

## Chapter 6

### "Olivet Nazarene University . . .

### lives of service to God and humanity . . ."

The purpose of this section is to . . .

- (1) present strategies to develop a Christ-centered character in preparation for excellence in service and citizenship
- (2) encourage commitment to the ethical ideals and standards of the Bible and the Church of the Nazarene
- (3) present the rationale for the development of an understanding of the dynamic processes within and between persons and the larger systems of which each person and group are a part

In the preface of his book, *Faith At State; A Handbook for Christians at Secular Universities*, author and professor Rick Kennedy holds the view that much of the best of what is happening in undergraduate education in America is happening at small Christian colleges. It appears that in those colleges the integration of thought and life is still a major unifying force (Kennedy, 1995).

Although Kennedy's book is written for students attending large, public universities, his observation reflects the distinctiveness of Olivet Nazarene University. The University mission statement clearly articulates the twofold mission of Olivet Nazarene University. Specifically, Olivet is about **learning** and **living**. Earlier chapters gave you good information about how to be a successful learner at Olivet Nazarene University. This chapter will focus on the **living** or faith aspect of your college experience.

### Disclaimers

Two disclaimers are necessary to this chapter, and both have to do with learning and living. We'll talk about learning first. Contrary to what you may think, college is not youth camp. In his book **Roaring Lambs**, Bob Briner tells the story of Sandy entering her freshmen year at a Christian college.

Within a few weeks, a professor noticed that Sandy's work was slipping. When asked if she was having problems adjusting to college, she replied, "Oh no, college is great. I love it here. But I'm having trouble finding the time to study. I have a morning prayer group before breakfast, then a Bible study after supper, and I've joined a ministry team that works with kids downtown." Briner writes:

Poor Sandy thought a Christian college was youth camp with a few classes on the side. Her parents were thrilled to get reports of all this spiritual activity, and even my professor

friend was reluctant to squelch her spiritual development. But he swallowed hard and said, 'God sent you here to develop your mind so you can serve Him better. Drop out of all your Bible studies and ministry teams, skip vespers if you have to, but start studying' (Briner, 1993, p.157).

The truth is, students like Sandy can usually find the right balance between learning and ministry. Remember though, you're here to study.

The second disclaimer is about living or faith. Let's suppose that you come into my office and say, "Bill, I have a Mercedes Benz in the parking lot. I'll sell it to you for \$500 if you write a check in the next 15 seconds." I'd be a fool not to buy a Mercedes Benz for \$500, but not under those terms. If you make me decide in 15 seconds, I'd refuse because I haven't had enough time to check it out. Is there really a Mercedes Benz in the parking lot? Do you have a title to it? Does it have a motor? Similarly, there are going to be plenty of opportunities here at Olivet for you to transition from a secular worldview to a Christian worldview. The rest of this chapter will talk about some of those opportunities, but it's no small decision. If you feel you need more time to check it out, kick the tires, look at the interior, and check the title, do it. But, don't pass on the opportunities to check it out.

## **Objectives**

One of the things you'll receive in your first class is a course syllabus. Included in this syllabus are general learning goals or objectives that you will work toward. Objectives tell what students should know or be able to do better after completing the course. Take a look at the "Socio-Christian" objectives we hope you achieve in your life during your stay with us at Olivet (*Catalog*, 1998, p. 13).

- the development of a Christ-centered character in preparation for excellence in service and citizenship;
- an appreciation for the historical and theological heritage of the Christian
- church and the development of a sense of responsibility to the fulfillment of her mission;
- a commitment to the ethical ideals and standards of the Bible and the Church;
- active participation in social and political institutions of contemporary society;
- the development of personal and social poise, firm convictions, and consideration for the rights and feelings of others;
- learning how to relate the Christian faith to the problems of world concern.

How do we plan to help you meet those objectives? I'm glad you asked.

## **Strategies**

Olivet seeks to encourage an atmosphere of vital Christianity by offering ministries that facilitate **worship, nurture, and outreach**. Specifically, these strategies include three dimensions:

**UPREACH of Worship: to celebrate life in Jesus Christ**

**INREACH of Nurture: to cultivate growth in Jesus Christ**

**OUTREACH of Ministry: to communicate the love of Jesus Christ to the world**

## **UPREACH MINISTRIES**

- **Campus Chapels**

Campus chapels are a time for all members of the Olivet community to celebrate life in Jesus Christ. Worship styles vary between three broad worship traditions: traditional Protestant worship, praise and worship, and creative/contemporary worship. Nationally known speakers and artists are frequently guests in ONU chapels.

ONU holds the following philosophy for campus chapels:

College chapels blend school with church, learning with worship. Partly school, chapel has teaching objectives within an acknowledged academic community - yet chapel is not a classroom singularly devoted to instruction. Partly church, chapel includes singing, praying, preaching - yet chapel is not a church which provides the enduring spiritual nurture and fellowship offered by local pastors and congregations. Rather, college chapels provide a unique kind of young adult ministry, with limited ends and restricted means. College chapels, like all other college programs, focus on the needs and aptitudes of the young adults who attend (Chapel on Purpose, 1994).

- **Prayerband**

A student-led praise service is conducted every Monday evening from 9:30 - 10:30 in Kelley Prayer Chapel. Singing, sharing, and prayer highlight this worship experience. Prayerband gives students a chance to testify, share devotional thoughts, and worship the Lord Jesus Christ.

- **180 Degrees**

Like Prayerband, 180 Degrees is a student-led praise and worship service, but with a contemporary flavor. 180 Degrees meets biweekly in the Warming House on Olivet's campus. Exact times and dates are announced each semester.

## **INREACH MINISTRIES**

- **SALT**

SALT is a small group opportunity for growth in Christ. Groups generally range from six to ten students who covenant to meet together weekly for Bible study, sharing and prayer. The "S" in

SALT refers to Scripture study that encourages the discussion and personal application of biblical truth. "A" is the accountability that occurs when we give a few trusted friends permission to guide us in the keeping of promises to God and others. "L" refers to love-in-action that manifests itself in two basic ways: pastoral care within the group and outreach. "T" is the training involved in becoming a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ, training that necessarily involves leadership development. Students wanting to join a group may sign up during "Festival of Ministries" week at the beginning of each school year, or any time by contacting the Office of the Chaplain.

- **SALT Leadership Training**

Training to become a SALT small group leader generally takes three forms (though the first is recommended, not required): (a) participate in a SALT group as an apprentice leader; (b) sign up to become a leader during "Festival of Ministries" week, and attend the leadership orientation; and (c) meet weekly with a mentor leader and six to ten other student leaders for ministry support, curriculum plans, "how-to" skills, and accountability. Students wanting to start a new group during the school year may do so by contacting the Office of the Chaplain.

- **Mentor-A-Couple**

Mentor-A-Couple (MAC) is a program of premarital preparation for seriously dating and engaged couples. Two formats are used each semester; a six-session format and a retreat format (though the six-session format is considered normative). Both formats begin with a couple filling out an application in the Office of the Chaplain. If approved by the MAC Council, the couple then takes the nationally recognized PREPARE premarital inventory, which is computer scored. In the six-session format, a premarital couple meets in the home of a mentor (married) couple. These are called "Evenings for the Engaged." Mentor couples, along with the Chaplain's Office, help process the premarital couple's relationship strengths and growth areas, based on PREPARE results. The retreat format (Friday evening through Saturday) is usually reserved for situations not served by the regular format (e.g., one partner lives out of town). Included in the training of mentor couples is the taking of the ENRICH inventory, which is the marital equivalent of PREPARE.

- **Pastoral Care and Counseling**

Pastoral care through the Office of the Chaplain is handled in dialogue/cooperation with other offices and on-campus support systems like SALT, as well as by direct intervention. All members of the ONU community -- students, faculty, and staff -- may schedule an appointment to talk about personal concerns, spiritual needs, or other issues.

## OUTREACH MINISTRIES

- **Interview with the Chaplain**

"Interview with the Chaplain" is a once-a-month campus chapel aimed at communicating the good news of Jesus Christ via interview. Individuals talk with the chaplain about three aspects of the Christian faith: what life was like before becoming a Christian, how they became a Christian, and what life has been like since becoming a Christian. The purpose is twofold: to give students and other audience members a clear presentation of the gospel message (how to become a Christian), and the opportunity to respond; and to demonstrate how one might share his or her Christian faith with others. These chapels are informal, relational, and evangelistic in nature.

- **Creative Communications\***

**Omega** uses the art form of drama to communicate the message of Jesus Christ. Student actors and actresses portray the common struggles and victories of the Christian life through comedic and dramatic skits.

**Unspeakable Love** ministers through the "visual speech" of mime portrayals. Portrayals may be humorous or dramatic, but always spiritually challenging.

**Holy Hands of Praise** communicates Christ through the ministry of puppetry. Using puppets in songs and skits, this ministry entertains, amuses, and communicates the gospel to all ages across the Olivet region.

**LifeSong** is a ministry dedicated to honoring God through music. LifeSong groups occasionally sing in campus chapels, but generally carry their ministry of music and testimony to churches across the Olivet region on weekends.

**Impact** ministers to church youth groups through games, drama, music, and devotionals. Retreats and worship services are the primary venues.

- **Cross-Cultural and Urban Ministries\***

**Compassionate Ministries** reaches out to the physical-emotional-spiritual needs of people through inner-city and environmental projects, hunger relief, and more. Hands-on, personal involvement with human need is the key. Some of these compassionate ministries include restoration projects, food and clothing drives, and volunteer work for a variety of worthy causes. Compassionate Ministries takes seriously Jesus' words, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40, NRSV)

**CAUSE** stands for College And University students Serving and Enabling. Each year, CAUSE students from ONU join with students from other Nazarene colleges in a short-term missions opportunity to a developing country. The trip involves hard work, compassion, and sacrifice on the part of students, but the rewards are always lasting. Past CAUSE sites have included places like Brazil and Venezuela. Enlistment for CAUSE takes place fall semester.

**SOS**, an acronym for Save Our Streets, is an urban ministry to the needs of persons in Kankakee and Chicago. Activities include witnessing on city streets through mime or tracts, food or clothing distribution to the homeless, and other volunteer work in urban church areas.

**Youth in Mission** includes a variety of longer-term summer missions opportunities, both national and international. Ministry opportunities vary according to need and culture. Like CAUSE, YIM involves hard work, compassion and sacrifice, but the rewards are great. Enlistment takes place fall semester.

**Evangels** and **Mission Possible** exist to minister to residents of nursing homes and jails respectively. Whether activities include small group Bible studies, playing games, or just talking, the goal is to befriend the elderly and imprisoned for Christ.

\* These listings do not include all student ministries. Other ministries and missions occur each year according to need and opportunity.

## **Conclusion**

In January of 1996, I traveled to Raleigh, North Carolina, for a speaking engagement. Unfortunately, the church I was to speak in that Sunday morning had to cancel its service because of weather-related problems earlier in the week. Instead, the associate pastor and I drove to nearby Durham and attended worship at Duke University Chapel. Duke Chapel is an impressive Gothic cathedral right in the middle of the West Campus. I learned that James Buchanan Duke decided in 1925 that the Chapel must stand in the center of the University. He said, "I want the central building to be a church: a great towering church which will dominate [the campus], because such [a building] would be bound to have a profound influence on the spiritual life of the young men and women who come here" (Duke University, 1996).

Like the beginning days of Duke University, Olivet Nazarene University emphasizes the spiritual as well as the educational. We seek here to teach learning as well as life. We call it, "Education With a Christian Purpose."

## References

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