

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



CIU Deutscher-Zweig (German Branch)

August 2004

Dear friends of CIU,

Guten Tag! Did you know that CIU has a German campus? Since 1994 when our accrediting agencies (SACS, ATS) approved CIU Korntal as an official CIU degree-granting site, more than 260 students have received their seminary degree there.

At any given time, our CIU Korntal faculty members may be training as many as 75 students, most of whom are German nationals who have served on the mission field and are receiving training while on home ministry assignment or those preparing for long-term mission work. However, the potential for great diversity can be seen by looking at one professor's recent student roster.

Dr. Bill Larkin, one of our Columbia campus faculty members, traveled to Korntal this past spring to teach a two-week intensive course on the Gospel of Luke. His 14-member class included:

- Six Germans – four missionaries (to France, Thailand, Portugal and Tuebingen), one student preparing for the field, and another student from a Torchbearer's school in Germany.
- Three Austrians – a missionary couple to the Fulani in West Africa, and the other, a missionary to Kirchdorf.
- One Swiss mission director serving in Switzerland.
- One Canadian missionary serving in the south of France.
- Three Americans – a church planter to the Czech Republic, and two missionaries working in church leadership development in Hungary and Eastern Europe.

“CIU Korntal shares the same mission to prepare ‘world’ Christians as our main CIU campus.”

What a combination! As you can see, CIU Korntal shares the same mission to prepare "world" Christians as our main CIU campus. In fact, Korntal has the same mission and virtually the same curriculum, with minor appropriate contextual adaptations, because Korntal is CIU. It simply operates in a separate location with its own dean, Traugott Hopp, and faculty. Because the campus trains fewer students, a smaller full-time faculty, with superb educational and ministry qualifications, and educational support staff members are sufficient. Columbia-based professors

President's Letter

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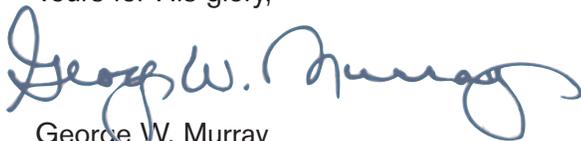
like Dr. Larkin, who periodically rotate to teach additional courses, augment Korntal's core faculty and ensure a vital connection to the home campus.

How and why did this dynamic enterprise come about? In Germany, universities are government-chartered and their theological faculties and curricula are oriented toward liberal academic theological and missiological scholarship. Personal piety and missionary passion may easily be extinguished in such an environment. Consequently, nearly two decades ago, leaders of the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Evangelikaler Missionen (Association for Evangelical Missions – AEM), a consortium of some 60 mission agencies from the German-speaking world, banded together with the goal of establishing a school that was not only academically challenging but also spiritually stimulating and oriented to the cutting edge of missionary practice. The school initially offered non-formal seminars as well as graduate level course work, but sought an accredited North American partner with a common purpose, core values, and educational philosophy in order to secure appropriate international recognition and academic credibility for its graduates. CIU was highly compatible with the AEM's desire for a combination of academic study, spiritual passion, and practical training. In the late 1980s, a partnership was formed, and a series of steps of mutual exploration and pioneering collaboration with accrediting agencies culminated in 1994, when Korntal officially became a degree-granting site of CIU.

In spring 2004, our CIU Korntal colleagues helped to facilitate the launching of a study abroad program in Korntal for our CIU Bible College students. The first cohort of four students from our Columbia campus just completed a semester there. The students lived with German host families, earned six credit hours from their studies at Korntal and strengthened their understanding of the German language the practical way – by being immersed in it.

Graduates from CIU Korntal are today serving in many countries of the world, pushing back the frontiers of Gospel awareness. This is what CIU is all about! Your prayers and gifts are making this possible. Thank you!

Yours for His glory,

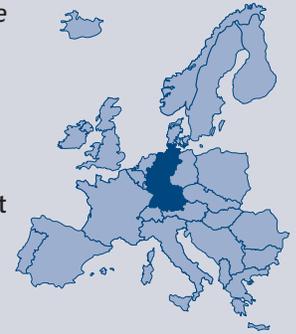


George W. Murray
President

Interesting Korntal Tidbits . . .

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- ◆ Classes and master's theses may be completed exclusively in German. English language courses supplement the German core curriculum and make seminary and graduate course work available to Europe's English-speaking missionary community.
- ◆ Korntal was the first North American theological school to be accredited by the Association of Theological Schools to offer seminary degree programs in a language other than English.
- ◆ The Korntal facility is leased from a local evangelical fellowship with a passion for world missions called the *Brüdergemeinde* (brotherhood). Behind the building is a cemetery in which some of history's greatest German missionaries are buried.



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