

A Note from the Editor

This issue focuses on how the faith of our students develops and how campus ministry can work with that process. Faith development has become a "hot" topic in Christian education circles and even, surprisingly, in some psychology departments. Many of us resist scientific or schematized presentations on questions of faith, but we cannot ignore the fruits of academic research when they bear so directly on our central task.

What is it that we are trying to do? Is it not to develop faith in students? Even the evangelistic task is an attempt to develop faith and our work in spiritual growth and enabling students to minister is faith development plain and simple. I would no more ignore developmental theory about my students' faith than I would ignore similar theory about my toddler daughter's social and motor skills. No doubt some of us have ignored theories which come from "liberal" schools; even if we do not agree with Fowler or Westerhoff at all points we can learn from them just as we learn from Piaget or Erickson.

Bruce Powers kindled the flame that is the energy source for this issue in his presentations to campus ministers at Ridgecrest in August 1984. His contribution will be helpful, especially in our thinking about development and conversion. Ronnie Prevost is now teaching campus ministry at Southern Seminary and has joined ASBCM; he has written on general development. Milt Hughes, our discipleship person at NSM, agreed to an interview while being completely innocent of faith development theory. Study of Ircel Harrison's D.Min. project gave him the background for our conversation. Our hope is that we will inspire NSM to consider the insights of these theories as they develop materials.

David Fouche sent us - unsolicited - a paper he presented to the campus ministers of North Carolina. May his tribe increase! We also include a special feature on hunger, an issue which has again become the focus of public attention. Jan Fuller has become our book review editor and has gathered some helpful reviews of books related to faith development.

I want to express my personal apologies for the tardiness of this issue. For a complete list of excuses, send a self-addressed stamped envelope to the editor. The short form is this: I've been in the midst of a move and besides, the first time is always the hardest. I look forward to seeing you in Dallas, complaints and all.

Stephen Hollaway