

moore

THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

NEWS BULLETIN



No. 26 September, 1979

Carillon Avenue, Newtown 2042

PASTORAL PSYCHOLOGY: IDEAS AND SKILLS

The writer of this article, Alan Craddock, Ph.D., is a Lecturer in Psychology at the University of Sydney; and has been a Visiting Lecturer at Moore College for some years.

Theory or Practice?

One of the most difficult problems confronting a theological college concerns the need to provide a course which offers a proper balance between academic or theological content and provision of practical skills. There is considerable disagreement as to exactly what constitutes a "proper balance". But it is clear that the student who takes a course which over-emphasises the purely theoretical, academic content is highly likely to encounter serious difficulties in applying what he has learned after graduation. He may lack skills of interpersonal sensitivity, be unable to communicate clearly, and be almost totally incompetent in understanding and counselling people who turn to him for help with psychological problems. In short, he possesses useful information but may lack the practical skills to utilize it fully in his relationships with others.

On the other hand, a course which over-emphasises the acquisition of practical skills of ministry is equally likely to create difficulties. It may produce graduates who possess considerable skills in counselling and communication, but who lack a sound conceptual basis for their ministry. They may prove to be highly skilled in matters of technique, but may lack the theological knowledge to exercise them effectively.

Achieving a Balance

In my view, as a professional psychologist who once spent three years as a student in Moore College, and who has since lectured to theological students at the College

for several years in Pastoral Psychology, a balance is possible, and should be based on the provision of a sound **foundation** in both areas. Practical skills cannot be acquired in a knowledge vacuum. It is equally futile to have knowledge locked inside a person who cannot relate effectively to those who need it.

Therefore I would see the need for a course which has its main strength in the provision of Biblical Theology; but which also gives significant attention to the relationships between theology, philosophy, education and psychology. The theoretical and practical aspects of these relationships both need to be explored throughout the full duration of the college course. This effort should be sufficiently detailed so as to enable the student to continue to learn by means of private reading and through in-service training long after graduation.

The College Syllabus

With these issues in mind, the college staff have formulated a practical ministry course which runs throughout the four years of the total college programme. One segment of this course deals with introductory psychology, and has been my responsibility for several years. This is now taken in the first year of the college course and involves a series of twenty-seven lectures/discussions. The course is designed to explore the theoretical and practical aspects of the relationship between theology and modern psychology.

There are three sections in the syllabus. The first section is con-

cerned with the general subject matter and methods of contemporary psychology.

The second section provides a broad overview of the historical development of and philosophical positions adopted by some of the major personality theorists of this century. Particular attention is paid to Psychoanalysis (Freud), Behaviourism (Watson, Skinner), Cognitive Self Theory (Rogers), and Existentialism (May, Laing). These views of personality function and dysfunction (and its treatment) are described and contrasted, and their relationship to Biblical concepts of persons explored. These two sections occupy approximately one-half of the entire course.

The third section of the course deals with social psychology. This involves the study of individuals in relation to other individuals, groups and society. Topics covered include social learning, attitude and value development, interpersonal relationships, group dynamics, leadership, communication, conformity and obedience, marriage and family relationships, and processes of social change.

Aims of the Course

The aims of the course are twofold. First, to equip students to critically evaluate psychological view-points which have been of significant influence in the development of our contemporary society. Secondly, the course aims to heighten the sensitivity of students to other people, to their needs, values, attitudes, problems and environment. This should enhance their ability to

communicate their theological knowledge more effectively and with greater relevance to the particular persons to whom they minister.

The opportunity for students to further explore these ideas and their implications, and to acquire some relevant practical experience, comes in other courses offered in the college programme. For example, in the course, "Persons and Personality" taken by Dr. W. E. Anderson, Senior Lecturer in Education, University of Sydney, in second year, and also in courses dealing with theories and the practice of education, and with the relationship between theology and Christian education. There are a variety of specialized ministry courses which cover practical issues in exercising a ministry as teacher, preacher, administrator and counsellor. Field-work includes general and psychiatric hospital courses, and participation in College missions and supervised parish activities.

Role of the Clergy

A recent study in the U.S.A. indicated that lay-persons look to their clergy **not** as skilled counsellors in the sense that they might replace mental health professionals, but as teacher-pastors who are theologically informed, compassionate, understanding and honest, who know when referral to a specialist is needed, and whose efforts are not conditional upon the performance of a hoped-for religious response by those who seek their help.

I would argue that this is a valid expectation and it is in an effort to provide part of the foundation for such a ministry that the Introduction to Psychology segment of the practical ministry course is offered. That is, to provide a basis for integrating Biblical knowledge and psychological issues which will enable students to effectively relate theology to the real needs of the community.

WHY STUDY LEAVE?

Rev. P. O'Brien, Ph.D., B.D., writes:

I recently spent seven months study leave in England, where I was engaged in New Testament study and research at Tyndale House, Cambridge. This House was founded as a library for research in 1944 by the Inter-Varsity Fellowship Trust to provide opportunities for students and scholars from both Britain and overseas to work in the area of Biblical studies.

I had earlier been invited to write two commentaries on the Greek text of the New Testament in two new evangelical series. The first, under the editorship of Professor Ralph Martin and others, is on Colossians, and will appear in the Word Biblical Commentary. To date, no volumes have been published, but the series will attempt to harvest the results of recent scholarly research by making them available to readers in a clear style. It is expected that all twenty New Testament volumes will be published within five years.

The second commentary is to be written on Philippians in the New International Greek Testament Commentary series, edited by Dr. Howard Marshall of Aberdeen, and Dr. Ward Gasque of Vancouver. The series is intended to meet the needs of major commentaries on the New Testament.

The purpose of the study leave was to cover as much of the research and writing as possible on the Colossians-Philemon commentary. During my stay at Tyndale House, I was able to finish the major part of this work, as well as collect materials for the second volume. Without a period of concentrated study such as this, it would not have been possible to meet the strict deadlines set by the Publishers.

The resources at Cambridge are enormous. Readers at Tyndale House are able to make arrangements for utilizing material in the University Library.

I valued the opportunities for discussion and Christian fellowship with others from Britain and America who were engaged in study and research on the same series of commentaries.

COLLEGE NOTES

Hon. Organising Secretary

The Rev. Ron Palmer, who has been the Hon. Organising Secretary since 1959, is retiring from this position. His successor will take over in November.

Second-Hand Book Sale

Some time ago, the Moore College Women's Auxiliary held a very successful second-hand book sale, which raised over \$1,000 for the College.

Another sale will be held at the College on Thursday, 21st February, 12 p.m.-8 p.m.; and Friday, 22nd February, 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Gifts of books may be left from now on at the College Bookshop, Impact Books, 18 King St., Newtown, near City Road.

Books — Fiction, Educational, Textbooks, Music, Poetry, Painting, Biographical, Theological, Devotional, Arts and Crafts, Cooking, Children's books, etc.

Vacancies for Boarders

The College will have vacancies in 1980 for tertiary students as boarders. The College is adjacent to Sydney University; and about 30 minutes from the University of N.S.W.

Enquiries should be made to the Rev. M. Hill at the College.

Impact Books

Due to unforeseen delays, the college bookshop was not able to move into its new premises at 18 King St., Newtown, last May. It is expected that they will have moved by now.

NOW IS THE TIME TO ACT!

Become a more informed and more effective Christian by improving your knowledge.

**BEGIN A CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
WITH MOORE COLLEGE IN 1980**

or

**COME TO EVENING LECTURES
at the College**

For further information, fill in the form on p.4
or ring the Department of External Studies

519 6460 — 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

*For the best in Devotional and Theological Books
come and browse at*

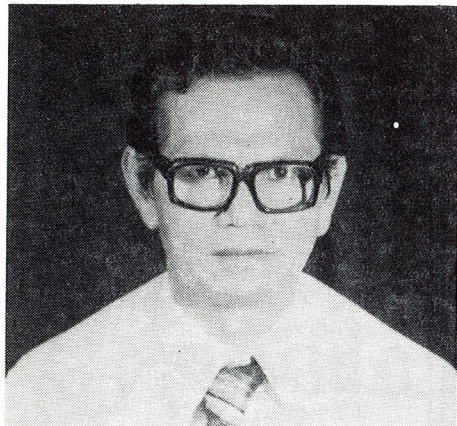
IMPACT BOOKS

(the College Bookshop)

**18 King Street, Newtown, near City Road
or ring Charles Mann, 51 2225**

THE CHURCH IN INDONESIA

This year, Moore College and the Church Missionary Society have provided bursaries to enable two Indonesian Ministers to study at the College. The Rev. Bruce Winter has gleaned the following information.



OBERLIN SIAHAAN

Two ministers from the Christian Protestant Church of Indonesia (G.K.P.I.) arrived in Australia in early March as C.M.S. bursars to study at Moore College for the 1979 Academic Year.

The Rev. Victor Sihombing and the Rev. Oberlin Siahaan are from Sumatra, and are two of the ninety-two ministers of the 135,000 strong church that has grown from a membership of 2,000 in 1964. There are now 557 congregations of the G.K.P.I.

Oberlin Siahaan, who is married with five children, has worked in the central office of the church since 1972. He heads the department that upgrades the standards of pastors, teachers/preachers, elders and Sunday School teachers.

A team of nine people is spearheading the teaching programme, and is divided into groups who prepare material for the courses. They also go to various centres to lecture and conduct group discussions.

Translating into Batik

Since 1975, Oberlin Siahaan has been engaged in translating the Batik Bible which was first translated in the 1880's from old Batik into the modern tongue. Batik has so developed as a language that the older translation cannot be readily understood except by the very old people. He has been one of the two translators who have submitted their work to a group of ten which includes translation and language experts. The translation from Genesis to Romans had been completed at the time of his leaving for study in Australia.

Because of the diversity of Batik, which is spoken not only in Sumatra but wherever Batiks live throughout Indonesia, the translators were confronted with choosing one word

where there are three different words used by Batiks throughout Indonesia to convey the same meaning. Not all Batiks use all three words. It was decided to have the Batik students at High Schools to be given the word in Indonesian for translation back into Batik. By this method, the translators finally arrived at an equivalent meaning which they felt would convey the sense of the word. This project is under the supervision of the United Bible Societies.

Oberlin tells how some of the older people say that the only Bible is the original Batik translation, and resist the new translation. But the middle aged group together with the young people are now able to understand the Scriptures much better. One quarter million copies have now been printed, and it means that every Batik home will have a copy in addition to the old version.

Theological Training

Students for the Ministry study at Nommensen University, where the Reverend John McIntosh, a former student and member of the staff of Moore College, now lectures. The course is for six years, with a Bachelor of Arts as the initial degree; and a Bachelor of Theology after a further three years. Students come straight from High School because in Indonesia, there is a need to choose what one will do at an early age. The third world cannot afford the luxury of training twice.

Nommensen University is named after Ludwig Nommensen who was a member of the Rhenish Missionary Society. He envisaged the whole of the hinterland, which was animistic, conquered for Christ. After early attempts to murder him failed, the chiefs professed an interest. The flood of new converts in the next four decades took him and his co-workers by storm. From 1866, when there were 52 members, the work grew until in 1911 towards the end of his life, there were over 100,000. This church which is called the H.K.B.P. now has over one million members. The G.K.P.I. is a break away from the parent group.

The Work of the Pastor

Victor Sihombing, who has six children, is the minister of six churches, and lives 300 kilometres from Medan. The church membership is over 2,000, and the size of the congregations varies from 12 families to 200 families. Once every six weeks, he goes to conduct Sun-



VICTOR SIHOMBING

day worship, and for the other Sundays, the different teacher/preachers in each congregation conduct the service. They are provided with sermon outlines for the particular Sunday in the liturgical year and considerable helps. Because of the limited number of ministers, the church has been forced to use the specially trained teacher-preacher to care with the elders for the individual congregations.

Every church has its Sunday School which usually meets at 8 a.m. in the Church; while the main service is held at 11 a.m. Each congregation also has its women's group where singing is a major activity. The Batiks are very good singers, and most hymns are translated from Western Hymnals. However, in recent times, there has been an increasing emphasis on using popular Batik tunes to sing Biblical paraphrases.

Like ministers anywhere, Victor Sihombing visits old members of the congregations for the celebration of the Lord's Supper, as well as the local hospitals.

He says that women are becoming elders in the church, but not ministers. Some undertake theological studies, and work among women as Deaconesses. They preach in the church, but are not permitted to preside at the Lord's Supper. This is the sole prerogative of the ordained minister.

Help from Sydney Parishes

Victor Sihombing, while studying in Australia, is attending St. Paul's Chatswood, which is sponsoring his College bursary; and Oberlin Siahaan has joined the congregation at St. Paul's, Castle Hill, which is likewise sponsoring his college bursary. Both expect to return to their work in November. They have the opportunity to gain insights into the Australian way of life and the nature of congregational life, by not only being linked to a particular church, but also through the generous hospitality that is given each weekend by various families in the parishes.

MOORE COLLEGE ANNUAL EMBERTIDE APPEAL

The Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend F. D. Coggan said:

"When I ordain a man as a Priest, I'm not looking for a good organiser, a financier, or an entertainer; I want a man who has seen the Lord, and who has a gospel big enough for the world and its needs."

The men who enter Moore College have seen the Lord; and have a Gospel to proclaim.

Moore College trains these men to understand the doctrines of the Gospel, and the Scriptures which contain them; and to communicate the Gospel to those to whom they will be called to minister.

It is the task and responsibility of church people to provide the finance for the College to carry out this work.

SHARE IN THE WORK OF TRAINING MEN FOR THE MINISTRY

Place your donation in the enclosed envelope and return
it to the College.

*Donations to the Building Fund are allowable deductions for
taxation purposes*

WHERE DID THE MONEY GO?

Trevor Blundell, the Bursar, writes:

The response to our April Appeal for repairs and maintenance was most encouraging. Total donations for the first six months of 1979 are up almost 20% on the previous year, due to the generous supporters of the College.

In accordance with the Committee's budget strategy, a contract has been awarded for the painting and application of a special water resistant treatment of 26 houses in Little Queen and Campbell Streets. The contract for approximately \$16,000 is necessary to preserve the married students' houses against the growing problem of water penetration. Although the donations for the April Appeal are less than the contract price, we are confident this need will be met.

May I extend on behalf of the Hon. Organising Secretary, the College, and especially the married students and their families, our thanks for your concern and generous giving.

**The Principal &
College Committee**

invite you to share in

AN EVENING OF PRAYER FOR THE COLLEGE & ITS NEEDS

Wednesday, 26th September

Two sessions will be held in the Chapel:
7.15 p.m.-8.10 p.m. and 8.15 p.m.-9 p.m.

STOP PRESS

The College Committee has decided to proceed with plans for building a new library.

The College has a large number of valuable books, many of which are not available to students because of the lack of shelving space. In addition, important books have to be taken off the shelves to make room for new purchases.

The reading facilities are completely inadequate for the number of students who wish to use the library.

Details of this important new building project will soon be made known to the friends of the College.

MOORE COLLEGE LECTURES

The 1979 series of

Annual Moore College Lectures

will be delivered at the College by

**Canon D. B. Knox, B.A., M.Th., D.Phil.,
Principal of Moore College**

September 11, 13, 14, 17 & 19
at 8 p.m.

Subject:

**"The Doctrine of God
in Holy Scripture"**

To: Rev. R. H. Palmer,
Moore College,
7 King Street,
NEWTOWN, N.S.W. 2042.

Please

- ☐ find enclosed my donation to the College
- ☐ add my name to the News Bulletin mailing list
- ☐ delete my name from the mailing list
- ☐ **note my correct address***

Send me information about:

- ☐ the General Correspondence Courses
- ☐ the Evening Courses
- ☐ the College Teaching Cassettes

Name: Mr/Mrs/Miss

.....

Address:

.....

.....

*Previous Address

.....

PAUSE FOR A MOMENT ...

to pray for

- ★ **The Staff:** the Principal, Vice-Principal, and all the members of the staff in their impartation of knowledge and their pastoral care of the students; and for those studying overseas.
- ★ **The Students:** for their studies, and their work in Parishes; and for a deepening sense of God's will for them; for the wives and children of married students.
- ★ **College Government:** for the Trustees and College Committee; the Hon. Secretary, Mr. P. Nicholson, and the Hon. Treasurer, Mr. N. Malone; and the new Hon. Organising Secretary.
- ★ **College Administration:** the Bursar, Mr. T. Blundell, and his office staff; for the Matron, Mrs. J. Pitkin, and the Domestic Staff.
- ★ **The Department of External Studies:** for all taking the Correspondence Courses, and the Evening Courses, especially the overseas students.
- ★ **The College Bookshop:** for Mr. Charles Mann; and giving thanks for its growth and service to the Church.
- ★ **Students for the Ministry:** praying for those who are considering entering College next year, that God's will may be made very clear to them.
- ★ **Finance:** that God's people may feel the need to support the work of the College.