

Perspective

This inaugural issue of *The Campus Minister* is intentioned to support and carry out the purposes of the Association of Southern Baptist Campus Ministers set forth in its constitution and bylaws (included in this issue). One purpose is to promote professional competency among Southern Baptist campus ministers. This does not suggest that Southern Baptist campus ministers are either unprofessional or incompetent. It does suggest there is a need for a sense of identity and collegiality among our campus ministers national-wide. Philosophies and theologies of campus ministry, program personnel resources, how we relate to our churches and state conventions, how we are continuing and upgrading our education and our professional skills are some of the areas we can share and from which we can benefit.

To such ends *The Campus Minister* was called into being. This first issue raises the "what" questions of campus ministry. "What are the theological and philosophical assumptions out of which we function and carry out our task as campus ministers?" We have invited persons who have been campus ministers for some time to address this question. The diversity of approach to the question is evident and welcomed. Colleagues were invited to respond in writing to each article. The "responses" follow the article, giving the reader a reaction to what has been said. The purpose of the "response" is to encourage this kind of peer dialogue and reflection in our profession. We hope to make the "response" a regular part of *The Campus Minister*; your reactions to this first issue will be helpful to our publications committee.

Future issues will attempt to deal with practical and theological questions and concerns in Baptist campus ministry and your written contributions are invited. Some of the suggested upcoming themes for *The Campus Minister* are: "Campus Minister as Counselor," "The Training of the Campus Minister," "Campus Evangelism," "Mission Theology and Campus Ministry." The next issue is targeted for May, in time for our annual meeting in Atlanta, June 11-12 (information on back cover).

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