

Spring 2011

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# Connection

*The magazine of Columbia International University*

## Real Impact

Inside:

It Happened in Public School:  
A Life Changed for Eternity

*Plus:* Robertson McQuilkin on the  
Controversy at Lausanne

CIU Readies for  
Intercollegiate Athletics

Apologetics: Is God a  
Moral Monster?

Letter from the President

# The CIU Impact

Dear friend of CIU,

Impact. At Columbia International University we aim to make an impact. CIU educates people from a biblical worldview to *impact* the nations with the message of Christ.

One dictionary defines impact as the power of an idea to produce change. But more than an idea, the message of Christ serves as “the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes...” (Rom. 1:16). Jesus told us to take that message “and make disciples of all nations,” a commission that CIU continues to take seriously after nearly 90 years since our founding.

This edition of “Connection” magazine gives you just a flavor of the impact that our students, faculty, staff and alumni have at home and around the world, as they share the message of Christ.

This edition of “Connection” magazine gives you just a flavor of the impact that our students, faculty, staff and alumni have at home and around the world, as they share the message of Christ.

One of the most exciting events for six of our students occurred last October when they actively contributed to the third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization in South Africa. One of them, Julian Dangerfield reflects on his experience, while CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin brings his perspective to the Lausanne discussions.

Our alumni witness gospel impact around the globe on a daily basis. Read about a young lady in the Caribbean who was redeemed from a life of darkness in the Santeria religion. Other alumni make a powerful impact at home through Bible class electives at public school, and showing the love of Christ in a violent, poverty-ridden neighborhood. Still another works to protect our religious freedom as a constitutional lawyer.

CIU alumnae Ginny Dent Brant talks about the impact of her late father Harry Dent, who was also a CIU alumnus. She discusses her book, “Finding True Freedom: From the White House to the World.”

Meanwhile, just down the road from CIU, our students make an impact in the neighborhood by offering after-school tutoring and a Bible study to children.

One of the professors mobilizes young people to make an impact. Dr. David Olshine, director of CIU’s Youth Ministry program, discusses how his role continues to evolve. Another article features the growing worldwide influence of Mickey Bowdon, CIU’s vice president for Christian school education.

When it comes to the impact of CIU’s radio stations, the listeners offer the best testimony regarding their impact. Read how one of them had a life-changing experience listening to WMHK.

At Ben Lippen School, longtime teacher and coach Butch Sursavage retired after 20 years, leaving behind a legacy of impact beyond the classroom and the basketball court.

Finally, new possibilities for impact through athletics reached a milestone at CIU with the unveiling of our new mascot and a five-year athletic plan.

I enjoy telling visitors to CIU how much I love my job. Because of students, faculty, staff and alumni such as the ones you will read about in this edition of “Connection,” I come to work every day with great eagerness to see what the Lord continues to do through CIU as we impact the nations with the message of Christ.

Yours for His glory,



William H. Jones  
President





# Connection

Columbia  
International  
University

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A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.



## 2 From the President

## 4 News Connection

## 8 Development Connection

Your Little is Much When God is in it  
*By Frank Bedell, Director of Development*

## 10 The Controversy at Lausanne III

Lausanne III: Win or Lose?  
*By Robertson McQuilkin, CIU President Emeritus*

## 11 The CIU Impact at Lausanne

Students Take on Important Roles at Major Conference  
*A Reflection from Julian Dangerfield Student, CIU Seminary & School of Missions*

## 12 Missions

Removing the Yellow Bracelet  
*By Kurt Nelson President, East-West Ministries International*

## 13 Impact: Columbia, S.C.

CIU Students Impact Columbia  
*Connection Staff*

## 14 Bible Teaching

It Happened in Public School: A Life Changed for Eternity

## 15 Youth Ministry

CIU's Graying Youth Ministry Leader  
*By Abbey Shoemaker CIU Student Writer*

## 16 Education

Knights in Sharpening Armor  
*By Anne Buck Connection Staff Writer*

## 17 Politics

Finding True Freedom: From the White House to the World  
*By Abbey Shoemaker*

## 18 Urban Ministry

The Spiritual Transformation of People; the Physical Transformation in Places  
*By Bob Holmes, "Connection" Editor*

## 19 Defending Religious Freedom

CIU Psychology Program Prepared Alumnus for the Courtroom  
Connection Q&A with Daniel Blomberg

## 20 Ben Lippen School

Longtime Ben Lippen Teacher and Coach Retires  
*Connection Staff*

## 21 Radio

Broadcasting Impact  
CIU Radio Station Listeners Offer Testimony

## 22 Alumni Connection

CIU Career Services: Impact for Hire

## 23 Resources

Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God

STUDENT CONNECTION

## CIU Prepares for Intercollegiate Athletics; Ram Chosen as Mascot

History will be made in fall 2012 when Columbia International University fields its first intercollegiate athletic teams since it was founded nearly 90 years ago. Their name will be The Rams.

CIU president, Dr. Bill Jones says intercollegiate athletics fits with CIU's purpose of educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ.

"Imagine the outreach that many CIU athletes will have both at home and abroad," Jones said. "We believe athletes serve as some of the most effective evangelists for this generation."

In June 2010, CIU hired Kim Abbott as its first athletic director. She formerly served as the athletic director at the University of South Carolina-Beaufort where she built that school's athletic program from the ground up. Abbot's plan for CIU athletics includes eight teams phased in over a five-year period beginning in the fall 2012 semester.

CIU will play in the National Christian College Athletic Association (NCCAA), whose mission is to use athletic competition as an integral component of education, evangelism and encouragement.

## Blow the Shofar! Here Come the Rams!

The Ram was chosen as CIU's mascot for its strength, and for its biblical significance. Not only are rams known as ferocious defenders of their territory and their flock, the ram is a symbol of God's provision — a foreshadowing of Christ's sacrifice on the cross.

Also, the ram's horn, the shofar, is a biblical instrument used to proclaim important events. So blow the shofar! Here come the rams!



## The CIU Rams Club

The CIU Rams Club has been established to raise financial support for Columbia International University athletics and ensure that CIU athletic programs comply with the standards of the NCCAA.

For up-to-date information on CIU athletics and on how

you can become a member of The CIU Rams Club, visit [www.ciu.edu/athletics](http://www.ciu.edu/athletics).



## Completion of Library Renovation on Schedule

The renovation of the G. Allen Fleece Library is on schedule to be completed by the fall 2011 semester. The work comes after a fire in May that caused over \$2.5 million in damage, mostly to the interior of the building.

Columbia International University Sr. Vice President for Development and Operations, Keith Marion says work already completed includes a new structural arrangement that creates two levels of book stacks. Other improvements include a new elevator shaft for handicapped accessibility, a copier alcove and a coffee/vending area. New ductwork has been installed for an energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system, and pipes for a sprinkler system are in place.

Marion says reconstruction will make the library look more finished as rooms are enclosed, lighting and energy-efficient windows installed, walls are painted, and floors are carpeted.

"The renovations will create a whole new library environment that is more open and flexible than it was before," Marion said. "Rooms will encourage collaborative study with high-tech connectivity."

Marion says the total cost of the upgrades to the library is \$1.3 million. Nearly \$750,000 has been received so far in gifts and pledges.

Marion asks for prayer for effective stewardship of the library budget, and for safe and streamlined construction over the coming months.

"With every older building, there are complex situations to work out along the way. Pray for wisdom in making good decisions," Marion said.

This school year, students have been using a temporary library that was built over the summer behind Shortess Chapel.

*The remodeled library entrance will highlight the existing Bible sculpture above the doorway.*





## CIU Announces New Provost

Dr. James E. Lanpher is the new provost at Columbia International University. Lanpher comes to CIU from Trinity College of Florida where he has served as vice president for academic affairs since 1999.

Lanpher holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Arts in Theology from the University of Notre Dame, a Master of Divinity from Alliance Theological Seminary in The Philippines, and a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service from Georgetown University. His professional involvement includes the chairmanship of the Commission on Accreditation at the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) from 2007-2008. Lanpher is also a licensed official worker with the Christian and Missionary Alliance, the denomination in which he grew up.

Lanpher says he is honored to be a part of CIU.

"I have always known CIU as a premier institution in biblical higher education and it will be a privilege to work alongside the many dedicated faculty and staff who are committed to educating people from a biblical worldview to impact the nations with the message of Christ," Lanpher said.

CIU president Dr. Bill Jones says Lanpher was appointed following an extensive search and appraisal process.

"Dr. Lanpher is uniquely qualified to assist CIU as we maintain academic excellence and move forward to achieve CIU's long-term goals in new program development," Jones said.

Lanpher replaces Dr. Junias Venugopal who left CIU to become provost at Moody Bible College in Chicago.



*New CIU Provost  
Dr. James E. Lanpher*



*Philip Yancey*

## Author Philip Yancey Addresses December Graduates

Christian author and CIU alumnus Philip Yancey was the commencement speaker at CIU's December graduation.

In his charge to the graduates, Yancey encouraged them to leave CIU with an attitude of humility, something he says he didn't do 40 years prior when he graduated from CIU, then called Columbia Bible College.

"I had to come to terms with pride, and learn humility, which is a necessary prerequisite for grace," Yancey said.

Yancey said there needs to be a balance between zeal for the Lord and knowledge. He said during his CIU days, he thought there was too much zeal, and not enough emphasis on knowledge - something he resented. But he said when he looks back at his time at CIU; it's the zeal he appreciates most.

"Maybe you're like me, when I was sitting in your seat — I thought I knew everything — maybe you think you know everything," Yancey said.

"Maybe you, like me, will have the ship of your confidence crash on the rocks of reality. I hope not. I hope that you and this school will set a

shining example of ... that rare balance between zeal and knowledge," he concluded.

Yancey is the author of 20 books that explore the questions faced by most Christians and include "Where Is God When It Hurts," "Disappointment with God," and "Prayer: Does It Make Any Difference?" He drew heavily from his CIU background in developing "The Student Bible," a best-selling edition of the Bible with study notes.

*(continued on page 6)*

# LETTERS

# TO THE EDITOR

*CIU core value of Victorious Christian Living celebrated at America's Keswick Conference Center*

Dear Editor,

This summer my husband and I attended the Columbia International University Week at America's Keswick in Whiting, N.J. for the first time.

We were so blessed spiritually to hear CIU President Dr. Bill Jones and CIU President Emeritus Dr. Robertson McQuilkin each day. I was taken back in my memory to my days at Columbia Bible College in the '60s where I heard the basics of how to live victoriously, joyfully and fruitfully for His glory.

The week was a gift from the Lord. I would encourage others to discover this special place in New Jersey that has such a historic link to CIU.

Grateful for my alma mater,

Beth (Seidel) Beardsley  
Class of 1968  
Houghton, N.Y.

*Letters to the Editor are welcome. Correspondence must include your name, address and phone number. The editor reserves the right to determine the suitability of letters for publication and to edit for clarity and length. There is no guarantee your letter will be published, nor will letters be returned. Write to: Connection Editor, Columbia International University, 7435 Monticello Road, Columbia, SC 29203. Or e-mail [publicrelations@ciu.edu](mailto:publicrelations@ciu.edu).*

## Expansion of Ben Lippen School Athletic Facilities Underway



*Steve Caswell and his wife Melanie who is seeing through Steve's vision for a Ben Lippen Athletic Center following his death.*

A three-phase enhancement and expansion to the Ben Lippen School athletic facilities is underway. The Steve Caswell Athletic Center is named in honor of the Columbia businessman and engineer who sketched the plans for the expansion on a napkin before his death from cancer in 2008.

Caswell, known as a visionary and a whatever-it-takes kind of guy, first shared his idea with Ben Lippen Headmaster Brian Modarelli shortly following Caswell's cancer diagnosis. Not having the resources at the time, Ben Lippen was unable to fulfill Caswell's dream before his death.

But since fundraising for the athletic center was announced in November, \$200,000 has been donated and site preparation is underway. The total cost of the project will be nearly \$500,000 and include a weight room, a multi-purpose room and expansion of the bleachers in the existing gym.

At a banquet to kick-off fundraising, the keynote speaker was University of South Carolina men's basketball coach Darrin Horn, whose children attend Ben Lippen.

Those attending the dinner were encouraged to respond to the funding of the Athletic Center the way Caswell would have — "Absolutely. Without a doubt" — Caswell's familiar reply to tasks set before him.

## CIU Accreditation Reaffirmed

Columbia International University has received reaffirmation of its accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The accreditation is good for 10 years.

To obtain reaffirmation, CIU demonstrated high standards of excellence in accordance with the SACS "Principles of Accreditation." These included 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.

CIU President Dr. Bill Jones says the university is committed to exceeding all guidelines of accreditation, and with the reaf-

firmation the school is positioned to move forward with plans to pursue new initiatives and strengthen current academic programs.

"Providing a quality education for each of our students is a daily goal for every faculty and staff member of Columbia International University," Jones said. "We want our students to be fully equipped for wherever God leads them after graduation, whether the ministry or the marketplace, and that begins with challenging academic programs, qualified professors, and a physical environment that encourages learning."

## Ben Lippen School Names Interim Headmaster

The Ben Lippen School Board of Directors has named Vice President for Christian School Education, Mickey Bowdon as interim headmaster of the school for the 2011-2012 school year. Bowdon replaces current headmaster Brian Modarelli who has taken a position as head of school at Christian Heritage School in Trumbull, Conn. Modarelli will continue in his current position at Ben Lippen through June 30.

Bowdon has worked steadily behind the scenes at Ben Lippen since arriving in 2005, and is very familiar with the day-to-day operation of the school.

A national search for a permanent headmaster is underway.



*Dr. Mickey Bowdon*



## CIU Broadcasting: There's an app for that!

For over 2000 years, the command has been the same — "Go into all the world and preach the gospel!" Over time, technology has created new ways and methods of getting that message out.

Now, at the touch of a button, people all over the world can hear the life-changing message of the gospel of Jesus Christ. On their morning walk or waiting in line at the grocery store, that message of

hope will be delivered through the New Life 91.9 and 89.7 WMHK phone apps!

Here's what they'll hear through their smart phones: "You're not alone." "You are loved." "You are precious in God's eyes." "You can be forgiven." "You can start again."

They'll hear song lyrics straight from the Bible: "He was pierced for our transgressions. He was crushed for our sins. The punishment that bought us peace was upon Him. And by His wounds ... we are healed."

It's not just an app for a radio station. It's a lifeline.





## CIU Students Find Creative Way to Float Your Boat

CIU students used ingenuity and teamwork to do some unique boating on the CIU Lake.

In a battle of the sexes, teams had 40 minutes to build a one-person boat out of cardboard, trash bags and duct tape.

Then, from a floating dock, each team launched its boat into the water and raced to the shore while dodging water balloons.

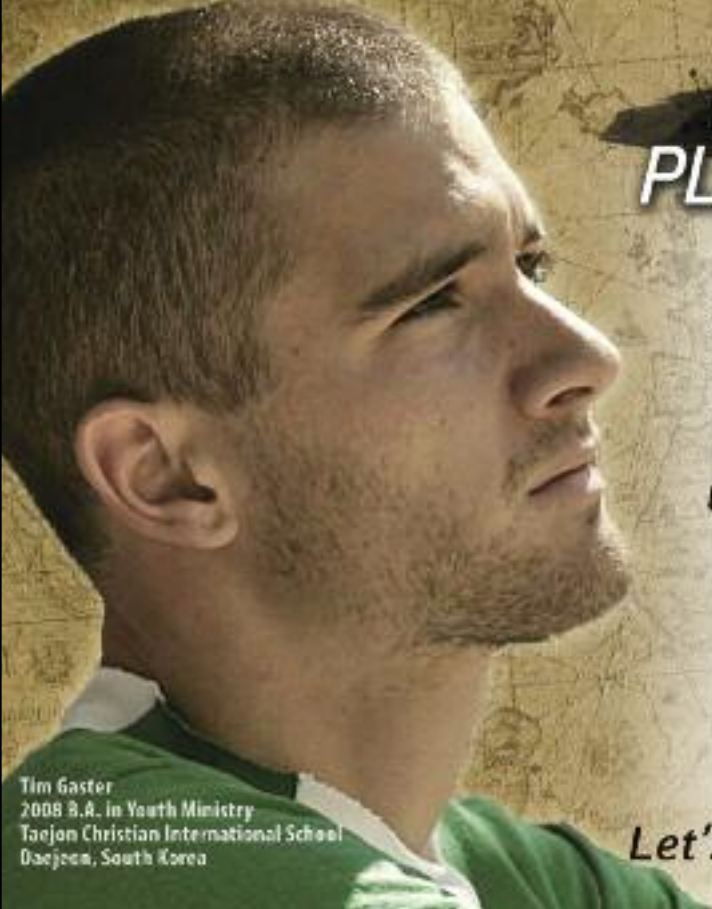
## 1930 CIU Graduate with the Lord

She was quite possibly the oldest living person to graduate from Columbia International University. Virginia White Bendetti, a 1930 graduate of CIU, passed away on Nov. 28 in California. She was 99 years old.

In 1928, Bendetti made the cross-country trip from her home in Los Angeles to South Carolina to attend CIU, then called Columbia Bible College (CBC). She was referred to CBC by her former baby-sitter, Joy Ridderhof, one of CBC's first graduates. Bendetti served for 40 years with Gospel Recordings, a ministry founded by Ridderhof. Gospel Recordings provides audio resources for evangelism and Bible teaching around the world. †



*Virginia White Bendetti*



## I DIDN'T PLAN THIS... **GOD DID.**

Tim had his career in local church ministry planned out. But, God had something different in mind. Tim enrolled at Columbia International University where he sensed God's call to cross-cultural missions, and now ministers to youth at an international school in Asia. CIU equipped Tim to make an eternal impact at home AND around the world.

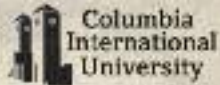
Let CIU prepare you to **IMPACT** the world for Christ – wherever He leads you.

<p><b>Undergraduate Visit Options</b></p> <p><u>Preview Day</u> September 29-30, 2011</p> <p><u>R.C. McQuilkin Scholarship Weekend</u> December 1-3, 2011</p>	<p><b>Graduate &amp; Seminary Visit Options</b></p> <p><u>Preview Day</u> October 28, 2011</p> <p><u>Evening Open House</u> September 15, 2011</p>
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To learn more visit [www.ciu.edu](http://www.ciu.edu). To read Tim's full story, visit [www.ciu.edu/impactstories](http://www.ciu.edu/impactstories).

**Let's Impact the World Together.**

Tim Gaster  
2008 B.A. in Youth Ministry  
Taejon Christian International School  
Daejeon, South Korea



Undergraduate • Graduate • Seminary

**O**f the myriad wonders of creation, here is one: our lives begin as a single pair of original cells swiftly dividing to form a beating heart within three weeks of inception. Next the liver, the pancreas, the kidney and central nervous system until the human body is fully formed. Is one more important than another? The lungs may seem more central, and the face is more obvious. Neither could function, however, unless supported by minute capillaries serving up oxygen-rich blood. The body is a system wondrous in its interconnectedness.

The Apostle Paul makes the spiritual application, reminding Corinthian Christians — and us, through them — that the Body of Christ cannot function effectively without the contribution made by each of its members. Size or placement or, as the King James Version has it, comeliness is of no account if each part does not serve the whole.

To bring the matter home, Columbia International University impacts lives because you persevere in the spiritual service of stewardship. Your unrestricted gift, combined with those of others, supports scholarships for individual students who prepare to serve Christ here, near and far. Each gift has importance that the giver is not in a position to gauge.

When other needs crowd forward, I might say to myself, "My gift will have to be so small this month that I may as well not make it. What good could it possibly do? What impact could it have?" I can only be satisfied with the answer "none" if I forget that we serve a God who fed 5,000 from one small boy's lunch, a God who is pleased with a widow's mite.

# Your Little is Much When God is in it

## A note from Frank Bedell, Director of CIU Development



It's a question of proportion and perspective. Or, as Kittie Suffield, a relatively unknown evangelist who served throughout Canada reminds us, "Little is much when God is in it."

Two hundred years ago, David Brainerd prayed "God, let me make a difference for You that is utterly disproportionate to who I am." Who was David Brainerd? A partial answer is that he was an obscure missionary to New England Indians, subject to depression, who died at the age of 29. In God's economy, however, Jonathan Edwards published Brainerd's story and writings, and the impact on the modern missionary movement was incalculable.

While on earth, David Brainerd never knew the difference he made to Christ's Kingdom. We, too, may not enjoy the reassurance of knowledge as we support others, but we do well to press on. †

Each gift has importance that the giver is not in a position to gauge.





# 1MORE TOUR

Columbia International University

IN THE SUMMER OF 2010, FIVE CIU GUYS BICYCLED 1,700 MILES FROM FLORIDA TO MAINE. MORE THAN A CHALLENGING TRIP UP THE EAST COAST, THEY WERE LOOKING FOR 1MORE STUDENT TO ATTEND CIU, RECONNECTING WITH 1MORE CIU ALUMNUS, AND SHARING THE LOVE OF CHRIST WITH 1MORE PERSON.

**THIS SUMMER, THE 1MORE TOUR  
HITS THE ROAD AGAIN!**

**STAY UPDATED. VISIT [1MORETOUR.CIU.EDU](http://1MORETOUR.CIU.EDU)**





# The Controversy at Lausanne III

## Lausanne III: Win or Lose? It's a Question of Eternal Importance

"As believers, we are concerned about all human suffering, especially eternal suffering." – Pastor and author John Piper speaking at The Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, October 2010

Such a simple statement — how could anyone object? Yet many at Lausanne III objected. In fact, from the dozens of sermons at the conference, this one sentence in John Piper's presentation proved a lightning rod. Many quoted it to me with delight; but from Italy to England, to Bangladesh to America, I received feedback from representatives who went home incensed by the statement.

I wasn't surprised that the battle raged. Why? I had read a position paper prepared for the conference by high-level evangelical leaders. They rejected the church's historic position of giving priority to the evangelistic purpose of missions, so cogently expressed in Piper's simple statement. But my apprehension was raised a notch by the cover story of December's "Christianity Today" magazine — "Jesus vs. Paul." The thesis was that a great battle rages in evangelical circles over whether the mission of the church is primarily to follow Jesus who cared for the sick, the poor, the oppressed, or whether we should primarily follow Paul with the gospel of justification, of extending the hope of eternal salvation. The author maintained that this is the major confrontation in the evangelical churches of America today.

So I was apprehensive about the outcome of Lausanne III. Imagine my delight to find, in the consensus documents emerging from the Congress, a reaffirmation of the historic position of the church that gives priority to the evangelistic mandate. But a very large minority of attendees waged war against this position in favor of giving equal emphasis or even priority to the social or cultural responsibilities of the church.

Yet there's a deeper reason for my apprehension. I've lived through this before. The great missions convention in Edinburgh in 1910, of which Lausanne III was commemorative, is noted for its reinforcement of the dynamic Student Volunteer Movement whose motto was "the evangelization of the world in this generation." But historically, Edinburgh's greatest achievement proved to be the launching of the ecumenical movement that dominated church life for most of the century. In my youth I watched as the mainline churches shifted their emphasis to what has become known as the "social gospel." And I watched the decline toward oblivion of the once-vibrant missionary enterprise. In fact, that is when the "evangelical" movement was born, in objection to a church that was fast losing its evangelistic commitment.

What happened next dominated the world of missions in the last half of the 20th century. The veterans from World War II returned from their firsthand experience of the lostness of humanity, and a commitment to obey Christ's Great Commission. The result? The greatest advance of the gospel in all church history. But, beginning in the '70s, we began to hear of the "creation mandate," the "cultural mandate," and Kingdom-on-earth advocacy. This teaching was based on Old Testament prophetic teaching and the model of Jesus' earthly ministry in the synoptic gospels. On the other hand, the historic view of the church was built on Jesus' Great Commission recorded in all four gospels, and how that mandate was understood by those who were present. And if there were any doubt, the book of Acts was given to spell out their understanding of that Commission.

Should the church strive to save people from temporal loss? Yes, always. But the priority must ever be on saving from eternal loss.

So which view will win out? Will history repeat itself? Perhaps that depends on our commitment. Our fortitude. †

*Editor's note: Robertson McQuilkin delivered a message on this topic at a CIU chapel. Listen to "Priorities in Great Commission Living" at: <http://feeds.feedburner.com/ciupodcast>.*



*Robertson McQuilkin*





# The CIU Impact at Lausanne

STUDENTS TAKE ON  
IMPORTANT ROLES  
AT MAJOR CONFERENCE

Over 4,000 international delegates from 198 countries gathered at Cape Town, South Africa in October for the third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization, also known as Cape Town 2010. In the tradition of the first two Lausanne Conferences in 1974 and 1989, Lausanne III continued with the theme, “the whole church taking the whole gospel to the whole world.”

Six Columbia International University students played important roles as “stewards” or helpers, at the five-day Congress, while another student, Julian Dangerfield, joined CIU Chancellor George Murray and Professor Bill Larkin as delegates. Dangerfield is director of Shalom Outreach, Inc. in Washington, D.C., mobilizing African-Americans for short-term missionary service overseas.

Dangerfield offers his thoughts on the Congress:



JULIAN DANGERFIELD

I came away from Cape Town better educated and equipped to push back the darkness with the liberating light of truth.

Anglican, etc. and in so doing, we build our individual kingdoms preventing God’s Kingdom from being fully manifested.

I also wonder if God looks at the American church with disdain as we consume his material and spiritual blessings on ourselves with little regard for our neighbors and communities. Paradoxically, have we become more attuned to the needs of the uttermost parts than for our Jerusalem while those with a Jerusalem focus completely disregard the mission of God to the nations. What will cause the two to intersect and cooperate? History (Acts 8) asserts that persecution will propel the people of God out of a myopic view but may I suggest that we go along voluntarily.

I came away from Cape Town better educated and equipped to push back the darkness with the liberating light of truth. Further, I have gathered robust strategies to both engage and mobilize African-Americans in effective domestic and international outreach. May God help us all! †

**I**t was humbling and challenging to be a part of Cape Town 2010 and get a glimpse of the Church where 198 nations were represented. I was overwhelmed by the scope of the event and the excitement that was abuzz as a segment of the global Church descended upon one city.

One of the biggest issues was the realization that the center of gravity for Christianity is moving toward the southern hemisphere, which caused many of us to ask, “What does that mean for the church in the United States?” Does this mean that the glory of God is lifting off of us and are we going the way of Europe — swayed by a secularized humanistic culture? In hallway discussions, I heard some suggesting that the U.S. church should study and import the evangelistic models/messages of those in the southern hemisphere to get their results. After considering that position, I do not believe that external models are the answer to the challenges facing the American church.

I think that we have to radically change our strategies, focus on children and youth, while destroying many of the barriers that keep us separated, such as distrust between the races and a lack of cooperation between denominations. We are taking credit for the work of God and calling it Baptist, Presbyterian,

## Missions

By Kurt Nelson  
President, East-West Ministries International

# Removing the Yellow Bracelet

*Kurt Nelson is President, East-West Ministries International, a non-profit, mission organization. His CIU doctoral dissertation involved the study of an undisclosed country in the Caribbean where he has ministered for over 16 years. The country is unnamed because of political opposition to the gospel there.*

As the local pastor and I entered the broken, desolate neighborhood, I was overwhelmed by God's work among the people of this Caribbean barrio. As we walked the streets, we met Elena in one of these rustic neighborhoods. She had heard the gospel previously, and it made an impression on her, but Elena had not personally turned her life over to Christ. Elena was held captive by the covenant she had made with the idols of the Santería religion — a local religion that blends African voodoo practices and Catholicism.

Elena had Santería idols hidden in her home, and now, they were haunting her. She even wore a bracelet made of yellow beads

which symbolized the covenant to Santería that she had made. In the middle of the night, as her family slept, an oppressive spirit woke her as if it was trying to suffocate her. She felt hopeless and didn't know where else to turn but to God. As she cried out to Him, she felt the evil spirit move away from her, and the little puppy at her feet woke up very agitated and began to bark. And then suddenly, the evil spirit left, and the night was filled with peace. Inexplicably — she immediately felt compelled to go outside and to fill the pool she kept on her front porch with water — and then she returned to bed.

We met Elena the following day after this had taken place. As we shared the gospel with her, she instantly knew that she wanted to fully commit her life to Christ this time. Elena prayed to receive Christ and then immediately tore the yellow-beaded bracelet from her wrist. She gathered her Santería idols

and handed them to the pastor to destroy for her. Within minutes, the local pastor baptized Elena in the small pool she had mysteriously filled with water the night before.

What happened the next day confirmed the genuine, newfound faith that had invaded Elena's heart less than 24 hours before. Three of her neighbors stopped by her home, and Elena led all three to faith in Christ! Then, on her own accord, Elena went to the local Communist Party headquarters and resigned her post as the neighborhood block captain. She told the local authorities that she was dedicating the rest of her life to serving God.

Jesus literally set this "captive" free right before my very eyes!

After 16 years of carrying the gospel to the people of this Caribbean country, I still cannot get over the inestimable privilege we have as Jesus' followers to obey His command to "be My witnesses ... to the uttermost parts of the earth."

God has given me the opportunity to see thousands from this country come to know Christ as their Savior. Beyond that, I have seen God's hand lead these new believers to become disciples, evangelists, pastors and church planters. A rapid church planting movement is taking place in this nation because of the openness and desire for the gospel among these people.

Praise God for His pursuit of His people! †

## New CIU Staff Members Drawn to Columbia by Alumni in the Field

After serving cross-culturally in Central Asia for 14 years, Mr. and Mrs. "B" (names not used to protect former co-workers) knew the Lord was leading them back to the United States. They wanted to settle in a city where they could share their cross-cultural knowledge with young believers who were headed overseas. Because of the many Columbia International University alumni they met in Central Asia — Columbia, S.C. and CIU were the logical places for them to live and work. Mr. "B" says:

"What we noticed about these people is that first of all, they really loved the people they were working among. They were consistently developing deep relationships with the people of our country. They were cross-culturally confident. And they were focused on the purpose of (CIU) ... to impact the nations with the message of Christ, and to stay focused on that task. We were so impressed with that, that we decided we wanted to move to Columbia, and be among this kind of young people."

Mr. and Mrs. "B" share more of their story in a video interview with CIU President Bill Jones. Take a look at: [www.ciu.edu/interview](http://www.ciu.edu/interview).



## Christian Service is a key to a complete education

Just a mile down Monticello Road from the campus of Columbia International University are children who have never heard of the Bible. But Columbia International University senior Lauren Howell, in conjunction with a neighborhood church, is doing something about it. She organized a tutoring program for children in the Denny Terrace neighborhood who need help with homework, and teaches them the Bible. Howell, who has been joined by other CIU students in the project, is ministering under the guidance of the CIU office of Christian Service Learning (CSL) which provides CIU undergraduate students the opportunity to serve their churches and their community.

Howell says she enjoys answering the children's "simple and deep questions."

"God has been faithful to allow friendships and relationships with the kids' family members to continue to grow," Howell said. "I thank God for these opportunities since our goal is to minister and reach the entire family through a practical and needed service to the children."

CSL Director Dr. Karen Close says CSL focuses on 80 hours of ministry skills development during the first two years of a CIU undergraduate education, while the final two years focus on three credits or 150 hours of practicum and internship requirements associated with each student's professional major.

"The CIU faculty is committed to helping students to develop a balanced life which includes using their head, heart, and hands as they serve in the context of the local church," Close said.

Last year 77 percent of the CSL students chose to serve in church ministries while 23 percent served in community ministries with the blessing, encouragement, and support of their churches.

CIU senior Cindy Zhang, who worships at Riverside Community Church in downtown Columbia, is evangelizing Chinese students at University of South Carolina as her CSL ministry.

"CSL is a very good program that motivates students to have a heart to be involved in ministry and serve people, not just sitting in the classroom learning knowledge," Zhang said.

Close, who believes CSL supports CIU's core value of Evangelical Unity, says dozens of churches have expressed their gratitude for the impact that CIU students are making in



CIU Students

# IMPACT Columbia

their churches. Last year, 275 students impacted the community by serving over 8,000 hours within 47 different ministries under the umbrella of 116 local churches.

Among them was Cedar Creek Baptist Church located in a rural area a few miles north of CIU.

"Thank you and CIU for providing such excellent ministry to the local church," said Kevin Mulligan, the music minister at Cedar Creek Baptist.

Elisa Hill, the Children's Ministry coordinator, at Columbia Christian Fellowship on the city's near east side, has also experienced the impact of CIU students.

"We are very grateful for the students who are attending and ministering with us and are appreciative of CIU's efforts to get students involved in the local churches," Hill said.

And to that, Close gives God the glory.

"The CSL program is, indeed, impacting the lives of students, churches and the community," Close said. †

*Above: CIU student Tim Caiello helps Treyvon Williams with his homework.*

# It Happened in Public School

A LIFE CHANGED FOR ETERNITY

*Editor's note: The author is a graduate of the Bible Teaching program at Columbia International University. She teaches Bible in a public school in the United States. But because of opposition from some in our culture who actively oppose any religious discussion in public schools, the writer wishes to remain anonymous. The name of the student has been changed.*

**W**hen he entered my classroom on the first day of school I had to do a double take. He was dressed all in black. He had the word "suicide" written in permanent ink on both arms. Hate was written on each knuckle on the top of his hand. The clincher was the strange jewelry he wore all around his neck. He flopped into a desk.

"I did not sign up for this class and I do not want to be here," he said. "I worship Satan and I serve him."

With this statement he put his head down on the desk. This was met with stunned silence from the rest of the class. The class is Bible and I teach in the public school as an elective.

And so it began. I was a bit shaken up but I responded with, "You are welcome to change classes. You can take drama, or art or P.E. but if you stay in this class you will listen and you will keep your head up!" I fully expected to never see him again but he returned the next day and the next. He did keep his head up and he did listen and slowly I began to see God at work. I requested prayer for him from godly people that I knew would pray. I asked God to give me a love for him and He did. Teenagers know if you love them and David began to know that there was something different about this class and something different about me.

Since the class is an elective, students must choose to take it. It

was strange that David said he did not choose the class. I now know God chose David and put him in Bible class.

I was teaching the life of Jesus from all four gospels. As we worked through the life of Jesus, David began to change. The words written on his arms and hands began to go. Next the jewelry was gone. The first day he wore a normal t-shirt to class I gave him a high five.

"I knew you would notice," he smiled.

David asked questions. He read his Bible. He participated in class. Then on October 10 he gave me a letter. It read, "No longer do I worship Satan. I worship Jesus and want to serve Him only."

The Word of God changes lives. I do not preach or evangelize. I love teenagers and I teach the Bible to classes full of students at the middle school and the high school in my community. The Holy Spirit works through the Word of God. Isaiah 55:11 is the promise I cling to with every semester and every new group of students:

"... so is my Word that goes out from my mouth: it will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."

That is a promise from God and I claim it as I teach Bible in the public school every day. I have seen enough to know this to be true and even when I do not see it I believe it — God's Word will not return void. It will accomplish His purpose! †



**"I did not sign up for this class and  
I do not want to be here," he said.  
"I worship Satan and I serve him."**



# CIU's Graying Youth Ministry Leader

**D**r. David Olshine, director of CIU's Youth Ministry program, is done being cool. After over 30 years in youth ministry, Olshine views himself instead as older and wiser.

"Whatever cool is, I gave up trying to become it at about age 28," Olshine told "Connection."

"I'm not worried about being liked anymore. I see myself as more of a mentor and father figure rather than as a peer."

While Olshine says his primary ministry is his relationship to Jesus, his wife Rhonda, and his children Rachel and Andrew, he is also the author or co-author of 19 books, writes a column for "Youthworker Journal," is a sought-after speaker, and is a youth ministry consultant. But he views his ministry at CIU as a unique opportunity to train the next generation of leaders.

Olshine describes the evolution of his ministry this way: "In my 20s I was hanging out with teens; in my 30s I was training volunteers; in my 40s I was mentoring parents of teens, and now in my 50s I am training the next generation of leaders at CIU."

Olshine believes the experience he has gleaned over the years enables him to teach others how to have the greatest impact in their sphere of influence. He encourages Youth Ministry majors to be patient as they prepare to make long-term investments in the lives of others, resulting in eternal impact.

"I am confident that as students are trained at CIU and go out into the world, people they come into contact with will be impacted because our students have learned how to relate,"

"Dr. Olshine, through his teaching style has reminded me that people are drawn to leaders who are real and share (their) life."

– Jen Beres, Youth Ministry major

explains Olshine. "We teach them that the transformation process does not take place overnight."

CIU Youth Ministry major Jen Beres says Olshine has "imparted wisdom" to her that she will use as she works with youth and in her personal life.

"Dr. Olshine, through his teaching style has reminded me that people

are drawn to leaders who are real and share (their) life," Beres said. "He has lived through what he is teaching. He makes his classes applicable to everyday life in ministry and how we will best reflect the gospel to the people we meet."

Olshine also knows that ministering to today's youth can be draining. That's why CIU's Youth Ministry Department holds an annual retreat for CIU Youth Ministry alumni. It's a time of rest and refresh-

ment.

"Part of the process of being transformed by Jesus is taking

care of yourself," Olshine said.

"We are whole people; not only spiritual people. Youth leaders have to rest and set boundaries in order to guard themselves from running on empty."

It's that kind of heart for youth workers that 2006 CIU graduate Terrace Crawford appreciates. Crawford, the minister to students at Crossroads Community Church in Yorktown, Va., says Olshine still stays in touch with him.

"The value of having him as a professor during my time at CIU is still rich to this day because he

continues to periodically check on me and cheer me on," Crawford said.

With the breakdown of the traditional family, and the rise of substance abuse and pornography, the dynamics of youth ministry are changing. But Olshine believes that young people remain the most receptive to the gospel.

"It is this age group's receptivity, openness, and impressionability that makes the training of youth leaders one of my primary passions," he said. †

*Above: Dr. David Olshine "mentors" Terrace Crawford at a CIU Youth Ministry alumni retreat.*



DAVID OLSHINE "DONE BEING COOL"

BUT STILL MAKING AN IMPACT

## Education

By Anne Buck  
Connection Staff Writer

# Knights in Sharpening Armor

CHRISTIAN SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS MEET  
IN THAILAND TO REKINDLE AND REFRESH

Christian school administrators face a raging enemy who strongly opposes Christian education. These godly men and women fight Satan for the souls of children as they work to advance Kingdom education.

The administrators sometimes refer to a “three-legged stool,” — the influence of a Christian home, a Bible-believing/teaching church and a Christian school that should work together to instill a biblical worldview in children. Satan tries to weaken every leg of this stool, and over time, this takes its toll. Like war-torn soldiers, Christian school administrators need a time of refreshing.

The administrators serve as headmasters and superintendents who also function as policy makers, pastors/counselors, fundraisers, arbitrators, referees, and disciplinarians. In their spare time they are authors, speakers and curriculum developers who inspire and challenge others.

To recharge, some administrators attend an annual meeting called the Paul Young Christian School Roundtable for Administrators. This four-day educational “think tank” provides a time of reflection and visioning as they join other leaders who share their same passion and calling.

In September 2010, Mickey Bowdon, CIU vice president for Christian school education, travelled to Phuket, Thailand to serve as moderator at The Pacific Rim Roundtable, an exciting new offshoot of the original Roundtable. Since 1995, the Roundtable has had a significant impact within the Christian school movement. As its co-founder, Bowdon looked forward to the Phuket conference with great expectancy.

The Pacific Rim Roundtable was organized by Bowdon’s friend and colleague, Dr. Janet Nason, daughter of the late Dr. Roy W. Lowrie who is regarded by many as “the father of Christian school education.” Nason had heard of the Roundtable for many years. She now joins Bowdon and other administrators for an annual meeting.



*Mickey Bowdon,  
CIU vice president for  
Christian school  
education and his wife  
Cheryl take a break at the  
Pacific Rim Roundtable in  
Thailand in September.*

Bowdon arrived in Thailand thankful that, as always, the Holy Spirit would guide their meetings. He joined 11 administrators from China, Indonesia, the Philippines, Australia, Thailand, and the United States who together serve over 30,000 students!

They brought relevant questions and issues that were hammered out in general sessions and small groups. Iron sharpened iron as their academic minds and diverse experiences spurred rich discussion and solutions to complex problems. These “Pacific Rim Ambassadors” discovered that regardless of the broad distances between them, they face very similar issues in their schools.

In a post-conference e-mail to fellow Pacific Rim attendees, Petros S. of Indonesia wrote, “I am very glad that we still keep [in] touch [with] each other with the same spirit from [the Pacific] Rim. Rim in Phuket gave me many ideas.”

Brian Cox, coordinator of a group of Christian schools in Indonesia wrote, “I found the Round Table a wonderful opportunity for reflection, discussion, thinking and challenge. My theology tells me that our meeting together was no accident! Thank you that every one of you caused a new thought and/or action in my life.”

The Roundtable helps retool, reshape and reinforce Christian education — and rekindle and refresh its leaders. As Mickey Bowdon’s assistant I have attended two Roundtables. To me, they are like the best family reunion ever! Brothers and sisters (in Christ) travel far distances to be together. They speak of their mutual love for their Father, for each other, and for family members back home (faculty, staff and students). After their painful goodbyes they support each other in many ways, especially in prayer.

It will be exciting to see where God plants the next Roundtable. Rest of the world — prepare for impact! †

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*Author Anne Buck is Assistant to Dr. Mickey Bowdon, CIU Vice President for Christian School Education.*



By Abbey Shoemaker  
CIU Student Writer

# Finding True Freedom

## From the White House to the World

CIU Alumna Writes  
Memoir about her  
Famous Father



**G**inny was daddy's girl, and grew up spending as much time with her father as possible. She would even swing by the White House after school. That's where her father worked. Harry Dent was an advisor to the president of the United States.

Columbia International University alumna Ginny Dent Brant (class of '77) recently chronicled the life of her father in the book "Finding True Freedom:

From the White House to the World" because in her words, "It's too good of a story about the grace of God not to tell."

During his political career, Harry Dent served as an advisor to Presidents Nixon, Ford, and George H.W. Bush, and as a staff member for South Carolina U.S. Senator Strom Thurmond.

He was an average American following the American dream.

Brant's book is written from a heart that is overjoyed at the goodness of God, and is about the dream beyond the American dream — following God's plans for your life. Her relationship with her father was bliss until the Dent family was shaken up by the Watergate scandal that led to the resignation of President Richard Nixon. The scandal resulted from a break-in

at the Democratic National Committee headquarters and resulted in the conviction and imprisonment of several Nixon administration officials. Harry Dent had no involvement in Watergate, but the scandal helped Ginny realize the extent of her father's need for the Lord.

Brant, who today is an educator in South Carolina's Upstate, attended CIU against her father's wishes. He thought she was throwing away a potential career as a model. But Brant was encouraged by CIU Professor Buck Hatch to pray for her father with a passion and let God work. And God did. After much prayer and waiting, Brant saw God answer.

As Harry Dent himself put it, he "abdicated the throne of [his] life to Jesus Christ" and was a changed man. He made plans to enter lay ministry and found encouragement from what may have at first seemed like an unlikely source: friend and former White House co-worker Chuck Colson who served prison time for his role in Watergate. Colson, who became a Christian in prison, founded the ministry Prison Fellowship. He encouraged Dent to get a year of training before entering full-time ministry. Dent enrolled at CIU, the school he tried to prevent Ginny from attending years earlier. At CIU, Dent gained a biblical foundation for his personal life and ministry, serving the Lord for the final 25 years of his life. He was named CIU Alumnus of the Year in 2001.

Dent worked with the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, and also made more than 25 trips to Romania where he used his gifts and Washington connections to help the previously communist country come to spiritual and political freedom. Brant joined her father on a trip to Romania in 1998 and was astounded when she saw 50 pastors he had helped train. Overjoyed at God's goodness, Brant resolved to write the book. Harry Dent died in 2007 after an eight-year battle with Alzheimer's disease. His memorial service was held at CIU.

Brant's memoir of her father is summed up on his tombstone: "served a U.S. senator, three U.S. presidents, and THE KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

The foreword of "Finding True Freedom" was written by CIU President Emeritus Robertson McQuilkin. For more information visit: [www.ginnybrant.com](http://www.ginnybrant.com). †



*Harry Dent (left) with President George H.W. Bush, First Lady Barbara Bush and Dent's wife Betty, a former member of the CIU Board of Trustees.*

# The Spiritual Transformation of People; the Physical Transformation in Places



"In early December of 2010, the city of Flint, Michigan passed a hair-raising benchmark. The city, which had already been ranked fourth most dangerous in the nation, surpassed its own previous record, of 61 homicides set in 1986."

So began a report late last year from the Center for Homicide Research.

"At this writing Flint now has 65 homicides with two weeks yet to go," the report continued.

Violence is one problem in Flint. Unemployment and poverty is another. The Bureau of Labor Statistics showed the unemployment rate late last year in Flint at 12.4 percent.

Welcome to Pastor Reggie Flynn's world.

Flynn, who graduated from Columbia International University in 2009 with a Doctor of Ministry degree, is pastor of the historic Foss Avenue Baptist Church on Flint's north side – in the heart of the violence and poverty.

"I really question God's call for me to come here," he said with a chuckle during a telephone interview. "All of my buddies in the ministry said, 'Man, are you crazy?'"

But Flynn is confident he is where God wants him to be – home. He grew up several blocks from Foss Avenue Baptist. It's known for innovative urban ministry – most notably perhaps for the Foss Avenue Federal Credit Union, the first African-American faith-based Federal Credit Union in Flint.

## CIU graduate works for change in a tough neighborhood

"I never imagined I'd be the pastor of this great church," Flynn said.

Flynn believes a church should have "ministry that empowers people" as he puts it. His doctoral thesis was "The Contemporary Role of the Church in Economically Distressed Neighborhoods."

"In my view, authentic evangelism is both the spiritual transformation of people, and the physical transformation in places," Flynn said. "And if we're just sharing the gospel, however important that is, we have not completed the evangelistic task if we ignore the poverty that people are in."

That's where the credit union comes in. Its mission statement includes, "encouraging thrift, savings and the wise use of credit."

"You don't have African-American owned financial institutions, particularly in areas that are economically distressed," Flynn said. "You have payday loan places that are really robbing the folks in terms of high fees. We are in the process of teaching this community the importance of banking, and that they have a financial institution that provides services to them."

As for addressing the neighborhood violence, Flynn's church has an anti-gang ministry to boys, ages 8 to 17 called, "Brothers Battling Bloodshed (BBB)." Flynn says 30-35 boys attend the Saturday program that has both a spiritual and practical aspect to it.

"We reach out to them with the gospel of Jesus Christ," Flynn said. "We (also)

teach them basic skills; how to carry yourself as a young man, how to care for your community, speaking proper English — to prepare them for the real world."

The program has drawn media attention in Flint. Courtney Hawkins, the athletic director of the local high school told *The Flint Journal* that he is encouraging his athletes to participate in the program.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity to bring kids to church, and to surround them with positive energy," Hawkins told the newspaper.

Out of Flynn's doctoral dissertation came his book, "So You Think Your Church Isn't Big Enough?" Flynn draws on his experience pastoring small congregations in South Carolina, including Temple Zion Baptist, one mile from the CIU campus. It was there that Flynn initiated the Nehemiah Project, a community development corporation that aims to train young people in work skills, increase home ownership and improve the general appearance of the neighborhood. Flynn is thrilled that the ministry continues today.

"The great thing about that project is that it is now being led by a neighborhood resident," Flynn said. "That's indigenous leadership development. We want to equip ... empower people ... to make an impact in their neighborhood." †

*Photo used with permission of The Flint Journal, 2011, All rights reserved.*  
[www.mlive.com/flintjournal](http://www.mlive.com/flintjournal).



# Defending Freedom of Religion

CIU Psychology Program Prepares  
Alumnus for the Courtroom

*Daniel Blomberg is a lawyer with the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) in Kansas City, specializing in constitutional law, with a focus on freedom of religion. ADF is a legal alliance of Christian attorneys and like-minded organizations defending the right of people to freely live out their faith. Blomberg graduated from Columbia International University in 2003 with a degree in Psychology, and in 2008 from the University of South Carolina School of Law. "Connection" asked Blomberg about his impact in the area of law:*



*Daniel Blomberg*

## How did CIU prepare you for litigation in constitutional law?

A lot of legal work, and especially constitutional law, is basically hermeneutics. I spend a lot of time analyzing what a text means and what its authors intended. Unlike the Bible, the American legal system is faulty and subject to changes, but I still have to understand it in order to help my clients. Thus, CIU's excellent training on how to interpret Scripture has been an invaluable aid to interpret human laws. Also, CIU's outstanding Psychology program prepared me to scripturally engage entrenched views ... with analytical rigor.

## Why have you set your focus on defending religious freedom cases?

Because religious freedom is both a natural right — true faith cannot be compelled by the state, one's standing before God being a matter between the man and his Creator — and an essential ingredient of a successful and free civil society. Hearts have to be changed before hands will truly turn from evil to good, and only God's grace can change hearts. If our country becomes hostile to that grace, we'll all suffer in a variety of ways. Thus, keeping the door open for the spread of the gospel is key to protecting our families and our fellow citizens.

## What is the most rewarding experience you've had as a constitutional lawyer?

That's easy: winning cases on behalf of good clients who've been unjustly treated. God has allowed me to serve some great

clients: a young, Christ-centered church that was almost stamped out by overzealous town administrators, some amazing Christian pro-life advocates who suffered unjustly for "speaking up for those who cannot speak for themselves," a gospel mission that was mistreated by local officials who wanted to make the ministry violate its biblical identity, and a couple small Bible colleges that were going to be driven out of ministry by state education officers. It's great to serve the body of Christ in a meaningful way.

## What is biggest disappointment you've had as a constitutional lawyer and what did God teach you through it?

That's also easy: losing when I thought we should win. For instance, last year, ADF fought hard to make sure people were aware that normalizing homosexual behavior in the military (by repealing the so-called "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law) would endanger religious liberty for our chaplains and service members. I personally spent many, many hours in that effort. Thus, seeing the law repealed in December was tough, even though we're still working to stop the repeal, or at least minimize the damage it will have on the military. But God uses everything to His glory, and this was no different: He built a strong bridge between ADF and some amazing chaplains with whom we served in the battle against repeal. I expect that He'll use that bridge for future efforts.

## In what way do you think you're making an impact on the world?

A good way, I hope! I work hard to serve my clients and advance ADF's mission to protect life, family, and religious liberty. And I think that has borne fruit, albeit not in a way that most of the world will ever notice. Thankfully, though, the world's recognition or lack thereof isn't an important measure. The most impactful thing God has given me to do is to raise a godly family. God has given my wife and me four precious children. Training them to follow Him will have not just a positive impact, but an eternal one.

## Do you think you'll ever argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court?

I hope so! †

# Celebrating Butch Sursavage

## LONGTIME BEN LIPPEN TEACHER AND COACH RETIRES

**B**Respected teacher, exemplary coach, gracious father figure. That's how long-time Bible teacher and basketball coach Butch Sursavage will be remembered at Ben Lippen School. After 20 years of service at Ben Lippen, and five years as dean of men at Columbia International University, Sursavage announced his early retirement this year due to a recent diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

In February, Ben Lippen students, teachers, staff, parents, alumni and guests celebrated Sursavage's impact on Ben Lippen at a special chapel service and reception. Sursavage, who earned a master's degree in Bible and Missions from CIU in 1984, was lauded for his leadership and godly example at Ben Lippen. Many Ben Lippen alumni remember him as one of their favorite teachers. Among them is 1999 graduate Robby Woodard who says Sursavage had a "fun, gentle disposition."

"While he made learning fun, we also respected him tremendously. We trusted him, and what he had to say mattered to us," Woodard said.

Sursavage, who played college football at Clemson University under legendary coach Frank Howard, was also Woodard's high school basketball coach.

"With him it was never about the individual; it was always about the team," Woodard recalls. "He taught us how to play together and compete as a team, although we were often considered the underdogs."

On a more personal level, Woodard was best friends with Sursavage's son, Mark, and spent many hours at the Sursavage home. He says he was welcomed as if he were another son.

"I was included in family trips and was often invited to join them when they went



out to dinner," Woodard recalled. "I look up to Mr. Sursavage as a father."

In his farewell speech, Sursavage, who has also served as a pastor, and with his wife Mary, as a missionary to Bangladesh, admonished Ben Lippen students to never leave their first love — Jesus.

"Don't lose that first love — especially you juniors and seniors, Sursavage said. "You're going to be making decisions for the rest of your life. Are you going to follow Christ, or are you going your own way?"

Turning his attention to the teachers, Sursavage cautioned them to not only



*Above: Sursavage as a Clemson Tiger.*

*Left: Butch Sursavage and his wife Mary "breaking in" their retirement gifts from Ben Lippen School, ideal for their mountain retirement home.*

focus on the academics in the classroom, but the students' deeper needs, as well.

"What's going on in their hearts is more important than what's going on in their heads," he reminded his colleagues.

Seeming to be a bit embarrassed by the accolades that were heaped upon him on his special day, Sursavage put things in perspective.

"Anything that I've done well is because of the Lord Jesus," he said.

Sursavage, a man who loves the great outdoors, will retire with his wife to a mountain home in North Carolina, the state where he grew up. †



As these words were coming through the radio and they were washing over me, they started filling those broken places in my heart. — WMHK listener

# CIU Radio Station Listeners Offer Testimony

The impact of CIU's radio stations, 89.7 WMHK in Columbia, S.C. and New Life 91.9 in Charlotte, N.C. is documented in gripping videos posted on the stations' Web sites. The videos feature the testimony of listeners whose lives have been changed through the ministry of the stations. Below is a portion of the testimony of "Melissa." She was so distraught over health problems, the death of her father, and financial setbacks, that she contemplated suicide — by driving her car into oncoming traffic on a busy Columbia street. But her car radio was tuned to WMHK:

It was just another day where I woke up that morning and just didn't feel like there was a point. I didn't feel like there was a purpose for me. I was tired. I was tired of struggling, I was tired of hurting, I was tired of feeling like I was drowning and I was tired of praying. And I was sitting in the car and I was stuck at a red light on Broad River Road and I had just reached this point where I just couldn't take it anymore and I just started crying. Just sobbing. My forehead was against the steering wheel. My shoulders were slumped over. I guess that I just felt defeated. I felt like there was just no point and I was done. I remember sitting there holding the steering wheel, just clenching it, thinking you know, just one turn of that steering wheel and I could go ahead and end all of this now. I won't have to feel that pain anymore, I won't have to struggle. No more drowning. No more sickness. That's the point I was at in that car. I was ready. I was ready to end it.

I don't even remember turning the radio on, but I must've. And it was turned to WMHK. A song by the group Kutless called "What Faith Can Do" started playing on the radio.

**SONG LYRICS:** "I've seen miracles just happen, silent prayers get answered, broken hearts become brand new and that's what faith can do."



To view Melissa's story and other lives impacted by CIU radio visit: [www.wmhk.com](http://www.wmhk.com) and [www.newlife919.com](http://www.newlife919.com).

I didn't believe in miracles anymore at that point. I didn't believe in prayers being answered. Faith ... what was that? And so for somebody to take every single thing that I was feeling and put it into a song and all of a sudden right when I needed it, it starts playing on the radio, right when I'm about to turn into oncoming traffic and the light's about to change, the song comes on the radio, it got my attention. I started listening.

As these words were coming through the radio and they were washing over me, they started filling those broken places in my heart.

**SONG LYRICS:** "Even if you fall sometimes you will have the strength to rise."

It was God using a radio station, WMHK, and using this little song, "What Faith Can Do," to reach a completely broken, 34-year-old woman

who was stuck at a red light on her lunch break and was ready to end it all. I've been reminded that, yes, God is still here and now I am too. †



*Stephanie Bryant, director of CIU Career Services — IMPACT at her fingertips.*

# CIU Career Services IMPACT for Hire

Add IMPACT to your business, church, ministry or school. Hire a CIU student or alumnus. Whether you need a CEO to lead your organization, or a babysitter for this weekend, CIU's Career Services has a great way for you to get the word out to people who make an IMPACT — The CIU JobBoard.

The CIU JobBoard is a free online, password-protected job database for posting full-time, part-time, one-time, seasonal/summer, internship and volunteer opportunities.

To use the CIU JobBoard, register at [www.collegecentral.com/ciu](http://www.collegecentral.com/ciu), click on "Employers," then "Register Now" and submit the registration information. Once your organization is approved, you'll be sent a password and link to log onto the CIU JobBoard to post your jobs.

For more information or assistance, please contact Stephanie Bryant, director of CIU Career Services, at (803) 807-5076 or [sbryant@ciu.edu](mailto:sbryant@ciu.edu), or visit [www.ciu.edu/careerservices/employers.html](http://www.ciu.edu/careerservices/employers.html).

## Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Burgess Scholarship

Did you know that over 18 percent of the students enrolled in CIU Seminary & School of Missions are African-American? That number is poised to grow with the new Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Burgess Scholarship for African-American CIU students. Named for alumna The Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Burgess ('95 and '00), this scholarship was spearheaded by seminary alumnae Yvonne Frederick ('99) and Denise Posie ('95) who have a passion to see more African-American students study at CIU.

Lillie Burgess is a respected Columbia area educator and professor of Bible and Religion at Benedict College in Columbia. She has developed curricula that are taught in churches and conventions around the world and at Benedict College. She has ministered through education overseas by leading 14 volunteer teams to countries in Africa and the Caribbean.

Add your gift to the Rev. Dr. Lillie A. Burgess Scholarship at [www.ciu.edu/impact](http://www.ciu.edu/impact).





# Is God a Moral Monster?

Christian apologist Dr. Paul Copan, a 1984 graduate of Columbia International University, is out with a new book that you may find helpful as you “make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you...” (1Peter 3:15)

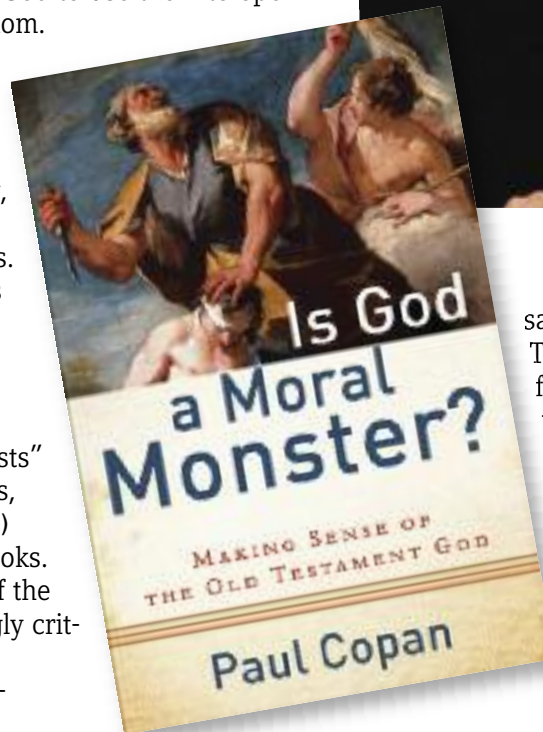
“Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God” is the most recent of several books on apologetics by Copan, the inaugural recipient of the CIU Kingdom Impact honor in 2009. Recipients of the honor are recognized for taking the unique gifts and calling God has given, using them in their ministries, and allowing God to use them to open doors for the furtherance of the Kingdom.

Copan is professor and Pledger Family Chair of Philosophy and Ethics at Palm Beach Atlantic University. He earned his Ph.D. in philosophy from Marquette University, and honed his skills in apologetics at Ravi Zacharias International Ministries.

The following is a review of Copan’s latest book by CIU Chancellor, Dr. George Murray:

Though atheism is nothing new, in recent years the so-called “New Atheists” (e.g., Daniel Dennett, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris, and Christopher Hitchens) have put out a spate of best-selling books. One area that these “four horsemen of the Neo-atheistic apocalypse” have strongly criticized is the Old Testament.

With diligent and admirable scholarship, clear easy-to-read writing, an irenic spirit and even some great humor, Paul Copan “takes on” these popular authors in his excellent book “Is God a Moral Monster? Making Sense of the Old Testament God” (Baker, 2011). He points out that the arguments of these “New Atheists” are surprisingly flimsy, “often resembling the simplistic village atheist far more than the credentialed academician.” Copan is not afraid to tackle such “sticky” Old Testament criticisms, such as: Is God an arrogant egotist (demanding exclusive worship)? Is God a child abuser (ordering Abraham to sacrifice Isaac, and later



## MAKING SENSE OF THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD



*Paul Copan speaks at a CIU chapel.*

sacrificing His own Son)? What about Old Testament laws that appear weird (e.g., kosher foods), even barbaric? Is God misogynistic in the treatment of women (e.g., polygamy, concubinage)? What about slavery in the Old Testament (and even in the New Testament)? Did God order indiscriminate massacre and ethnic cleansing in the destruction of the Canaanites?

Copan honestly admits that the Old Testament world of the ancient Near East seems often bizarre to us, and that many of the laws given to Israel in a fallen world were less than ideal (“incremental steps for hardened hearts” he calls them), but were based on God’s original ideal and move toward His ultimate ideal as fulfilled in Christ. He also points out the world of difference between God’s laws for Israel in the Old Testament, and the laws of the other ancient Near East cultures that surrounded Israel.

I highly recommend this book, not just for Bible scholars and serious Christians, but for anyone who may be honestly questioning the goodness of God. †



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