

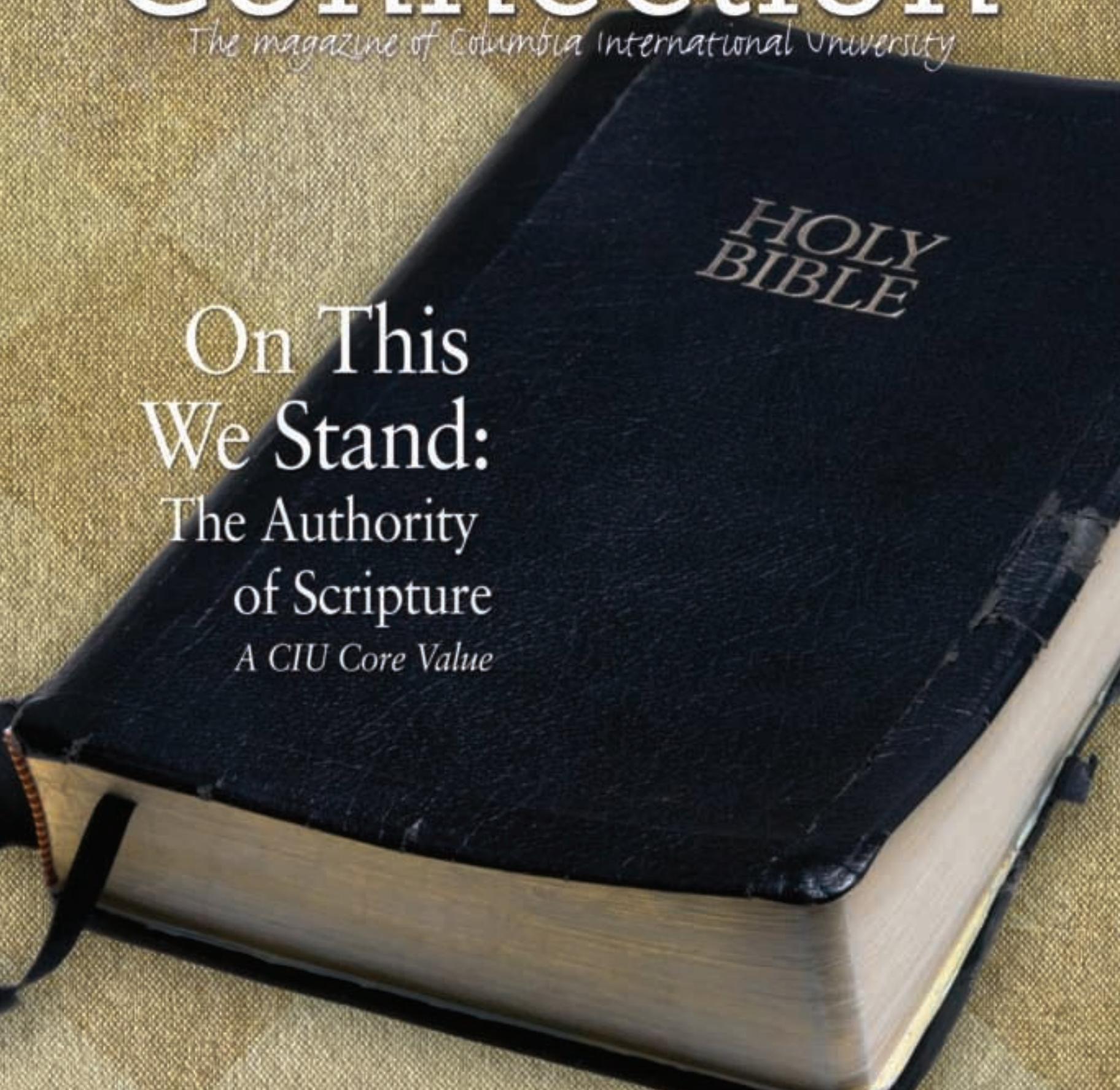
Spring 2009

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# Connection

The magazine of Columbia International University

On This  
We Stand:  
The Authority  
of Scripture  
*A CIU Core Value*



HOLY  
BIBLE

Letter from the President

# The Authority of Scripture

Dear friend of CIU,

We thank God for the opportunity to share God's Word through the ministries of Columbia International University. With this extraordinary privilege comes responsibility. Nothing fashioned, or attained, or spoken, or esteemed by man holds more crucial relevance to mankind than the Scriptures. Therefore, we continually pour ourselves into the task of "handling accurately the word of truth" as we minister — and train others to minister — in an often skeptical and resistant world.

In his first epistle, Peter stresses again and again the importance of communicating Scripture. He reminds us of those who first preached the gospel to us (1 Peter 1:12). We have "tasted the kindness of the Lord" (1 Peter 2:3), and "have been born

of seed that is "imperishable...through the living and abiding word of God"

(1 Peter 1:23). He also expresses great concern "for those who do not obey the gospel of God" (1 Peter 4:17). Therefore, we are compelled to prepare others "to give an answer to everyone who asks" them for a reason for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15).

How do we equip others to share and defend the gospel in a world filled with skepticism and intellectual arguments? This issue of *Connection* magazine gives us some insight. Here, several members of our faculty and administrative staff explain how the authority of Scripture remains foundational to every facet of our ministry — from the material introduced in the classroom to the songs selected for the airwaves.

In his article "How Accurate is the Bible?" Daniel Janosik gives three tests that validate the historical claims of the Bible. Mickey Bowdon addresses the five-component grid through which we form our worldview. In "Finally — A Biblical Psychology!" Stephen Farra writes of the "calming, clarifying, and healing power of God's truth" offered through Christian counseling. Elaine Lindsey cites Romans 1:20 as she explains how the core disciplines can be taught from the perspective of a biblical worldview. For example, she writes of how axioms in mathematics point to a constant, dependable, relational Creator. Igou Hodges discusses nine

characteristics on the doctrine of sola scriptura. These are just several examples of the interesting facts and rich terminology offered in this issue. As you read you may want to highlight each reference to the authority of Scripture. After you turn the last page, I pray you are left with an even greater desire to study God's Word.

We dedicate this issue to our sovereign Lord. "In all things, may God be praised through Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory and the power for ever and ever" (1 Peter 4:11).

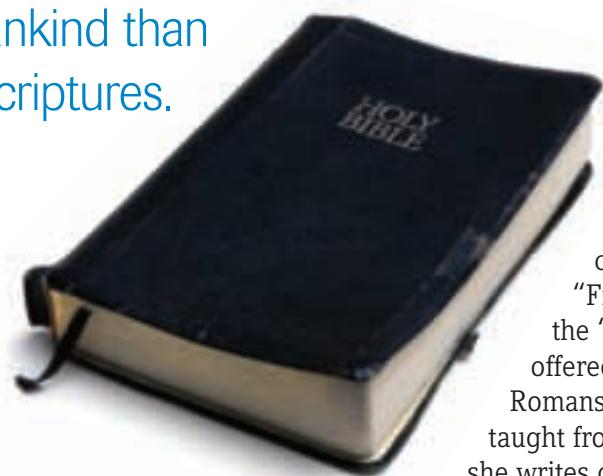
Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones  
President



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# Connection

Columbia  
International  
University

Volume IX, No. 1  
Spring 2009

The CIU Connection  
is published  
as a service to CIU  
alumni and friends by  
the Marketing  
Department of  
Columbia  
International University.

Editor  
Bob Holmes

Copy Editor  
Anne Buck

Design  
The Gillespie Agency

Direct all inquiries to:

The CIU Connection magazine  
P.O. Box 3122  
Columbia, SC 29230-3122  
(803) 807-5077  
publicrelations@ciu.edu  
Visit our website

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

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Pictured above:

CIU core value stone at the entrance to the CIU library

## Upcoming Hispanic Youth Conference at CIU Bathed in Prayer

Whispering prayers in Spanish, dozens of Hispanic pastors and leaders of Hispanic ministries from around South Carolina gathered in small prayer circles in the Moore Fitness Center at Columbia International University, asking God to stir the hearts of young Hispanics around the state. Their prayers are laying the groundwork for an important Hispanic youth conference in June that will promote sexual purity.

"Hispanic Youth Congress 2009: Sex, Lies and the Truth" is sponsored by the South Carolina Baptist Convention, and will be held June 24-27 on the CIU campus. About 900 Hispanic youth are expected to attend.

The prayer time, which lasted for over an hour, followed a lunch with CIU administrators, who encouraged the pastors in their work.

Speaking through an interpreter, CIU Vice President for Corporate Planning Bob Kallgren, showed the pastors research indicating a sharp upward trend in the population of young Hispanics, noting the great opportunity for outreach. "You are the ones (God) is preparing, and it is a very big challenge," Kallgren said. "So I commend you to the Lord. May you find great success."



Hispanic Youth Conference



Ben Lippen School elementary students get in the spirit of the "Pig Project."

## Ben Lippen School "Pig Project"

Ben Lippen School elementary students raised \$1,950 to buy 13 pigs for pastors in Cuba. Why pigs for pastors? The pastors use the pigs to raise piglets to sell for their livelihood. Under Cuba's Communist dictatorship, pastors forfeit their government income and food rations when they become a pastor. The project was in conjunction with Logoi Ministries. The students

raised the money by doing extra jobs around the house or brought their own money from piggy banks, mostly in pennies.



## The 2008 R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Winner

A high school senior whose goal is to minister to children is the recipient of the 2008 R.C. McQuilkin Leadership Scholarship at Columbia International University. Melissa Turlington, 17, of Towson, Md. was chosen from among 45 students to receive the full-tuition scholarship. Melissa is the daughter of Frank and Effie Turlington of Towson, Md.

The scholarship winner was announced following a weekend competition Nov. 13-15 on the CIU campus. Weekend activities included participation in a class, interviews with school officials, group discussions and other group activities. 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."

Melissa placed her trust in Christ at the age of eight at her home church, Chestnut Ridge Baptist Church. Her church ministries include teaching and leadership in the youth

group, and helping out in the church nursery.

At Towson High School, Melissa founded a Bible study for her peers called Prayer Squad. She also organizes the national See You At The Pole event at her school.



**R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Winner  
Melissa Turlington**

As a matter of fact, Melissa was driving home a classmate from a Bible study at her school when she received a cell phone call from CIU President Bill Jones congratulating her on being the scholarship winner. Her reaction? "I screamed. Very loudly, I screamed," she recalled with a laugh.

Melissa said she feels like God has given her a natural gift to work with children, especially in cross-cultural settings. "I love to teach, and I love to see children progress," she said. "I get a joy out of watching them learn."

She said that "CIU is the perfect fit," for her future plans. She will major in Bible and Intercultural Studies.

### Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity



National Social Studies Teacher of the Year, Kelly Sumner, shows her check for \$2,500.

## CIU Graduate is Social Studies Teacher of the Year

A Columbia International University graduate is the 2008 National Social Studies Teacher of the Year. Kelley Sumner was presented the award and \$2,500 by the National Council for Social Studies at their annual convention in Houston.

Sumner graduated from the CIU Graduate School in 1997. She teaches fifth grade at Rhame Elementary School in Columbia, S.C.

Soon after receiving the award, Sumner was named "Teacher of the Week" by WLTX TV in Columbia.

## Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity at CIU

A number of CIU students skipped lunch on Oct. 21 and used the hour to pray for the unborn. They were taking part in the Pro-Life Day of Silent Solidarity. During the national observance, some people don't speak during the day to show their support for the unborn who cannot speak for themselves on the issue of abortion. Some carry fliers explaining why they are silent and educate others about the plight of the innocent children lost to abortion.

CIU students taking part in the day met at the CIU Prayer Towers. Some prayed silently, while others joined in a circle and prayed aloud.



## CIU Broadcasting Reaches out to Community

Columbia International University radio stations WMHK in Columbia and New Life 91.9 in Charlotte continue their ministry of reaching out to their communities in very tangible ways. In Columbia, listeners

donated new teddy bears that will be used by EMS, police and firefighters to give to children in crisis situations. Over 1,000 "Bears for Caring" were collected during December. In Charlotte, New Life 91.9 hosted the "Carolinas' Largest Baby Shower." Listeners dropped off over 1,500 baby gifts at seven crisis pregnancy centers. The gifts included diapers, clothing, car seats, and formula along with nearly \$1,500 in monetary donations. The shower was held in conjunction with Sanctity of Human Life Week.



## Letters to the Editor

*Letters in response to the Fall '08 Connection titled: "World Evangelization: From Here to the Ends of the Earth."*

Tonight I went down to my mailbox, so exhausted I wondered if I could carry the usual pile of mail back to my apartment. And there was the Fall 2008 *Connection* magazine. I read the words — From Here to the "Ends of the Earth" — and had such uplift in spirit that my tiredness seemed to disappear like frost in the morning sunlight. Nothing smaller than "...to the ends of the earth" is a vision worthy of our Lord! It was the World that God *SO* loved.

I sat down in my apartment to begin reading your magazine and was just flooded with joy! The magazine — both text and illustrations — is just beautiful and so professionally done — worthy of the One whose way is perfect.

- Patricia L. Carson ('60-62)  
Yreka, Calif.

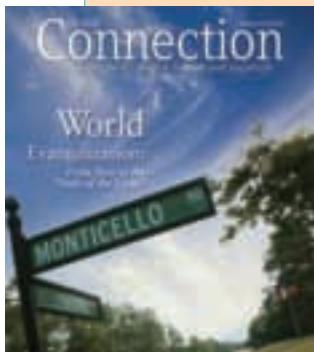
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*In response to the article "An Angry Missionary and a Filipino Kid:"*

Cliff Bedell's honesty is refreshing. It shows that we who are God's servants are not perfect, and still growing.

- Jim Pitcher ('66)  
Baldwinsville, N.Y.

• • •



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).

# beyond

conventional thinking  
theological basics  
cultural boundaries



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## Development

By Frank Bedell, Director of Development

# Reflections on the Joys and Benefits of Sprinklers

I grew up in the Philippines, the son of missionary parents. Because the Philippines is a nation of islands, many of my childhood experiences naturally revolved around water. While I had the privilege of exploring the spectacular coral reefs in the South China Sea, one of my favorite childhood memories centers on the water in my own backyard. On many hot summer days, my friends and I would put on our bathing suits and play in the garden sprinkler. At first, we would race around the periphery and flirt with the cold droplets as they landed on our skin. Gradually we made our way to the center, where the pressure and the fun were the greatest. Inevitably, we would end our play time exhausted — and drenched!

Sprinklers remind me of the generosity of the supporters of Columbia International University — a drenching source of refreshment to others. The Bible talks about people who live their lives as a sprinkler. In Proverbs 11:25 we read, “The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.”

To illustrate this proverb, I offer two examples of friends who live their lives as sprinklers:

The first is a CIU alumnus who recently called my office. He wanted to make his annual gift to the University and explained that this year’s gift would be significantly smaller because of unexpected family obligations. The recent decline in the stock market had also eroded much of his retirement fund. Even still, he wanted to make a gift, and we gratefully accepted.

Another supporter sent a warm letter with his gift. After a downsizing at his



Sprinklers remind me of the generosity of the supporters of Columbia International University — a drenching source of refreshment to others.

company he was laid off and unemployed. When he sat down to pay his monthly commitments he wondered whether he could afford to continue his monthly contributions to CIU. But he determined to trust God, and made his monthly gift. Days later, God rewarded his faithfulness in an unexpected way.

God desires each of us to be a sprinkler — a conduit of blessing who touches everything and everyone around us. If you would like a good resource to help you in this process, I recommend Randy Alcorn’s easy-to-read book, *The Treasure Principle: Discovering the Secret of Joyful Giving*.

Sometimes we want to serve as a sprinkler but occasional kinks in the hose hinder our ability to function in our best capacity. Instead of a powerful spray, all we can manage is a few drips. Financial planner Dave Ramsey has a book titled *Total Money Makeover*. Ramsey provides seven organized, easy-to-follow steps that will undo the kinks in your hose. If you follow his advice you will have the opportunity to become a powerful sprinkler with a big radius — like the one that often drew my friends to our backyard. ■

# YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING.

Me? Go back to school?

Yes. YOU!



Life is busy. We understand. With a family, a career, and much more on your plate, enhancing your ministry skills may seem impossible. Whether you're leading a Bible study at work, teaching Sunday school, mentoring youth, or advancing in your career, CIU will prepare you. We offer flexible study options to fit your schedule. If you're ready (or not), we need to meet. We'll schedule a personal visit just for you. For more information, visit [www.ciu.edu/nokidding](http://www.ciu.edu/nokidding) or call us at (800) 777-2227.

## LET'S CHANGE THE WORLD TOGETHER



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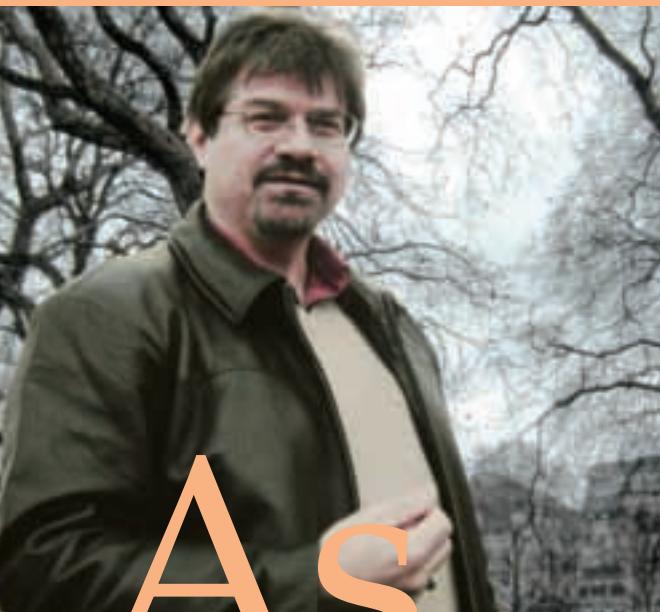
e-mail: [yesseri@ciu.edu](mailto:yesseri@ciu.edu)

[yesgrad@ciu.edu](mailto:yesgrad@ciu.edu)

phone: (803) 907-5335

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• Counseling • Intercultural Studies • Teaching English as a Foreign Language • Pastoral Counseling • Christian Education • Bible Exposition



**A**s I stood on the stool overlooking the large crowd gathered in London's Hyde Park, Muslims were gathering to oppose me. I had barely begun to proclaim truth when they tried to drown me out with their shouts. This is not an unusual scene. Speaker's Corner in the northeast section of the park has been an historic, world-renowned open-air venue for the exchange of ideas since the 1860s. The exchange is sometimes heated – especially when it comes to proclaiming truth.

*Above: CIU Professor Daniel Janosik addresses a group of Muslims at Speaker's Corner in London's Hyde Park.*

# The Bible is Accurate and Trustworthy

## An Encounter with Muslims Puts the Bible to the Test

That day I questioned the historicity of Islam's holy book, the Qur'an. Immediately, several Muslims boldly asserted that the Bible could not be trusted because it has been corrupted and the true gospel of Jesus Christ had been lost. This is a stalemate that I have often faced and I proceeded to ask them two questions: When and how were the Christian Scriptures changed? Most Muslims know very little about the history of the Bible and therefore seek to change the subject when they are asked these two simple questions. Rather than letting them change the subject, I presented to them three tests that validate the historical claims of the Bible.

These are the Bibliographic test, the Internal Witness test and the External Witness test. My goal was to demon-

strate that the Bible, which actually predates the Qur'an, is not only historically accurate, but it can be fully trusted as the true Word of God.

### The Bibliographic Test

This first test determines whether the text we have now is essentially what was originally recorded. Ancient documents are very rare due to the media on which they were written. In fact, we do not have any original manuscripts of **any** of the biblical documents from either the Old Testament or the New Testament. However, this is also true of **any other** document of the ancient world. That's why the condition of the earliest copies of Scripture is so important.



We have approximately 24,000 early copies of the New Testament, with over 5,000 of these in the original

Greek. When we compare this number to other ancient documents, it becomes clear that the New Testament is in a league of its own.

The best example from the ancient world, besides the New Testament, is Homer's *Iliad*, of which we have 643 early copies. This difference may not seem that significant until we also compare the time span of these copies. The shorter the gap between the writing of the original document and the earliest copy, the more reliable the accuracy. For most ancient documents, including those written by Plato, Aristotle, Caesar and others up through the time of the New Testament, the earliest manuscripts that we have are copies written over 1,000 years after the original, which means that we are dealing with copies of copies of copies.

Even our best example of the ancient world, again, Homer's *Iliad*, is dated at 500 years after the original. In comparison to this, we have fragments of John's gospel which are dated as being copied less than 25 to 35 years after the original. Even the *Sinaiticus* version, one of the earliest complete copies, is dated within 300 years of the original documents and over 300 years before the beginning of Islam. Again, this is very significant for an ancient document. In fact, Bible scholar Norman Geisler confidently concludes that "there are earlier and more manuscripts for the New Testament than for any other book from the ancient world."

### The Internal Witness Test

The next test, the Internal Test, is used to determine whether the written record is a credible witness of the events. The support for the veracity of these events comes from such things as eyewitness accounts as well as from the fulfillment of hundreds of prophecies from the Old Testament. For example, John testifies in his gospel that he was an eyewitness to the events and his testimony was true (John 21:24). By itself this does not mean anything, but



Christians gather at the historic All Souls Church in London in preparation for discussions with Muslims in Hyde Park.

as it is confirmed historically and archaeologically (the External Test), then his case is strengthened. The fulfillment of prophecy is also used to validate the accuracy of the prophecy, which in turn validates the prophet as well as the God of the Bible!

### The External Witness Test

Finally, the External Test determines whether other historical material confirms or denies the claims of the documents themselves. This is where the claims of archaeology, science and historical accounts either substantiate the Bible or try to deny its accuracy. My favorite example of an archaeological account is the story of Ebla. Over 100 years ago skeptics claimed that the Bible was inaccurate because it mentioned the Hittite people, who were unknown outside of the Bible. However, in 1972 the center of the Hittite empire, Ebla, was discovered at an archaeological site in Syria and the Bible was vindicated again. In fact, archaeologist Dr. Nelson Glueck maintains that "It may be stated categorically that no archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Biblical reference."

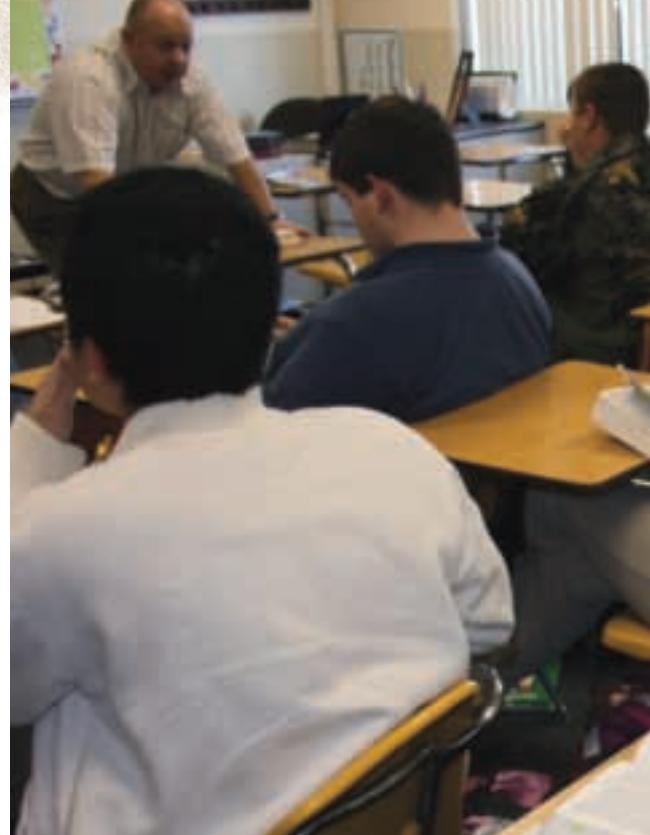
These tests, which have been proven to have the highest degree of accuracy and reliability, are those we must look to when establishing the central doctrines of our faith.

These tests, which have been proven to have the highest degree of accuracy and reliability, are those we must look to when establishing the central doctrines of our faith. The evidence reveals that the Bible has not changed and, therefore, those who claim it has been corrupted must be wrong. We can trust the Bible! ■

By Mickey Bowdon  
CIU Vice President for Christian School Education

# All Truth is God's Truth

## A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW



At Columbia International University, our purpose is to educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. A worldview is a structure or grid through which we interpret what is truth and what is not. At the heart of a biblical worldview must be the authority of Scripture.

**W**hile many people are quick to acknowledge the Word of God as authoritative and without error as it relates to spiritual matters, a biblical worldview applies the truth of God's Word to *every area of life*.

Everyone has a worldview. In a biblical worldview, God is *the author* of all truth, He is *the source* of all truth, and is *the sustainer* of all truth. Therefore, reverence for God and His Word is the key to knowledge. There is no wisdom or knowledge apart from God.

### Competing Views of God

Throughout history, many competing views of God have been developed from the mind of man. Atheists hold that God simply does not exist and man can only be explained as an accidental result of

nature, therefore man creates his own truth, determines what knowledge is, and has no future. Deists believe that God may have created the cosmos but He abandoned His creation to the control of man. Secularists take the position that God is just not important in

Consider what I call the "encyclopedia of ideas." By this, I mean all of the ideas from every area of knowledge. Many would agree that theology, ethics, and morality are essential components of the encyclopedia and we look to the authority of God's Word for their basis. Many

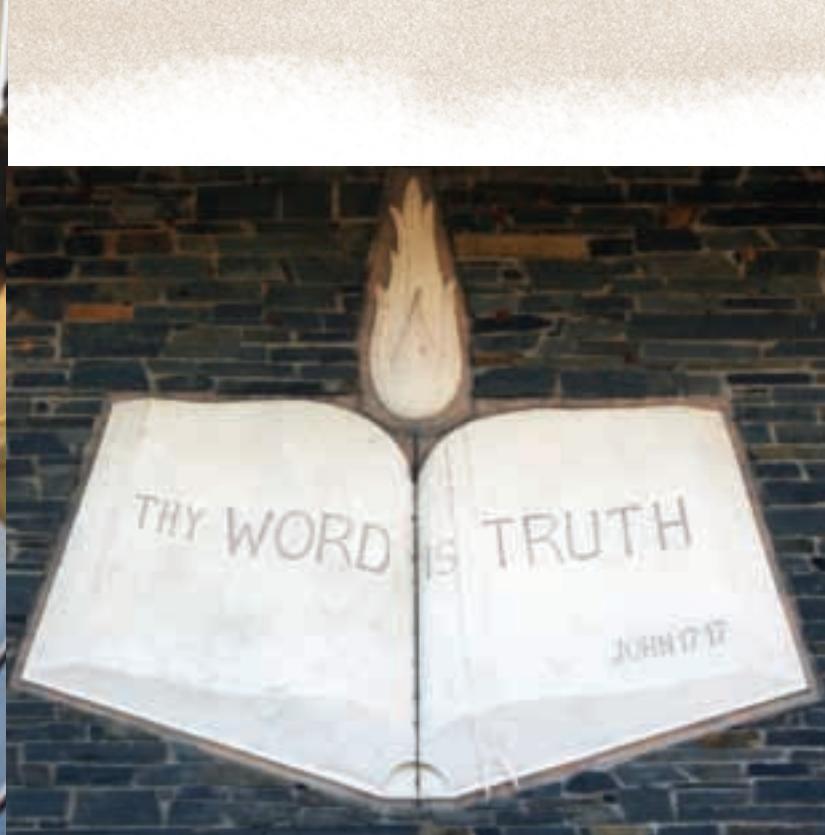
would also agree that the home and the church are the primary means of pointing us to the foundational truths of our beliefs in these areas. But I ask, "What about the rest of the encyclopedia of

ideas? What about science, history, math, psychology, sociology, language, the arts, economics, government, and law? Upon what do we base our foundational truths in these areas of the encyclopedia?"

If all truth is God's truth then we must accept the authority of God's Word in all areas of the encyclopedia. Some may

**There is no wisdom or knowledge apart from God.**

areas of life other than religion. They work to separate religion from playing a significant role in culture and society. Perhaps the view of God most prevalent in our time is the postmodern view that truth is relative to individuals, situations, and circumstances, thus there is no authority and nothing absolutely true.



Left to right:  
Bobby Young  
teaches a class on  
the book of  
Romans at Ben  
Lippen High School  
on the CIU  
campus.  
Etched in stone  
above the entrance  
to the CIU library.  
A CIU Bible study.

argue that God's Word does not contain all the facts in all areas of the encyclopedia, and neither is God's Word inclusive of every idea that we need to know and understand. I argue that God's Word does contain the principles from which every idea must be evaluated, and that His Word is authoritative to dispel any idea that God is not the ultimate fountain of truth.

### Take Every Thought Captive

For example, the Apostle Paul warned the Colossians to guard against being overcome by ideas from the world rather than from Christ (Colossians 2:8) and encouraged the Corinthians to take every idea captive and make it obedient to Christ (II Corinthians 10:5). Meanwhile, our culture has been willing to allow generations of children to be educated from a worldview that removes God from discussion and consideration in the broad encyclopedia of ideas and limits the authority of God's Word to be expressed only in our churches and homes.

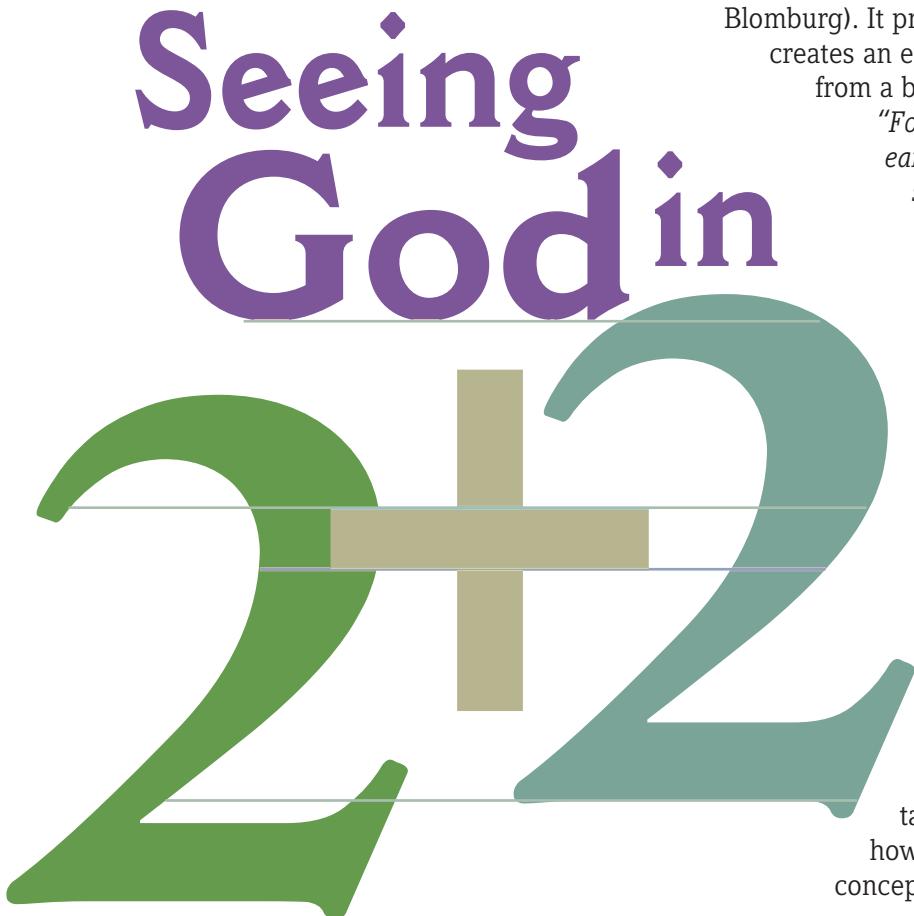
Every idea or thought that reveals the nature and character of God is opposed by the world. Scripture teaches (Romans 12:2) that we are not to be conformed to



think the world's thoughts but to be transformed by focusing our minds to think and act on the basis of the authority of God's Word. The great battle for our minds is to process every thought and every idea in every area in light of God's revelation and to reject opposing ideas. We should also understand the source of opposing ideas and their false basis so that we can clearly communicate the truth.

The world rejects God's Word as authoritative by promoting a worldview based on deception and lies. At Columbia International University and Ben Lippen School, we strive to teach the absolute authority of God's Word in every area of thought and life – educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ. ■

By Dr. Elaine Lindsey  
Professor of Education



## Putting the Authority of Scripture in Practice in the Classroom

The privilege of Christian educators is to teach students from the position of the authority of Scripture. The teacher is given the opportunity to create experiences that "foster personal and communal discipleship enabling graduates to contribute redemptively to society" (Stronks and Blomberg, 1993, p. 16). Responsive discipleship encompasses three essential aspects: helping students to unwrap their natural gifting (head), helping them develop community (hands) and seeking to be agents of shalom within their culture (heart) (Stronks and Blomberg). It provides a way to teach the student holistically and creates an environment that leads each child to understand all of life from a biblical worldview.

*"For ever since the world was created people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they clearly see his invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God"* (Rom 1:20 NLT).

The implication of this verse is that each of the core disciplines can be taught from a biblical worldview. Instruction begins with the teacher having a commitment to understanding the structure of each discipline, rather than slavishly following a published textbook. All disciplines consist of "the body of concepts which define it and help set the parameters for further inquiry" (Chadwick, 1990 p.70). The instructor must identify the patterns, relationships and principles that make up the way of thinking that is associated with the specific discipline. As these "big ideas" are identified they are related to concepts found in Scripture. Integration does not focus on minute facts or bits of information but rather it is "the matter of taking the basic concept from the discipline and seeing how it meaningfully relates to the revealed truth or the concept that is to be found within the Word of God" (p. 71).

### God in the Numbers

Mathematics is a good example. Mathematics may be defined as man's attempt to understand and describe the rational quantitative aspect of God and His activity in His creation. James Nickel (2001) writes "Since nature is rational and man is rational, the common denominator of the two is mathematics" (p. 53). Our ability to understand and use numbers is based on a series of truth-statements: in the base ten system  $2+2 = 4$ ; the shortest distance between two points is a straight line; the measure of angles within a triangle equals  $180^\circ$ . Such truth-statements, or axioms, provide the way for us to begin to understand the concept of truth. Scripture declares truth as a person — Jesus Christ (John 14:6). What do these axioms demonstrate? They are constant, dependable, and useable to build relationships and solve problems. So too, is our God — constant, dependable, relational, and the source of wisdom and knowledge. Augustine wrote, "In everything where you find measures, number, and order, look for the craftsman. You will find none other... than God" (Augustine, French translation 1873, p.440-441 cited in Jaki, 1974, p.181). Following this line of reasoning, as one teaches

students about measure, number and order, he will be teaching them what the Scripture teaches about the God of order, logic, and patterns (Gen. 1; Eccles. 3:1-14). The teacher will remind them to approach their lesson with the idea that understanding mathematical concepts will help them understand God better and be able to reflect this to others.

## God in the Language

A second example may be found in the discipline of Language Arts. It is throughout this discipline that God most clearly said that He revealed Himself. John 1:1,2,4 reads, "*The Word was with God, and the Word was God. In the beginning the Word already existed. He existed in the beginning with God ... The Word gave life to everything that was created.*" The Greek word used here is "logos." To the Greek mind it represented pure reason, but to the Hebrew it meant both the spoken word, used by God at creation, and wisdom. John says that Jesus is the personification of the spoken creative communication of God. This Word created everything; He gives life to all, and brings light into the darkness (John. 1:3,4,5). The study of language arts, all of its components (grammar, writing, literature), demonstrates how God is communicating. The structure of language reminds us of the need for clarity and precision for comprehension. The vocabulary of language teaches of the power and beauty of communication. Literature leads to probing how mankind has attempted to answer life's big questions. All of these processes can lead students to look to Jesus and how He exemplified the revelation of God.

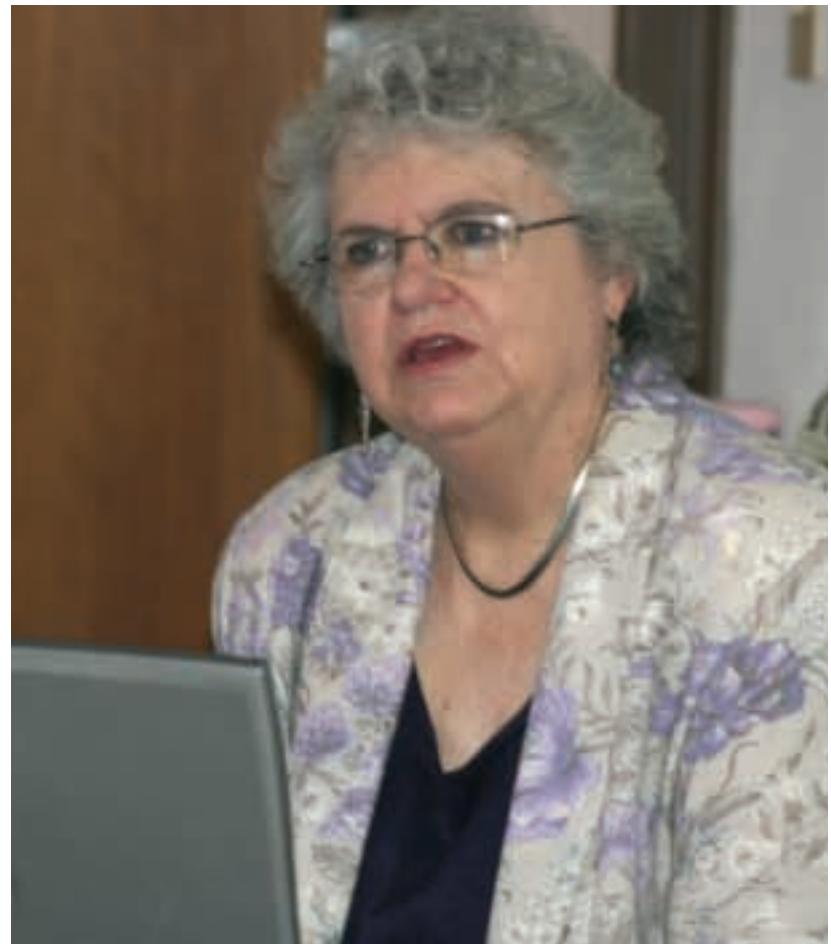
Relating the subjects to an understanding of God enables one to develop responsive disciples of Jesus Christ. Only then can Christian education truly fulfill its purpose: "a means to develop a response to our calling in life [which is] reflecting the nature and character of God" (Graham, 2003, p. 51). ■

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**"In everything where you find measures, number, and order, look for the craftsman. You will find none other... than God."**

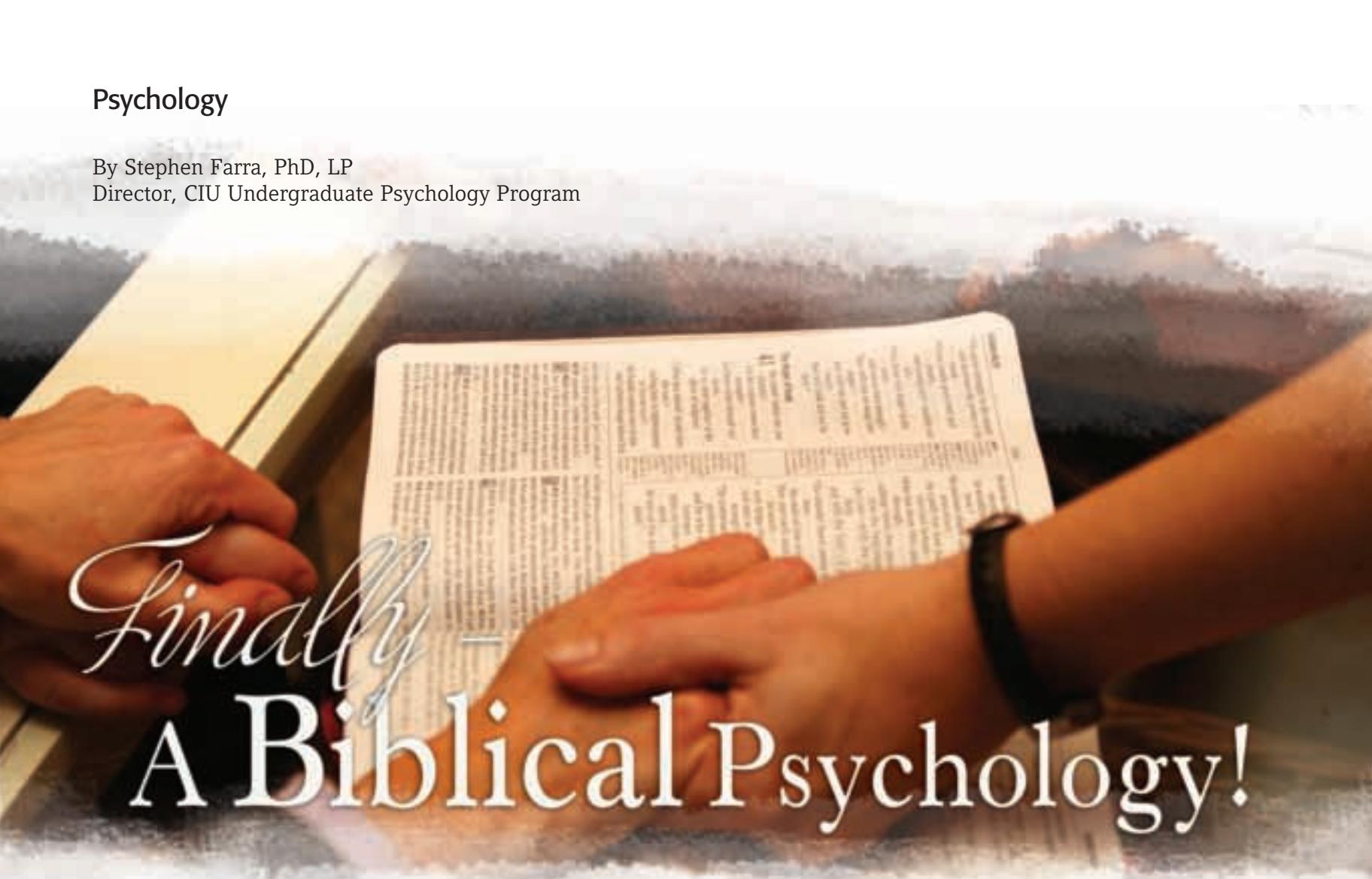
– Augustine



Dr. Elaine Lindsey teaches at the annual International Institute of Christian School Educators (IICSE) held on the campus of CIU.

## Psychology

By Stephen Farra, PhD, LP  
Director, CIU Undergraduate Psychology Program



# Finally - A Biblical Psychology!

## The Power of God's Word in Christian Counseling

**J**im worked for a large manufacturing plant in a town near where I was serving as a Christian psychologist. He was a sincere Christian, a family man about the age of 45. He had badly injured his back at work, and had to accept some disability paychecks. After several weeks, the company doctors said they could not find anything more wrong with his back, and he must return to work, in order to keep his job – a job that required quick movement and heavy lifting. This repeatedly put Jim into excruciating

pain. He was told by executives from the personnel office that he was “faking” so he could continue to draw disability checks. This accusation, along with the intense pain, and the fear he might not be able to provide for his family, nearly drove him “out of his mind.” Jim contemplated destructive behaviors that were completely out of character for this sincere Christian and family man. Fortunately, instead of acting on those impulses, he sought help through our counseling agency.

I was able to offer “Christian counseling” to Jim. What does that look like, and how does that include God’s Word? First let me state that much of what is called Christian counseling simply isn’t. Instead, it is a form of secular counseling (Freudian, Jungian, and/or Rogerian counseling) with a bit of “God-talk” and maybe a Bible verse or two sprinkled in.

On the other hand, a “Bible-only” approach will work only for a narrow range of problems, and rarely is helpful when addressing real mental illness. We need to seek a scientifically credible, clinically powerful approach that is also biblically consistent in a *rigorous and systematic way*.

# He regularly rehearsed new and better thoughts — including helpful content from several Bible verses.

## "The Gold Standard"

The good news is that such a method for understanding and helping others exists. It is a form of Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) that has been directly linked to the biblical understanding of human beings. Large hospitals and universities have shown CBT to be an effective, efficient, genuinely helpful form of psychotherapy for most psychological disorders, including depression, adjustment disorders, anxiety disorders, substance abuse disorders, and even schizophrenia. For many disorders, CBT is just as effective as psychotropic medications short term, and much more effective long term, without the side effects or expense. *Time* magazine, in a recent independent review, called CBT "the gold standard" among American psychotherapies. Here at CIU we call our *biblically consistent* form of CBT *Accountability Psychology* (AP). Like Scripture itself, CBT and AP focus on the content of our thoughts, meditating on the very best things "day and night," renewing the mind, and bringing "every thought into captivity." These methods also require of the person being counseled a high level of personal accountability via "behavioral homework" and "working the program." CBT and AP also emphasize the power of encouragement.

## A Focus on Thoughts

So what about Jim? We focused on the content of his thoughts, and challenged false and potentially destructive content. He regularly rehearsed new and better thoughts — including helpful content from several Bible verses. This helped to calm and clear his thinking so he could rationally list his options, including demanding a new round of medical tests. New MRIs showed a badly herniated disc that was missed on the earlier MRIs because the images were taken from the wrong angle. When Jim heard the news, this tough guy, this



*CIU professor Dr. Stephen Farra counsels using Accountability Psychology.*

"man's man" burst into tears. At first he was encouraged because those at the company would know he wasn't faking. Yet, when the officers of the company got the word, instead of apologizing and establishing a new timetable for Jim to return to work, they offered a severance package.

At first, Jim was determined to reject the settlement and continue the battle with the company. Once again, though, by getting him to focus on the content of his thoughts, and to prioritize his values and actions, I was able to help him see that it probably was not in his best interest to continue the bitter battle with the company when a new and potentially better life was available to him through the settlement. He just needed to step out in faith. Jim took the settlement, and then abruptly stopped coming to our counseling sessions.

I lost track of Jim until two years later at a professional conference when a well-dressed, well-mannered man approached me and asked if I recognized him. It took a moment, but then I saw it was Jim. He said he had used the settlement money to become a licensed chemical dependency counselor. He said he loved his work, and that every aspect of his life was now much better. Jim said he just wanted to thank me for helping to get him through the hardest time in this life.

Case studies can't "prove" the efficacy of any method, but this case study clearly illustrates the calming, clarifying, and healing power of God's truth, particularly when coupled with specific behavioral steps and the power of our Lord's abiding encouragement — extended through us.

To read more about *Accountability Psychology* visit the CIU website at:  
<http://www.ciu.edu/faculty/bio.php?id=12>



## Sola Scriptura

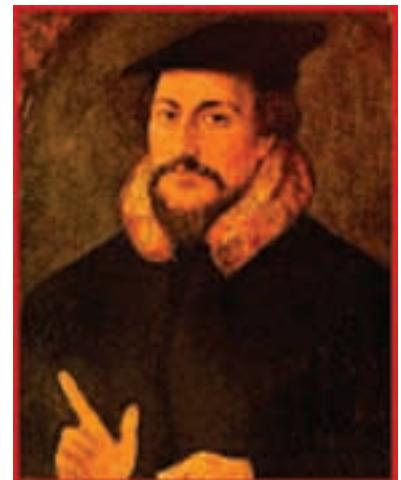
By Dr. Igou Hodges  
Professor of Systematic Theology

# The Cry of the Protestant Reformation: Sola Scriptura

Scripture Alone Should Still Be the Guide for 21st Century Church

*S*he bedrock foundation for the great Protestant Reformation was the doctrine of *sola scriptura*. *Sola scriptura* means that Scripture alone rules both the individual conscience and the life of the corporate Church. It stands as the great arbiter over all the creeds, polity, and councils of the church, as well as every human affirmation.

*Sola scriptura* constituted the formative principle out of which the other affirmations of the Church arose. This principle was employed and modeled preeminently by the reformer John Calvin whose knowledge, mental skills, and profound analysis evidenced one of the greatest minds in the history of the Church. Calvin was first and foremost an interpreter of Scripture; in fact, it is said that he knew the Scriptures like the back of his hand.



John Calvin

Though Calvin held that there is a knowledge of the Creator given through general revelation, Scripture is necessary because human depravity distorts that self-disclosure of the Creator. Scripture corrects the false and idolatrous notions of the mind, rescuing the believer from the lies of the devil and from the destruction awaiting those who continue under their deceptive fantasies. It is only through Scripture that man can overcome spiritual darkness, come to know God the Redeemer, find the mind and will of God, and have true knowledge of salvation and godliness.

## The Overarching Doctrine

Entailed within the overarching doctrine of *sola scriptura* are a number of corresponding characteristics. (1) Scripture in its entirety is inspired by God; its authors did not speak according to their own impulses, but were directed by God (who worked spontaneously through their human personalities) in every word they wrote. None who comes after them has new revelation, but must teach and preach nothing but the content of Holy Scripture.

Because Scripture is the very Word of God (2) it carries God's authority which towers over the Church, the empirical sciences, and human philosophy; it provides a framework for understanding all scientific and empirical data. As the Word of God, Scripture is the only rule of faith and practice and should be accorded the same respect as is due to God Himself. Scripture functions as God's scepter, the instrument through which Christ and the Holy Spirit reign as the Word is interpreted and rightly applied. Calvin held, contrary to the Roman Catholic Church of his day, that the Church has an authority which is subordinate to Scripture, one which is ministerial: it is commissioned by Christ to teach and preach the Word of God in its purity. There are values to tradition and to the ancient creeds and councils, but they must be evaluated by Scripture. Calvin also contended against those who appealed to supposed existential teaching from the Spirit which went contrary to God's written Word. This authority of the Word does not end, but is (3) eternal. In his commentary on the book of Isaiah, Calvin wrote, "The word is eternal, unchangeable and incorruptible and cannot, like the rain, vanish away." Since the omniscient God is the author, Scripture, and only Scripture, by its very nature is (4) infallible; for Calvin it would have been unthinkable, even blasphemous, to suggest that there might be an error anywhere in Scripture, whether in science, history, or faith and practice.

## Christ at the Center

This Word of God also (5) forms a unified whole. All the books and parts form a single coherent teaching, with Christ at the center. Calvin saw the grace of Christ and the history of the covenant of grace which Christ mediated through different periods of history, as the two complementary and unifying themes which are developed throughout the Bible.

Another important entailment is (6) the sufficiency of Scripture. Contrary to the Roman Catholic Church of his day which taught that tradition and the authority of the Church must be added to the Scripture, Calvin insisted that

Scripture is full and complete in every respect in all matters of faith and life and needs no supplements. Any addition would be a corruption of the Word of God. Sufficiency also implies (7) clarity. Though there are difficult passages in the Bible, the essential truths are presented clearly enough for the ordinary believer to understand them.

Furthermore, as the Word of God, it is (8) efficacious, bearing the dynamism of God's presence, exerting His power, with vigor and strength. As Calvin preached from the Bible every day he saw the city of Geneva changed to a place from which the gospel was spread to Europe and other parts of the world. Finally, Scripture does not need to be validated by proofs and arguments, but is (9) self-authenticating. Calvin wrote in his *Institutes of the Christian Religion*, that The Holy Spirit bears witness in the heart of the true believer that Scripture is indeed the Word of God, and this witness is the highest proof.

## Application

Calvin applied the doctrine of *sola scriptura* in a number of important ways. For example, in his theological formulation he insisted that we practice adoration rather than curiosity when studying revelation. He also taught that Scripture alone demonstrates how God ought to be worshiped.

Calvin's devotion to the Scriptures was absolute. In a day when there is so much emphasis on opinion polls and being seeker-sensitive, when much that goes on in the churches is more like entertainment, the church of the 21st century greatly needs to recapture the *sola scriptura* as Calvin understood and applied it. ■

*Because Scripture is the very Word of God it carries God's authority which towers over the Church, the empirical sciences and human philosophy.*

## CIU Prison Initiative

By Anne Buck  
Connection Correspondent

# Many Unknowns, Yet One Known

On Dec. 12, 2008 I had the incredible opportunity to attend the commencement ceremony honoring the men in the first graduating class of the Columbia International University Prison Initiative. For two years, these 14 men have been tucked away at Kirkland correctional institution just across the Broad River from CIU, quietly earning an Associate of Arts degree and will now be planted as chaplain's assistants and lay missionaries in prisons around South Carolina.

**"Our prayer is that we would not just be remembered as the first graduating class of Columbia International University at Kirkland, but that our legacy is what Jesus has done in the hearts of men around us."**

— Mr. John, speaker for the first graduating class of CIU's Prison Initiative

At the ceremony, I sat next to Mr. Quintin, a soft-spoken inmate enrolled in the Prison Initiative's second cohort of students. He beamed as he spoke of the radical change Jesus Christ has wrought in his heart. As he shared his testimony I managed to "pry" out of him an interesting fact: God enables him to memorize *entire* chapters of the Bible — *with great ease!* Dr. David Osterlund, director of the CIU Prison Initiative, said Mr. Quintin recited the 11th chapter of Hebrews as a gift to the graduates. What better gift to receive than the Word of God?

On this long-awaited day, we watched the graduating class kneel humbly before the Lord during the opening prayer — no

doubt an instinctive posture after their two years of reverent prayer in the classroom. We listened as Osterlund, CIU President Dr. William H. Jones, and several members of the CIU faculty, encouraged and challenged the men. We were inspired by the powerful charge delivered to the men by Warden Burl Cain of Louisiana, who helped launch a similar program at Angola Prison in his state. And we were deeply touched by the words of Mr. John, who represented his class as he delivered one of the most eloquent speeches I have ever heard. He reflected on the responsibility that lies ahead. He spoke of "so many unknowns, yet one Known," as he referred to "our Father in heaven... the God who is sovereign... who answers prayer."

The graduates have been built up in their "most holy" faith during their two years of intensive biblical studies. They have surrendered their lives to Christ, and as they begin to minister throughout the entire South Carolina prison population, they embrace risks and obstacles that, for many of us, are inconceivable. Yet they go in faith, with many Scriptures committed to memory as they offer Bibles and share the love and forgiveness of Jesus Christ.

For the believer, it is no surprise that God would use those in confinement to help free those who are in bondage, or once-hardened hearts to touch hearts of stone. As "the moral component" (a term used by Warden Cain in his commencement address) is introduced into each inmate's life, God's light will replace the darkness. Recidivism will be reduced, families will find healing and hardened hearts will be softened. Ultimately, CIU's Prison Initiative will have an even broader trickle-down effect as transformed inmates are released and our communities become safer.

The un-trumpeted, quiet work of these 14 men and others who follow will have significant and far-reaching implications for South Carolina and beyond for many years to come. ■



*The dean of the CIU Undergraduate School, Dr. Pat Blewett embraces a Prison Initiative graduate.*

By Mike Weston, Assistant Program Director, WMHK, Columbia  
and Dwayne Harrison, Program Director, WRCM, Charlotte

# The Message in the Music

## CIU Radio Stations Look for Scriptural Lyrics

**O**ne of the things we spend a lot of time focusing on at WMHK and WRCM is choosing the music that we'll play on the air. We listen for the basics, such as a good performance and good production quality. But our main focus is "what is the potential impact of these lyrics?" In choosing songs we also try to achieve a good canvas of different lyrical approaches. For example, *If We Are the Body* by Casting Crowns is a song that speaks specifically to people who are already believers. It encourages them to help one another, to fulfill the biblical directive of "being Christ's body" on this planet. Other songs such as *Dare You to Move* by Switchfoot are an opportunity for the radio station to reach out to non-believers. Whether someone is on that final lap just before committing to faith, or just tuned in the radio station out of curiosity, the song has lyrics to which they can relate:

*"Dare you to move, like today never happened ..." and "maybe redemption has stories to tell, maybe forgiveness is right where you fell."*

But ultimately, we defer to the authority of Scripture when reviewing lyrics, knowing that it is our best standard for song lyric content. The feedback we get from listeners bears this out. They often tell us how "just the right song was playing just when I needed to hear it." That's definitely a God thing.

Nancy called about Jeremy Camp's song, *There Will Be a Day*. She said she was in the middle of planning her mother's impending funeral. Her mother was in hospice and had just days or weeks to live. Nancy said the song's lyrics gave her hope and encouragement in knowing that her struggles now are so small compared to what awaits in heaven:

*"There will be a day with no more tears, no more pain, and no more fears. There will be a day when the burdens of this place, will be no more, we'll see Jesus face to face."*

It's a privilege that God lets us be a part of this process. In fact, the Bible talks about sharing God's Word by "casting our bread on the water." If we do that, it will bring benefit to others in ways we can't imagine. ■

But ultimately,  
we defer to the  
authority of  
Scripture when reviewing  
lyrics, knowing that it is  
our best standard for  
song lyric content.



▲ Mike Weston



▲ Dwayne Harrison

By Morgan Jones  
Associate Director of Alumni Ministries and  
Presentation Coach

# Help! No One is Listening!

## Tips for Teachers, Preachers and other Speakers

### Have you ever lost an audience?

and most compelling sermons, I looked up only to see that few people in the audience were really listening. In fact, we had "taken off" together just fine. But somewhere along the way, my sermon had crashed and I had lost the audience.

I have! In the middle of one of my best

It was terribly frustrating. Later, my wife tried to console me with some comment like, "You did a good job, honey. People just don't listen like they used to," — but secretly I knew

that her mind, too, had drifted.

As a speaker, one technique that has helped me to keep from losing an audience is called "panning the extremes." This term is borrowed



Morgan Jones

from sports television. Here's how it works on TV. Throughout the game, the camera will zoom out from the players down on the field and up onto the audience. It then "pans" the audience from one end of the stadium to the other, sometimes quickly zooming in on individuals. This draws in the viewing audience. They feel like they are actually sitting right there at the game!

Panning the extremes is also highly effective in the classroom, the boardroom, or the worship center. And it works whether you are standing or seated. When I greet the audience or begin my speech, I glance quickly to the people sitting in the four corners of the room. First, I look directly at the person on my extreme left in the very front row. Immediately, I look rapidly (pan) across the audience to the person on my extreme right, always keeping the chin level. Then I look quickly to the two people sitting in

the extreme back left and right corners of the room. *In this way, everyone in the audience feels that I am speaking to them personally.* Throughout my speech I pan the extremes every two to three minutes. In fact, I scribble the

Why risk losing your audience, especially if you're teaching something as important as the Word of God?

reminder on my notes to help me as I speak.

Why risk losing your audience, especially if you're teaching something as important as the Word of God? When you pan the audience, no matter how large or small, you will help keep them engaged — which is what they really want, anyway. This small shift in your delivery will have a tremendous energizing effect on you and those you are trying to teach. ■

### An up-to-date list of speaking engagements is available for

- President Bill Jones at [www.ciu.edu/president](http://www.ciu.edu/president)
- Chancellor George Murray at: [www.ciu.edu/chancellor](http://www.ciu.edu/chancellor)

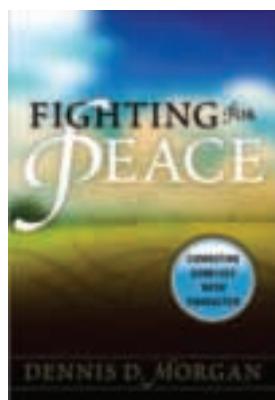
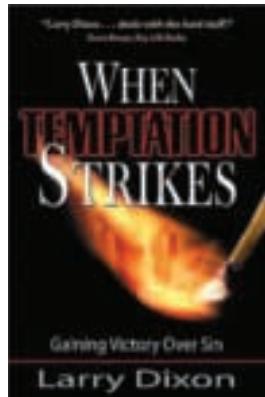
# New Books Authored by CIU Professors

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

## When Temptation Strikes

By Larry Dixon

Every Christian is engaged daily in the battle against sin. What do you do when temptation strikes? Just like in the old Western movies, Dr. Larry Dixon encourages believers to "head sin off at the pass." Dixon, a professor of theology in the Seminary & School of Missions at Columbia International University, has written a new book about waging war against sin. It's called, *When Temptation Strikes - Gaining Victory Over Sin*, published by CLC Publications.

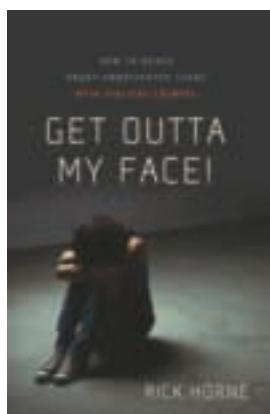


## Fighting for Peace: Combating Conflict with Character

By Dennis D. Morgan

Conflict in relationships is a fact of life. When people are around each other there is not only the potential for conflict, but there is going to be conflict in some form, to some extent, at some time. Rather than fearing conflict, Dr. Dennis Morgan, professor of clinical counseling at CIU, encourages readers to see conflict as an invitation from God to strengthen relational closeness. *Fighting for Peace* will challenge you to consider your personal relationship with God, to more fully know and examine yourself, and to move toward others in humility – combating conflict with character.

Published by Watertree Press.



## Get Outta My Face!

By Rick Horne

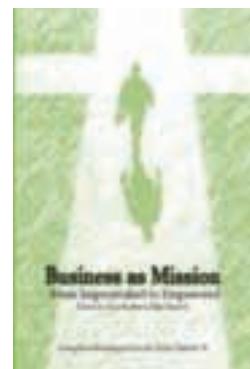
*Get Outta My Face!* deals head on with the "gritty realism" of communicating with angry teenagers. Far from dismissing or sugar-coating youthful sin, CIU Education professor Dr. Rick Horne discusses evangelizing the unsaved teen and helping the Christian teen to grow in holiness and wisdom. This book will teach you how to build a bridge to young adults on the basis of the ways in which their desires and actions reflect the image of God and the blessing of common grace. Published by Shepherd Press.

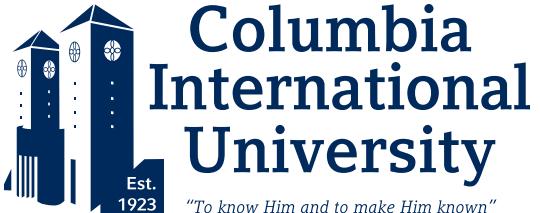
## Business as Mission: From Impoverished to Empowered

Edited by Tom Steffen (Biola) and Mike Barnett (CIU)

The role of Christian business leaders in transforming society and spreading the gospel around the world is a big topic these days for missiologists.

In 2005 the Evangelical Missiological Society (EMS) devoted their regional and annual conferences to the subject of Business as Mission. *Business as Mission: From Impoverished to Empowered* is a collection of resulting essays on this subject. Doug Pennoyer, president of EMS says "Business as mission (BAM) is a work in progress. It is a field that needs definition, theological clarity, and missiological focus... While this volume will certainly not bring total clarity to the topic, it will provide some needed definition and precision while at the same time identify areas that will demand further discussion, clarification, and maturity." The book is published by William Carey Library.





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## Connection

Volume IX, No. 1 • Spring 2009

**DON'T COME TO CIU**

if you think LIFE is all about YOU

But, if you can relate to Laura Story and Jeremy Kingsley, we need to meet. Join our students and alumni who are making a difference. If you're about serving God and others, then

**COME to CIU.**

Songwriter **Laura Story** was impacted by CIU professors: "Rather than teaching you how to use your gifts in order to bring glory to yourself, it was about using your gifts to bring glory to God."

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CIU graduate **Jeremy Kingsley** has a formula for Life: Humility + Service = Greatness. He is the founder of Onelife Ministries and the author of Be Last: Descending to Greatness.