

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