



The Next Step: A Global Future

In this issue of the *Unionite*, you will read about many of the exciting things taking place on the Union campus, but you will notice the focus on expanding global opportunities. Union University is an institution not only with an emerging national profile, but also with an emerging international profile. We find ourselves living in an unprecedented age. Never before has the world seemingly been so accessible to us.

As educators at Union University we live in the academic world, but our questions and involvements have implications far beyond the academic world and far beyond our campus. Also, we recognize the distinctive aspect of the Union University mission. We are not only educators, but Christ-followers. We have eternity alive in our hearts, and we have been given the awesome privilege and responsibility of being involved in the kingdom work of our Lord Jesus Christ. Around the world we see new opportunities in so many different directions, some of which are reported in this issue of the *Unionite*. We also see poverty, health problems, terrorism, war, revolution, despair, destruction, as well as economic and environmental challenges. Our work involves us both in the pain and challenges that people face, but also in the promise of an eschatological hope.

Distance does not affect things the way it once did. Communication in the 18th Century depended on limited transportation, primarily by

boat. But in the 19th Century, the first transatlantic telecommunication cable was successfully laid along the ocean floor. That step in the communication revolution set our globe on a course that will eventually seem to erase all distance. We can now send voice memos to hundreds of people simultaneously. Television networks compete for a two-to five-second lead on breaking international stories.

We talk long distance to friends on the other side of the ocean to make sure they are doing well. Thousands of phone calls and e-mails, as well as Skype calls, cross borders and oceans each hour filled with conversations of personal and global importance. Christian educators at Union University are more aware than ever that the world is a global place. Learning to adapt and serve in this changing world is more than a good idea, it is mandatory. We now live in a multiracial, multicolored, multiethnic context. We have the pleasure of seeing God's creation in all of its variety, which is a great gift from God.

We believe that our responsibility at Union University in our educational and missional task is to develop global Christians on our campus. We can take the leadership in our own situations, and we can join with others to enhance partnerships and forge relevant ties for our global work in this 21st Century world. We must not shy away from the task. Like William Carey, the great missionary pioneer, we must both



expect great things from God and attempt great things for God. We need to ask for fresh eyes to see the potential role that Christian higher education can offer as the means for bringing a Christian presence to the world.

We ask you to pray for the various aspects of the work of Union University as you turn the pages, view the photos and read the stories in this issue of the *Unionite*. We are deeply thankful for your friendship and ongoing support of this great institution. May God's blessings be yours.

Soli Deo Gloria,

David S. Dockery