

PEPPERDINE UNIVERSITY
FOUNDER'S DAY
SEPTEMBER 2010

ALMIGHTY GOD

SURROUNDED AS WE ARE BY THE MAJESTIC HILLS TO WHICH WE TURN OUR EYES FOR INTIMATIONS OF YOUR OWN MAJESTY, ASTRIDE CANYONS THROUGH WHICH THERE FLOW STREAMS SPEAKING OF THE WATER OF LIFE THAT SUSTAINS US AND FROM WHICH WE RECEIVE OUR STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION, DRAWN DAILY TO A SEA THAT IS APPARENTLY AS ENDLESS AS YOUR BOUNDLESS MERCY, GRACE, AND LOVE, WE ARE REMINDED DAILY BY THE SYMBOLS OF FAITH THAT UNIQUELY SURROUND US ON THIS CAMPUS OF A PRECIOUS AND PROFOUND MEANING THAT IS BROUGHT TO OUR LIVES THROUGH OUR WORK WITH OUR STUDENTS THAT IS RARE IN THIS WORLD.

FOR THESE BLESSINGS, WE GROW MORE GRATEFUL AS WE LEARN – A BIT MORE EACH DAY – TO LIVE LIVES OF GRATITUDE THAT BESPEAK OUR COMPLETE TRUST IN YOU.

WE COME OVERWHELMED BY AWE AT YOUR GREATNESS, BUT ASSURED BY THE HUMILITY OF YOUR PRESENCE IN THE FLESH IN THE FORM OF A SERVANT WHO COUNTED BEING EQUAL WITH YOU NOT A THING TO BE GRASPED AFTER, AND IT IS WITH HIS EXAMPLE THAT WE SEEK YOUR HELP

TO FIND THE MOST PROFOUND MEANING IN OUR OWN LIVES IN SERVICE
TO OUR STUDENTS.

OUR PETITION HERE AT YOUR FEET IS THAT YOU WILL MAKE US HUMBLE
AND READY TO HEAR YOUR CALL, THAT YOU WILL BLESS OUR FRIEND,
PRESIDENT ANDY FOR THIS FIRST DECADE OF SERVICE, AND THAT YOU
WILL GUIDE THOSE WHO, AS VERY HUMAN BUT ERNEST SERVANT
LEADERS, HELP TO BRING US TOGETHER TO LISTEN TO OUR BETTER
ANGELS AS COLLEAGUES, AND THAT YOU WILL KEEP OUR HEARTS PURE
AS TEACHERS, MOTIVATED BY A DESIRE TO HELP OUR STUDENTS TO
GROW INTO WHAT YOU HAVE INTENDED FOR THEM TO BECOME.

WE ASK THAT YOU WILL GIVE US BOTH WISDOM AND ENERGY TO KEEP
FAITH WITH THE EXPECTATIONS OF GEORGE PEPPERDINE, AND FRANK
AND BLANCE SEAVER, OF GEORGE AND REVA GRAZIADIO, AND THE HOST
OF HOPEFUL PEOPLE WHO, HAVING MADE THIS PLACE POSSIBLE FOR OUR
USE AS A POWERFUL INSTRUMENT FOR GOOD, ARE ALSO HERE,
SURROUNDING THIS GATHERING AS WITNESSES TO OUR LIVES, INDEED,
AS WITNESSES TO OUR HEARTS AND INNERMOST MOTIVES WITH CARE
FOR OUR STRENGTH AND WISDOM.

IN A WORLD WHOSE STORM CLOUDS OFTEN HIDE THE LIGHTHOUSE OF
YOUR OWN PRESENCE, HELP US FATHER, TO PROVIDE IN THIS PLACE THE
LIGHTS ALONG THE SHORE TO GUIDE SEEKERS SAFELY TO YOUR ARMS.

IN JESUS NAME WE PRAY, AMEN

__ JIM WILBURN