

**Empowering the next generation of ministers  
to maximize their opportunities today  
in order to increase their effectiveness tomorrow**

This is SMI's new mission statement. Over the past year, our Board of Directors has been in the process of revising our mission statement to ensure it fully encompasses what we do. Our goal is to foster a safe environment where our student ministers not only gain practical experience but also have an opportunity to discover their strengths and weaknesses, challenge their ministry perspectives and sharpen their ministry skills. You will hear us say often that we believe a healthy minister brings about a healthy ministry. Part of that health involves self-discovery.

The path of self-discovery our students embark upon unveils who they are and who God intends them to be, possibly even refining their call. These results are harder to measure because of their intangible nature. Many nonprofit organizations and ministries can claim results such as "X number of mouths fed" or "X number of homes built." While SMI could track these kinds of results because of the various types of ministries our students perform across the U.S., we have chosen to focus on the inward transformation involving the heart of the student minister to increase their effectiveness for the future — and ultimately to bring about healthy ministries. Often times, intangible results such as this are not recognized or seen for several years and require diligence in the continued growth process.

As our student ministers complete their time with SMI and transition into full time ministry upon graduation, our goal is to have empowered them to attain leadership habits that ensure balance and health for a life of ministry. Those who are teachable and capable of undergoing change and willing to risk discovery will experience the richness of new ways of living and doing ministry. We at SMI believe in the worth of this investment in future ministers because they will impact those under their influence for many years to come — either transforming or deforming those involved in their organizations. We prefer transformation. After all, the next generation will change the world. The question is how.

Jimmy R. West  
Executive Director

## MINISTRY FOCUS

### Ministerial Paradigms Challenged

My passion for mentoring was developed as a result of some key mentors who built into my life at a strategic time of my development. Because of SMI, I have a ministry mentor who will oversee my development and placement in the church body. I am excited to see what practical ways my seminary training will benefit the local church while I'm growing into the kind of teacher that might one day train a new generation of leaders. SMI has played a key role in making this happen.

Serving at Lake Ridge Bible Church—the location of my SMI ministry, **I am being challenged to gain new skills even while employing some old ones.** At the beginning of June, I began leading the first and second grader's class in Sunday School. This role spilled over into a week with them in Vacation Bible School as well. **What a new experience for someone who has primarily taught adults in the past!**

The result has been, though, that **I'm developing a passion for the excellence in ministry that children are worthy of.** If they are to be tomorrow's leaders, they must be nurtured in Christ today. Currently, I've extended a commitment to the Children's Ministry Director to serve the first and second grades through the summer. After that, the church leadership will evaluate where best I can be of use. Ultimately, I hope to advance the mission and education initiative for the church whether with children, youth or adults.

*Aaron Ott currently serves at Lake Ridge Bible Church in Mesquite, Texas. He is pursuing a Master in Theology at Dallas Theological Seminary and hopes to eventually become a professor of Christian Education at the seminary. His goal is to be adequately trained to teach Bible classes and to train others to teach through mentoring processes. Aaron discovered his passion for teaching and mentoring through martial arts instruction. He has been with SMI for two years and plans to graduate from DTS in May 2009.*

**If you want transformation,  
then measure transformation!**

Christ invested His life in people who had ears to hear  
— those who were capable & willing to change.

Christ died to see lives transformed.

**Develop a thirst for transformation.**

"You shall know them by their fruit." John 15:8

Of the top ten priorities in ministry, senior pastors ranked ministry to children as #9.

Only 14% of senior pastors surveyed were interested in children under the age of 13— children who represent 41% of the church campus.

*George Barna Research Group*

#### • Tax Guides/Sources

SMI provides to its students a free source regarding taxes and support raising. SMI will be placing an order for the 2006 Zondervan's Tax Guide in November to be placed in December. Supplies are limited. If you are interested, contact the SMI office by 10.31.05.

#### • Spread the Word!

If you know of someone who can benefit from the ministry of SMI, please tell them about our ministry. Remember, it's not just students who can benefit—churches as well as schools and individuals benefit also.



#### • Newsletters Wanted!

Students, please add SMI to your mailing list. We always love to know what is going on in your ministry and in your life.

#### • Prayers for SMI...

Thank you for your prayers in the face of Hurricane Rita. We were truly blessed to have been spared of Rita's destruction. Please continue to pray for the leaders of SMI as we continue to make significant changes. Will you join us as a ministry partner through prayer? If so, please let us know. Your encouragement would be priceless!

#### • Ministry Needs:

SMI seeks donations to provide marketing resources. SMI seeks ministry partners to help support operations. SMI seeks board members with corporate mindsets who share our passion of investing in the next generation of ministers. SMI seeks donations to provide refinement resources for our student ministers.

## Contractor Stats! (2004-2005)

School	Students	Contributions	School	Students	Contributions
Asbury	2	\$870	Osijek Evangelical	1	\$9,666
Ashland	1	\$1,565	Phoenix	9	\$41,804
Baptist Bible	1	\$300	Reformed	6	\$41,185
Bethel	11	\$126,462	Regent College	2	\$13,555
Capital Bible	1	\$29,385	Regent University	2	\$12,015
Christian Theological	1	\$19,150	Southern Baptist	3	\$11,061
Columbia Biblical	1	\$2,125	Southern Evangelical	2*	0
Covenant	18	\$109,851	Southwestern Baptist	3	\$8,752
Dallas Theological	69	\$375,797	Talbot	9	\$27,400
Denver	9	\$27,474	Trinity Evangelical	11	\$111,015
Emmanuel	1	\$645	The Masters	2	\$33,482
Faith Seminary	1*	0	Tyndale	2	\$27,104
Fuller	7	\$4,875	University of Edinburgh	1*	0
Gordon-Conwell	5	\$13,823	Wesley Theological	1	\$2,275
Michigan Theological	1*	0	Western Seminary	7	\$6,920
Mid-America	1	\$137	Western Theological	1	\$33,255
Moody	4	\$12,515	Westminster	1	\$24,000
Multnomah	1	\$13,783	Wheaton	1*	0

Over 1 million dollars in support of student ministries!

\*Recently approved students

### Our Vision

Our hope is that students will not only be blessed financially through SMI but they will be enriched spiritually and personally as well. During the time God has entrusted them to our care, our primary focus is to invest in this next generation of ministers. Our goal is to provide relevant resources to encourage and enhance their personal and professional growth. It is our desire that this investment in tomorrow's ministers will retain life-long effects with far-reaching rewards as they develop and equip those under their leadership and impact those who are involved in their ministries.

## Investing in Tomorrow's Ministers Today

- *Personally*
- *Professionally*
- *Financially*

### Our Mission

SMI empowers the next generation of ministers to maximize their opportunities today in order to increase their effectiveness tomorrow.

Student Ministries, Inc.  
300 W. Davis, Suite 530  
Conroe, Texas 77304  
Phone: 936.756.2790  
866.653.8802  
Fax: 936.756.2809  
877.653.8801  
E-mail: info@studentministriesinc.org



MINISTRIES, Inc.  
300 W Davis, Suite 530 • Conroe, Texas • 77301

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Sojourning...  
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