

A Note From the Editor

The theme of this issue reflects the emphasis of the annual meeting of the Association in New Orleans in June 1982. Educational, political, demographic, and social factors in our society have a tremendous impact on higher education and consequently on our ministry within the academic setting. Articles and several book reviews seek to address some of these issues.

You will find the article by George Jones on the effect of current higher education trends on campus ministry both informative and challenging. Although he is Director of Religious Programs and Professor of Higher Education at Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana, Jones knows us and our needs. He has been a local Baptist student director, a trustee of Southwestern Seminary, and an active participant in church and denominational affairs. He is an affiliate member of our association. As one familiar with the state university as well as Baptist and other campus ministries, he provides a valuable perspective for us.

Erv Bode, director of the Indiana Office of Campus Ministry, has graciously allowed us to reprint his "The Future and Campus Ministry," a report of his sixty-five day "learning odyssey" in the summer of 1981. A United Church of Christ minister, Bode has directed the ministry of IOCM since its inception in early 1976. Southern Baptists are included in the fourteen denominations which support his work in the state of Indiana. Bode's article not only provides significant insight on the question under discussion but may serve as a model for our own continuing education as campus ministers.

Pope Duncan's article is based on his presentation at the annual meeting. Duncan, president of Stetson University in Florida, addressed the subject of ministry to faculty. His presentation in New Orleans initiated a lively dialogue; therefore, we felt some response from a campus minister's point of view would provide a healthy balance. Don Gurney, campus minister at the Air Force Academy and a founder of the association, has prepared such a response.

In the brief history of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers, this journal has been a medium for dialogue, continuing education, and communication for its readers. The previous editors—Ron Brown, John Gilbert, and Neal Schooley—have set high standards in quality of material and maturity of judgment. Your present editor accepts this responsibility with anticipation and some uncertainty but also with a personal commitment to continue to provide a quality publication which will help equip the reader for informed, compassionate, effective ministry to persons in higher education.

This will not be easy. We are a diverse group of individuals ministering in widely varying settings to unique persons. Some of us work on small, residential campuses; others within the context of large state universities; others still must relate to several institutions in an urban setting. The students with whom we work resist easy classification: they are dormitory students and commuters; poets and engineers; male and female; freshmen and graduate students; seventeen years of age to sixty-five; Baptist and non-Baptist. This does not take into account their multitude of racial, ethnic, and national backgrounds.

Into this kaleidoscopic scene, one may add the concepts of life-long learning, "campuses without walls," non-traditional programs, and the ever-present financial "crunch." Campus ministry is neither dull nor easily defined.

In a time of vast philosophical, sociological, and ethical changes, "business as usual" will not be adequate if we are to carry on effective ministries in higher education. We must reinforce our theological bases, reassess our philosophies, restructure our concepts, and retrain ourselves in new skills if we are to minister with integrity and ability. This journal should be at the center of that process.

This writer's personal philosophy of campus ministry is rather traditional and can be simply summarized:

First, campus ministry should be **Christ-centered**. This includes nurturing Christians in their relationship to Him, sharing Christ with non-Christians in a loving and sensitive

manner, and pointing out where Christ is already at work on the campus.

Second, campus ministry should be **student-oriented**. This does not negate the opportunity for ministry to other persons in higher education, but it does indicate a priority. It also is not meant to restrain the campus minister in a role of equipping Christian lay people both on and off the campus as ministers to students.

Third, campus ministry should be **church-related**. We are Southern Baptists; that relationship is cause for neither apology or false pride. Our strength is rooted in "the Baptist way of doing things" and in the support provided to us by Southern Baptist churches. This also reminds us that the fullest expression of Christian community is found in a local, intergenerational fellowship of believers; other expressions of Christian community can only be an approximation of true **koinonia**.

Although the editor admits to these personal commitments, this does not preclude a sincere desire to allow the journal to be used as a means of examining basic assumptions, disclosing presuppositions, and presenting innovative ways of "doing" campus ministry. Agreement on these things is not mandatory if we are united in leading Southern Baptists in a ministry in higher education which seeks to know Christ and to make Him known.

If this journal is to fulfill its role within the life of the association and the larger context of the Southern Baptist Convention, it must be a team effort. This can happen in several ways.

Readers are invited to react to anything presented within these pages. These comments may be addressed to the editor or any member of the Publications Committee (more about them below).

Readers are also encouraged to submit manuscripts and book reviews for the journal. Each will be acknowledged and given consideration. Any submission should be applicable to the ministry of Southern Baptists within the academic set-

ting, oriented toward the individual campus minister and his/her needs, and reflect quality writing and research.

An important part of **The Campus Minister** is our Publications Committee. Their names are listed on the inside front cover. In addition to assuming specific responsibilities in the production of the journal, they serve collectively as resource persons to the editor in selecting topics, writers, and articles. Special thanks goes to former editor Neal Schooley for agreeing to serve as production and circulation editor.

Our next issue will deal with "Discipleship in Campus Ministry." Your suggestions concerning that topic are desired and needed. Your personal involvement will help to maintain a truly professional journal.

Irce! Harrison