

BOOK REVIEWS
LET'S DO MORE THAN SAY "GOODBYE!":
CONGREGATIONS AND COLLEGE
STUDENTS

by Goodwill MacDougall, Don Mills, Ontario:
The Board of World Mission, The Presbyterian Church in Canada,
rev. ed., 1985, 83 pp.

REVIEWED BY: DR. CHARLES J. SCALISE
The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

During the past decade Southern Baptist campus ministry — particularly at the national level — has highlighted the issue of "church ministry to students." This emphasis has increasingly involved many campus ministers in the roles of consultant and liaison to local churches which are developing their own ministries to students, in addition to the campus minister's traditional role as BSU director.

Whether one supports or opposes this shifting emphasis, the fact remains that campus ministers will be called upon more and more in the years ahead to resource local church ministries to students. In addition to our own recently developed program materials on this topic, it would be wise for campus ministry professionals to become familiar with the work of other Christian groups involved in such ministries.

In this context the Presbyterian Church of Canada's resource book on congregational ministries to college students should be of particular value. Written in an easy-to-read style with numerous practical suggestions and creative hand-drawn illustrations, the book bases its analysis upon survey research work conducted with 3600 teenagers across Canada by Reginald Bibby of the University of Lethbridge. Drawing upon this data base, concrete ministry recommendations are offered for two different kinds of churches: (1) those churches most of whose young people "leave town" for higher education, and (2) those churches near college campuses.

A practical, insightful chapter upon developing effective ministries to international students provides thoughtful guidance in this complex and vital mission area. The following chapters offer specific models of campus ministry done by a cross-section of local churches (including a Baptist congregation) and a detailed example of a student recognition service. The book concludes with three brief chapters offering annotated bibliography on publications for young adults, general resources for campus ministries, and information about the cults.

The section concerning international student ministries is, in my opinion, the greatest strength of the book. Beginning with a brief but incisive analysis of the situation of international students, it moves to offer experienced-based guidelines for effective lay ministry to this diverse and strategic constituency. I was particularly impressed with the clear and helpful suggestions for host families involved in this ministry.

The work suffers from two major limitations. First, by primarily utilizing a research base composed of teenagers, many of its recommendations have little applicability to the ministry needs of "nontraditional" college students, who now comprise a major and growing portion of North American higher education. Second, one cannot help but observe the conspicuous absence of concern with both student missions and social justice issues. The lack of concern with Christian social ethics in campus ministry is particularly striking when one compares this book with the 1985 Statement of the Presbyterian Ministers in Higher Education, published and discussed in the Fall 1986 issue of The Campus Minister (Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 9-26).

Despite these limitations, this book represents a creative and practical approach to the increasingly important task of equipping local churches for effective student ministry.