



Editorial Introduction

by Gene Parr

As the new editor of THE CAMPUS MINISTER, I have had the good fortune to follow the able editorship of Gary Brittain. He had already been collecting articles on "Reaching Out to Students," a lead I was glad to follow!

Most colleges and universities begin the school year with Freshmen Orientations, so it is natural to begin this issue with an article on reaching Freshmen. Linda Osborne draws from a wealth of experience to demonstrate the need and the how to do a new student orientation from a refreshingly Christian perspective.

Gratefully, reaching students is not limited to that first week. Roger and Rose Bear give insights and effective methods of continually drawing students into their campus ministry all year long.

For several years on our campus we have required our student leadership to read distinctively Christian books during Christmas and Summer Breaks. Our first weeks back from break are enhanced by students sharing what they have gained from their reading. Recently, it was a wonderful experience to witness the change in a student, who previously had only read Stephen King. As she delved into Christian authors, she was transformed by the renewing of her mind! Charles Nored has a program that is working on his campus and making a real difference in student lives. As students motivate their peers, it is interesting to see programs like this one gain student momentum.

One of the best things about ASBCM is the fellowship and encouragement we get from one another. As you reflect with Nanette Measels and Jim Fugate in their pilgrimages I hope you will be nourished, comforted and even provoked to praise! We are truly not alone.

Few weeks go by on the college campus without our being impressed at how fast time flies. Coupled with the rapid change of our student culture is also the opportunity to network with each other about our ideas and programs. Perhaps, like me, you no longer care as much about being original as much as you care about being effective. "Helps for Campus Ministers" can be a platform within THE CAMPUS MINISTER that will help us share and take advantage of our mutual creativity. What was the best "talk" you gave to your students this past year? Would you send a sentence outline of it to CM? What web pages do you find good stuff again and again? Would you send CM a paragraph about it?

I hope in this issue of CM you will find in every article and book review something that is challenging, encouraging and of practical value for you.