

Columbia International University

To Know Him And To Make Him Known



A Marvelous Provision and a Great Need

November 2006

Dear friends of CIU,

I want to tell you about a *marvelous provision* for CIU, and about a *great need* at CIU. But both the *provision* and the *need* only make sense when placed in the context of *what I pray for regularly* and *CIU's clearly-stated vision*.

What I Pray For

When I pray, I regularly ask the Lord that the lost will be saved, that new believers will be disciplined, that leaders will be trained, that churches will be planted, and that planted churches will reproduce themselves all over the world. And what a thrill it is to hear reports of how this is happening, both here in North America and, especially, in the majority world of developing countries. And, for me personally, it is even more thrilling to hear how the Lord is using CIU grads who are at the forefront of what He is doing around the world. In fact, the wall in my study is covered with prayer reminder pictures of CIU grads serving the Lord all over North America and in every other major continent.

CIU's Vision

And all of this is in keeping with our vision that **Columbia International University, by reputation and reality, will be a world center for biblical, transformational, Great Commission training and impact.** *Biblical* - the Bible, God's Word, is the very center of our curriculum. *Transformational* - we teach not just to impart knowledge, but to change lives and to "connect" our students with the reality of "Christ in you." *Great Commission* - we intend for all CIU graduates to have a burden for the whole world, and to choose their vocation and location in terms of God's worldwide redemptive purposes. What an awesome business to be in!

“ In our 83-year history, CIU has never had an indoor sports/fitness facility. All that is about to change. ”

President's Letter

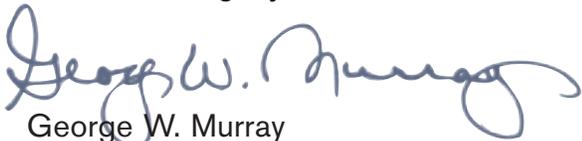
Marvelous Provision

Even though we have always believed that physical fitness is an important part of our training program, in our 83-year history CIU has never had **an indoor sports/fitness facility**. *All that is about to change.* In fact, large earth-moving equipment is already hard at work preparing the site where, Lord willing, a new CIU sports/fitness center will be available for use in the spring of 2007. The total projected cost will be \$3.9 million (which includes construction, equipment and maintenance endowment). Since CIU does not borrow money for capital projects, we must have the funds promised or in hand before construction. In fact, our wise Board of Trustees insists that at least 50 percent of the total need be given or pledged before any groundbreaking. In May, we broke ground with \$1.25 million in hand and another \$1 million promised. In the past several months, over \$630,000 more has been given or pledged. And then, just a couple weeks ago, we received another firm promise of a \$1 million gift! This means that only \$18,200 is still needed to completely pay for this new facility. Will you join me in offering up praise to the Lord for this marvelous provision?

Great Need

Every year, students who are highly qualified and deeply desire to study at CIU choose to study elsewhere because we are not able to provide them with the financial aid they need to be able to afford a CIU education. In fact, some other schools, Christian and secular, that cost far more than CIU, are able to attract students because they offer a much more attractive and generous financial aid package. I am happy to report to you that this year we were able to give away more in financial aid to deserving students than at any time in CIU's history. But, there is so much more that we *could* do, and *should* do, but *can't* do because our financial aid resources are limited. *Will you pray about helping us in this area?* Our annual budget calls for over \$1 million in cash gifts for student financial aid. A generous current gift toward that need would be greatly appreciated. Or, you may wish to contribute an endowment gift toward our student financial aid need. Why is this important? **Because our strong vision is to train an increasing number of biblical, transformed, Great Commission men and women to take the message of Jesus Christ to the whole world.** Whether through prayer or giving, or both, you play a very important part in the accomplishment of that vision. Thank you for your partnership with us!

Yours for His glory,



George W. Murray
President

President's Letter