

Columbia International University

Preparing World Christians To Know Him And To Make Him Known



ABANDONMENT

March 2005

Dear friends of CIU,

“For whoever wants to save his life will lose it; but whoever loses his life for Me and for the gospel will save it.” Jesus said that. And He meant it. This is the Lord’s way of reaching a lost and dying world. It’s the exact opposite of the self-serving consumer lifestyle we see all around us in North America. It means hardship, willingness to go without. It means willingness to face danger and death. It means total abandonment to the Lord and His world-wide redemptive purposes.

I was delighted, humbled and sobered when I discovered that our CIU student leaders chose the theme **“Abandonment”** for this year’s World Christian Week (February 22-25) at CIU. Our campus is filled with young men and women who take our Lord’s great commission seriously and are ready and willing to “go to the front lines,” crossing the borders of Gospel availability.

And, our World Christian Week speaker powerfully emphasized our conference theme as he challenged us all to “deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow Christ.” Dr. David Stevens, executive director of the Christian Medical Association, himself a missionary physician in Africa for many years, spoke clearly and forcefully to a packed auditorium daily during the student-led conference. Classes were canceled for two days to give us all time to concentrate our thinking and praying on the theme of **“Abandonment.”** ▶

“ CIU students are willing and ready to... cross the borders of Gospel availability. ”

President's Letter

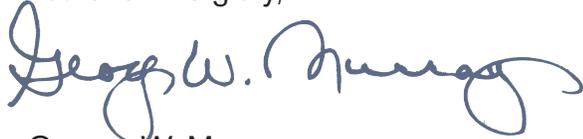
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This year's conference coordinator, student Megan Wildeson, said: "We want to see CIU students become aware of what God is doing around the world and be challenged to discover their role in God's plan to see the nations worship Him." Isn't that great?! This is what CIU is all about, and your gifts and prayers undergird everything we are doing here. Thank you for standing with us!

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President



One CIU graduate who abandoned all for the sake of the Gospel was **Chet Bitterman**, who was martyred in Colombia, South America, in 1981. *One of the terrorists who killed him has been wonderfully saved and is a lawyer in Colombia. This past year she traveled to the US and gave her testimony to Chet's family, home church, and mission agency, apologizing for what she had done and thanking the Lord for Chet's life and ministry.*