

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



Announcing: CIU's New Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies

June 2004

Dear Friend,

As we approach the end of our fiscal year on June 30, I want to give you an update on CIU's financial need so *please read the special information box on the next page*. **But even more importantly, I want to share with you some exciting news!** With the full approval of our Board of Trustees and the enthusiastic support of the CIU faculty, I am happy to announce the launching of **The Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies** here at Columbia International University. The Zwemer Center will greatly enhance the cutting-edge training that CIU already provides for those who have a burden to reach the Muslim world for Jesus Christ. The thrust of CIU's Zwemer Center will not simply be the study of Islam, though that will be included, but how to reach Muslims for Christ.

When my wife, Annette, and I went to the mission field in the 1970s, one out of every seven people in the world was a Muslim. *Today, one out of every five people in the world is a Muslim.* This rapid and large increase of Islam is due to biological and conversion growth. Many Muslims are aggressive about propagating their religion.

Here at CIU we believe in Christ's unchanging commission to share the message of Jesus Christ with the entire world, including the over one billion people who now claim to be Muslims. A growing number of our graduates are headed to places in the world that are predominantly Muslim. We are committed to providing the very best training we can to these special ambassadors.

In the mid-1800s, Samuel Zwemer gave his life to Christ for missionary service during his senior year of college. In due time he became the greatest missionary America has ever sent to the Muslim world, and was named "The Apostle to Islam" by church historian K.S. Latourette. In 1979, in honor of this great missionary, the Zwemer Institute was started

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President's Letter

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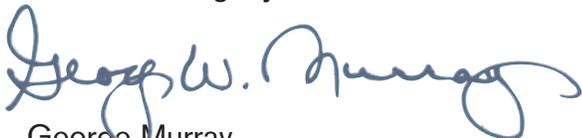
and was housed at the U.S. Center for World Mission in Pasadena, California. More recently, it has been located on the campus of Concordia Theological Seminary in Ft. Wayne, Indiana. In 2003, the Zwemer Institute board voted to merge with CIU and move the entire operation to our campus. Now that all the legal details have been finalized, we are thrilled to announce to you the addition of this quality center for Muslim studies.

Over the years the Zwemer Institute has done in-depth research on Muslim people groups, provided awareness seminars about Islam, and offered courses to those working among Muslims. These activities will now merge with and enrich the courses in CIU's Muslim Studies program, along with our intensive Summer Institute for Muslim Studies. And, of course, we will continue to reach out directly to the Muslim people here in Columbia, *where there are now three mosques*, and around the world.

Please pray for CIU's new **Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies** and for Dr. Warren Larson, who has been named director of the center. Our *vision* is to see the global church equipped to reach Muslims for Christ, and our *mission* is to equip our students to reach Muslims with the Gospel. Besides offering on-campus courses and off-campus seminars around the world, we will also inherit the former Zwemer Institute's research collection, adding it to our own resources in order to offer an outstanding research library.

Thanks for letting me share this exciting news with you. And, thank you for your ongoing prayers and financial support. We just graduated over 300 more "workers for the harvest" and some of them are headed for the Muslim world.

Yours for His glory,



George Murray
President

SPECIAL ANNUAL FUND UPDATE:

Our budgeted CIU Annual Fund gift income goal for this year is \$2.3 million.

As of mid-May we had received \$1,721,724. Thus, between now and June 30, our fiscal year end, we still need \$578,276 to reach our goal.

Please pray for this need and consider how God may want to use you to help meet it this month.

Praise note: So far this year, monthly gift income has been sufficient to pay full salaries for faculty and staff every month.