

A Note From the Editor

As the old cliché goes, "If you ask two Baptists a question, you will get at least three different opinions." That observation certainly applies to this issue's topic. "Discipleship" is the word on everyone's lips today, but it provokes different responses in each of us: discipling, faith development, spiritual formation, Christian growth, radical commitment. The purpose of this issue is to provide you with several perspectives on the topic of discipleship and perhaps expand your own concept of the term. The frustration on the part of your editor is that we only touch the surface of an important topic, but at least we have made a start. This provides another opportunity to celebrate our diversity!

David Garland, associate professor of New Testament interpretation at Southern Seminary, provides our background article: a deeply personal challenge to a fresh look at Jesus' call to discipleship.

An introduction to faith development with a special emphasis on John Westerhoff's model is provided by Ron Brown, director of Ministries in Higher Education, Baptist Convention of Maryland. He suggests some implications of this model in planning for the Christian growth of college students.

Harold Bullock, pastor of Hope Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, provides an evaluation of six approaches to discipleship training which are currently being used on campuses and in churches. Bullock worked with college students in Los Angeles and has written for National Student Ministries.

Three of our colleagues have described the models for discipleship development they are using in their local campus situations. Robert Hooker, director of the Baptist Student Union at San Antonio College, discusses his work in integrating a "discipling" ministry with a balanced BSU program. Max Barnett describes his approach to intensive discipleship training at the University of Oklahoma. Roland Byrd, campus minister at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, explains a small group approach to discipleship training and personal growth.

The majority of our book reviews deal with the theme of the issue with a special emphasis on the concept of the "spiritual director," a classical approach to discipleship development which provides significant insights for us. Steve Hollaway has done an excellent job in putting together this section.

An added feature in this issue is an article by Jerry Cain, chaplain at William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri. Cain proposes a model for doing campus ministry on a Baptist college campus. Responding to his presentation is Jim Wilson, director of campus ministries at Cumberland College, Williamsburg, Kentucky.

Your publications committee has been very helpful in the preparation of this issue, but some changes have taken place in our ranks. Neal Schooley is moving in another direction in his ministry and has stepped down as production and circulation editor. His assistance has been invaluable; we will miss him but wish him the best. John Burns has agreed to accept this responsibility and to serve as liaison with our friends at Messenger Press.

Geno Robinson has become state director in California but has indicated his continued interest in the work of the committee. Charles Nored, in spite of the arrival of a baby girl in his home, continues to assist with the work of the committee.

Once again we solicit your support and contributions to the journal. We are open to your suggestions for future topics and articles. I hope to see you in Pittsburgh!

Ircel Harrison