Dear Alumni and Friends of JBU,

The decision to step down from the presidency of JBU was a difficult one indeed. God has blessed and used the people of JBU wonderfully during our ten years here. Alice and I are very enriched to have had the privilege of working with the people of JBU.

There is a strong spirit of Christ-centered vitality and Christian formation among students, faculty, and staff. Our academic programs have enjoyed tremendous leadership by faculty and students, including numerous national honors and awards. Alumni and friends of the university have given financially so that basic needs as well as urgently needed new facilities could be provided. Enrollment and retention are the highest ever.

More students are involved in Christian service and international missions than ever. More faculty are providing academic leadership nationally and internationally. JBU continues to receive awards and recognition in the areas of athletics, debate, music, business, broadcasting, and overall student scholarship.

We’re appreciating our new Walker Student Center and Bell Science Hall, and we just moved into a new art center. We’re building a new residence hall and planning construction for a business center funded last fall.

The endowed Center for Marriage and Family Studies (CMFS) and the endowed Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics (SCLE) are already nationally recognized. They’re providing expert Christian leadership so urgently needed by families and business leaders.

So this is God’s time for us to step aside from the presidency and for the next era of leadership to be initiated. There will be no waiting or lapse of effort during the transition. The people of JBU are people of vision and passion. The historic mission is as strong as ever. God is blessing and challenging us with plenty of opportunities even now.

Alice and I are excited about the future of John Brown University. Indeed, this is where we hope our grandchildren will get their distinctly Christian, top-quality university education. There is no better place in the world for them to grow in Christ, in relationships, in understanding, and in Christian virtues. We hope you’ve caught this spirit and vision of your university.

May God continue to bless John Brown University!

Lee Balzer
President, 1994-2004
As you sit and talk to Paul Smith, director of the Cathedral Choir at John Brown University, about his recent trip to Ireland, excitement washes over his face. Most people would not spend part of their summer vacation with a group of college students touring overseas. However, his passion for music is the driving force that led Paul to take a group of students to Ireland.

Last year Paul took the 50 Cathedral Choir members, along with faculty and staff from JBU, throughout Ireland for two weeks, May 16-30, on the annual Cathedral Choir tour. Traditionally, the choir goes on tour during spring break in late March. In 2003, for the first time in the history of the choir, the tour took place outside of the U.S.

While on tour, the choir performed a selection of compositions from different musical eras for audiences in Ballynahinch, Downpatrick, Portstewart, Carryduff, and Bangor. Approximately 1,875 people heard the music of the choir. Traditionally, the choir goes on tour during spring break in late March. In 2003, for the first time in the history of the choir, the tour took place outside the U.S.

Members of the Cathedral Choir outside of Scrabo Tower with the County Down Valley and the Irish Sea in the background

The people of Ireland responded so graciously to our every performance," Elaine Sbanotto said. Shanotto accompanied the choir to help with the logistics of taking a large group of students on tour. “The experience was priceless,” Shanotto said.

The choir was granted permission to spend several days recording at Downpatrick Cathedral in Down County, Northern Ireland. The choir spent two days and over 14 hours of tedious work recording songs performed on tour.

The CD includes African pieces, hymns, and a selection of modern and traditional works. The recording also features student chorister aide Ian Apperspach performing a fanfare on the Down Cathedral organ.

“Recording in Downpatrick Cathedral was both a privilege and an honor,” said Paul Smith, who is also an associate professor of music. “The choir worked hard for two days to produce the recording.”

Midway through the tour, the choir traveled to the northern coast to visit Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge, Dunluce Castle, and Giant’s Causeway. The northern coast became a favorite spot of the students.

The choir also visited many schools where they gave concerts and shared with the students about JBU and the music program. “I can’t stop talking about this trip! There was something about it I just can’t explain,” Shanotto said. “It was a beautiful country with beautiful people that responded to God’s outpouring of love. The choir worked very hard; they literally shined.”

The CD recorded at Downpatrick Cathedral was released in the fall and can be purchased through the JBU music department in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall and can be purchased in the fall.

The CD recorded at Downpatrick Cathedral was released in the fall and can be purchased through the JBU music department by calling Becky Pohle at (479) 524-7154. Or you can receive the CD as a gift from JBU if you make a donation of $40 or more to the Fund for Student Financial Support.

Contact Linda Welch, Coordinator of Donor Relations, at (479) 524-7107 and request the CD when giving your FSFS donation.

40 Days Of Purpose

Rick Warren’s book The Purpose Driven Life and the “40 Days of Purpose” initiative have been tools used by churches around the world to bring people to a deeper understanding of God’s design for life.

At JBU, participants in “40 Days of Purpose” read a daily devotional chapter from Rick Warren’s bestselling book, The Purpose Driven Life, and attended a weekly small group discussion to share what each had learned about God’s purpose for their lives. One long-time staff member commented after finishing the study, “This has been the best spiritual growth activity I have participated in since I’ve been at JBU.” Students were also highly impacted as they considered God’s purpose for them in the midst of making decisions about vocation, faith and relationships that will have a lifelong impact.

The introduction to The Purpose Driven Life states, “Self-help books often suggest that you try to discover the meaning and purpose of your life by looking within yourself, but that is the wrong place to start. You must begin with God, your Creator, and his reasons for creating you. You were made by God for God, and until you understand that, life will never make sense.”

We pray that because of this study, John Brown University will have its purpose renewed in educating the Head, Heart and Hand of its students with Christ Over All.
on that bridge last week by myself after midnight that I met with God. It was a miracle. It has always been a miracle, I, a simple sinful human, can talk to the Creator of the universe. It’s a miracle because the one and only God is interested in talking to me at 1:30 in the morning on a wooden paint-chipped bridge surrounded by a terribly sinful world. He met me there, where I was. He met me there because He loves me and wants a deep relationship with me. That is a miracle.

I pray every night before bed and during the day as much as I remember, but last week on that bridge was different. On that bridge it was more vivid, more powerful, more real. It was different, and I think I know why. Rick Warren in The Purpose Driven Life says, “If you want a deeper, more intimate connection with God you must learn to honestly share your feelings with Him, trust Him when He asks you to do something, learn to care about what He cares about, and desire His friendship more than anything else.”

I learned something valuable on that bridge in the park that night, and it’s been in my mind ever since. I yelled out to God. I told Him exactly what I thought on different issues in my life. I told Him that I couldn’t understand why He did the things He did and that many times He didn’t make any sense to me. I told Him that I wanted more faith in Him. I told Him that I wanted to affect the world but I didn’t know how. I told Him many of the areas I fail in. I didn’t act more spiritual in Him. I told Him that I wanted to affect the world but I didn’t know how. I told Him that I was thinking, Me and God. No bars. No barriers. Nothing to hide. I was real with God. It was not just a prayer; it was an open, honest conversation with God.

I think God liked our “bridge” conversation at least as much as I did. I believe that God desires us to be completely real with Him. I’m going to go out on a limb, but I imagine that God gets pretty tired of us pulling back in prayer and not being real, especially considering that He happens to be all-knowing. He knows we mess up, He knows what we’ve done, He knows where we’ve been, and He knows that we do not always understand Him. Be real and talk to Him; that is what He wants!

I figure that I am in good company, considering that men such as Moses, David and Job openly voiced their opinions to God. I’ve been really challenged since the “bridge” to live a life that is real before God. We have a real God who is really involved in our real lives, and we really need to involve Him in a real way...really! “The truth is you are as close to God as you choose to be. Intimate friendship with God is a choice, not an accident. You must intentionally seek it” (Warren, 96). I’ve found that the key to real, deep, honest relationships is real, deep and honest conversations. So go meet with God, and this time be yourself.

Together in Him, 
Lula

**Alpha Chi Receives Award**

JBU’s chapter of Alpha Chi, the national college honor scholarship society, received the President’s Cup Outstanding Chapter Award at the national convention of Alpha Chi in 2003. Granted biennially, this award recognizes the single society chapter in the nation that makes the most significant contribution in scholarship and service to its host institution.

### Three years ago, when David Cameron ’03 received a promotion work.

ing for the City of Siloam Springs, Arkansas, he felt inadequate to lead the city employees newly placed in his charge.

A feeling of frustration charac-

terized Cameron’s life, he said. His new leadership responsibilities were overwhelming, and although his de-
termined personality helped him ac-

complish many goals, he admits he lacked the skills to be an effective leader.

“I got results, but I was de-
stroying relationships. At a whole, I was a frustrated man. I wasn’t leading by example, wasn’t active in church, wasn’t fulfilled in life,”

Cameron said. He knew he needed more education and training to handle his new responsibilities.

As a husband and father of three young children, Cameron said. “I realized that I was inadequate to lead my employees. I didn’t have the tools or the know-how, and the last place I was going to look was the Bible,”

Cameron said.

Then Cameron took a course with Steve Seward, and his life hasn’t been the same since.

“He got me to read the Bible,”

Cameron said. “I’ll never forget the night Dr. Seward said, ‘You’ll never be an effective leader until you can lead yourself,’”

Cameron recalled. “The light came on for me, and I realized that I needed to be right with God before I would be able to get things right in life. That day I found my identity as a leader—I wanted to extend the same grace to others that God had extended to me.”

From that point on, Cameron began to make many changes in both his professional life and his family life. His family-wife, Michelle, and three children, Alex, Bailey and John Michael—once again took their place as the priority in life instead of his job, Cameron said. The Cameron family now attends church where one of Cameron’s Advance Program classmates, Joy Foley ’03, is the pastor.

Things are better than ever for Cameron at the City of Siloam Springs. He recently received his third promotion to Public Works Director, and now he oversees 43 employees. Cameron said that after he graduated with his John Brown University bachelor’s degree from the Advance Program in May 2005, he knows that he is now equipped to lead all of his new employees effectively.

“The Advance Program gave me such a new perspective on life and family as well as my job,”

Cameron said. “When I first started at JBU, it was about earning the degree. But the degree doesn’t do justice to what I have learned and the leader I’ve become because of the program.”

To learn more about the Advance Program and classroom locations throughout Arkansas, visit www.jbu.edu/advance.

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### Alpha Chi

Alpha Chi awards the President’s Cup based on a chapter’s campus activities, community activities, number of student presentations, nominees for scholarships and participation in regional and national conventions.

In addition to receiving the President’s Cup, JBU’s Alpha Chi chapter also received several other honors at the convention: two members were awarded scholarships, and one received Honorable Mention in competition for the Edwin W. Gaston Fellowship. The JBU chapter was also once again named a Star Chapter of Alpha Chi, an honor it has received consecutively for the past eight years.
On Monday, January 12, 2004, the renovated John Brown University Arts & Digital Media building opened its doors to students. Over 170 undergraduate students are enrolled in digital media, graphic design and illustration courses that meet in the updated facility. JBU spent $2.3 million to drastically remodel the three-floor, 18,000 square-foot building originally built in 1958. Now designed to serve JBU’s rapidly growing graphic design and digital media programs, the facility served as the university’s science building for over 40 years. The completely modernized building now houses an art gallery with gallery lighting, a 20-station PC lab, a 24-station Mac G5 lab, multimedia theater style classrooms, drawing and painting rooms and offices.

The building was dedicated in a ceremony on April 2, 2004. Artist Timothy Botts unveiled an original artwork, commissioned by JBU and now hanging in the foyer of the building.

JBU began construction of a new residence hall last summer, after receiving more than half the funding for the building. The residence hall is being built on the north part of the campus across from the townhouses. With rising enrollment in recent years, the need for an additional residence hall is urgent. When construction began, JBU was running at 101% resident capacity and expected that number to rise before the fall semester. The building features handicapped-accessible rooms, lobbies and common areas. When the hall opens for the fall 2004 semester, it will house 114 students. The design of the building allows for the addition of a second wing sometime in the future.

John Brown University completed the funding last fall for a proposed $6.5 million business center scheduled to open in the fall of 2005. “We are extremely pleased that the university can provide a high quality education in an excellent facility,” president Lee Balzer said. “The support from donors who recognize the value of investing in JBU is outstanding. This is such an exciting time for our community!”

The business center will become home to the Soderquist Center for Leadership and Ethics and JBU’s division of business. The university wanted to bring these two successful programs together into one headquarters where business students will regularly interact with corporate and organizational leaders. Students will benefit from the experience of professionals, while professionals will benefit from the energy and vitality of students. The two-story, 34,000 square-foot business and academic center will include classrooms, meeting rooms, a computer lab, offices and a distance-learning facility. Construction will begin this summer.
Pollard Named Next JBU President

On April 3, 2004, JBU announced that, after an almost year-long search, Charles W. Pollard, Ph.D. will be the sixth president of JBU.

"Dr. Pollard was quickly identified as an outstanding candidate," Dr. Richard Mccartney, chairman of the presidential search committee, said. "The breadth of his education and experience gives him a thorough understanding of the academic world, business world, and service in the Christian community."

Dr. Pollard received his undergraduate degree with summa cum laude honors from Harvard Law School in 1985, a juris doctorate with magna cum laude honors from Harvard College (Ill.) in 1988, a master's in English from Oxford University in 1990, and a Ph.D. in English from the University of Virginia in 1999.

Before entering the academic world as a professor, Dr. Pollard was an associate for such major corporate clients as Marriott, Citicorp, and Sears.

In 1997, Dr. Pollard moved to Michigan, to join Calvin College, a comprehensive liberal arts Christian college in Grand Rapids. As a tenured faculty member, his teaching and scholarship focus on 20th-century literature. He has also served on various boards and committees, including the Planning and Priorities Committee, which reviewed the annual budget, faculty compensation plan, and the comprehensive plan on ethnicity and race. He has been published frequently, including a forthcoming book on T. S. Eliot and Caribbean poetry from the University of Virginia Press.

While in Michigan, Dr. Pollard served as the president of the board of a non-profit private Christian school from 1999 to 2002. In that capacity, he led the board and school through an extensive long-range planning process. He planned and managed a capital expansion project and led a $12.5 million capital campaign to successful completion. He has also served with a number of non-profit and foundation boards across the U.S.

The presidential transition will occur this summer as Dr. Lee Balzer retires June 30th and Dr. Pollard assumes office July 1st.

"I am excited about the future at John Brown University because we will be building on such a rich, Christ-centered past," Dr. Pollard said. "JBU offers a unique and distinguished education that is characterized by academic excellence, Christian formation, and professional relevance. I look forward to serving with JBU’s dedicated faculty, committed staff, inquisitive students, loyal alumni, and forward-thinking board to continue this educational mission, where Christ is over all."

The Forgotten Gift: Life Insurance

Do you have a life insurance policy you no longer need?

Perhaps your other assets have grown to provide the protection you require, and the insurance policy lies forgotten in a safe-deposit box.

Did you know that the policy could be a wonderful, tax-deductible gift to John Brown University?

The dormant dollars in your life insurance policy could be used to give the annual Fund for Student Financial Support (FSFS) a mighty boost. You could establish a future endowment fund in your name or in the name of someone you’d like to honor. The policy also could be used to assist with a capital project or in a number of other ways.

To discover how your insurance policy can become an investment in the lives of JBU students, contact the Director of Planned Giving, Paul Eldridge, at (800) 446-2450.

JBU SIFE students prepared descriptions of their ongoing projects in a DVD presentation with live narration and presented their SIFE story in competition with about 800 other college and university teams from across the country. JBU took first place in the region in 2003 and 2004 and went on to the national competition both years.

Vying for national recognition with 180 other college and university teams, JBU students were judged by corporate executives from such companies as Wal-Mart, Procter & Gamble, Radio Shack, and Sprint. In the end, JBU’s SIFE students were named among the top teams in the country, taking home the third-place trophy in 2003 and tying for fifth place with three other teams in 2004.
A story of friendship, life and a 42-year-old letter

BY LAURA GRAY

The letter has circulated through many changes, not only in their own lives, but also in the world: the letter was going around before e-mail, fax machines and cell phones. The letter moved in and around PTA and Scouts meetings, t-ball games, work, travel, church, the preparation of many meals, promotions and holidays. In other words, a lot of life happened to these women while the letter traveled from mailbox to mailbox. Through it all, the women shared the comfort that comes from knowing friends are out there.

Though Jan, Kathy, Doris, Lois, Thera, Robyn, Carolee, Donna and Francene...

(See it on page 28)

Waiting years for a story to unfold has become a thing of the past. Cell phones, fax machines and computers with high-speed internet access have increased the speed of information and our lives. Lost to most of us at this pace in the art of letters: plucking pen to paper to keep in touch with friends, then waiting for hand delivery and then waiting some more for the responses. Those receptacles in front of our homes, stuffed with bills and advertisements, hold few pieces of personal correspondence anymore. But some graduates from John Brown University have patiently kept a habit of letter writing alive for a very long time.

For over forty years, a special group of women has built a story and shared a connection through a round-robin letter that began shortly after graduation in 1962. Jan (Rankin) Hollingsworth, Kathy (Brenner) Taylor, Lynda (Springfield) Walters, Doris (Kletz) Smallman, Lois Beriakreuz, Thera (Smith) Barber, Judi (Eckelman) Stewart, Robyn (Lewis) Petelski, Carolee (Chaney) Candill, Donna (Stanley) Bechtel and Francene (Davis) Sharp began writing to each other, including their letters in a single packet, and passing that packet on. They have sustained the letter for over three generations, several times between continents. Today they are living across the U.S. from Oregon to Michigan, California to Texas, Kansas, Louisiana and Arkansas, and the tradition continues.

“It’s special because we’ve gone from college graduates to falling in love to first babies to second babies to grandbabies, and now it’s ailments and death,” says Doris.

It began shortly after many of the women graduated from John Brown University in the spring of 1962. Many (in what would later become the group) were writing to each other individually and passing along news they’d heard to other interested friends. Jan Hollingsworth thought it might be a good idea to organize the efforts. She sent out her first letter and suggested an order of recipients for the letter to follow. Then, each friend who received the letter in turn added her letter to the envelope and passed it along to the next. When the letter started, some of the women did not know each other as well as others. Jan, Kathy, and Doris all lived in California. Some were dormmates, some even roommates. Others knew each other only through classes or mutual friends. But, following the individual lives of the group for so many years, learning about their families and experiences, sharing the challenges and joys and hopes and aspirations has bonded them all.

That the letter has survived for so long is unusual. Many of these kinds of letters start, but most do not endure so long. There was a time when the letter crossed oceans. Donna and Doris both served as missionaries and were living overseas. Donna and her husband worked in Japan, and Doris and her husband worked in Brazil. In those days, the letter took as long as a year to make the round over such distances. The letter has been lost at least once, but it was promptly started again without ado. In 40 years, only one person has dropped out of the loop.

The letter also provides the opportunity to pick up the phone to comfort each other. One person could receive phone calls from several women as the letter comes to each member down the line. When news of Carolee and her daughter’s mission trip to Romania arrived, I was moved,” Kathy shares. “Reading the details about her daughter’s mission trip to Romania arrived, I was moved,” Kathy shares. “Reading the details about their work with children reminded me of the good news that is out there. The letter continues to show the wonderful ways God has worked in all our lives. It provides remarkable encouragement. I continue to pray for Carolee and her daughter once I’d read the news.”

As life continues, the letter allows the women to share bad news as well as the good. Two members of the group have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and one with cancer. One member went through a divorce, and one member recently lost her son. The women have shared the tragedies of illness, separation and loss. It’s hard to receive this kind of news in a letter, but the connection these women have has been helpful in hard times.

Kathy writes about how the group responded to hardship and supported a friend through the letter: “We trust she was uplifted and could feed our sympathy and love when she received the packet—even months later. It’s just so nice to know we have such a loving and caring support group out there—still, after all these years.” The letter also provides the opportunity to pick up the phone and comfort each other. One person could receive phone calls from several women as the letter comes to each member down the line.

The letter has circulated through many changes, not only in their own lives, but also in the world: the letter was going around before e-mail, fax machines and cell phones. The letter moved in and around PTA and Scouts meetings, t-ball games, work, travel, church, the preparation of many meals, promotions and holidays. In other words, a lot of life happened to these women while the letter traveled from mailbox to mailbox. Through it all, the women shared the comfort that comes from knowing friends are out there.

Though Jan, Kathy, Doris, Lois, Thera, Robyn, Carolee, Donna and Francene...

(See it on page 28)
Homecoming 2003: Celebrating JBU!

What a weekend we had at JBU! Everywhere on campus there were alumni visiting, renewing friendships and just enjoying being here. The athletic reunion and music brunch brought classmates, teammates and music ministry groups together again, many who had not been on campus or seen each other for many years.

We hope you enjoy seeing some of the photos and hearing what alumni said about the weekend. Then, mark your calendars, make those hotel reservations and plan on attending Homecoming 2004, Friday and Saturday, October 8 and 9!

Thanks to all of you who made the effort to find your way to Siloam Springs and return to your alma mater. It was great to have you here.

Since the Showcase, requests keep coming for the Homecoming Showcase 2003 video and CD of music. These are now available: $20 for the video and $15 for a CD. E-mail jfrase@jbu.edu or call 1-888-JBU-ALUM.

“I was great to see so many old friends and classmates... Our thanks to Skip, Roy and John for the memories they brought back to us!”

DAVE & MARSHA PRITZ ’71 ’78

“It was great to see so many old friends and classmates... Our thanks to Skip, Roy and John for the memories they brought back to us!”

“Congratulations on a great homecoming. Though I was able to participate minimally, everything I heard about it was complimentary.”

IDA ADOLPHSON ’48

“Homecoming was great and I loved the Showcase, even though I attended JBU after the time that was highlighted. To hear and see what was part of our heritage made me appreciate what came before me and feel part of a great group of alumni. Thank you!”

CONNIE MATCHELL ’77
“Thanks for a fantastic homecoming weekend! I have been back to campus a number of times over the years and have watched the building projects evolve over the years to what is now a magnificent, beautiful campus.”

BILL PETTETT ’64

“Whew!! I am still regrouping from a great time this last weekend. Hats off for doing a fantastic job. All I have heard has been how great a time people had.”

GRADY NICHOLS ’69

“WOW! Fantastic! Entertaining! Memorable! These are just a few of the adjectives that come to mind in describing the JBU Homecoming for 2003!”

BARBARA BRAGG ’55
June 25, 2003
I wanted to send you a picture of the place I am working. I am on the fifth floor of the Administration Business building at [Universidad Francisco Marroquin]. The attached picture is of the courtyard I “have” to look at every time I walk out of the office. Pretty rough, huh? At the moment, it is raining, and the temperature is about as perfect as one could ask.

By the way, I am getting acquainted with the people here, including some Christians who teach at the university. They are a good group. UFM has been really good to me. They have given me wireless broadband connection to the Internet… I can have Internet access from ANYWHERE on the UFM campus. Much faster than JBU or even my high-speed cable at my house in Arkansas. They are very gracious to me.

July 12, 2003
It has been a good week here in Guatemala.

I was finally able to meet with Herbert Paiz this week, and I will start work with El Castillo street teams this coming week. Right now, it looks like I will be out with street teams every Thursday night. This will be a challenge, but I am really looking forward to it. We will see where it leads.

It has been a real blessing to see some JBU alumni this week over lunch and dinner. I’m still trying to get together with some. It is a little bit more difficult than I had anticipated.

Oh, and I had the experience of trying to drive through the Obelisco at rush hour. This is a major intersection (traffic circle) in the city, and there is a LOT of traffic at that time of the day trying to go in one direction in particular. It backs everyone up and becomes a real mess. You just have to stick the nose of your car in and go. A BETTER strategy is to avoid those places at those times. I’m learning…

Classes continue to go well. It is different, but it is a good experience. I am developing new perspectives that I will bring back to JBU. And the Lord is showing me many doors of opportunity for future collaborations between schools and other organizations. We will see where it leads…

August 1, 2003
Friends,
I am compelled to share because of some experiences last night that impacted me profoundly. Finally, after a couple of weeks of cancellations due to broken vehicles and rioting in the streets, I was able to go out with the El Castillo street team. We left sometime after 6:30 in the evening, and I finally made it home around 11:00 last night.

We visited several locations. The first was la farmacia (“the pharmacy”). This is what the kids call it. We drove down a very dark street in an unattractive part of the city… I’m not sure exactly where. There were a few young people wandering the streets in the dark… staggering about. In the middle of the street, someone had started a fire with the trash. We stopped right in front of a place that had an open gate. I learned that this was a solvent distribution location and “flop house.” (Solvent is the “drug” used by the street kids… they take rags soaked in solvent, hold it in their hands, and suck the fumes in through their mouths. It immediately starts to damage their brains, but at least it leaves them numb… not feeling hunger or pain.)

The kids call this place “the pharmacy” because this is where they come for their “medicine.” Some rather rough looking youths and adults were coming and going the
whole time. There is a “lady” who runs this place, and in addition to selling solvent, she also lets the kids sleep there... for a price. They would not let us go in, but we could stand in the street outside and talk to the kids who would come out and talk to us. About 8 or 10 did, and the youngest was probably about 2 or 3 years old... it is hard to tell. We heard so many other little voices coming from inside this awful, filthy place. My heart broke for Elly, a 12-year-old (?) girl who pulled up her shirt to expose her stomach so that we could see she was pregnant... and she was just so casual about it. And several of the little ones just played and ran like normal little kids, in the middle of such an ugly life. The mission is working to get these kids to CHOOSE to leave this place and come to the Center.

This has been a week of extremes. I started the week with those incredibly vivid memories of Guatemala City and the Mexican volcanoes, which reminded me of God’s majesty. And last night reminded me of the depths to which Satan can drag mankind, especially attacking the children. But I am thankful that the story doesn’t end there. In the midst of such ugliness, there is the beauty of these Christian people going out and literally shining the light of love into a dark world. Even very little acts of love and compassion can make a huge difference.

I met a young man named Pedro who has been in the [El Castillo] homes for two years now and is doing really well. I met a young man named Pedro who has been in the [El Castillo] homes for two years now and is doing really well.

Two years ago, he remembers a “gringo” who went out with a street team, bought a box of donuts and started passing them out to the kids. He called that guy “Mr. Donut”... and still does. He remembers that act of kindness. As Herbert says, don’t ever underestimate how even a small act of kindness directed toward a child will make a memorable and lasting impact. To be honest, I felt a little bit worthless last night... I knew it would be hard for me to understand [the language of these] kids, and it was. Even if I don’t understand them, I can still hug them. Maybe some little guy will call me “Mr. Hug” someday...

August 13, 2003

I went to a big marimba concert on Sunday... called Fabumarihitas! The marimba is the national instrument of Guatemala, and they are very proud of this piece of their culture. It is really pretty impressive. It takes 7 people to play one marimba, and then a couple or three more to play drums, bass, etc. So there are about 10 people per group, and in this mass performance, there were 11 groups. Do the math! Also, most of these marimbas are pretty famous here and have been around perhaps for decades... like Chapinlandia and La Estrella de Guatemala. Needless to say, it was a fantastic experience... four and a half hours that seemed like 20 minutes.

Now, on to more important things... I was on the streets with El Castillo again last night, and will go again tomorrow. I’m trying for two nights each week. Last night we were joined by JBU graduate, Maria Luis (Malu) Que’me ’03 and a friend named Eric from the States. I was extremely proud of Malu... she is a natural at this.

We went to a street corner near a pretty busy intersection. There is a group of kids that lives there. El Castillo has a particular focus on street girls right now, and since several girls showed up, we stayed there for quite a while. Some of the guys kicked around a soccer ball, some drew pictures, some practiced writing with staff workers, and everyone was sucking down solvent fumes. They carry their solvent around in little white plastic bottles, and after a while, you just want to grab those things and throw them as far as you can throw them.

One [of the kids there] was a young girl named Jomara who is about 15 or 16, if I recall. She has a two-year-old child. Jomara works as a prostitute on the streets. Her mother has the baby, and she won’t let Jomara see the baby unless she brings in enough money from her prostitution. I have no words to describe what is in my heart for a person who would exploit her own children in such a way. The fact is, many poor families “rent” their children out to beg or sell in the streets... or worse. Well, Jomara spent a lot of time talking with Malu, and she sat down and colored some pictures with the other youth. (The staff like to give the kids things like this to do... so they can be kids for a little while.) Oh, and she likes to sing. She stood there in the street and sang songs to us, although she was a little bit “foggy” due to inhaling solvent. Singing, drawing... you have to wonder what she would have done with her life if it had gone another direction. Even more, you have to wonder what would be happening in Guatemala today (and in so many other countries, including the U.S.) if these talented children were being developed instead of destroyed.

It started to rain, and we left. But we also remember that as we left them there, they were going to spend the night right there on the street, many of them sleeping right there on that dark, cold, dangerous, rainy street corner. I was thankful for my bed and pillow last night, but I must admit I didn’t sleep well. Lots of images in my head...

August 28, 2003

Well, tonight I was back out on the streets with the El Castillo street teams. And as always, it was an experience.

We started by going to a place called Parque Berlin. The strange thing is that this park is only a few blocks from where I live, and in fact, you can see my building from there. There is a group of boys living there. This group doesn’t inhale solvent... they inhale glue fumes. Same difference... different smell. The “leader” was a fellow named Bayron who was probably about 30 years old. He actually seemed to take an interest in these kids, and although he was a glue-sniffing street guy, we watched him “counseling” these guys to “sniff in moderation,” and he even broke up a fight. We pulled out the papers for the little ones to start coloring, and as usual, even the older ones wanted to do it. As I’ve said before, they are all emotionally stunted. They are all kids. I sat and chatted with a fellow named Jairo Daniel, and he just loved coloring. He kept telling me “me ENCANTA!” which means he really likes to color. He used to color a lot in school. Of course, every few minutes, he had to pull out his glue bottle and suck on that for a while...

Then we went up into Zone 1 near the center of the city. We stopped in one location where a group of teens lives in a little alcove on the street. One of them is dying of AIDS...
A few weeks ago, I wrote about a place we went where four street youths came up and started singing Christian songs to us. We were there visiting a group that lives on the street at that spot—a young lady and some children. The young lady’s name was Lilian, and she cared for her family there. They were all whacked out on solvent. Tonight, we learned that Lilian is dead. She was beaten to death on the streets about a week ago. Nobody knows why, in fact, nobody really knows why any of this happens.

Also, a short time ago, I wrote to you about Lupe, the girl who was shot. We also found out tonight that she has gotten worse. Apparently, the bullet is still in her, and she is having complications...severe complications. The mission is trying to help her.

I said it a while back and I’ll say it again. It is incredible to think what these young people could be doing for Guatemala if they were not being destroyed...and destroying themselves. They are creative, talented kids. No matter where we go, they always jump up and shake our hands when we arrive and leave. Somewhere beneath the filth is a little person...slowly dying. Or in Lilian’s case...dying a bit more quickly.

Alicia Balzer (left) and Alice McQuay (right)

October 8, 2003

Tonight, I had the chance to go along with the “in process” group. Juan Manuel and Marisol picked us up and took them to Campo Marte to run and play soccer for two hours. It is kind of hard for drugged up kids to play soccer, but it is good for them to run and breathe clean air. There were nine boys in this group today, and Juan Manuel took them to Burger King and let them all have a big cheeseburger!

We pulled up with this load of boys at Burger King. Before unloading, Juan Manuel had to go in and ask permission to bring these children in the restaurant. Remember, these are street kids. They are dirty and smelly. Many restaurants won’t let street kids inside, even when they are sponsored in a group like this. I am thankful that Burger King welcomed the group openly, but it is sad that these kids are “not good enough” for some establishments.

We were chatting with the boys during the meal. They are a good group. They are crude, rude and socially unacceptable, but ya gotta love ‘em. We were chatting with one little guy named Giovanni, and we asked him what his dreams were. Sadly, he didn’t have any. Not only that, but he couldn’t even relate to the concept of having a dream. All of the boys got kind of quiet...like they didn’t even understand what we were asking. Finally, we explained what that meant, and we asked them to tell us what they wanted to do with their lives...what they wanted to become. They all just shook their heads, except for little Giovanni who looked at us very seriously and said, “I want to sell solvent.” This is the ONLY thing that many of these kids can even conceive...it is all they can become...it is the only thing they see themselves doing. That is why it is SO significant when a street kid says, “Hey, I could be...” And that is what El Castillo is trying to do...let these kids know that there is more to life than solvent.

Just like the solvent eats away at these kids’ brains and bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep. Bodies, I hope this thought eats at your heart. It eats at mine. Don’t let yourself dismiss it easily and go to sleep.
The FSFS: Understanding JBU’s Annual Fund

Steve Onnen ’82
Director of the Fund for Student Financial Support

What is the FSFS?

FSFS stands for “Fund for Student Financial Support” and is the current name given to JBU’s annual fund program. This name is only three years old, but the annual fund has existed under several different names since its beginning in 1981.

Although there have been many name changes to JBU’s Annual Fund through the years, the heart of the program has remained unchanged—to help needy students financially.

Practically every academic institution in America today has an annual fund program. Most schools apply gifts given to their annual fund programs to a variety of needs, including scholarships, research, financial aid, athletics, equipment, faculty salaries, programs, and the list goes on.

The difference in JBU’s annual fund program is that 100% of the gifts given to the FSFS go directly to students in the form of either “need-based scholarships” or “institutional work-study” jobs.

Yes, that’s 100% of the funds going to students!

Why should you give to the FSFS?

The costs of providing a higher education unfortunately continue to climb at rates far greater than inflation. JBU does all it can to keep costs as low as possible for a private, liberal arts institution, but to remain competitive with today’s academic needs, we must continually update equipment, tools and resources. This is the primary reason for the increases in tuition and room and board.

From the beginning, the founder’s dream was to offer a Christian, higher education to any individual who desired one. In the early years of JBU, all students went to class for half a day and then worked half a day at an assigned job on campus to cover the costs of their education. Although times have changed, JBU strives to stay true to the foundational goal of making a quality, Christian education affordable to any student.

Did you know that every student receives a reduced rate to attend JBU regardless of his or her financial need? That’s right. JBU’s endowment provides funds that subsidize the costs of each student’s education. Every student receives a reduction in tuition, which amounts to roughly a $1,800 discount. Gifts to the FSFS become scholarships and work-study wages that help students toward funding the remaining tuition costs. Without this assistance, most students would not be able to attend JBU. This past year 87% of students attending JBU received some form of financial aid.

Why are we asking for more?

You may have noticed an increase in the number of times that we have asked for your help this year. We’ve done this intentionally to increase everyone’s awareness of the importance of the FSFS. Last year we increased our alumni giving percentage from 15% to 22%, and while this was very encouraging, we still missed our overall financial goal by $131,000. When faced with such shortfalls, we have to take money from other vital areas of campus to provide the necessary financial aid to students.

We are also asking more often because we don’t know the exact time when people are able to make a gift to JBU. One month may be good for some, but not for others. By increasing our communication with alumni, parents, and friends, you’re more likely to hear about the FSFS at a time that’s right for you.

Donor by donor, dollar by dollar, we are working together to impact students who are laying foundations for their lives in this Christian academic environment. Your gifts to the Fund for Student Financial Support, regardless of size, are essential to helping John Brown University accomplish the mission of preparing the heads, hearts and hands of students to impact our world.

RUGBY TEAM’S CHARACTER STANDS OUT

In October, JBU received this e-mail that reminded us faculty and staff why we serve students at JBU.

Dear John Brown University Rugby Team, Sponsors and University Administration,

This past weekend the JBU Rugby team took part in the Cowtown Rugby Tournament in Fort Worth, TX. I had the opportunity to watch a portion of three of their matches against such opponents as Texas A & M, Stephen F. Austin University, and the University of Texas-Dallas. It was clear that the JBU Rugby team carried themselves differently than any of the other collegiate teams that attended this event. In a sport that is rough, passionate and intense in its design, it is also often a culture of vulgarity, retaliation and post-game gratuitous behavior.

Despite the youth of JBU’s players, the passion of the sport of rugby and the culture of a rugby tournament, your young men represented themselves with dignity, honor and respect, while at the same time matching their opponents on the field. Clearly these young men are different!!! Players showed what are often uncommon courtesies such as helping up an opponent, genuine concern for someone suffering from an injury, or simply referring to someone older as “Sir.”

While I do not know how many of the games JBU won or lost, I heard the team’s rendition of one verse of the old Thomas Ken hymn, “Awake, My Soul, and with the Sun” (specifically, “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow”) after every event. And regardless of their record at Cowtown, I would say that the John Brown University Rugby team was the biggest winner of the weekend for the impression they left on others.

Thank you for allowing the Lord to work through you and congratulations John Brown University for generating such an impression they left on others.

With the greatest sincerity and respect of the Lord Jesus, Dennis W.

Dennis is a professor at a university in Texas and a rugby player who competed in a different division in the tournament.

Steve Onnen ’82
Director of the Fund for Student Financial Support
“Lee Balzer has proved himself to be a visionary with his head in the clouds and his feet firmly planted on the ground.”

Dick McCartney
Member, Board of Trustees
Robert P. Vossler ’38, a man whose career in accounting spanned over 60 years died July 23, 2003, at St. John’s Hospital in Santa Monica, California, at the age of 85.

Vossler was a native of Norwood, Ohio. He graduated in 1938 with a major in business. He met Mary Campbell of Siloam Springs on campus in 1936. Following her graduation in 1939, she moved to California where she served as secretary to the university founder, Dr. John E. Brown Sr. Mary and Bob were married in Los Angeles, California, in 1939, with Ralph Pifari, a JBU alumnus in attendance. Their marriage of nearly 65 years evidenced the enduring love of this very special couple.

Vossler began a successful career in accounting in 1938. He spent over 40 years with Miller & Company, a prestigious Los Angeles accounting firm. He established his own firm in 1980 with a branch office in Hawaii and was still active as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) until his death.

Beginning in 1948, Vossler became the consulting accountant for the university properties in southern California. His counsel regarding the purchase of radio station KGER was extremely beneficial to the university’s endowment. Vossler’s foresight and recommendations over the many years of his service to the John Brown University schools was outstanding, and his love for his alma mater was evident over more than half a century. He was active in Southern California with the Certified Public Accountants Association and the United States Air Force Veterans Association. Vossler was an officer in World War II, serving as a B-29 navigator-bombardier in the Pacific Theater. He also served on the board of Manufacturers Bank. He was an officer in World War II, serving as a B-29 navigator-bombardier in the Pacific Theater.

Vossler’s influence was closely felt among the Sound Generation members. J. R. Whitby ’73 recalls, “During our travels with the Sound Generation, Kelly would often be with us to speak after our music. I have fond memories of him asking me for my sax and getting him to play “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” on several occasions. There was one particular way he would play a line of the song that I have tried to imitate to this day.”

Bihl then moved from campus to use his radio training on JBU’s California radio station, KGER. He was the voice of the John Brown Hour Bible study for eight years. Bihl continued his support of JBU for the rest of his life. He will be most remembered for his ability to correctly interpret the word of God. His wife Bettie said, “I think his ministry and his teaching will be the most missed. He knew the Bible so well. He just opened his mouth and the Scriptures would roll.” Bihl has left this legacy for the many students he touched.

Former campus pastor Carl “Kelly” Bihl ’60 passed away on May 1, 2003 at the age of 86. Bihl’s long relationship with JBU began in 1954 when he began his studies as a radio engineering major.

After graduating in 1960, he went to Moody Bible Institute, earning a degree in theology and meeting his wife, Bettie. He then began a dynamic career in ministry, hosting the Children’s Bible Hour in Grand Rapids, Michigan. In 1965, he became the fourth president of Youth for Christ, an organization that remains linked to the university today.

Bihl is perhaps best remembered as campus pastor from 1967 to 1974. Jerry Rollene ’75, said of Bihl, “He cared very much about the eternal security of each student and communicated the gospel with passion. He led the services and preached on Sunday. Roger Cox led the music.” Another former student, John Hill ’75, recalled that when he had a tough decision to make, he consulted Bihl and found his counsel very helpful. Many significant events occurred during Bihl’s tenure, including the first summer missionary project in 1969 and the closing of campus Sunday church services in 1974.

Bihl’s influence was closely felt among the Sound Generation members. J. R. Whitby ’73 recalls, “During our travels with the Sound