



# The KEETER REPORT

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## Franklin Graham Speaks at College of the Ozarks

### Christianity on Campus



Franklin Graham

Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse, addressed a capacity crowd at College of the Ozarks Monday, October 25. His message, "Christianity on Campus," was the first program of the Community Convocation series endowed by Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger. The Community Convocation series is a part of The Keeter Center for Character Education.

"The challenge before us of proclaiming and preaching the Gospel is greater today than ever: the opportunities we have today are unparalleled in history," Graham said. He continued, "I had no idea in school what I wanted to do with my life. There was an emptiness, and nothing could satisfy it or fulfill it." Graham lightheartedly said to the students, "If you really want to get your dad mad, go through a couple of schools after your dad has paid for it."

During this indecisive time in his life, Graham reached a turning point. At age 22, his famous father, evangelist Billy Graham, told him he sensed there was a struggle for his soul and that the younger Graham would have to make a choice.

Graham said it made him mad to be confronted with the facts, but he knew his father was right. Two weeks later, Graham accepted Christ into his heart and life. "That night," said Graham, "God forgave Franklin Graham: by faith I invited Christ into my life."

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Graham shares the Gospel with children in war-torn and poverty-stricken countries through "Operation Christmas Child," a project of Samaritan's Purse. Each year, millions of shoe boxes are filled with non-perishable items such as socks, candy and school supplies. Samaritan's Purse ensures the boxes are delivered to children throughout the Christmas season. College of the Ozarks has participated in the program for the last several years and plans to increase campus wide participation.

Graham then told a story of an old mountain woman, who has gone above and beyond the call when it comes to collecting shoe boxes. The point of the story was that God can use anyone. Graham said, "It doesn't matter where you are, God can use you, as long as you're willing to put your faith and trust in Him."

"As we face a new millennium, a new century, we're all gonna taste death, and on the other side is eternity: heaven or hell, you've got to choose," Graham said. He encouraged the students to consider, "Are you living for Him?" Graham concluded by enthusiastically declaring, "Working for my Lord is fun!"



# Gittingers Honored for Endowment of the Community Convocation Series and Service to the College



Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger (center) receive congratulations from Franklin Graham (left) and President Davis (right).

Leonard B. and Edith Gittinger were recently honored at the “Christianity on Campus” community convocation featuring Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan’s Purse. The Gittingers have generously endowed the Community Convocation Series, a program of The Keeter Center for Character Education. The series has hosted renowned speakers in the past such as Barbara Bush, Elizabeth Dole, Norman Schwarzkopf and Lady Margaret Thatcher.

The Gittingers, who have been married for over 60 years, have been friends of the College for more than 26 years. They moved to the area in 1972 after Mr. Gittinger’s retirement from the Freeport Minerals Company. Mr. Gittinger became acquainted with the College when he audited a few classes for enjoyment.

Over the years, the Gittingers have been significant benefactors to the College, providing equipment for the departments of family and consumer sciences, theatre and music. The Gittingers have taken a special interest in foreign missions and have accompanied groups of C of O students, faculty and staff on several mission trips including one to Costa Rica to help construct a dam. They have also made two trips to India and two to the Soviet Union.

The Gittingers have been involved with the American Red Cross (Bloodmobile), Tri-Lakes Youth Life and the Taney Hills Public Library. They have also supported a children’s home in Louisiana and a mission in St. Louis for disabled persons. Mr. Gittinger presently serves as a member of the College Board of Visitors and Gideons International. The continued support and dedication of the Gittingers is truly appreciated by College of the Ozarks.



Following the evening’s address, Student Body President Tessa Nally and Vice President Kurt Lovelace present Franklin Graham with a basket of student-made items from the College. Products from the mill and weaving studio, a beautiful stained-glass clock, and a famous College of the Ozarks fruitcake were included.



During a Christian Missions banquet earlier in the evening, Professor of Technology Damon Vincent was honored for 18 years of summer mission work in India with a German-based mission associated with his church.

# General Dake Addresses Students on Veterans Day



Assistant Commandant of the United States Marine Corps, General Terrence R. Dake, joined the College of the Ozarks community for a Veterans' Day Celebration on November 11. Dake is a 1964 alumnus of the College and is currently a member the College of the Ozarks Board of Trustees.



## Spring 2000 Citizenship Forum Speaker Announced



**Gerald R. Ford**

The Keeter Center for Character Education is pleased to announce that former President Gerald R. Ford will be the keynote speaker for the Spring 2000 Citizenship Forum. The Forum will be Tuesday, April 11, and is the second in a series of events sponsored by The Keeter Center for Character Education.

Students will be selected to participate in the Forum via student application, or by nomination from an administrator, faculty or staff employee. Senior and junior students will have priority in the selection process. Some 40 students will be selected to participate in the Forum with former President Ford. They will attend lectures, complete reading assignments prior to the Forum and participate in question and answer sessions. In

addition, a limited number of students from visiting colleges will also participate in the Forum.

The Citizenship Forums sponsored by The Keeter Center provide valuable experiences for the student by providing an opportunity for one-on-one interaction with such notable figures as President Ford and William Bennett, former Secretary of Education, who was the keynote speaker at last Spring's Forum.

### Calendar of Events

- May 29-August 4. . . . . Camp Lookout
- June 25. . . . . Honor America
- August 9-August 20. . . . . Character Camp  
(Orientation program for new students)
- August 20. . . . . Honor Induction and Etiquette Banquet
- October 2 . . . . . General Colin Powell  
Gittinger Community Convocation Series  
(Patriotism)
- November 11 . . . . . Veterans' Day Celebration

# Character Camp Successful; Most Enthusiastic Class Ever



Hard Work U.<sup>®</sup> welcomed 320 new freshmen with an orientation program known as The Willard and Pat Walker Character Camp.

The freshmen kept busy by participating in team-building activities such as the ropes course, campus family time and leadership training. During the 12 days, other activities included community service, campus projects and the Laws of Life Essay Contest, all of which focused on implementing the principles upon which College of the Ozarks and The Keeter Center were established: that character in young people is best developed from an education which includes the head, the heart and the hands.

Character Camp families provided service to the surrounding community. Students participated in playground and public park clean-up for local cities; presented children's programs at the Boys and Girls Clubs; assisted with a benefit concert for the local

crisis pregnancy center; and helped with construction at the Baptist Student Union and the Lives Under Construction Boys Ranch. A campus-wide beautification project at Camp Lookout and the challenge course also took place during Camp.

Students participated in the Laws of Life Essay Contest sponsored by the John Templeton Foundation. The purpose of this contest was to encourage students to search deep within themselves and consider, then write about, their own laws of life. "The contest gave us an insight into ourselves and how our upbringing really shaped who

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we are," said Kisheena Youngblood, from Aurora, Missouri. "It was a reality check for me personally, because sitting down and thinking about your 'laws of life' isn't something people my age normally do. It helped me to realize that I really am growing up, not just going to college because it's the thing to do," she continued.

Character Camp, though exhausting for students, provided many benefits toward establishing a firm foundation for their college career at Hard Work U.<sup>®</sup>

## The KEETER CENTER



James P. Keeter (far right) and family

A special thanks is due James P. Keeter, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, College of the Ozarks. Mr. Keeter is a distinguished business entrepreneur and Chairman of the Board and CEO of Royal Oak Enterprises of Atlanta, Georgia. He and his family have provided an endowment gift to start The Keeter Center for Character Education. The Center is named in honor of Mr. Keeter's parents, Ruby and the late Vester Keeter of Bradleyville, Missouri. It is the intent of the Keeter family to take a leadership role with College of the Ozarks in promoting character education on a national level.

The Keeter Center for Character Education  
College of the Ozarks  
P.O. Box 17  
Point Lookout, MO, 65726



[www.keetercenter.edu](http://www.keetercenter.edu)  
417-334-6411, ext. 2496

Larry L. Cockrum, Executive Director