

JG: Could you make any suggestions for training seminarians for team ministry?

P: We had a man on staff here for several years who is now the president of Campus Crusade's new seminary. Are you familiar with that?

JG: Yes.

P: Part of their basic philosophy is that a man should spend half his time in the classroom and half his time working in a church. So they have several model churches in southern California, and each student in the seminary is assigned to work 16 hours a week with one of those churches. It remains to be seen how effective that will be. I bring this up because that guy got his doctor of ministry at Western Baptist Seminary and his project was to travel for a year around the country. He visited over a hundred churches that were doing something significant in the area of discipleship. Out of that grew a conviction that most men were not trained for what they really were going to be doing when they get into a pastorate. Not just in team relationships, but in interpersonal relationships with people. The training was too heavy in academic subjects and not sufficient in counseling, how to put together a Christian education program, and that sort of thing. So it was that lack that motivated him to get involved with this new seminary where he heard men talking about meeting that deficiency. So I think there is a need for the seminary to train men for pastoral areas and relational areas, but when you pin that down to team relationships, I don't really know how great the demand is, how great the interest is across the country, to know whether a seminary is justified in making that a major thrust. I'm sold on it, because of my experience here. I was sold on it before I came here. I spent almost six years as an assistant pastor as I said, and then I spent seven years with Campus Crusade for Christ. Campus Crusade's whole philosophy is built around team relationships. I was at the University of Minnesota and we had seven people on our team. There was a dynamic, supportive fellowship there that was so valuable to me that I never wanted to be in a ministry where I didn't have something like that.

JG: I appreciate very much your time and the helpful answers.

Discussion questions for interview #3

1. What is the leadership style of this team leader?
2. Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of having a personnel committee within the official church board that would be responsible for overseeing the team's cohesion and function.