



FROM THE EDITOR

By Mark A. Taylor



Why We Support These Schools

Christian colleges are important to CHRISTIAN STANDARD readers. Some quick calculations from the chart on pages 4, 5 show just how much you believe in them.

This year 30 of the 33 institutions in our listing reported annual expenses of more than \$130 million. Divide that by the average attendance in Christian churches (more than 1.4 million in 2000), and you discover that the ministry of these schools costs every man, woman, and child in our churches about \$90 per year. The annual cost for Christian higher education in our fellowship equals about \$24,000 per congregation.

Not all of that comes from individual donations, of course. A large percentage is raised from tuition and student fees. Corporate gifts, bequests from the deceased, and endowments cover some of it. Christian colleges depend on gifts from Christian churches and individual Christians to cover the significant remaining amount.

This year, the funds came through. These 30 schools reported income exceeding \$132 million, about \$2 million more than expenses for the whole group.

Some schools fared better than others. The income at one exceeded expenses by 40 percent. Another received 11 percent above expenses. (Both of them were playing catch-up after receiving less

than they spent last year.)

But most schools on this year's list had incomes that exceeded expenses by only a couple of percent, not a significant cushion. And several schools fell far behind. (One had income 27 percent below expenses; another received 24 percent less than the amount spent.)

As a whole, expenses increased at a far greater rate than income. Total income for 30 schools increased this year only \$433,000, less than one-third of 1 percent. But expenses increased \$5.4 million, or 4 percent. This means expenses increased 12 times more than income. Remember that figure the next time you hear about increased tuition at the Christian college you support.

Numbers tell only a part of the story, of course. Read the reports that fill this issue, and you will sense a vitality that all of us can feel good about. Many schools have experienced increased enrollment. Several are succeeding at ambitious capital gift campaigns. More than one is locating to a new campus with a new vision for the future.

Frustrated by pagan values and slipping educational standards, parents are looking to Christian colleges for a better option. They're finding it at the colleges and seminaries reporting here. That's why we support these schools.

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Cover photo: Andrew Parker at Milligan College, Tennessee. Parker is a 2002 graduate of Milligan who serves as youth minister with Central Christian Church, Bristol, Tennessee. Photo ©Milligan College.

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