

*“Reflections on the Future of Christian
Higher Education”*

Ohio Foundation of Independent Colleges

March 29, 2006

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**MOUNT VERNON
NAZARENE UNIVERSITY**

Life Changing



I believe Christian Higher Education institutions are faced with a door that leads to both opportunities and obstacles.



The door of opportunity exists for those institutions which clearly know who they are and passionately protect and project their identity.



While my desire is to be the bearer
of good news, I must hasten to say
that behind this same door of
opportunity, there will be
obstacles.



I predict that the more we clearly articulate our identity and clarify the vision for institutions we serve, the opposition will intensify from external sources in an attempt to neutralize or even eliminate the very characteristics that make us distinctive.



I envision increased, persistent and intense threats to the religious freedom of Christian colleges and universities.



**The Civil Rights Act of 1967,
Section 703, generally prohibits the
discrimination in employment, but
exempts religious organizations from
the prohibition.**



I am concerned with the governmental issue of “strict separatism” interpretation of the Constitution at the federal, state and local levels as they continue to affect us.



- How soon will students enrolled in Christian colleges and universities be prohibited from applying for PELL grants?
- Will the day come when Christian colleges and universities in Ohio cannot apply for higher education bond funds available through the state?
- Will we lose the ability to hire “mission fit” personnel for our university?



A related concern I have for schools like Mount Vernon Nazarene University related to special agenda groups who oppose our position.



Dealing with this group and with this issue in a Christianly manner is of paramount importance to us.



At MVNU, as with other schools in Ohio, we have a task force working on the issue of “Human Sexuality in a Christian University Community.”



Committee members are emphasizing a positive, comprehensive and holistic approach to human sexuality, biblical parameters, love, holiness, holiness as love, the optimism and possibilities of grace, opportunities for education and redemptive ministry ...



One final concern I have regarding
Christian Higher Education is the
emergence of “for profit”
universities.



Grand Canyon University's mission statement says,

“Grand Canyon University prepares learners to become global citizens, critical thinkers, effective communicators, and responsible leaders by providing an academically-challenging, values-based curriculum from the context of our Christian heritage.”



History demonstrates the value of Christian higher education for those who choose this type of institution.

