

## Book Reviews:

*Crossroads in Christian Growth..* W. Loyd Allen.  
Broadman Press. 1989, 167 pp.

*Reviewed By: Robert B.(Bob) Ford, Baptist  
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Alabama.*

Crossroads in Christian Growth is one of the most recent volumes in Broadman's "The Bible and Personal Crisis" series. Dr. Allen is Assistant Professor of Church History at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky.

In the introductory chapters to Crossroads in Christian Growth Dr. Allen helps the reader to understand the importance of crossroads, or spiritual crises, in the Christian pilgrimage. The reader is led to see the importance of how we respond to these crises. He or she is also led to discover the source of these spiritual crises. Parallels are drawn to similar experiences in the life of Jesus. Then the crisis is viewed from the inside by the understanding that each spiritual crossroad is entered, endured, and exited. It is at this point that the reader is led to understand the choices which must be made after the crossroad has been entered. All of this understanding is based on one overarching premise: "Spiritual crises are cross-shaped. Jesus' anticipation, suffering and transformation on the way of the cross is the Christian pattern for shaping our own spiritual crossroads." (p.29).

The next chapters of the book lead the reader to understand and examine some crossroads which are common to most believers. The first of these chapters is entitled "Crossroads: Traveling Beyond Fairness." This discussion examines the idea that persons have no right

to expect life to be fair. Rather, Christians accept what life brings with an unshakeable faith in the God who cares.

This chapter is one of the high-points of the book. The book is worth the reading if only discover this chapter.

Another crossroad dealt with is "Traveling Beyond Tradition." It would seem that Baptists need to heed this chapter well in light of the real, present danger we are facing in elevating tradition to undue authority. Throughout the text the book uses examples of how Jesus, Simon Peter, Job and Martin Luther faced crossroads. In this chapter there is a particularly meaningful discussion of how Simon Peter traveled beyond tradition.

The third and final crossroad dealt with is "Traveling Beyond Personal Understanding." Here the author deals with how believers walk the path of reason to a point. Then they begin to draw their own spiritual map for further travel. It is a map for a point beyond reasonable faith. It is a map for a journey which each believer must take in order to become spiritually mature.

In the next-to-last chapter Dr. Allen points to surrender as the beginning of the final victory. As he says, "Surrender is our part. To be genuinely human is to abandon ourselves to the will of God." (p.129). This surrender is illustrated by scriptural and contemporary examples. Then the reader is led to understand the landmarks of authentic surrender.

In conclusion, the author deals with how to "Journey Home Through the Unknown." The major helps on this journey are "simplicity," "spiritual reading," "listening prayer," "imagination," and "community guidance."

*Campus Ministry in the Coming Age.* Thomas R. McCormick, St. Louis, CBP Press, 1987, 182 pp.

*Reviewed By: Dr. Charles J. Scalise, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, Louisville, Kentucky.*

How can campus ministry learn from its history? What guidance can our past and present experiences in the development of ministry in higher education provide as we struggle to shape the future of campus ministry? Thomas R. McCormick provides a detailed and insightful examination of one Protestant denomination's work, which could serve as a model for our own planning for the future.

McCormick is an experienced denominational and ecumenical campus minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) tradition. He traces the history of Disciples campus ministry from its beginnings in the Bible Chair movement, which the Disciples pioneered at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor in 1893. Other important factors in these early years included the intercollegiate YMCA movement and the gradual development of student work of a pastoral nature related to state-supported colleges and universities.

The years following World War II and the decade of the 1950's were the "golden age" for Disciples campus ministry. Massive expansion in public higher education was accompanied by growth in a host of denominational campus ministries (including our own BSU movement) and by the rise of many parachurch ministries. The Disciples student movement established Disciples Student Fellowship (DSF) groups on numerous state campuses. The student work model of campus ministry overshadowed the work of the Bible chairs.

The Disciples provided much of the leadership for the ecumenical movement in Protestant campus ministry during the 1960's, particularly in groups like the United Campus Christian Fellowship and United Ministries in Higher Education. Disciples ministry with students suffered greatly from the "disenchantment and disillusionment" experienced by churches over changes in campus ministry in response to political and cultural ferment of American higher education during this decade. McCormick provides a helpful analysis of "key issues in the culture" which impacted the church and its witness on campus. He gives particular attention to the civil rights movement, feminism, and the counter-culture.

McCormick offers a detailed survey of Disciples campus ministry during the years 1970-1985. Particular emphasis is given to the influence of the Danforth Study of Campus Ministries (led by Kenneth Underwood) in shaping the philosophy of Disciples ministry in higher education during this period. An array of brief case studies of Disciples campus ministry both at church-related colleges and at public institutions chronicles the diversity and captures the creative variety of the church's contemporary witness on campus. (McCormick even includes a case study of his own pilgrimage in campus ministry at the University of Washington in Seattle.) Some critical analysis of the fascinating data gathered in these studies would have greatly strengthened this section of the book.

In the final chapter, McCormick reflects on the importance of higher education and campus ministry to the church. Utilizing survey data gathered from campus ministers and Disciples regional ministers, he explores the future implications of the shape of campus ministry for local congregations, regions (cf. Baptist state conventions), the national denomination, and ecumenical cooperation.

McCormick's work not only reminds Southern Baptists of the need to examine our own denominational history of campus ministry but calls us to become aware of

the wider cultural context and social history which shapes our vocation. God has not called us to the parochial isolation of "lone ranger ministry" but to the strategic task of serving wisely as "laborers together" in the challenging "vineyard" of higher education.

*Leadership Secrets of Attila the Hun.* Wess Roberts. Warner Books, Inc. 1987, 110 pp.

*Reviewed by: Dan D. Haskins, Jr., Student Ministry Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, Tennessee.*

Attila the Hun is probably the most unlikely candidate to be an example of quality leadership. However, if you will recall some of your world history classes you will remember that Attila conquered most of the known world in his day. He was a thorn in the flesh to the Roman empire. He must have been doing something right.

Wess Roberts uses the interesting parody style in writing this book on leadership. Each chapter begins with a brief history of a particular situation or some background information on which the subject of the chapter is based. Roberts then presents an aspect of leadership in the style or language Attila might have used with his chieftans. The subjects dealt with are leadership qualities, self-motivation, customs, morale and discipline, appearance, responsibility, rewards, decisiveness, delegation, negotiation, and a few other topics.

In the first chapter, which deals with qualities of leadership, Roberts identifies and provides a one paragraph description of seventeen essential qualities of a

leader. Some will not be new to you, but the discussion is a good reminder of the significance of each quality.

One of the most interesting sections of the book is one at the end entitled "Attilaisms: Selected Thoughts of Attila." This section provides a summary of some of what has been covered in the book as well as some additional thoughts about different aspects of leadership such as advice and counsel, character, courage, decision making, developing chieftans, diplomacy and politics, goals, perception and publicity, personal achievement, tolerance, and a few others.

Much of what is in this book is not new to anyone who has done any study at all or regularly reads in the area of leadership. What makes it enjoyable is the unique and fresh approach. We do not quickly choose or present Attila the Hun as a role model for leadership. However, Roberts uses this matchless character to remind us of some of the basics of effective leadership. You may even be caught quoting Attila on some aspect of leadership.