

IRUS Inauguration of President Park

I am honored with the invitation to congratulate President Park. Chookamhamnida ChongJaNim. But more fitting than saying congratulations to President Park is my opportunity to congratulate you for obtaining such a competent man to lead your school. President Park does not need another opportunity for significant service. He is already a very busy moksanim. I do not think he needs more meetings to attend, more people to supervise, more problems to fix, or more responsibility to carry. So why would such an important moksanim agree to lead the university? Because this is a ministry worth doing! It is worthy of his effort. It is also worthy of our effort.

Do you agree with President Park that this is a ministry worth doing? Why? First, because of the importance of training ministers. Timothy tells us that if any man aspires to the office of overseer, it is a noble task (1 Timothy 3:1). If it is a noble task to aspire to that office, it is also a noble task to train people for that office.

However, there is another reason this ministry is worth doing – especially through your bachelor’s program. Some of your students do not plan to become pastors. Maybe they study so they can be effective Sunday School teachers, home bible study leaders, jdsn, ... or maybe they merely study because they love God, love God’s word, and want to learn. Some are young people who do not know what they want to do with their lives, so they study and pray while they decide. These are also noble choices.

Not everyone agrees that in-depth study of the Bible is noble. Many professors at major American colleges think a Bible college education is as relevant to life as horseshoes in an auto parts store. A number of years ago, I heard of a UCLA professor who would tell students on the first day of class, “if you believe in God, you can leave my class right now.” This month, one of the most famous universities in California is in the news because an alumni association promotes on their website information about thirty of their controversial professors. They call these professors “the dirty thirty.” These professors promote socialism, radical feminism and lesbianism, the cause of the Palestinians, and are against American efforts in the war on terrorism. They are anti-Christian, anti-American, anti-capitalism, and anti-any student who disagrees. When they are supposed to be teaching about history or psychology or literature, they get off their assigned topics to promote their liberal biases.

The most disturbing professor seems to be one who teaches the “Pedagogy of the Oppressed.” This teaching method pushes the idea that everything students have previously learned is wrong. This theory pushes students to question and challenge and criticize their own society until they come to see their society as deeply flawed. It sounds like this professor could give lessons to the people in charge of brainwashing in communist re-education camps.

However, the problem is not with that particular state university. The problem is the current state of secular universities in America. Not long ago the outrageous behavior

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of professors from the University of Colorado, University of Florida, and nearby Citrus College were in the news. Liberal university professors are very common. I, myself, have seen or taught at colleges where the faculty promoted relativism, Eastern religions, sexual immorality, ...and used school funds to publish anti-Christian literature.

Imagine the parents who spend \$80,000 to have their children indoctrinated with ideas that shock the parents? Jeremiah's words are still true today: "*Since the wise have rejected the word of the LORD, what kind of wisdom do they have?*" (8:9) "Since the wise..." [When he says "wise", he means the foolish leaders who reject God, but who think of themselves as wise.] :// . The so-called wise teachers of Israel that Jeremiah spoke of helped cause their people's destruction at the hands of the Babylonians. What are the so-called wise teachers in secular universities causing today in the lives of the students with whom we entrust them?

Sometimes our children are too eager to enter a famous state university or private secular school. In a secular university, liberal professors will work hard to indoctrinate their students with a secular worldview, moral relativism, progressive attitudes about sexual permissiveness and homosexuality, and liberal politics. At the same time, your children's foolish roommates and classmates will tempt and pressure them to live for hedonistic pleasures. No wonder that research shows something very disturbing: Of incoming freshmen who identify themselves on surveys as born-again Christians, when they graduate from a secular university, half will either no longer identify themselves as born again Christians, or will not have attended a religious service in the past twelve months ://. Your tax dollars help support secular colleges which are dangerous places that corrupt students. Proverbs tells us, "*Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life*" (4:23). We need Christian alternatives to schools that corrupt student's hearts. Don't you agree that the effort to develop IRU is a ministry worth our effort?

Is the ministry of IRU worth President Park's efforts? Should he carry the burden alone? Isn't the ministry of IRU also worth our efforts? If you agree with me that it is, then I want to ask you to do one of three things:

- Pray regularly for the school or
- Recommend the school to prospective students or
- Donate money to the school. ://

Tuition does not cover the cost of a college education. The average school our size that is accredited by the ABHE receives only 56.3% of the cost of educating a student from that student's tuition and fees. That is why Christian universities need to be supported by donations. President Park, if your school gives people an opportunity to donate, please contact me. I will want to give a small donation. (They did not bring the offering plate to the platform, and I do believe that Christian colleges are ministries that I should support.) My friends, your taxes are already helping pay for state colleges to indoctrinate students with anti-Christian views. You are paying for that. Perhaps you can also join me in giving small donations to a school that will train people with Christian views.