

A Note From the Editor

The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers is an organization that is still in its youth. Founded just over five years ago, the organization is just beginning the stage of reassessing its beginning and future direction. The founders of the association are to be commended for their vision and their voice and dreams must continue to be a part of ASBCM. Likewise, the success of such an organization depends on a constant evaluation of the past in light of present and future needs, as well as dialogue and input from the new members and other campus ministers in Southern Baptist life.

The current issue of **The Campus Minister** focuses on some of the issues facing the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers for the purpose of facilitating a discussion about the future of the organization and the larger issue of professionalism in Southern Baptist campus ministry. Our calling is a noble calling, one in which each person ought to give their best effort. The editor has been challenged by the insights of many others who are more experienced. Their insights have been a challenge. It is hoped that the ASBCM journal will serve as a means of sharing ideas and dreams about campus ministry with all those men and women who sense a call to minister to students on the campuses of our colleges and universities. Perhaps this issue of **The Campus Minister**, reflective in nature as it is, will begin such a process of sharing ideas.

This writer hopes that ASBCM members will be conscious of history—the history of ASBCM and the Southern Baptist heritage of campus ministry. Therefore, a brief history of the ASBCM is included with the hope that new members will be aware of the dreams of those who led in the founding of the organization. The writer thanks the former presidents of the ASBCM for providing some insights and reflections on the organization. Also, Geneva Metzger is to be thanked for collecting much of the material used for writing the article.

An issue of importance in the formative years of the ASBCM was that of membership. Should the organization be open to all campus ministers and have as its purpose the enhancing of professionalism? Or, should the organization be

open only to those who had previously fulfilled certain professional criteria, thereby enhancing the professionalism of campus ministry? Charles Lillard has written an article exploring the role ASBCM could have in promoting professionalism in campus ministry. Charles Lillard serves as the campus minister at the Baptist Student Union at Central State University, Edmond, Oklahoma. Charles is a graduate of Northwestern Oklahoma State University, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and Phillips Theological Seminary. His article is presented to our readers for the purpose of facilitating dialogue about the future of ASBCM. The editor invites our readers to submit articles that reflect alternative viewpoints.

Glenn Gring, campus minister at the University of South Alabama, Mobile, Alabama has written an article on career assessment for campus ministers. Glenn has become a specialist in career assessment and his insights will be a welcome challenge to our readers who are interested in evaluating their own careers as campus ministers. He suggests that we can begin our career assessments even as we are in the process of our most successful years of ministry.

Mahan Siler delivered the keynote address to the annual meeting of ASBCM which was held at Arkadelphia, Arkansas, July 1981. His excellent address on "The Self-care of Ministers" is included so all of our readers can benefit from his insight. Perhaps the issues raised in his address are among the most critical as far as the enhancement of campus ministry is concerned. Mahan Siler serves as the director of the School of Pastoral Care of the North Carolina Baptist Hospitals in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He is a graduate of Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and Vanderbilt University.

The next issue of **The Campus Minister** will deal with higher education and campus ministry. The key addresses from the annual meeting will be included in the forthcoming issue. As always, the editor encourages authors to send manuscripts for publication consideration.

The editor,
Neal Schooley