

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

To paraphrase a famous quotation, "Some are born counselors; some achieve counseling; and some have counseling thrust upon them." In Baptist student work we have all kinds of counselors. Most of our readers are uniquely fitted for the work of a counselor. They possess a natural sympathy for the joys and struggles of college students. By and large, campus ministers are inherently helpful people. Some of us have undergone a carefully planned series of courses designed for the training of counselors and others in campus ministry are called counselors because they simply have a willing spirit and time to listen.

This journal has been produced with the campus minister in mind. In this issue of The Campus Minister, we hope to offer some assistance for the counseling process by telling you what to look for and how to make use of available aids to understanding. Success in counseling depends more upon personal qualities than upon the correct use of specific techniques. Warmth, responsiveness, and sincerity are essential. The articles in this journal can't give you these things, but they can help you to express and manifest them.

Counseling is an art. The true counselor possesses genuineness and empathy and non-possessive warmth. In the counseling experience we have the opportunity to heal sometimes, to remedy often, to comfort always.

A counselor doesn't always succeed. Perfection is not a measure of success. We live with many problems that must simply be born rather than solved. Campus ministry is oftentimes a ministry of companionship and not solution.

A mother sent her small daughter to the store to buy bread. The little girl was gone too long, and her mother began to worry. When the girl finally came home, her mother demanded an

explanation. The daughter explained, "My friend broke her doll and I stayed with her?"

The mother was angry and said, "What could you possibly do to help her?"

The child replied, " I sat down and helped her cry." Sometimes the most compassionate thing a counselor can do is sit down and help someone cry.

The famous psychologist Adler had a theory called "the geometry of love." Adler's theory proposes that the way we move toward and away from other people indicates a lot about the people we are. Our movement toward others indicates friendliness and interest; moving away is indicative of hostility and anger. The person with real counseling strength is moving toward people. We hope that the articles in this journal will help us all to develop our abilities to love, to care and to move toward people. Compassion is as concrete as the cross.

You are invited to read this issue of The Campus Minister and to explore the interrelation of Christianity and the art of counseling.

Dr. Bob Hall