews in their summer program. There are 225 students on the five campuses of PIBC composed of nearly a dozen language groups. The multi-cultural environment at PIBC is an ideal place for these islanders to shed some of their





insular values and learn to distinguish what is cultural from what is biblical. It is thrilling to see the Micronesian church begin to mobilize its own missionaries for outreach to unevangelized people groups. This is the vision of the PIBC staff, especially CIU Seminary graduate Yosta Lodge (M.A. 2000) who has emerged as a leader among the churches in Chuuk. Longtime former CIU Professor Steve Bradley has returned to Micronesia in his "retirement" years to train the future leaders of the Evangelical Churches of Chuuk. The unadorned lifestyle and loving, patient demeanor of these islanders position them well for effective missionary service, especially to unreached people groups living along the coastlands of countries like Indonesia and Myanmar.

My own ministry began in the island country of Japan where my wife Melissa and

I served 15 years in pioneer church planting and theological education. Like other island peoples, the Japanese tend to be

culturally introspective, justifiably proud of their national heritage, but a bit suspicious of outside influences. The harsh physical realities on those islands, from Hokkaido in the north with its long winters (where we served 10 years) to typhoon-battered Kyushu in the south, have nurtured a resilient people that know how to persevere in tough times. Though Japan has been resistant to the Christian gospel (150 years of unhindered

*CIU Professor  
Don Howell  
(right) with  
CIU Seminary  
graduate  
Yosta Lodge  
(M.A. 2000).*

**It is thrilling to see the Micronesian church begin to mobilize its own missionaries for outreach to unevangelized people groups.**

missionary activity has resulted in less than one percent of the population embracing the Lord Jesus Christ), there are evangelical churches all over the islands. Our own work in Sapporo, where we lived eight years, grew to around 30 believers by the time we handed it over to the first Japanese pastor. In spite of many setbacks, the work there continues to grow nearly 20 years later, led by a gifted pastor who is also a medical doctor. Gifted and well-trained national leadership abounds. Our third term was invested in teaching at the Japan Bible Seminary located in Hamura, northwest of Tokyo, an institution founded and led by some of the most talented, yet humble national church leaders I have had the privilege of knowing. Solid biblical and theological training, mixed with internships and personal mentoring, are in many ways similar to the educational triad taught at CIU (Head, Heart, Hands). But perhaps most encouraging is the missionary vision of the Japanese church which has sent out fully-supported workers to countries across the globe. Many feel that this prosperous island nation is poised for a major movement toward Christianity in the decades ahead, and are praying fervently for that breakthrough.

For the last five years the CIU Seminary & School of Missions has been sending summer teams to an unreached people group situated

along the coast of a major island nation of southern Asia. The pioneer work of building relationships, learning the language and culture, and proclaiming the gospel is just beginning. Several Seminary graduates, who were a part of the first teams, discovered that these people had become wrapped around their hearts and have now followed the call of God to invest

their lives in reaching these fishermen and merchants. The young missionaries are learning ways of serving the islanders' practical needs such as health care and literacy, in order to demonstrate the love of Christ and to share the

message of God's forgiveness. Please pray that in this pioneering stage of the work, these gospel laborers will earnestly seek God's direction on how to effectively share the good news, persevere in setbacks, strive together in unity, and trust Jesus' pledge, foreshadowed by Isaiah, for fruit that will remain unto eternal life. (John 4:36; 15:16) ■

## Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies

By Dr. David Cashin  
The Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies at CIU

# Rejoice, the Muslims Are Coming to Jesus!

This has been an unusual year. In the prison work of which I am part, we have seen four Muslims turn to Christ. I have never seen such a response among Muslims in prison. We are receiving e-mails from Muslims saying, "I want to become a Christian." Thirty years ago this kind of response was absolutely unheard of. What is going on in the Muslim world?

### Reasons Why Muslims Turn to Jesus: Living Faith and Violence

Dr. Dudley Woodbury wrote an article in *Christianity Today* recently that asked the question, "Why Do Muslims Convert?" He noted that, "seeing a lived faith," among Christians is the most important reason why Muslims turn to Christ; more specifically, Christians adopting Muslim dress and respecting Muslim customs, the quality of Christian marriages, and the equality of women. This is contrasted with Muslim-on-Muslim violence in various parts of the world.

Five students from CIU taught English in an Islamic boarding school for eight weeks, adopting local dress and customs. The head of the boarding school made a farewell speech where she said that their behavior had changed her opinion completely about Christians. This opens doors.

I received an e-mail from a church where I had spoken on witnessing to Muslims. It related how a woman had come to church, dressed in Muslim clothing. She had converted to Islam years before but now nervously declared that she wanted to become a Christian. Domestic

*Students in contextualized worship during Muslim summer studies at CIU.*

abuse was involved and is the most apparent form of Muslim-on-Muslim violence. Two imams in Europe have been arrested for writing booklets advocating wife-beating based on Qur'anic teaching (Surah 4:34).

After a service where I spoke about Muslim evangelism, a young woman came up to me and said that she used to be a Muslim, but had recently converted to Christ. She had come to Islam looking for clear morals and stronger family relationships. What eventually turned her away from Islam was the regular talk in her mosque about "filthy Jews," and how Muslims should not be friendly with non-Muslims. She got tired of all the hate talk.

### The Power of Relationship

Dr. Woodbury notes that the second most important reason why Muslims come to faith in Christ is the "power of God in



# Why Are Muslims to Jesus?

- 1. Because they long to have an intimate relationship with God.
- A word from Ismail Faruki. "That is why all my prayers are formulaic."



CIU Professor Dr. David Cashin of the Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies addresses students during a Muslim Emphasis Week chapel at CIU.

answered prayers and healings." I think the crucial issue here is not just the sense of the power of Christ, but of the reality of relationship that Christian prayer demonstrates.

One day while praying in Russia, a Muslim woman whose son was injured in an accident tugged on my shirt sleeve. "Will you also pray for my son?" she asked. "I know you westerners don't believe in demons, but you can't tell me demons don't exist; I have seen them with my own two eyes." During the night her son was attacked by demons. She could see them going in and out of his body. She recited the fatiha (a central prayer of Islam) in Arabic. Nothing happened. Finally, in desperation, she prayed, "God, save my son!" Instantly the demons vanished. "Why did that happen?" she asked. Her first prayers were typically Islamic and formulaic. Formal prayers in Arabic I told her are manipulative. God cannot be manipulated. Starting from Genesis 1-2, I showed that God created humankind for relationship. The cry from her heart was relationship and God responded. I asked if she would study the Scriptures and find out how to have an intimate relationship

with God. She responded with an enthusiastic yes and this entire family later came to faith.

## Dissatisfaction with Islam

Dr. Woodbury notes that the third most important factor is "dissatisfaction with the type of Islam they had experienced." When moderates study the Islamic scriptures and traditions they find that those documents are on the side of the radicals. Because of this, Muslims today are leaving Islam as never before in world history. The gospel is growing in places where the radicals have won their greatest victories. The Iranian Islamic revolution has led to the conversion of thousands of Iranians to Christ. The movement has become large enough that compassdirect.org reports Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has stated, "I will stop Christianity in this country." Even larger movements are on-going in Bangladesh and Indonesia.

## The Attraction of the Bible

Woodbury notes that the Bible is deeply attractive to many Muslims. I have invited 11 mosque leaders to study the Bible with me, and have only been turned down once. Among Christians in the United States who have invited their Muslim friends to read the Bible with them, 80-90 percent say yes to the invitation. Those who are interested in the Bible studies may contact me at dcashin@ciu.edu for further information.

## A Final Challenge to Christians

Only one thing can stop Muslims from coming to Christ in increasing numbers. That one thing is hatred. I met a young Bangladeshi woman who recently came to Jesus. She was raised in the New York area. One thing almost turned her away from seeking Christ. After September 11th she felt under constant critique from her American friends just for being a Muslim. This kind of stereotyping is best expressed when Christians turn away in disgust at a Muslim dressed in traditional clothing. This is precisely Satan's strategy. Once again he desires Christians to ignore, neglect and despise Muslims as they have for centuries. See them as the enemy, and you do the devil's bidding. We have the most perfect opportunity in history to live out the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 5:43-44.

<sup>43</sup>"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbors and hate your enemy.' But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you ..." ■

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## Ben Lippen School

By Abbey Shoemaker  
Ben Lippen School alumna

# God Speaks Spanish (and a lot of other languages)

God expands the worldview of student during mission trip



Who knew God speaks Spanish or that His love extends beyond the borders of the United States of America? As a high school sophomore, I didn't know that. Since I had never traveled outside my home country, I had an extremely limited perspective of God and the world. The opportunity to take a spring break mission trip to Paraguay, South America presented itself, and something inside of me was telling me to go. It was on that mission trip with a small group of Ben Lippen School classmates and our Spanish teacher that my worldview began to change. For the first time, I was exposed to life outside of the United States, and to say

I was intrigued would be an understatement. I struggled to wrap my mind around the concept that not all six billion people in the world look and think and act and live in the same ways. And then it happened. Sitting in a church in Encarnación, Paraguay one Sunday morning, I was stunned as the pastor began to pray – in Spanish! *Someone should tell him*, I began to think. *Doesn't he know that God speaks English? They really should get a translator or something.* At that moment my mind started spinning out of control. *Maybe God DOES speak Spanish*, I thought.

*What if He does? What if He cares about everyone – not just white Americans?*

My old perspective of a God who fit in the boxes I placed Him in was shattered that day. Not to say that I had finally figured Him out, but I was starting to see Him for who He really is — the God of the universe. Coming home from Paraguay, I was able to bring back more than souvenirs and great stories. My heart was being changed. Slowly but surely, sight was being restored to my blind eyes. Ten days earlier I was incredibly ignorant and small-minded. Thankfully, God can do amazing things in a week and a half. Since returning to South Carolina in March 2005, I have been back to Paraguay once, travelled to Costa Rica in 2007, and lived in Mexico for nine months. It has been a process, and I am still on an awesome journey of learning about a huge God and His incomprehensible love for people — people of every tribe, tongue, and nation.

Through my former school, Ben Lippen, as well as church, I have been challenged to consider God's heart and what He views as important. His heart desperately aches to bring the dead to life, "not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9). He is passionate about people and offers a new kind of life. As a follower of Christ, I want to share in His passions and ache over what breaks His heart. Because of what God has done in my life as a result of these mission trips, I now realize that my only mission is to continue in His mission — inviting others to taste and see how great He truly is. To introduce them to a love that is wide and long and high and deep – a love that surpasses knowledge, that they may experience freedom, grace, joy, and ultimately, life in abundance. So my old idea of the English-speaking God of America was left somewhere in Paraguay, and over the past few years I have begun to see the God who rules over all the earth and who has an uncontainable love for the people in it (and I'm pretty sure He can speak Spanish!). ■

*Maybe God  
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*Editor's Note: Abbey Shoemaker is now a freshman at Columbia International University in the Intercultural Studies program.*

Abbey Shoemaker (left) and a friend she made in Paraguay.

# CIU Radio Stations Link with Compassion International

Children in need grip the heart of WMHK morning show host

My trip to Peru with Compassion International in 2005 had an inauspicious start. A flight delay caused me to miss a connection and instead of meeting my group in Miami, I arrived alone in Lima at 4 a.m. When I couldn't find the person I was supposed to meet, I got into what I hoped was a legitimate taxi. The guy must have noticed I was nervous when he asked me to pay for gas! I was just glad when he got me to the hotel.

Despite such (sometimes amusing) difficulties, I made the trip to encourage our listeners to become Compassion International sponsors. Compassion International is a Christian child advocacy ministry that releases children from spiritual, economic, social and physical poverty and enables them to become responsible, fulfilled Christian adults. My wife and I sponsor two Compassion International kids from Ethiopia, and have been deeply moved by their letters; particularly when they wrote about their increasing desire to know God. When I was in Peru, I realized the letters sent by sponsors meant a lot to the kids, too. One brought out a shoebox full of letters she'd been saving for years.

I remember an adorable three-year-old girl named Meri who eagerly invited us into her home. Meri was raised by her grandmother in a tiny shack shared by several family members. Through tears, her grandmother told us that when she saw what Compassion was doing for Meri she gave her life to Christ.



Linda Senneker of New Life 91.9 with Compassion International children in Brazil.

Kids in the Compassion projects hear the gospel clearly and have practical needs addressed. It may be a good meal every day, learning a skill, or medical attention. Compassion teaches prenatal and infant care to mothers, gives kids help with school work, and the list goes on. What they really provide is **hope**. Kids learn that God loves them and has a plan for their lives.

New Life 91.9's (WRCM-Charlotte) Linda Senneker was in Brazil with Compassion this past July. She described both desperation and hope. "As we were leaving the last Compassion project we visited, the children were singing 'God is so good, He's so good to me' in English.

Tears filled my eyes instantly. Earlier in the day, I had walked through the muddy, trash-filled alleys to visit their homes ... I had to breathe through my teeth to keep from getting sick ... the smell of human waste was so strong. Their homes were pieced together with rotten wood, scrap tin, and even sheets were sometimes used as walls. These children had nothing, yet were so happy and in love with God."

As WMHK and New Life 91.9 campaigns for more Compassion kids sponsors, we remind listeners it's just about the best \$32 a month they could ever spend. ■

## Alumni Ministries

By John Heflick  
TEAM CIU

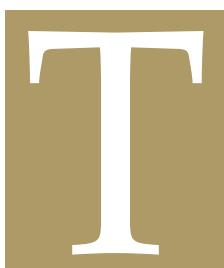
# The First Alumni Referral?

The impact of alumni referrals began in the 1920s



*Joy Ridderhof*

Packing to go to college can be an incredibly anxious time! What will the school really be like? Will I make good grades? Will I make friends? Will I find a spouse? Will I find my classes? Now imagine traveling by train from California to attend college in South Carolina. The year is 1923.



The college that this student traveled to was unlike most schools. In fact, it didn't formally exist as a college and had not graduated a single student. Its young, new president had no leadership experience in higher education and was first offered the job as an offhanded, half-jesting remark around a dinner table. The school's board was mostly women at a time in history when women were not supposed to be doing such things.

Joy Ridderhof found herself in just such a situation when, as a single young lady, she felt God's call to attend a college founded on the dreams of Sunday school teacher Emily Dick, her mother and some of her friends. It was called the Southern Bible Institute at the time. When Joy left California in the fall of 1923, there were three full-time students enrolled. There was no tuition. Room and board for an entire semester cost a little more than an American couple spends on a nice date today.

Still, Joy had no money to get to the Bible school, but she was praying that the Lord would provide a way. She realized the Lord's answer when her sister, who lived in Chicago, asked Joy to help take care of her children during the summer months. Since her sister volunteered to pay the round-trip train fare, Joy asked that the return ticket to Los Angeles be exchanged for a ticket to South Carolina.

For the next two years, Joy's simple faith was honed and exercised in the crucible of God at what came to be known as Columbia Bible College (CBC), and today, Columbia International University. Her time at CBC would prove instrumental in exposing her to God's heart for all nations. The Lord led Joy to serve as a missionary for the Friends Church in Central America. She eventually returned to Los Angeles in poor health and was told she could never go back to the mission field. Joy wanted to encourage the women she had worked with, so she recorded a short message for them, with singing. That first record led to Gospel Recordings, now Global Recordings Network.

Many in the CIU family have heard this story before, but, as radio commentator Paul Harvey would say, "Now, the rest of the story."

Prior to CBC, Joy used to baby-sit for a family of four children in Los Angeles that included Virginia White. So, when it

came time for Virginia to decide on a college, she talked with Joy. It's not too surprising that Virginia chose to attend CBC as well. So in 1928, at 17 years old, Virginia set out across country just like her mentor for the long train ride to South Carolina.

Virginia had a hard time adjusting to the many expectations placed on the students based on Southern cultural standards. For instance, Virginia was enjoying a Sunday afternoon in the Sun Parlor of the Colonia Hotel, which housed the college, by playing some classical pieces she'd learned growing up. Mrs. Dick, Emily Dick's mother, entered the room and promptly told Virginia that she was only to play hymns and spiritual songs on Sundays.

Over the next two years, Virginia grew in her understanding of Southern mannerisms. More importantly, she grew in her faith and understanding of her Savior. Through CBC President R.C. McQuilkin, she learned of the possibility of being in constant, conscious communion with God, or "the Three C's."

Virginia graduated in 1930 and returned to California with a new vibrancy for serving Christ. She moved to Washington in 1937, married Harry Benedetti, and then returned to Los Angeles, with her husband and son in 1952, where she served for 40 years with Gospel Recordings.

I met Virginia on a recent trip to L.A. where she recounted these stories to me in vivid detail. Virginia is 97 years old and quite possibly our oldest living alumnus.

As the coordinator of volunteer recruiters, or TEAM CIU, I am constantly touched by the amazing stories of those who step out in faith to attend CIU. I'm also impressed by the number of students who were referred to CIU by our alumni. In a recent poll of our current student body, nearly 70 percent indicated that they were influenced by an alumnus to attend CIU!

I'm not sure the story about Joy and Virginia marked the first alumni referral, but I know it wasn't the last!

If you'd like information on how you can spread the word about CIU in your area, please visit [www.ciu.edu/alumni/teamciu](http://www.ciu.edu/alumni/teamciu). ■

*Virginia White Benedetti*



I'm not sure the story about Joy and Virginia marked the first alumni referral, but I know it wasn't the last!



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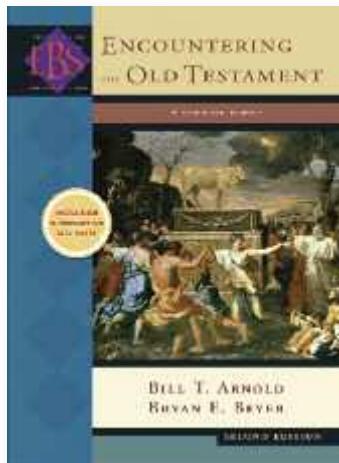
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# New Books Authored by CIU Professors

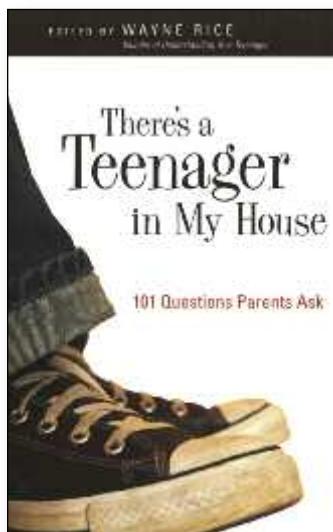
For information on purchasing these books, contact the CIU Bookstore at (800) 777-2227, ext. 5263 or [Bookstore@ciu.edu](mailto:Bookstore@ciu.edu).



## Encountering the Old Testament

By Dr. Bryan Beyer and Dr. Bill Arnold

Now in its second edition, *Encountering the Old Testament* is a leading Old Testament survey textbook. Dr. Bryan Beyer, professor of Old Testament and Hebrew, co-authored the book with Dr. Bill Arnold of Asbury Theological Seminary. Figures from publisher Baker Academic show the first edition, which was released in 1999, sold over 110,000 copies. The second edition, which was released in April, is also on track to be a best-selling textbook. The new edition includes revisions to the original text, sidebars, bibliographies, notes and indexes. An accompanying interactive CD-ROM includes links to study aids, videos, and photos. The book is part of Baker's Encountering Biblical Studies series.



## There's a Teenager in My House: 101 Questions Parents Ask

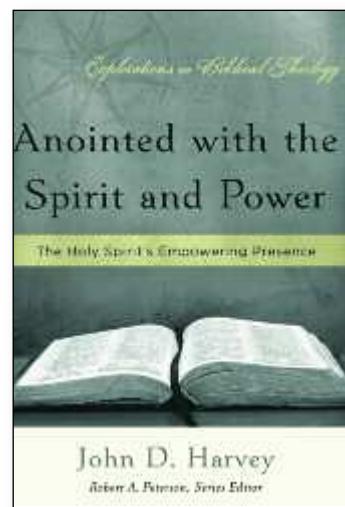
Edited by Wayne Rice

*There's a Teenager in My House* gleans from the knowledge and wisdom of several youth ministry leaders, including Dr. David Olshine, director of the youth ministry program at CIU. The book answers more than a hundred of the most common concerns that parents ask such as, "How should I respond when my daughter is disrespectful?" "What do I do when my son refuses to go to church?" "When is it appropriate to start dating?" Published by Intervarsity Press.

## Anointed with the Spirit and Power

By Dr. John Harvey

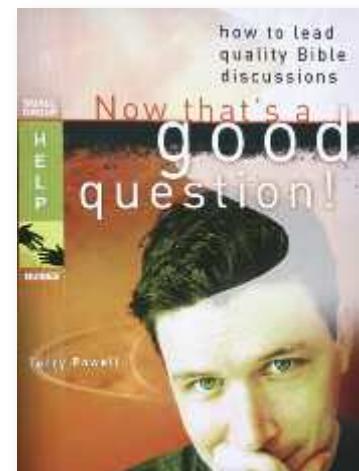
*Anointed with the Spirit and Power* by Dr. John Harvey, professor of New Testament and Greek, traces the theme of Holy Spirit empowerment from Genesis to Revelation, giving special attention to the Spirit's involvement in the life, ministry, and mission of Jesus Christ. As the study unfolds it becomes clear that the Holy Spirit alone has been, is today, and always will be the source of empowerment God uses to accomplish His purposes through His people. Published by P&R Publishing.



## Now That's a Good Question!

By Dr. Terry Powell

What can you do to make small group Bible discussions more engaging? *Now That's a Good Question* by Dr. Terry Powell, director of CIU's Family and Church Education program, is teeming with ideas and examples to help you lead group members to observe, interpret and apply God's Word in productive and meaningful ways. Published by Standard Publishing.



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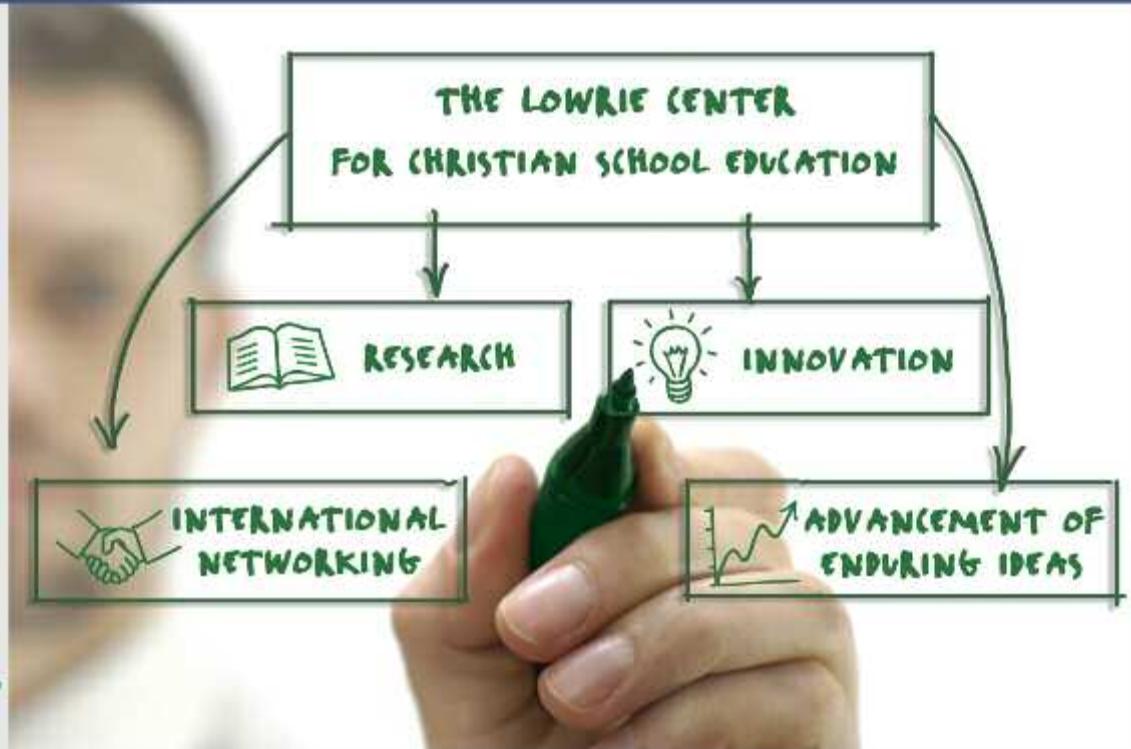
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