



Letter from the President

A Reflection on the Wonders of Our God

June 2011

Dear friend of CIU,

A little slower pace comes over the campus of Columbia International University this time of year. The summer offers an opportunity for reflection on the accomplishments of the school year past and the excitement of the one to come. And of course the hand of our sovereign God moves in the midst of it all.

Overwhelmed by the blessings of God, the psalmist David reflected on God's work in his life:

Many, LORD my God,
are the wonders you have done,
the things you planned for us.
None can compare with you;
were I to speak and tell of your deeds,
they would be too many to declare. (Psalm 40:5)

I can identify with David. Where do I begin to tell of the wonders of God and His deeds on behalf of CIU?

CIU's reaffirmation for accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) first comes to mind. To obtain reaffirmation, CIU demonstrated high standards of excellence in governance and administration, institutional effectiveness, undergraduate and graduate programs, the qualification of faculty members, the availability of library and learning resources, student affairs and services, and financial and physical resources. Reaffirmation positions CIU to move forward with plans to pursue new initiatives and strengthen current academic programs.

Next, you will recall that one year ago I told you about the devastating fire that caused extensive damage to the G. Allen Fleece Library just one week before graduation. What a difference a year makes in God's timing and in His provision. While the students utilized a temporary library, work crews gave the library a huge makeover. As of this writing, we lack only \$50,000 of the \$1.4 million needed to cover the cost of renovation. We hope to complete construction by the time students arrive this fall.



Dr. Bill Jones

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Artist's rendering of the renovated G. Allen Fleece Library.

over, please

God also continues to bless CIU with very capable faculty and staff members. A familiar face arrives on campus as soon as he sells his house in Pennsylvania. CIU's fourth president, Dr. Johnny Miller returns as a professor emeritus. He and his wife Jeanne will reside in our new Pine View Apartments on campus, making them available to share their wealth of knowledge and experience with our students both inside and outside the classroom. Once the Millers arrive in Columbia, we will have all four living CIU presidents serving the university in some capacity: Dr. Robertson McQuilkin serving as our president emeritus, Dr. George Murray as chancellor, Dr. Johnny Miller as a professor emeritus, and I as president.



Robertson McQuilkin, Johnny Miller, George Murray, Bill Jones



Dr. Jerry Rankin

Meanwhile, Dr. Jerry Rankin accepted the appointment to serve as director of The Zwemer Center for Muslim Studies at CIU. Dr. Rankin recently retired after 40 years of service with the Southern Baptist International Mission Board (IMB), the last 17 years as president. Prior to becoming president of the IMB, Dr. Rankin served for 23 years in Asia, initially as a missionary in Indonesia, the largest Muslim country in the world. He replaces Dr. Warren Larson who plans to semi-retire in 2012, but will continue to serve the Zwemer Center and CIU through his teaching, writing, and blogging.



Dr. James Lanpher

Also, our new Senior Vice President and Provost Dr. James Lanpher arrives this month. He has served his entire career in biblical higher education and looks forward to working with the faculty, staff and students of CIU to make it the finest biblical university in the world. Joining Dr. Lanpher are his wife, Lisa, and their son, Weston, who will join CIU as a freshman in the fall.

Finally, I must declare God's many gracious gifts to CIU include your prayers and financial support. Your partnering helps us train laborers for the harvest through CIU. Last month, 234 CIU graduates crossed the stage of Shortess Chapel and joined over 17,000 CIU alumni sharing the love and forgiveness of Christ in almost 150 nations.

Please continue to stand with us as we educate people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Yours for His glory,

William H. Jones
President

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Columbia International University

"To know Him and to make Him known"