

# SMI *From My Perspective...*

Many times when you meet new people a common question arises: "So, what is it that you do?" While words can communicate our mission, the story on the next page is a tangible example of SMI's impact. It portrays how we empower students to maximize their experiences and their journey of preparation for full-time ministry. We value highly the opportunity to influence shepherds hearts along with inspiring biblical stewardship. Though many times this is a subtle process, it is an essential part in accomplishing our vision and is fundamental to the overall goal of investing in the next generation of ministers.

## "one vision, pursued in partnership"

As I explain the vision and ministry of SMI when people ask, I describe how we work in partnership with churches, seminaries and individuals to empower ministry-directed students to gain practical ministry experience as well as personal and professional development. I often hear comments like "that's a much needed ministry" or "wow—I never would have thought of such a ministry." I think people appreciate the aspect of partnership involved in our activities. We like to think of SMI as a facilitator—providing opportunities for schools, churches and ministry organizations and ministry partners to work together to have greater impact in the Kingdom.

We each have a unique role: Schools provide an academic foundation encouraging practical learning. Churches and ministry organizations provide the environment for ministry immersion and skill development. SMI facilitates both academic training and ministry experience through its financial investment of compensation to students for ministry hours performed. Because of SMI's unique tax exempt purpose encompassing a fully designed program—functioning like a mission agency—SMI, through its program and requirement of ministry involvement and mentoring exchanges, goes beyond the financial investment to include personal and professional investment of future ministers. And ministry partners provide the resources to make all of this happen—for God's Kingdom, for His purposes.

*"When two or more ministries have the same vision, mission and passion and drop their egos, we will then move our ministries to new heights. We become stewards of our vision for one reason—to accomplish more than we ever thought possible... Then and only then, we bring the most honor and glory to Jesus Christ and ultimately fulfill our God-given vision."*

*"The New Think" by Tom Atema—VP of Strategic Partnerships, EQUIP\**

We each simply cannot fully accomplish our God-given visions on our own. We can, though, add value to the other with the unique role God has given each of us. To do so, we must work together. If we can set ourselves and our self-sufficiency aside and refuse to work in isolation, we can demonstrate true partnership as the Body and live out the biblical principles of community and good stewardship of our ministries and resources. After all, it's not about what we're doing. It's about what God is doing.

Jimmy R. West

\*To access the "The New Think" by Tom Atema, visit SMI's website Search. Executive Director

## MINISTRY FOCUS

### Look Out Mountain—A Journey of Growth

Quite often when we set out to learn something 'hands on' we learn as much about ourselves as we learn 'how to's' and about other people. This was certainly true for me this summer through an internship at Lookout Mountain—a Presbyterian church nestled in the Chattanooga area. The Lord brought me face to face with many of my own struggles and weaknesses. Like many, one is relying on my own strength to do ministry. The Lord has called us to do all things in faith, depending on His strength. I also learned I often have a greater fear of man than a fear of the Lord. This can be quite controlling leading us to always ask: 'what do others think of me?' rather than 'what does God think of me?' The former will eat you alive and cripple you in ministry while the latter will give a tremendous peace and confidence. Through all of this I grew personally in my relationship with the Lord. I was forced to depend on Him.

This season of growth was tremendous as well for me practically in ministry through many opportunities to teach at Sunday evening services as well as Bible studies and classes. One of the most valuable aspects was spending a lot of time shadowing the pastors. They included me in all of their meetings for sermon preparation, worship planning, counseling issues, and staff meetings. I was able to learn every aspect of the pastor's role. One of the most valuable lessons I learned from the senior pastor was the importance of shepherding people. He continually stressed that pastoral care is the most important thing a pastor is called to do. Not only did he tell me, he showed me—taking me along on hospital and nursing home visits. This has had a big impact on me as I prepare to move into full time ministry.

Through this concentrated training experience, I've received a taste of the demands of the pastorate, but more importantly, I've seen personal reflections of myself. This preview from Lookout Mountain has greatly enhanced this season of preparation and has given me renewed vision about where we are headed in the future.

*Hutch Garmany is pursuing a Master of Divinity from Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. He is a pastoral intern at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church where he continues to give to others and to be actively involved in ministry while pursuing his degree.*

*He believes this opportunity to practice serving God's church now is important in preparing him for his future call to full time pastoral ministry.*

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## ••••• Avenues of Giving

Donors have several options when giving to SMI:

1. Mail check or money order.
2. Monthly contributions can be automatically deducted from your checking account. Automatic contribution (EFT) forms are available on the website or from students.

3. Credit card via our website.
4. Many companies will match contributions made to non-profit organizations through their employee matching gifts program. We have received matching gifts from companies such as Macys, Exxon, AXA Financial, etc. as a result of donors' efforts to access these resources. Maximize your gifts by checking with your company to see if they have a matching program.
5. Many companies are limited in supporting religious organizations; however, employees can re-direct gifts through United Way to SMI. Simply communicate with your company's United Way representative to initiate this process.

6. Stock Donations: Individuals can take advantage of a tax deduction for appreciated stock gifts. Contact the SMI office for details.

7. IRA Transfers. Contact the SMI office or your financial advisor for more information.

## • Year End Donations

Just a reminder that year end contributions must be postmarked by Dec 31st in order to be credited to your 2007 taxes.

## • 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.

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## Contractor Stats! (2006-2007)

School	Students	Contributions	School	Students	Contributions
Baylor/Truett*	1	\$25	Moody	3	\$13,420
Bethel	11	\$83,461	Multnomah	1	\$30
Bethlehem Institute	1	\$2,372	Phoenix	3	\$44,715
Calvary Theological	1	\$3,665	Princeton	1	\$12,600
Capital Bible	1	\$28,245	Reformed	9	\$77,902
Columbia Biblical	2	\$2,435	Southern Evangelical	1	\$240
Covenant	8	\$126,241	Southwestern Baptist	3	\$843
Dallas Theological	35	\$232,648	Talbot	8	\$78,515
Denver	5	\$48,290	Trinity Evangelical	8	\$82,315
Emmanuel	1	\$6,770	The Masters	2	\$2,580
Fuller	2	\$27,946	Tyndale	1	\$19,350
Golden Gate	7	\$33,046	Wesley Theological	1	\$20
Gordon-Conwell	6	\$74,166	Western Seminary	1	\$8,880
Grace Theological	1	\$1,440	Western Theological	1	\$10,031
Grand Rapids	1	\$10,750	Westminster	1	\$4,170
Haggard - Azusa	1	\$9,145	Wheaton	1	\$11,557
Liberty*	1	\$250			

Over 1 million 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.

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