



## Helps for Campus Ministers

One of the challenges of campus ministry is relating to an incredibly diverse student population; “To be all things to all people.” Not only are we working with students that come from all walks of life, but we must relate in a meaningful way to them as they choose to study the various majors and minors that our college or university offers. A typical day may have us encouraging an Agriculture major in the morning and a Pre-Med in the afternoon with Art, Music or Radio/TV majors in between!

Of course, we don’t have to know everything they are learning, the key thing is to care about them as a person. Yet, it builds bridges and adds authenticity if we know a little about the course of study which may become their life work. To throw another kink into this jumble is to realize the rapid cultural change from year to year of the incoming students. The “cool” or “hot” thing one year (or semester) is nostalgia the next.

This section of THE CAMPUS MINISTER is aimed at sharing springboards to help leap the gap between our students and us. Included are two examples of presentations to students. The first uses the popular song, “Last Kiss” and examines common misconceptions that students have about God. The second article is an example of relating how intelligent design can open the door to God becoming more personal. Also included in this section are some web sites that are good resources for our ministry.

Campus Ministers are heartily invited to submit articles and web site reviews for future inclusion in this section for future issues. You may reach me at [geneparr@yesconnect.net](mailto:geneparr@yesconnect.net).

# Where, O' Where Can My Baby Be?

## A Reflection on Contemporary Views of God

Gene Parr, BSU Campus Minister  
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One of the songs that was all over the air waves this past year is by Pearl Jam. It's chorus went,

**"Where O where can my Baby be? The Lord took her away from me. She's gone to heaven so I got to be good so I can be with her when I leave this world."**

I have no doubt the song is sung "tongue in cheek," but it still reveals a lot of bad thinking about God and how to get into heaven. Our world has a lot of misconceptions about God. Here are a few:

1. God is not a "Cosmic KillJoy." He does not catch us having fun and then "take her away from me." He created us with a tremendous capacity for love and the ability to bring meaning and pleasure to others. It is only when we take this capacity and turn it in on ourselves that we twist His best for us and that causes pain. God is not a killjoy, if we lose our joy, it maybe that we have lost it by taking our eyes off of Him.
2. God is not a "Judgmental Policeman." When we do wrong He is not out to get us back or make us pay. There are consequences to bad thoughts, words and actions but God does not work in our lives to punish us, only to restore us. "A good gardener only prunes to make the branches more fruitful."
3. God is not a "Permissive Dotting Grandfather." He does not look at us with some kind of senile benevolence and then not care how we live our lives. Life is a gift. God loves us and wants us to experience His best. When we choose not to, He is disappointed because then He cannot bless us the way He wants to. He knows when we are setting ourselves up to experience the worst, not His best.

# Rocks in My Head

## Reflection on the Wonder of Creation

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It was in the spring of my sophomore year at Asbury College. I had just declared my major as Pre-Med and was taking my Physiology assignments as seriously as anyone else afraid of failing at something new! One morning, hidden in the stacks of the college library, I was engrossed in trying to understand the parts of the inner ear responsible for our sense of balance.

The shape and function of the inner ear's semicircular canals began to fascinate me. These canals work to keep the brain informed about how we are moving in space (dynamic equilibrium). Especially intriguing was the fact that each canal is oriented to one of the planes of three-dimensional space. Sensory fibers from these canals constantly inform the brain so we won't fall on our face whenever we walk, run, etc.!

*How could anyone ever imagine that this marvelous mechanism for balance had evolved by mere chance?*

From there, I went on to study about the utricle, the part of the inner ear responsible for telling us what position our head is in with respect to gravity (static equilibrium). The utricle contains two hollow cavities lined with sensory fibers which have an inner lining of calcium carbonate in the shape of rhombohedral crystals (*i.e.* rocks!). These crystals have a specific gravity three times that of the sensory nerve fiber matrix on which they rest and thus respond instantly to gravity. This tells the brain whether our heads are upright, tilted or upside down. Again, among other things, this is pretty handy in keeping our face off the sidewalk!

## Web Page Reviews:

### <http://www.student.org>

This home page is the place to connect with ASBCM officers and programs. Also maintained is a directory of campus ministers by states. A way to link new and transfer students to college campuses in other states is found here. It also contains downloadable Bible Studies and information for working with international students. This page under the good care of Dick Huston, retired Campus Minister, Georgia.

### <http://www.leaderu.com/>

I have had several good experiences with this site by sitting down with faculty and students and cruising the "Subject Search." With an Accounting professor who was leading an Honor's Seminar on Ethics, we found some helpful articles under "Business." On another occasion with a Physics professor we found some good stuff about intelligent design under the "Apologetics Department."

Site is maintained by Christian Leadership Ministries of Campus Crusade for Christ.

### <http://www.gospelcom.net/iv/films/cliparticle.html>

Looking for ideas on how to use Movie clips to reach students. This site is a collection of how InterVarsity staff are using The Matrix, Pinocchio and other movies to relate Christian truth. The value of this site is that it gives us a starting point for creativity (rather than an end point).

### <http://www.crossseekers.org/index.htm>

This is LifeWay's home page for CrossSeekers and contains good Scriptural presentations of the CrossSeeker Covenant and links to products.

**<http://trfn.clpgh.org/csbcm/index.htm>**

This is home page for the BCM at Metro Pittsburgh. It is a good example how CrossSeekers has been adopted by a local BCM. Good pictures of students doing missions and having fun. Link to a very good page they maintain titled: "Christian Topics in Culture" with reviews of Movies, Books and Music (both Christian and Secular). Also link to their On-Line Bible Studies: "Dig and Discover," "Relationships 101," and "CrossSeekers Covenant Study. Designed & Maintained by Gary Myers.

**CM**