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"THE STUDENT OF THE 80's"
BRYAN COLLEGE — DAYTON, TN.
JUNE 1-4, 1982

Registration begins 1 P.M., June 1. Conference concludes with lunch June 4.
Registration is in the Mail
If you did not receive a recent mailing regarding the conference, contact Kermit Zopfi (see address at left).

MEET THE CANDIDATES
(LISTED ALPHABETICALLY)

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE OF VICE-PRESIDENT:

JAY BARNES
Messiah College
Grantham, PA
Jay is a graduate of Wheaton College, has an M.A. from the U. of Connecticut in Educational Counseling and is an Ed.D. candidate in College Personnel Work at Loyola U. in Chicago. He is married and has three children.

Jay believes ACSD is unique: "The people of ACSD have the ability to tailor programs, promote professional contacts, and provide personal encouragement in a way that other national organizations of student development professions can not do. Through my involvement, I hope to work to continue to offer high quality national conferences, broaden our membership base, and build on work already done in placement activities. I would also like the association to support and encourage significant research projects at our institutions to allow us to be more effective in our work."

JAY BASLER
Bethel College
North Newton, KS
Jay received his B.A. in Philosophy from Geneva College in Beaver Falls, PA, a M.Div. from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary. His M.A. from the U. of Iowa is in Student Personnel Services. In 1976 he earned a Ph.D. in Higher Education Administration: Management, also from the U. of Iowa.

In 1966, he received his ordination from the United Presbyterian Church U.S.A. He has been a resident director, director of off-campus housing, associate dean of students and he is at present the Dean of Students at Bethel College in Kansas.

Jay is married and has three sons and a daughter.

BEAVER PERKINS
Houghton College
Houghton, NY
Beaver was born in Latvia, emigrated to Germany, then to the U.S. She met her husband at Wheaton College. Her M.A. is from the U. of Pittsburg in Higher Education, with emphasis in student development. Beaver's involvement in student personnel work is extensive and varied. She writes:

"I want very much to be of service to the Lord through my professional capabilities. Working with fellow Christians in an organization such as ACSD is an exciting and stimulating prospect. I love planning and organization, am not afraid to be creative and risk trying new ideas. I thoroughly enjoy working as a team member on worthwhile endeavors and I like to laugh. Most importantly, I try to be an open and growing person ... exploring what it means to be part of 'a peculiar people' who are in, but not of, this world."
**LESIONS OF LEADERSHIP**

One of the hardest lessons I've had to learn recently, Lord — is that leadership doesn't bring appreciation: not always, at any rate.

You know how it is that I have come to find this out for myself.

I took on a job, that extra piece of responsibility and leadership which I believe You required of me. And, I really sweated over it. You know I did! But, when things didn't turn out too well, I was mercilessly criticized — flayed alive by words, and looks ......

Nobody mentioned my sacrifices of time and energy — or my work. I was judged on results. And, the only results people mentioned were the bad ones. The good ones — and You know there were some — didn't even get a mention.

I have been thoroughly depressed about this! I know, though, that it would be wrong and childish for me to take the huff and pack everything in just because of this — for, I am a Christian: that means I am one of those who have themselves persecuted Christ — to the point where they have realized why He did not strike back — but said, “Father, for give them ...”

So now that I am in this small way, misunderstood and unappreciated, help me to forgive. And, help me: not to lose my nerve but, to become a more competent leader instead. Help me to see to it that more things go right — and — fewer things go wrong. And help me also to be more patient with other leaders; to be less critical, or when critical be constructive; certainly to be more helpful; and to pray for them — for now I know what it feels like. It's a lonely, thankless business, being a leader. People can be: jealous at your success and nasty about your failure. Worst of all, some of them are only nice to you because of what they think they can get out of you.

I thank you, Lord, that Jesus knew all about this problem, and that in all aspects He mastered it. And, I thank you, God, the leader of all true life, that leadership is your proper sphere, and that we can pray to you. Help me to make YOU my model, and to receive Your grace.

(Cont. next page)
A few years ago a young Christian couple whose marriage I had performed just a short year before got divorced. Until then, only one couple that I had married had ever separated and that had been an emergency marriage that I had had doubts about from the beginning.

But this second divorce was a couple I had complete confidence in. I had counselled with them before marriage, I knew their Christian testimony, they were active in Christian ministry. And when they decided to get divorced, when all that pain and anger and broken potential began to spill forth, I felt as though a veil of protection that had been shielding God's people from the values of the society around us had suddenly been pierced. We were no longer invulnerable. Divorce wasn't just something that happened to non-Christians: it happened to Christians, too. Divorce was no longer reserved for the Christians who everybody knew were shaky in their commitment; it was touching some of the strongly committed, too.

Since that experience just a few years ago, I have heard of another situation like it, and another, and another, and another — alumni of Bethel, pastors and their wives in our churches, key Christian leaders, some of my own dear friends.

What is happening to our Christian marriages? For years, in a society that so easily accepted broken relationships, Christian marriages have stood as a testament to the sacredness of the marriage vow, the resiliency of a relationship rooted in a love for God, and a pledge of faithfulness "till death do us part." Now that mood that marks society around us seemingly has stolen into our hearts and minds as well and we are more ready, it seems, than we were before to say, "If it doesn't work out, I can always get divorced."

I do not wish today to cause further pain to those who have experienced divorce even though they tried every way they knew to avoid it, or to cause further pain for those who love them. But I am increasingly concerned about the way divorce is wreaking havoc throughout the Christian community. I feel we must be talking about these things together, particularly in a community like this where so many of you are right now shaping the foundation of our Christian marriages.

I do not have "The Answer" for Christian marriages. I know how complicated the issues of a given separation can be — and I believe the Scriptures themselves give us permissible grounds for divorce. But it seems to me that in at least three places we have so weakened the foundations of Christian marriage that it is a wonder any of them survive anymore. I would like to try to shore up those foundations today.

The first way I believe Christian young people have weakened the foundations of marriage today is in the values by which a marriage partner is chosen in the first place.

Part of my responsibility here at Bethel is to run engaged couple seminars for Bethel students contemplating marriage. I think those are valuable seminars but the biggest decision about marriage is already made before we see those couples. They have already decided whom they will marry and that decision alone would mean the difference between divorce and no divorce in the years ahead.

I believe some of you will buy divorce right at this point for the years ahead. You will make a marriage choice and if we were prophets we would be able to say it is doomed from the start. Maybe here is a place where we have preached too well, in the Christian community, that any marriage can work out. Some Christians want to believe that so badly that they marry people with whom they are totally incompatible in terms of faith commitment, background, goals in life, temperament, lifestyle. It seems in the Christian community we believe they have a mission in life to love the unlovely and they choose as husbands the cruelest, most irresponsible, abusing, immature men they can find in the grand hope that they will convert them by their sparking Christian testimony, in three years time, into a saint. Some Christian guys are so dazzled by a pretty face and a lovely form that they never even consider what the girl believes, whether she will be faithful, whether she is grown up enough to marry, whether she knows how to give to others or is all turned in on herself, whether she shares his vision for what life is all about.

Love can cover a multitude of sins, friends, but don’t deliberately build those flaws in from the beginning. There will be more than enough to work on together even if you pick the most responsible, most compatible mate you can find. Don’t go deliberately asking for trouble as you choose someone with whom to spend your life.

The Scriptures, in a variety of ways, set up an ideal for a Christian man and a Christian woman: It begins with Christian faith and commitment and a concern not so much for the coiffing of the hair and allurement of the body, as for the richness of the soul. Someone who lives for others and not just for themselves, someone who possesses the fruits of the Spirit and has left behind malice and energy and drunkenness and pride. The picture is rather explicit there if you will see it. Marry that kind of man — marry that kind of woman! Don’t marry and continue to hope that they will change after the wedding or that you can manipulate them into something they are not. If you wish to avoid divorce in your lifetime, one thing you can do about it is to pay attention to Christian values in the crucial decision as to whom you will marry.

A second place where I think we have weakened the foundation of our Christian marriages is in our expectations for the marriage relationship itself. We alternately have totally unrealistic expectations of marriage, or no expectations at all. We either believe it will put us on cloud nine, solve personality problems that have plagued us for years, bring instant euphoria and cure our acne— or we marry and continue to live in that large part as though we are single, never exploring how two people can mutually support one another, how the family can be a resource and not just a burden.

Think of all the messages you have received from television and the movies, and the teaching about various components of marriage. I think if you look at them carefully it will be obvious that most of them are distortions of what life really is.

Soap operas are popular at Bethel, I hear. I’ve heard some of the women say the guys are more addicted to them than the women are now. Soaps are praised in some quarters because they tell it like it is, they don’t pull punches, they give a realistic picture of life. But Soaps don’t give a realistic picture of life and you know it. It’s true that no one is good — no, not one — but in the Soaps, faithfulness, decency, honesty don’t even get hit parts in most of their characters! Newsweek says:

"Some viewers look to Soaps to tell them what real life is like. Today’s younger generation may enter adulthood with some very odd notions about what to expect. A recent survey of Soap addicts at the University of Kentucky discovered that most of them grossly
overestimated the proportion of doctors and lawyers in the real world, as well as the incidence of emotional illness and divorce. Heavy exposure to Soaps may also warp adolescent sexual attitudes. According to a study conducted by a team at Michigan State, teen-age Soap viewers are likely to conclude that married couples virtually never engaged in sex, while singles do almost nothing else. After watching only 65 hours of serials, the researchers found that nearly 80 percent of the scenes in which intercourse was suggested occurred between unmarried lovers — and only six percent involved marital partners. (Not surprisingly, the Soap found to contain the most sexual activity was top-rated 'General Hospital').

The picture of marriage in the Soaps is that there is nothing worse in life than a married partner that you no longer feel infatuated about. If that's your situation, their universal prescription is that you should get divorced. Divorces are easy on the Soaps — a few tears maybe — but by Thursday the wounds have healed and the abandoned wife is in the arms of someone who loves her better than the previous three ever did. All the pain of real divorce is glossed over, all the hurt, the insecurity, the change to children's lives, the financial loss for both partners for years to come. That is never portrayed.

No one ever seems to realize on the Soaps that usually we take all the same old problems with us into the next marriage and the next. No one ever seems to feel that working out problems within the marriage is an option. It's always cut and run.

Sex is another area where our society hands us distorted perception. Sex is one of the good things of marriage (one of the very good things in marriage)! But even sex can't carry all the unrealistic baggage it is supposed to carry.

It does not transport you out of your body into ethereal realms. It does not transform Mr. and Mrs. Ordinary into Superman and Wonder Woman. It was never meant to be something like a drug high. It was meant to be an affirmation of a good but human relationship between a man and woman.

So many marriages are falling apart today, I'm convinced, because we have been reared on distorted images of married life and when we experience the real thing, we are either disappointed or we do not know how to appropriate the good that is there.

The Bible is so refreshing, after the Soaps and the movies. It paints such a down-to-earth picture of what men and women are really like. It doesn't bank its expectations on euphoria but on plain honest faithfulness and truthfulness, and love. It doesn't give us Burt Reynolds and Bo Derek as our married model, that is true — it suggests marriage is more like that which is modeled by Aquila and Priscilla, laboring together at making tents and at serving the Lord. It tells us we don't have to find a goddess or a shining knight to find fulfillment in life. We can find happiness and fulfillment with that ordinary girl in the second seat of the third row and she can find fulfillment in ordinary you. Not because you suddenly become different in marriage but because two who love each other and love the Lord can find more happiness than the movie stars ever get. It even tells us we don't have to look for a marriage of any kind to find fulfillment; we can be fulfilled in singleness. But that is another message.

The Bible is not blind to the faults in human lives and human relationships, but neither does it exaggerate them. It knows about having to discipline our lives, about being responsible, finding forgiveness, patching up quarrels, and showing our concern to one another and doing acts of kindness. It's a little plain perhaps, a little ordinary, but it is real and it is good. One thing we all need to do to shore up the foundations of marriage and of our relationship with others in general is to revise our expectations — more in line with the Scriptures, less distorted by the images our society feeds us.

A third place where the foundations are weakened is in our commitment to keep our marriage vows. Some Christians would say this is the only problem. I've dealt with too many failed Christian marriages to believe that any longer. I don't believe you can make bad matches and build in unrealistic expectations and hold that shaky structure together 100% of the time by sheer force of will power: "I will not get divorced!"

But I think that if, as Christians, we will choose our marriage partners carefully and have a realistic view of ourselves, our mate and our relationship, a commitment under God to love one another till death will be everything else that is necessary for that marriage to last. And I do believe one of the things that has happened in the last ten years that has made even good Christian marriages vulnerable is that we have backed off of our sense that keeping that marriage vow is a sacred duty. It is a pledge we should never make until we were committed to fulfill it, whatever circumstances arise.

The wife of a young couple in my Connecticut church developed M.S. five years into her marriage. There were two small children and a husband who wasn't a Christian but who was a good father and a good husband. She was confined to a wheelchair. Her husband picked up the household chores of cooking and cleaning and washing clothes. He also got a second job to pay the medical bills. Her face bloated with the medicine she took, her personality changed. After several years and having to do this, one day she was so discouraged that she made a decision and when Bill came home, she told him, "Bill, you're young. You didn't plan a life like this when you married me. Take the children and leave me. Find a woman who can be the wife I wanted to be to you." Bill sat for a long time in silence and then asked, "If I had M.S., would you leave me?" And Noreen said, "No." And he said, "That's your answer" and they never talked about it again. Bill wasn't even a Christian believer but he had learned something about faithfulness in marriage. Jesus said, "For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife and they shall become one flesh. Whom God has joined together let no man put asunder." He meant it. It is a marriage vow for life. Divorce is permitted in the Scriptures only for abandonment by the other partner. It is sin for a Christian to initiate divorce or abandon the one he has married.

We need to return to the understanding Dietrich Bonhoeffer speaks of when he says, "That our love makes the marriage and then our marriage — our vow — keeps the love." The vow we make to one another is what holds us through the difficult times and forces us to work out the compromises and brings us back to the love we sometimes lose. You cannot guarantee when you make your marriage vow that that vow will not be broken. But you can guarantee that you won't break it. And it takes only two of those guarantees to make a lasting marriage.

We desperately need to strengthen the foundations of our Christian marriages in this country. It could start right here in the marriages you people will build. Choose wisely, be realistic about what you expect and what you can give, make a vow that you never allow yourself to break, and I pray God that He'll lead you into stronger marriages than the generations just preceding you.
LESSONS (cont.)
And so,
I pray for all the leaders of men and nations in their
terrible responsibilities and opportunities.
Help them, realistically to:
make YOU their model,
and to find in YOU
their unailing friend.

Bless them.
Strengthen them.
And — give them friends on earth, too.

YOU ARE INVITED

Bethel College
2900 Bethel Drive
St. Paul, Minnesota 55112
Telephone: (612) 638-6400

March 31, 1982

Ms. Ruth Bamford
President of ACSO
Wheaton College
Wheaton, IL 60187

Dear Ruth:

On behalf of the entire Student Affairs staff at
Bethel College in St. Paul, Minnesota, we extend to
the membership of ACSO an invitation to hold the
1983 June Conference on our campus.

We are pleased to offer our facilities and look forward
to being your host school.

Sincerely,

Mack Nettleton
Director of Student Affairs
MN:mk

EDITORIAL

For years I have been intrigued by the literal meaning of
statements such as "I will never forget ..." or "I'll always
remember ..." For the life of me, I cannot discern a
difference. Is it the "good stuff" in life that "I'll always
remember" and the "bad stuff" that "I'll never forget"
or all of the above — or none of the above — or what
difference is it anyway!

At any rate, this intrigue led me to ponder if I am a
Christian dean — or a dean at a Christian college — or
a dean at a college that is Christian — or a Christian
dean at a secular college — or some of the above — or
possibly two of the above — or who in this wide, wide
world cares!

Well, I care. I care a lot. I care very much that I am a
dean and even more that I am a Christian. Both are
important components of my life. I am happy where I am
and do not discount the importance of location as it
relates to job satisfaction. But I am not certain that
"where" I am a dean and Christian is of paramount
importance. Consequently, I wonder if the "kind of

(Cont. on back page)

NOMINEES FOR OFFICE OF
PUBLICATIONS:

JOY DeBOER
Calvin College
Grand Rapids, MI
Joy has her B.A. from Calvin
College and an M.S.W. from the
U. of Denver. She taught junior
high English and, after graduate
school, was a psychiatric social
worker in Grand Rapids seven
years. She is in her third year as Dean of Women at
Calvin. Concerning ACSD's Koinonia, she says:

"The ACSD has as members a variety of evangelical
Christians involved in a wide range of activities. We
need to do more communicating and be more visible in
our society. As editor, I would attempt to promote open
scholarly communication and a visibility both within
and outside of the association."

BRENT GARRISON
LeTourneau College
Longview, TX
Brent received his B.A. from
Indiana U., an M.A. from Grace
Theological Seminary, and is a
candidate for a doctorate from
Pensacola Christian College. He
is married, has been an assistant
pastor and a high school science teacher. Brent writes:

"At LeTourneau, I have taken a great interest in writing
and developing training programs for in-house use.
Koinonia is an instrument that can help provide ACSD
information but also provide good articles that can be
of help to student personnel workers. If I complete my
degree this summer, I feel I would have the time to
put into such a position as editor."

WESLEY REDIGER
Eastern Mennonite College
Harrisonburg, PA
Wes has varied experience as
teacher, youth counselor, and in
student personnel work. He has
his B.A. in Philosophy and
Religion from Taylor U., his M.A.
from Ball State U. in Student
Personnel Administration in Higher Education, and is
an Ed.D. candidate in Educational Administration and
Supervision at Ball State. Wes is married, with two
children. He believes:

"We need to continue to apply our Christian experience
and convictions to what we know and feel about our
students. Bible and liberal arts colleges can gain a
great deal from sharing each other's concerns and
visions. The Koinonia could become an excellent organ
for publishing research and other critical writings on
important concerns related to discipleship and
development."

OUR LOVE TO WHEATON

We extend our deepest sympathy and love to
the Wheaton College community. They have
recently experienced the tragic loss of two
students through an automobile accident.
HIGHLY RECOMMENDED — READ THEM


"Dr. Heller glimpses the glory of the assignment humans have to care for their bodies. He has treated a neglected — and often avoided — subject. If we are serious about honoring the lease of three-score and ten on our personal physical property, we need to read — and to practice — what this book tells us."


"Snapping is by far the best and most scientific treatment of the cult problem yet published. For the scientist, politician, clergy or parent, it is valuable and wonderfully readable."

Fit and Free (Division of G/L Publications, Glendale, CA, 1978) Rick Kasper

"Physical fitness is far more important to a Christian's mental, emotional and spiritual well-being than most people realize. Rick Kasper has produced a practical program that anyone can follow to a better way of life."

CONGRAT'S MIRIAM!
The Alumni Association of Grace College in Indiana has chosen to honor as "1981 Distinguished College Alumnus of the Year" Mrs. Miriam Uphouse.

TAKE THE TEST
I know you are busy, but — have you taken time this week to:

_____ write a "long overdue" letter?
_____ talk with a hurting friend?
_____ express appreciation to someone?
_____ do something nice for a friend, anonymously?
_____ encourage a co-worker?
_____ walk a mile every day?
_____ read for recreation?

EDITORIAL (Continued)

"We discussed the question of what do we want our membership to become. Constitutionally, we are open to all Christians in Student Development, but psychologically, we are still geared to Christian schools. How can we serve Christians who are working at secular schools? Christian fellowship and relationship are the key things that we can offer. We need to be asking the question, Can they translate our program to use in their environment?"

What do you think?
(P.S. This editorial is written by our "outgoing editor" as food for thought — no more, no less.)

BETHEL COLLEGE
3900 BETHEL DR.
ST. PAUL, MN.
55112

ADDRESS: