

## Editorial Introduction

Gary R. Brittain

Take me back to yesterday. Nostalgia is a powerful enticement for those who have experience in campus ministry. We long for the good old days, with selective memory positing images of fond remembrances in our minds. For some, the attraction might be for early days of ministry with students, when energy levels were sustainable and one's athletic ability could match the most agile first year student. Younger ministers might long to reproduce the campus ministry program in which they were trained. Yet the past can never be cloned. We must minister on the campuses to which we have been called and we must serve on the campus of today.

Many of us work in relative isolation. Except for staff seminars and infrequent conferences, we do not have the means to understand how we must adapt to the changing context in which we work. We look to various indicators of where the university is headed, but we lack the tools to interpret the signs as they relate specifically to campus ministry. Having been called to minister in the university setting, our challenge is to identify and anticipate change in order to be effective in ministry.

To this end we offer this issue of *The Campus Minister* addressing "The Changing University." Here is offered a mixture of the theoretical and practical in deliberating the theme. In the first article, Ircel Harrison offers assistance to campus ministers in "Changing Paradigms in Collegiate Ministries." This very practical help was the subject of a seminar offered both at the 1996 ASBCM Annual Meeting and Student Week at Lake Junaluska, NC.

Next, Dr. Hal Poe lends insight into the milieu of the university in "When Survival Becomes the Highest Purpose." Identifying factors at work on the campus of today, Poe offers insight to those who would engage in effective ministry on the campus.

Based on a sermon delivered at Princeton University, Dr. Charles Scalise writes on "The Authority of Christ in the Changing University." In a setting where authority is questioned on every side, campus ministers have the opportunity to help students to learn to base faith on solid footing. A clear

apologetic guides a believer to base faith on scripture, community and personal experience.

How can a Christian be effective without knowing the competition? Dr. Ted Cabal identifies evolutionary naturalism and the postmodern/New Age synthesis as the chief rivals Christianity must address. In "Understanding the Times: Christianity's Two Major Competitors in the University Today," help is given to the Christian who would refute claims that are widespread on our campuses.

Finally, Pete Parks identifies one method by which a campus minister can address the spiritual hunger found on campus and open doors for further ministry. "Spirituality in the Modern University" describes a seminar conducted at The College of William and Mary and offers evaluation and suggestions for those who might want to emulate this model.

I remember sitting in a Student Week seminar a few years ago when a seasoned campus minister asked a novice campus minister, "What are you reading?" I wondered if I would be forced to admit that my only recent accomplishments had been Grisham and Clancy! This issue also provides several suggestions that will stimulate readers to expand their horizons professionally

In this my first attempt at editing *The Campus Minister*, I must express gratitude to those who have assisted in this daunting task. My debt of gratitude goes to those who answered the requests to write for our journal. They have done a yeoman's work in contributing to the theme of this issue. I also credit Pete Parks, my committee, who has listened and communicated regularly, fleshing out ideas, providing cohesion to the issue. To my colleague, Dr. Bob Ford, I also owe much for his generous assistance in proofreading and editing copy.

*The Campus Minister* belongs to the membership of The Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers. It is my hope that members will actively participate in making the journal a valuable resource to our profession and a credit to our Association. Your opinions, vision, and insights are valued. I solicit your input in coming months.

Spring 1998 Issue

"The Nature of Worship"

Persons interested in contributing to  
this issue should contact the editor