

Ball State University Christian Organizations

An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Kitchen". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

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May God bless you all!

### Purpose of Thesis

This review of Christian organizations focuses on four aspects of how to successfully live a Christian life and how those ingredients should be integrated into a campus organizational setting. The elements discussed include a sense of community, Bible instruction, music and worship, and the practice of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Explanations of terminology are given where needed, and references from Scripture are given to support the ideas. Finally, various groups which the author believes are successful in ministering to their students in a particular area are given as examples.

The purpose of the pamphlet is to condense information about all of the campus Christian organizations into one source. It is hoped that this resource will be useful to any and all students looking for a Christian organization to join.

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Hundreds of students on the Ball State campus are looking to grow closer to Jesus Christ and to know more about Him. This is evidenced by the number of Christian organizations on campus and the number of students that are active in them. Each group has a distinctive mission, and the method of achieving the mission is peculiar to each group, as well. There are common elements among the groups, but it is rare indeed to find two groups that operate in exactly the same manner.

Over the last year, I have visited many of the Christian groups to worship, learn and visit with staff workers and student members. Naturally, I visited the two groups with the most publicity and the most members: Campus Crusade for Christ and Abundant Life. I also visited many of the smaller groups including The Lutheran Center, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Alpha Omega Delta, and Chi Alpha. Perhaps I feel a special fondness towards these smaller groups because I am an active member of the newest and one of the smallest campus Christian groups, Campus Fellowship. I think it was because of my membership in this small, yet growing, group that I really enjoyed visiting these other small groups. I almost always felt welcome in these groups. I believe it is easier for smaller groups to welcome new members because when everyone knows everyone else, it is easy to spot a newcomer. This is not to suggest that larger groups like Crusade and Abundant Life should be trying to limit their growth. In fact, I believe that their large numbers suggest that they must be doing a wonderful job of ministering to students. A group does not gain 100 members

or more if it is not fulfilling spiritual needs! This is meant only to say that larger groups may need to remind members to continue to meet people whom they do not know so they can minister to those who are seeking Christian fellowship and growth. Throughout the course of these visits, I have found what I believe to be the four most important elements of a Christian group. The ideal group would include within its framework the elements of a sense of community, Bible instruction, music and worship, and practice the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

The Random House College Dictionary has four definitions for the word "community," but it is the first two that really explain what is meant by "a sense of community." Definition one says, in part, "a social group of any size whose members reside in a specific locality and share government." The second definition is "a social, religious, occupational, or other group sharing common characteristics or interests." A campus Christian group should be not only a place for the traditionally expected worship and Bible study, but also a group in which the members socialize a great deal. By the nature of being a university organization, members share the campus as a specific locality and the rules of the university President and the Board of Trustees as a government. The second definition solidifies the idea of Christian organizations as communities. These groups are religious organizations in which the members share common characteristics and interests. Students are striving to get to know their Lord better. They are working to expand God's

kingdom on the Ball State campus. They are also students whose common goal is to graduate from the university. It is not hard to establish what looks like a community, but how do students gain and develop a sense of community? More importantly, how is this put into practice? This sense of community (or lack of it) is an internal issue that will not be seen until an individual is involved in an organization. Community is most easily seen in the way members relate to one another. Do students respect one another? Are there good relationships between brother and brother, sister and sister, and brother and sister? Do they refrain from negative humor? Do they honor one another on special occasions such as birthdays and graduations? The most important question to answer is do they spend time together? In order to build a sense of community and belonging, group members should pray together, socialize together, and sacrifice for one another.

Jesus meant for his disciples to band together in an effort to follow him. This is why He chose twelve apostles instead of one. The twelve lived a life of community by living together, sharing meals together, praying together, and traveling together. In his letter to the Phillipians, St. Paul wrote:

"If you have any encouragement from being united in Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in Spirit and purpose. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others." (Phil 2:14)

We should do nothing less than what Jesus's first disciples did. We, too, should find encouragement from being united with other brothers and sisters in the fellowship of the Holy Spirit and look to their interests as well as our own.

An essential element of building a strong Christian organization is regular Bible study. It is easy to see from Jesus's example how important knowledge of Scripture is. He continually quoted the Old Testament during His life on earth. His knowledge is demonstrated in the fourth chapter of Matthew, in the New Testament, where He is being tempted by the devil. Satan said, "If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread." Jesus quoted Deuteronomy when He replied, "It is written: 'Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'." Again, after Satan offered Him rule over all the kingdoms of the world if He would bow down and worship the evil one, Jesus recited part of Deuteronomy when he said, "For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only'." If Jesus found it important to know Scripture, how can we, as His followers, think otherwise for ourselves? How else are we to discover the true nature of Jesus if we refuse to read and study the book He and His Father inspired men to write for us? This is important because for a Christian, the Bible is like a road map. It provides guidance and direction for all areas of life. Students should have their own personal prayer and study time, but group members should study together as well as apart.

In the first chapter of his letter, James says, "Do not

merely listen to the word and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." In order to follow the command to "do what it says" we must understand it. Often, an individual can read and study a Scripture passage and not understand what it means. Colossians 3:16 says, "Let the word of Christ dwell richly among you as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom." By participating in group Bible study, we as individuals may come to a better understanding of Scripture because of what God has revealed to another participant. It is also helpful to hear about what others have read. We can then take these ideas back to our individual prayer times and meditate upon them. Many times, hearing another's idea or interpretation of a particular passage will inspire us to discover a greater truth.

While I believe all of the Christian organizations at Ball State encourage Bible study, some do so more actively than others. Two good examples are InterVarsity and Alpha Omega Delta. InterVarsity members are encouraged to join a weekly, studentled, small group Bible study that meets outside of their large group prayer meeting. Alpha Omega Delta does not have small group meetings like InterVarsity does. The leadership of this group has chosen to have its one weekly large group meeting consist of Scripture study led by a pastor. Both of these, however, serve to ground students in knowledge of Scripture.

Most of the campus Christian groups I visited use music as an integral part of the praise and worship segment of their meeting. Throughout the Bible, we read of how important it

is to use music and song in our praise and prayer. The psalmists were especially adept at stressing its importance. Psalm 27:6 says, "I will sing and make music to the Lord." Psalm 83 encourages readers to "make music to the Lord with the harp...and the sound of singing, with trumpets and the blast of the ram's horn." Psalm 100:2 reads, "Worship the Lord with gladness; come before him with joyful songs." Music was not, however, intended for use only in the time of the Old Testament. In chapter three of Colossians, Paul wrote, "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly...as you sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs." The writer of James asks in chapter five, "Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise." Clearly, the Lord gave his people music to use to glorify Him.

There are basically two types of songs: praise songs and worship songs. Praise songs tend to be more upbeat and have a quicker tempo than worship songs. They tend to be the melodies that will elicit the most hand clapping and foot tapping of the participants. These songs should be used toward the beginning of a prayer meeting to get those present enthusiastic about worshipping God. Worship songs are more prayerful and reflective in nature and should be used as the prayer meeting progresses in an effort to draw the worshipers into a more reflective time. This variety is important because of the different purposes the two types of music serve. Three groups that have effective music ministries are InterVarsity, Campus Fellowship, and Abundant Life. The dynamics of the three groups are different because of the varied types and number of

instruments they use. All, however, effectively use the format outlined above in order to draw their members into a closer communion with God.

The element that I believe most groups fail to utilize effectively is the practice of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The various gifts are listed by Paul in three different letters: Romans, 1 Corinthians, and Ephesians. I think Paul believed the practice of spiritual gifts to be important because he made a point to tell many different churches about them. Some of the more common gifts are prophecy and speaking in tongues. Other, lesser known gifts include healing and distinguishing of spirits.

What does it mean to practice the gifts of the Spirit? First of all, it means accepting that they exist and that every individual has been given a gift. In Ephesians 4, Paul reminds us, "This is why it says: 'When he ascended on high, he led captives in his train and gave gifts to men'." Group members must also realize that they have been given these gifts so that the entire body may benefit. Paul told the Corinthians, "Now to each one the manifestation of the spirit is given for the common good." With this in mind, group members should feel free to share their gifts with the body and know they will not be thought of as strange or weird. In chapter four of his first letter, Peter wrote, "Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms."

My experience has been that when members of a group are

open and willing to participate in this kind of worship, the Spirit of God really moves among them and inspires and calls them to greater holiness. The one group that I have found that excels in this area is Campus Fellowship. The leadership of this organization actively encourages its members to speak in tongues and share prophecies received. The group has also prayed over members for healing. When attending a meeting, students will be seen participating in all of these activities right along with the leadership.

By offering students a sense of community, Bible instruction, music and worship, and freedom to practice the gifts of the Holy Spirit, I believe a group can fulfill the needs of its student members. Because the students' needs vary from person to person, it is good that the different Christian organizations offer a variety of services to the students of the Ball State community. The diversity offered by the organizations allows each student to satisfy, in a way that best serves him or her, the hungering in his or her heart for the knowledge of Jesus Christ.

**February 3, 1993**

I met with Ms. Linda Kitchen to discuss the requirements for completing this project. We decided that my finished project would include a log of activities, a paper including the historical background of all the Christian organizations on campus, as well as, a description of the types of activities each is presently engaged in, and a copy of the finished brochure that hopefully will be placed in either the Student Life office or the Student Activities office. If, for some reason, it is not possible to have the brochure published, I will turn in an example of what I would like the brochure to look like. She also asked that I turn in a written proposal of how I plan to complete the project. Finally, we went through a list of all of the religious organizations on campus, which I obtained at the Office of Student Activities Annex, and determined which organizations will be included in this project.

**February 4, 1993**

I met with Dr. George Jones, the Assistant Director of Student Activities and the faculty advisor of Religious Council. He was very supportive of my project and said I should contact him anytime I needed anything. He told me about an information day that will be held on campus on March 26 and said that many of the religious organizations will have displays and information there. He gave me an open invitation to attend the religious council meetings, but, unfortunately, I have class during the meeting time. Dr. Jones also introduced me to Omar Habayeb, the president of religious council.

**February 9, 1993**

Ms. Kitchen had some good ideas on how to improve my letter to the organizational staff workers and on how to further organize my proposal so that it has more definite direction. After making the changes in the letter, I took them to the printer and they will be ready to be distributed on Thursday. I spent some time in the library archives. I had hoped to find background information on the various groups on campus but the only information available was about religious council. I figure this is only a minor setback. It probably just means I have to get more historical information from the actual groups than I had originally planned.

I plan to have a questionnaire ready to send out to the staff workers as soon as we return from Spring Break.

**February 11, 1993**

I placed the letters to the staff workers in their mailboxes at the SVS house today. As I was distributing the letters, one of the staff workers came in the office to get his mail (I had already placed his letter in his box). I saw him going through his mail out of the corner of my eye, and I heard him say "Oh, brother." I looked up and noticed that my letter was on the top of his mail stack. My first thought was, "Lord, these were supposed to be the people who were supportive of

this project. I didn't expect to have any problems with the staff workers." Hopefully I'm wrong and he was frustrated about something else and not my project.

I attended an InterVarsity large group meeting tonight. It started off with announcements, followed by a time for sharing, singing, and then a speaker who talked for about 20 minutes. I liked the basic set up of the meeting, but at the same time it seemed very stiff. Enthusiastic praise and worship of the Lord was not encouraged, which is something that I personally look for in a group. This group would, however, be good for a Christian looking for a quieter type of worship. On the positive side, the staff worker and students were very friendly and the meeting was run efficiently. I enjoyed the music, but it would have been nice if we could have sung more. If I was looking for a Christian group to join, I would consider this one, but I would still keep my options open.

### **February 18, 1993**

I went to a Campus Crusade for Christ meeting tonight. The first thing that struck me was the size of the group. The meeting was in RB 125, which is a mid-sized lecture hall. There were between 75 and 100 students in attendance. At first I was bothered by the fact that not too many students came up to introduce themselves. After we sang a couple of songs, they took 10 minutes to go around and meet new people. I thought this was an interesting way to meet visitors, but I'm not so sure that I liked it. I think I would have been much more comfortable if at least the person sitting next to me would have introduced himself before the meeting started.

The meeting started with a couple of songs. Then a member made the announcements, followed by another song. All of the music was very upbeat, but I did not find it very conducive to worship. It was almost like a great big party. On the one hand, that is great. We should have fun with our brothers and sisters in Christ. On the other hand, though, we also need to worship together, and I did not see too many people who appeared to be in prayerful state of mind. After the songs, the staff worker gave a teaching, which was very good. The meeting closed with another song. The meeting lasted about an hour.

### **February 22, 1993**

I completed the questionnaire to send to the staff workers and updated my proposal and turned both in to Ms. Kitchen. I also realized that I have completely forgotten about reading the constitutions of the groups. That is something I really need to get started on.

### **February 26, 1993**

I met with Ms. Kitchen today to discuss my questionnaire. She said everything looked good and we spent the majority of the meeting discussing the best way to distribute them. I originally planned to send them through campus mail, but Dan

Kabele, staff worker for Campus Fellowship, suggested otherwise. He said that a lot of the staff workers do not check their mail on a regular basis so the questionnaires may sit in the mailboxes for a few weeks before the workers actually see them. He suggested that I mail them or deliver them in person. After much discussion, Ms. Kitchen and I decided the best option was to deliver them in person. I plan to get the completed questionnaire printed this week and possibly deliver a few before leaving for Spring Break. The majority of questionnaires will be delivered the week we return from break. I will ask that they be returned by March 31.

I attended a Campus Fellowship meeting this week (actually, I attend one of these every week). I know that I can not be objective about this group, but here's a review anyway. The meeting started off with a lot of singing - about 30 minutes worth. I found the music very prayerful and praiseful, making it very easy to worship the Lord. Members believe in using the Gifts of the Spirit when worshipping. This means that members often speak in tongues, share word gifts (Scripture readings they feel the Lord wants them to share), and share prophecies. We had a short teaching on Christian living from one of the staff members and then we had a time for sharing what God has been doing in our lives. We had a time for petitions and then closed with a song. I think our group is very friendly. Perhaps it is because we are so small - about 15 members. The meeting lasted about one and one-half hours.

#### **March 17, 1993**

I am much farther behind than I expected to be at this point. After a case of the stomach flu the week before Spring Break and catching another stomach virus once I got back, I have not really had the energy or the time to devote to this project. After talking to Ms. Kitchen today, we decided to leave the return date on the questionnaires the same (March 31) and I am just going to have to work really hard at getting them out to all of the staff workers next week.

#### **March 18, 1993**

Tonight I went to an Abundant Life meeting. Of all of the meetings I have attended so far, this is my favorite (outside of the Campus Fellowship meetings I regularly attend.) The meeting started with announcements, followed by the members breaking off into groups according to their interest in the different speakers giving talks. (I was told by a staff worker that this is a little out of the ordinary. Normally, the members break off into 3 groups - new Christians, an intermediary-type group, and a group focusing on evangelism.) The speaker I heard tonight was good, but he was a little long-winded, speaking for nearly an hour (according to the staff worker, the small groups normally meet about 40 minutes). This was followed by praise and worship singing. The music was uplifting. It had a good combination of both upbeat songs and slower worship songs. Despite the fact that I enjoy longer music time (this was

approximately 15 minutes) I really enjoyed this part of the meeting. I really felt the Lord's presence. In addition to this, a lot of the people were really friendly, especially the staff workers. It is easy for me to see why this is a popular organization on campus.

### **March 22, 1993**

After a weekend of working hard on my studies and still feeling like I was drowning in work, I knew that I would never be able to hand deliver all of the questionnaires this week. I called Ms. Kitchen and talked to her about it and asked if she thought it would be okay if I put the questionnaires in the organizations' mailboxes at the SVS house and then made sure that I called the staff workers to make sure that they received them. She said she thought that would be fine, and that I should do whatever would be easiest for me. I was able to get the questionnaires in the mailboxes this morning. They have a return date of April 5, which is two weeks from today. Now to sit and wait.

### **March 25, 1993**

I called several different staff workers today to make sure that they received the questionnaire and to find out when their large group meeting is. I am so glad that I did not try to deliver the questionnaires in person - these people are impossible to get a hold of. I am wondering if the Richard Allen Fellowship is still active. I called the staff worker and found out that he is now living in Richmond. The man I talked to knew absolutely nothing about the organization. I think I will call George Jones and see what he knows about the situation. I am discovering that some groups do not have large group meetings. Two groups that fall into this category are the College Fellowship and Warner Fellowship. That makes my life a little easier - two fewer meetings to attend.

I attended Chi Alpha tonight. Once again I hit a group meeting that is not following regular format. Tonight, a staff worker from Ohio State University came in and made a presentation. From what I understand, they normally have a 30 minute prayer meeting as opposed to tonight's one hour presentation. One thing I noticed is that this does not seem to be a very outgoing group. Despite the fact that members were passing out fliers on campus in order to boost attendance for tonight's meeting, they did not seem to be actively seeking out new faces and trying to make new people feel comfortable. Only the staff worker made an attempt to talk to me. I must admit that I did not feel very welcome.

### **March 30, 1993**

I talked to two more staff workers today. Neither one of them knew anything about my project, making it quite obvious that they hardly ever check their campus mailbox, if they check it at all. One of the staff workers asked me (in a not so polite tone of voice) to send a copy of the questionnaire to another

address because he never checks the mailbox at the SVS house. I agreed to do that. It just frustrates me that these organizations have these mailboxes and they do not ever check them. How am I supposed to contact them? Trying to telephone them has been a lesson in frustration. I have never talked to so many answering machines and had so few calls returned. I am going to wait until April 5 (the deadline I put on the questionnaires) and then depending on how many organizations have not yet responded I will come up with an alternate plan of action.

### **March 31, 1993**

I attended a meeting of the Lutheran Student Fellowship. This is a very small organization. They have two meeting times throughout the week for Bible study (both nights cover the same material). After the Wednesday night meeting, they have a business meeting. There were five people at the Bible study tonight, which I was told is a little below average. Both meetings average about the same attendance. The students and the staff worker were all very friendly and worked hard to make me feel welcome.

I talked to Dan Kabele last night about some of the problems I have encountered with trying to get a hold of staff workers while wondering if some of the groups are even still in existence. He suggested that I talk to Rodelyn McPherson, staff worker at the Lutheran Center and head of the Religious Council. Dan thinks I could gain a lot by talking to her. I am going to try to call her tomorrow and set up an appointment.

### **April 5, 1993**

I went to an Upper Room Fellowship meeting tonight. Actually, I should say I tried to go to a meeting. I got there and the only people there were the staff worker and two student members. They decided not to have a meeting. I am glad that I was able to meet the staff worker and the students. All three were very friendly.

### **April 5, 1993**

I was able to take time and phone a few of the students whose names were given to me by staff workers and talk to them about their respective organizations. I fear that most of the answers I will get are going to sound a lot alike. I am going to have to try to think of more questions.

Today was the requested date for returning the questionnaires. I have nine out of 27. I suppose a third of them isn't too bad...but it isn't too great either.

### **April 7, 1993**

Tonight I mailed postcards to the staff workers that I have not yet heard from. The postcards said the following:

On February 11, you should have received a letter in your mailbox at the SVS House asking for your

help with my Honors thesis about campus Christian organizations. On March 22, you should have received a follow-up survey. Did you receive them? If so, please return the survey to me ASAP. If not, please contact me and I will send another copy of each. Your cooperation is vital to the success of my project. Thank You!

At the bottom of the postcard, I put my name, address, phone number, and VAX mail username.

#### **April 13, 1993**

Tonight I attended a meeting of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The group was small with about seven members in attendance. The group was fairly friendly, especially the staff worker and the student president. Tonight, one of the university football coaches gave a presentation on coaching with a Christian attitude. Afterwards, there was a time for sharing and then a time for group prayer. The meeting lasted about an hour. I was disappointed that there was no singing, as this is usually my favorite part of the meetings I attend. But, if every group was exactly the same, there would be no need for the campus to have so many different Christian organizations.

I was also able to complete a few student interviews today.

#### **April 15, 1993**

Today I interviewed Sr. Rita Schroeder, the campus minister at the Newman Center (Catholic Student Union). Considering this was my first interview, it went fairly well, and it took approximately 30 minutes, which is what I had estimated.

#### **April 21, 1993**

I went to a meeting of Alpha Omega Delta tonight. It was a Bible study that lasted about an hour. There were only four students there, but there were quite a few missing due to a lot of studying to do before finals. Everyone was very friendly and willing to discuss my project and their group. I was able to interview students tonight as well as talk to the staff worker. It was a very productive evening.

#### **April 29, 1993**

I met with Ms. Kitchen today and updated her on what I have done so far. We discussed how to contact the staff workers that I still have not heard from. I'm going to talk to Rodelyn McPherson (mentioned earlier, but I had forgotten about it) to see if she has any ideas. I probably will not contact her until after I return to Muncie for summer school. This summer I am going to interview as many staff workers as possible and read the organization's constitutions which are on file at the Student Life office.

#### **September 9, 1993**

Considering the date of this entry, it must be pretty

obvious that my goals for the summer were not accomplished. I was very busy with summer school, and I simply did not have time to do anything else. By the time I returned for the fall semester, I was so frustrated with the whole idea of completing this project, I was just about ready to forget about the project and drop out of the Honors College. After a long talk with a good friend, I decided to just try to restructure the methods behind the project and then bounce it off of Ms. Kitchen. She approved the changes, and so did Mrs. Edmonds. So, I guess I am back in the game. The changes to the project can be seen in Proposal 2.

### **September 17, 1993**

I met with Dr. Jones today. We discussed all of the organizations that I had not received a response from last year. He was able to tell that two of those organizations, United Ministries and Church of God in Christ, are no longer in existence. He was also able to give me some additional people to try to contact that he thought might be able to help me in getting information about some of the other groups.

I also completed the rough drafts of letters to send to the organizations and of the second questionnaire.

### **September 20, 1993**

I met with Ms. Kitchen to discuss my letters and questionnaire. She made several suggestions of corrections to make.

### **September 26, 1993**

I made the corrections to the letters that Ms. Kitchen suggested and then photocopied them and the questionnaires. They are all ready to be distributed to the staff workers and will be mailed out tomorrow. I asked that the information be returned to me by October 7.

### **November 6, 1993**

Today a friend of mine taught me how to use Microsoft Word on the MacIntosh computer. After almost an hour of playing around with font, margins, and various other aspects of the design for the pamphlet, I think we finally came up with a design that looks good, is easy to read, and contains all of the necessary information. I hope to show my idea to Ms. Kitchen sometime this week.

I have received second questionnaires from 13 of the 25 groups. I suppose it is time to start making phone calls to staff workers again. YUK! I really hate this part.

### **November 11, 1993**

I showed my designed brochure pages to Ms. Kitchen today. She really liked the way it looked. I am really glad that is one thing I do not have to re-do. Designing it the first time was hard enough.

**December 29, 1993**

I decided that if staff workers do not care enough about getting their groups into this brochure with a nice entry by returning their survey, then I will just put in the information I have. This makes some of the entries look pretty pathetic, but I just do not have time to humor them. If they are adults, then they need to take some responsibility.

I also did some brainstorming today for my essay that will accompany this log.

**January 23, 1994**

I did some work on the computer today. I typed in some entries for the brochure. This is much more time consuming than I expected. I may have to solicit some help. Trying to do this project and working full time at the prosecutor's office for my internship is really starting to get to be too much, and I am only a few weeks into the semester!

**February 6, 1994**

I was able to get the rest of the information for the brochure to a friend who has agreed to type the rest and then print everything out for me. He agreed to have it done by Spring Break. This is an incredible blessing. I feel like I have time to breathe again.

**February 26, 1994**

I began work on the essay today. The ideas seemed to flow fairly well. I hope it makes as much sense to the reader as it does to me.

**March 8, 1994**

I took the brochure pages to the printer today and had them put it together with a cover. I am very excited that this part of the project is done. I am really pleased with the way it turned out. It is exactly the way that I envisioned it a year ago when I started this project. WOW!!

I worked on the essay again tonight and was able to finish the rough draft.

**March 16, 1994**

I finished typing the first draft of the essay and gave it to someone to proofread.

**March 21, 1994**

I got the proofread copy of my essay back and revised the manuscript. Tonight I will print out copies of everything.

It is hard to believe how much work this project actually took and that I have been working on it for over a year. I have learned that trying to complete a project that requires the cooperation of a lot of people is much more difficult than I imagined. I have also learned how to set long range goals and now know that I can complete a project of this size. I must admit, however, that I am very grateful that it is done.

## APPENDIX A

### Proposal 1

1. Contact the staff workers of all the Christian organizations by campus mail and tell them about my project by February 11.
2. Obtain any written material published by each organization and read it.
3. Read the organizations' constitutions that are on file at the Student Life office.
4. Research the history of each organization at the archives at Bracken Library.
5. Send a questionnaire to each staff worker by March 4.
6. Interview each staff worker and student president to find out his/her view of the purpose/mission of the organization, the denomination the group is geared toward (if any), how they attract new members, how the members are encouraged to grow in their faith, etc.
7. Talk to students active in each organization to see if their view of what the group accomplishes agrees with the advisor's view.
8. Attend at least one regular large group meeting of each organization.
9. Compile all information into a large research paper.
10. Condense information into a brochure giving brief descriptions of each organizations current activities and the names and phone numbers of contact people.

## APPENDIX B

Schmidt Hall Box 60  
Muncie, IN 47306  
February 11, 1993

Dear

I am a junior Honors College student with a double major in Criminal Justice and Legal Administration. To fulfill the requirements of the Honors College, I am working on my Senior Thesis/Creative Project (I like to plan ahead). You and your organization play an important role in this project.

With Ms. Linda Kitchen of the Physical Education Department as my thesis advisor, I am working on a paper that will give brief histories of all of the Christian organizations on campus, along with a description of what each organization does on a regular basis to help its students grow closer to the Lord. I then plan to condense this information into a brochure that will give brief descriptions of each organization and who to contact for further information on each group. It is my hope that this brochure will be published and then be available for students to pick up in either the Student Life Office or the Office of Student Activities Annex. I believe that a booklet of this sort would be extremely beneficial to students who are looking to get involved in a Christian organization but do not know where to begin looking for a group that would best meet their needs.

To begin, I will be sending you a questionnaire right after Spring Break which will assist in gathering the necessary background information on your organization. Later, I will be contacting you to arrange an interview. During the interview, I will be asking about the organization's mission statement, the types of programs offered, how the organization attracts new members, etc. I may also ask for historical background. I will also be talking to students about how the organization meets their needs.

It is difficult to estimate when this will happen. I plan on studying one organization at a time throughout the next 10 months, so it may be anytime between March and December before you hear from me again. I thank you in advance for your patience and cooperation.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact me through campus mail, by phone (285-4456), or through VAX mail (00AEMOUNTS).

Sincerely,

Amy E. Mounts

## APPENDIX C

Here it is - the long awaited questionnaire! I'm sure you have been impatiently searching your mailbox for this (okay, so I have a wild imagination.)

name of organization

staff member completing questionnaire

1. Is your group a branch of a national organization?  
If yes, how many chapters are there nation wide?
2. How long has your group been at Ball State?
3. What is your organization's Mission statement?
4. Is your group geared toward a particular denomination?  
If yes, which?
5. Approximately how many members does your organization have?  
  
If possible, give percentages of how many males and how many females are in the group.
6. Please give a brief description of what your weekly large group meeting consists of (i.e. business meeting, worship, Bible teaching, etc.)
7. Outside of the weekly large group meeting, what other organized activities does your organization offer (i.e. Bible studies, discussion groups, etc.)

8. What percentage of the membership participates in these?

9. Does your organization provide opportunities for missionary work?

If yes, please describe.

Please give the name and phone number of your organization's student president so that I can contact him/her for a short interview.

Please list the names and phone numbers of 4 members (2 male and 2 female) that you think would be willing to discuss your group with me.

\*\*\*\*\*

I will be contacting you for an interview in which I hope to get detailed insight into your group. I expect this interview to last approximately 30 minutes.

Please return to: Amy Mounts  
Schmidt Hall box 60  
Muncie, IN 47306

**By April 5, 1993**

THANKS FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

## APPENDIX D

### Proposal 2

1. Contact all organizations that responded to first questionnaire, thanking them for their help and requesting more information by way of a second questionnaire.
2. Contact all organizations that did not return the first questionnaire. Briefly reexplain project and try to sell them on the idea. Send both first and second set of questions, asking them to respond.
3. Write a paper discussing what I think are important components in a Christian organization, explain why I think so, and give examples of group(s) that do a good job of integrating these items into their activities.
4. Produce previously discussed brochure.

APPENDIX E

September 27, 1993

Dear

Last spring semester I began work on my Honors Thesis which is to develop a brochure describing all of the Christian organizations on campus. As you recall, you assisted me by filling out a questionnaire. Thank you so much for responding! Your cooperation will help a great deal in seeing my Honors Thesis to completion. Instead of scheduling personal interviews with each staff worker as I had originally planned, I have decided to send everyone a second questionnaire. I believe this will be much more efficient than interviews.

Please fill out the enclosed form and return it to me at the address below by October 6. Please note this is a different address than last spring. Please know you are welcome to return the questionnaire by campus mail or by dropping it off at the dorm and having the desk staff put it in my mailbox.

Thank you in advance for your continued support.

In His service,

Amy E. Mounts

Elliott Hall box 69  
Muncie, IN 47306  
285-4309

Organization

Name/position of person completing questionnaire

1. When are your large group meetings (day and time)?
  
2. Who should students contact if they have questions about your organization (please note that this information may not be updated every year, so please consider carefully what you want listed in the brochure in this area.)
  
3. How do you attract new members? What do you try to make sure they know about the group before they come to a large group meeting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Have you observed strong friendships being formed within the group? How is this evident?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Please describe educational opportunities offered by your group, ie Bible studies, retreats.

6. If your group breaks up into small groups outside of the large group meeting, please describe the format and purpose of these.

7. How do you work to achieve your mission statement?

Please feel free to add any comments concerning your group that I did not already ask about but would be helpful to students just learning about your group.

APPENDIX F

September 27, 1993

Dear

Last spring I began work on my Senior Honors Thesis. In an effort to assist incoming students in finding a Christian organization that will meet their needs, I am putting together an informative brochure that will give a brief description of each organization. I believe that having all of this information in one source will make it much easier for students to narrow down the groups they are interested in into a manageable number. Students can then investigate a select few instead of trying to contact all twenty-five organizations.

It is my sincere hope that you want to have your group listed in this publication. My prayer is that this endeavor will glorify our most gracious and loving Father and also increase and unify His kingdom on Ball State's campus.

Enclosed you will find a questionnaire. By completing and returning it to me by October 6, you will provide me with much needed assistance. Please know you are welcome to return the questionnaire by campus mail or by dropping it off at the dorm and having the desk staff put it in my mailbox. Thank you in advance for your cooperation. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 285-4309.

In His service,

Amy E. Mounts

Elliott Hall box 69  
Muncie, IN 47306

name of organization

staff member completing questionnaire

1. Is your group a branch of a national organization?  
If yes, how many chapters are there nation wide?
2. How long has your group been at Ball State?
3. What is your organization's Mission statement?
  
4. Is your group geared toward a particular denomination?  
If yes, which?
5. Approximately how many members does your organization have?
6. Please give a brief description of what your weekly large group meeting consists of (i.e. business meeting, worship, Bible teaching, etc.)
  
7. Outside of the weekly large group meeting, what other organized activities does your organization offer (i.e. Bible studies, discussion groups, etc.)
  
8. What percentage of the membership participates in these?
9. Does your organization provide opportunities for missionary work?  
  
If yes, please describe.

Organization

Name/position of person completing questionnaire

1. When are your large group meetings (day and time)?
  
2. Who should students contact if they have questions about your organization (please note that this information may not be updated every year, so please consider carefully what you want listed in the brochure in this area.)
  
3. How do you attract new members? What do you try to make sure they know about the group before they come to a large group meeting?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
4. Have you observed strong friendships being formed within the group? How is this evident?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
5. Please describe educational opportunities offered by your group, ie Bible studies, retreats.

6. If your group breaks up into small groups outside of the large group meeting, please describe the format and purpose of these.

7. How do you work to achieve your mission statement?

Please feel free to add any comments concerning your group that I did not already ask about but would be helpful to students just learning about your group.