

# ISSUES

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## Campus Ministries: Challenges and Opportunities

3	<b>Reflections</b>
	Brian L. Friedrich, President
4	<b>Editorials</b>
9	<b>A Huge Mission Field—The Millennials</b>
	Greg Witto
18	<b>Who Will Support Campus Ministries?</b>
	Greg Fairow
22	<b>Campus Ministries: The Search for New Models</b>
	Kent Pierce
30	<b>Book Reviews</b>

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## reflections

### Thank You, Bill Wolfram

for thirteen years of exceptional leadership in designing and overseeing the graphics and layout of *Issues*. As readers commented, your visual gifts communicate important messages and enhance each edition.



### Welcome, Paul Berkgigler

in assuming responsibility for the graphics and design of *Issues*. Your creativity and passion for communicating through the visual arts will add much to this publication.



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### ASSUMPTIONS CAN BE DANGEROUS

This edition of *Issues in Christian Education* unpacks many frequently held assumptions about campus ministry. For example:

- Rev. Carl Selle challenges the assumption that our culture is "still permeated with the content of the Christian message."
- Rev. Mark Heilman confronts the assumption that "young people want to go to college to leave home and have their freedom and independence."
- Dr. George Kirup contends that on Ivy League campuses, where many assume quite the opposite, "there is a desire for greater intellectual understanding of the faith."
- Greg Witto reveals intriguing statistics and an inspiring portrait of the Millennials for those who assume this generation is just like the Baby Boomers or Generation X. He notes that "as a group, Millennials are unlike any other youth generation in living memory . . . [and] will entirely recast the image of youth from downbeat and alienated to upbeat and engaged."
- Rev. Greg Fairow reminds us that assumptions about methods of funding campus ministry are changing rapidly, and without careful thought, prayer and attention, the church may lose some of its most important mission outposts.
- Rev. Kent Pierce observes from first-hand experience in campus ministry that "there isn't a 'one size fits all answer' as to how a missionary campus ministry is to be formulated."

Wow! Assumptions. Assumptions about campus ministry are many. Some of them are dangerous. However, the *reality* about the ministry taking place through campus ministry on or near hundreds of college and university campuses across our nation may surprise you. With "over 16 million college students on 3,700 campuses in the United States [and] approximately nine million are between the ages of 19 and 25" (Pierce), the opportunities for outreach, Gospel proclamation, leadership development, bridge building between campus and community, volunteer service and service learning are enormous and have the potential to have "seismic consequences for America." Campus ministry is vital if we are to continue to be salt and light to all people everywhere. It is another mission field to which God is calling His church to go and make disciples in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

May God bless all who serve and are served by campus ministries. May God bless all who minister to college and university students as the Good News of Jesus Christ is proclaimed and lived.

Brian L. Friedrich, President