



# AND SO IT GOES

By Paul S. Williams



## What Goes Around Comes Around

**C**hristian colleges helped build the foundation of this nation. Harvard University was begun to educate Christian leaders. The Great Awakening got its start on the campus of Yale University. And while it is certainly too soon to break out the celebratory balloons, it looks like the new millennium might be fertile ground for Christian higher education.

Across North America, Christian colleges are gaining respect. In the October 2000 *Atlantic Monthly*, Alan Wolfe wrote about the growing role of evangelical colleges on the national landscape. His article stated, "No serious student of American history can any longer dismiss evangelical Christianity as little more than a backward reaction against modernity." He notes that evangelical college graduates are impacting philosophy, sociology, and the scientific and technical worlds, as well as politics. A graduate of a member school of the Coalition of Christian Colleges is the current chief speechwriter in the White House. A new day has dawned for Christian colleges.

The book *The Future of Religious Colleges* (edited by Paul Dove; Eerdmans, 2002), makes a number of interesting observations. First, the healthiest

schools—in terms of finances, enrollment, and influence—are those that maintain a close affiliation with the churches that created them. The schools have learned to embrace a high level of scholarship, and engagement with the wider academic world, while keeping faith as an integral part of campus life.

*The Future of Religious Colleges* also notes the Christian student population is increasing. According to the "Chronicle of Higher Education," over a recent three-year period, enrollment increased 4 percent in public higher education, 5 percent in private secular institutions, and 24 percent in evangelical Christian colleges!

These national trends are reflected in colleges affiliated with the independent Christian churches. Record enrollments, growing endowments, and increasing regional influence, both within and outside the church, mark the schools whose reports appear in this issue of CHRISTIAN STANDARD.

The arrival of a postmodern age has not been all bad for Western civilization. A Christian worldview is once again a viable alternative in the marketplace of ideas. And in that new world, Christian colleges are being heard again as they make their mark in a new millennium.

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### Seen & Heard

Compiled by S. J. Dahlman

"**You never find God** asking persons to dream up what they want to do for him."

—Henry Blackaby and Claude V. King, *Experiencing God* (Lifeway, 1996).

"All men are made in God's image; but **to be in His likeness** is granted only to those who through great love have brought their own freedom in subjection to God."

—Diadochus of Photiki, A.D. 400-486)

Almost **a quarter of Americans who read books** are "very likely" to choose religion and theology titles. In a December Gallup telephone poll of 1,001 adult readers, 24 percent said they were very likely to read religion and theology, behind biographies and books about history (30 percent), and neck-and-neck with thrillers and suspense (25 percent) and self-improvement books (23 percent). The same poll, which aimed to

measure Americans' lifestyles, found that in 2002, 18 percent said they read no books at all.

—Bookline, *Publishers Weekly*, Jan. 21, 2003

"**I am living the biggest lie in front of America** and the more I think about it, the more it eats my brain out. . . . I'm really misleading. I'm \$50 million worth of misleading."

—Evan Marriott on his title role on the Fox TV reality series *Joe Millionaire* (quoted by Religion News Service)