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Mr. Blackwell,

Just returned

from upstairs meeting with
President. Thoroughly enjoyed

your remarks! If there

is any way our ministry

can serve you, please let

me know - it would be a

true honor!

God Bless you!

Elizabeth
Hawes

file
↓
(Maranatha Campus Ministries)

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM FOR MORTON BLACKWELL

FROM: DODIE LIVINGSTON *DL*

SUBJECT: Maranatha Campus Ministries

I note you have received a carbon copy of this request from Maranatha Campus Ministries and would appreciate your recommendations. It is a fund-raising event and ordinarily we would not send a message from the President.

Thank you.

Dodie

*They are a
very supportive
group. Please
do the best
that is appropriate
for them.
Morton
8/14/83*

Communicated by phone -

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

June 14, 1983

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Mr. President,

In conjunction with the Year of the Bible, Maranatha Campus Ministries International is sponsoring \$100-a-plate dinners in 50 cities throughout the United States. The goal of the August 23rd "International Student Affairs Dinners" is to raise money to place Bibles in the hands of as many of the 300,000 foreign students who are studying at our universities as possible.

As you may know, Karl Marx studied for a short time in a New York university. Also, the two men who planned the attack on Pearl Harbor studied at Oregon State University where they were not treated with kindness. Because of that, those two Japanese students vowed revenge on the United States.

To thwart that kind of image of America, students in Maranatha Campus Ministries are meeting international students at airports and bus terminals as they come to study at our universities. We tutor them, hold dinners to honor them, and generally reach out to love them in any way we can.

Accordingly, I have asked several senators and congressmen to introduce a bill declaring August 23rd as International Student Appreciation Day in America. That is the day we are holding our dinners simultaneously across the nation.

A multi-media show is being produced to educate dinner attendees about foreign students in the United States. Efraim Zimbalist, Jr., has been asked to narrate, and many other leaders have been invited to speak briefly on behalf of our international visitors.

I wanted to share this with you, Mr. President, because I know it flows with your concepts of volunteerism and because I think it is a good thing for Americans to be doing. If you could send a message of encouragement it would be greatly appreciated and something we could share with all those attending in the cities where these dinners will be held. A sample greeting is enclosed for your convenience.

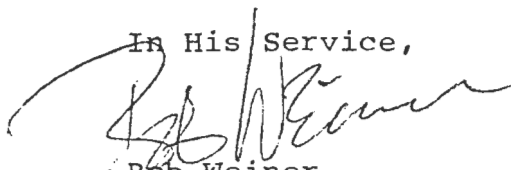
President Ronald Reagan

Page 2

June 14, 1983

I am praying for you, Mr. President. Thousands of Christian students are interceding for you, the Cabinet, and others in strategic positions. We believe you are God's man for this nation. Our support will come not only from a position of prayer, Sir, but also from our nation's heritage to campaign and vote for the candidate of our choice!

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Weiner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and "W".

Bob Weiner

Director

Maranatha Campus Ministries
International

BW:sd

Enclosure

cc: Morton Blackwell

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 27, 1983

Mr. Brian Onken
Christian Research Institute
Post Office Box 500
San Juan Capistrano, Calif. 92693

Dear Mr. Onken:

This is in response to your letter of March 23 to the President regarding Maranatha Campus Ministries. Part of my duty here is as the President's liaison to Protestant religious groups.

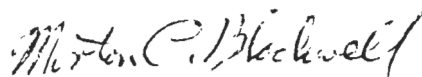
We have had frequent contacts with Maranatha, all of which have been constructive. Representatives of this ministry have attended various meetings and briefings here, some of which included the President. The letter to which you refer is authentic.

There is an excellent tradition in our country of toleration of a wide variety of religious activities. Maranatha's practice of vigorous witnessing for their Christian faith is perhaps not to the taste of all. But our experience with this group, our information from students not affiliated with it, and the judgement of a large number of respected, independent religious leaders lead to the conclusion that this group is well within that American religious tradition.

Enclosed are some letters commending this organization.

Thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,



Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Office of Public Liaison

37

B. R. Jiplett

ask Mark Caulk in



January 31, 1983

The President
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Maranatha Ministries is in the process of applying for recognition as a campus organization at Southern Methodist University.

We have received very disturbing reports from chaplains, campus ministers, and administrators at several other universities about the divisive and destructive effects of Maranatha. Also, some of our students at SMU have had very detrimental involvement with Maranatha at another campus before they came to SMU. Some of our colleagues at SMU and in local Dallas churches are very concerned about the negative results of Maranatha Ministries.

Therefore, in light of the foregoing, we were quite surprised to find a picture of you and Mrs. Reagan and a statement from you in a booklet which they are using apparently rather extensively for recruiting and soliciting funds. If this is being done with your knowledge and permission, we would be very interested in any specific and positive information you can give us about this group.

Sincerely yours,

William M. Finnin, Jr.
William M. Finnin, Jr.

Robert O. Cooper
Robert O. Cooper

Chaplains to the University

Enclosure

December 10, 1982

I am delighted to extend my warm greetings to all those gathered for the Tenth Anniversary Meeting of Maranatha Campus Ministries International.

This occasion presents me with a welcome opportunity to express my continuing high regard for the work of your organization. Maranatha Campus Ministries plays a major role in furthering Christian fellowship and principles on campuses around the world. By working to promote wholesome values among young people, you are helping build a more humane, compassionate, and spiritually attuned world.

You have my best wishes for a most enjoyable and productive meeting.

/s/ RONALD REAGAN

CALL MORTON BLACKWELL'S OFFICE FOR DELIVERY
THIS MORNING, DEC. 10

RR:WELLS:vs
cc: K.Osborne/M.Blackwell/D.Livingston/CF
EVENT: DEC. 10



CHRISTIAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Walter Martin, Director

123
March 23, 1983

Ronald Reagan
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Reagan,

I have a matter that has come before me that causes me some concern. I know that you are an extremely busy man, but I would appreciate it if you could indulge me for but a few moments in order to clear up a serious question.

Christian Research Institute is a Christian transdenominational ~~ministry concentrating in the areas of biblical apologetics and evangelism and providing biblical responses to analyses of the cults and aberrational groups of our day.~~ I have enclosed some literature that will further familiarize you with our work if you are interested.

Recently, we have been investigating a nationwide organization called ~~Maranatha Christian Fellowships, founded and directed by Bob Weiner of Gainesville, Florida.~~ We have received numerous reports that cause us to seriously question the teachings and practices of this group, and we have met with their leaders in an effort to get some basic questions answered. With these thoughts as a preface, allow me to get to the point of my letter.

Maranatha Christian Fellowships have recently produced a promotional brochure with endorsements by various individuals. They write:

Some of the most highly-esteemed leaders of our day are part of the Maranatha "family," including parents, theologians, missionaries, ministers, educators, and famous entertainers.

Some of their comments about our ministry follow....

Turning the page of the brochure, one then sees a picture of you and Mrs. Reagan under the heading "From the Famous." ~~With the picture is your signature under a quote, attributed to you, lauding Maranatha Christian Fellowships.~~

Board of Directors

President Prof. Walter Martin
Vice President/Treasurer Stanley Tonnesson

Secretary Dr. Douglas F. Allen
Assistant Secretary Donald S. Reddington

Everett R. Jacobson

Post Office Box 500
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693
714/855-9926

Ronald Reagan
March 23, 1983
Page 2

The impact of the brochure is that you and Mrs. Reagan are "~~part of the Maranatha 'family' and that you have willingly and with informed consent endorsed the work of Maranatha Christian Fellowships.~~ I am quite concerned about this apparent endorsement.

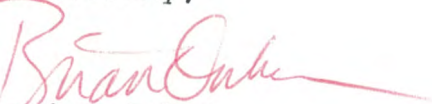
If possible, could you please clarify a few points for me. I would appreciate knowing the following:

1. Are you personally familiar with the work of Bob and Rose Weiner and Maranatha Christian Fellowships?
2. Is the letter attributed to you authentic? If so, would it be possible to ascertain the context in which it was written? Was it a type of "form letter"?
3. Were you contacted by Maranatha Christian Fellowships for permission to use your comments as a published endorsement of their ministry? Do you see yourself as part of the "Maranatha family"?
4. Do you willingly and with informed consent endorse the work of Maranatha as "highly commendable"?

This group is very highly public-relations oriented. They are trying to establish themselves as a respectable and biblical college campus ministry. We have concerns about the students getting involved in this group and the use of your apparent endorsement gives them the respectability they desire and need.

Any help you could offer in clarifying your connection with Maranatha Christian Fellowships would be very much appreciated. I have enclosed photocopies of the promotional brochure for your information.

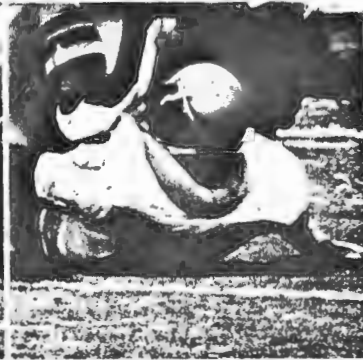
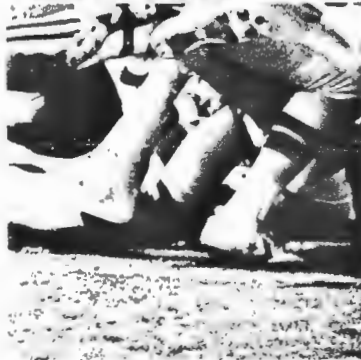
Sincerely,



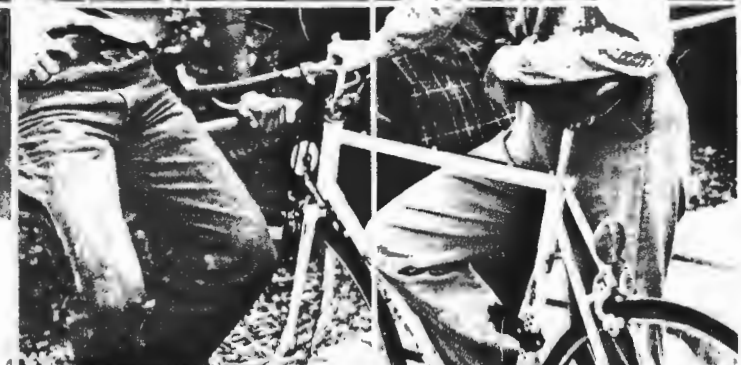
Brian Onken
Senior Research Consultant

BAO/kz
enclosures

Maranatha Christian Fellowships International



Part Of
University
Life!



*Idealistic. Enthusiastic.
Intelligent. Sensitive.
Eager to Learn. Eager
to mature. Eager to
accept responsibility.*

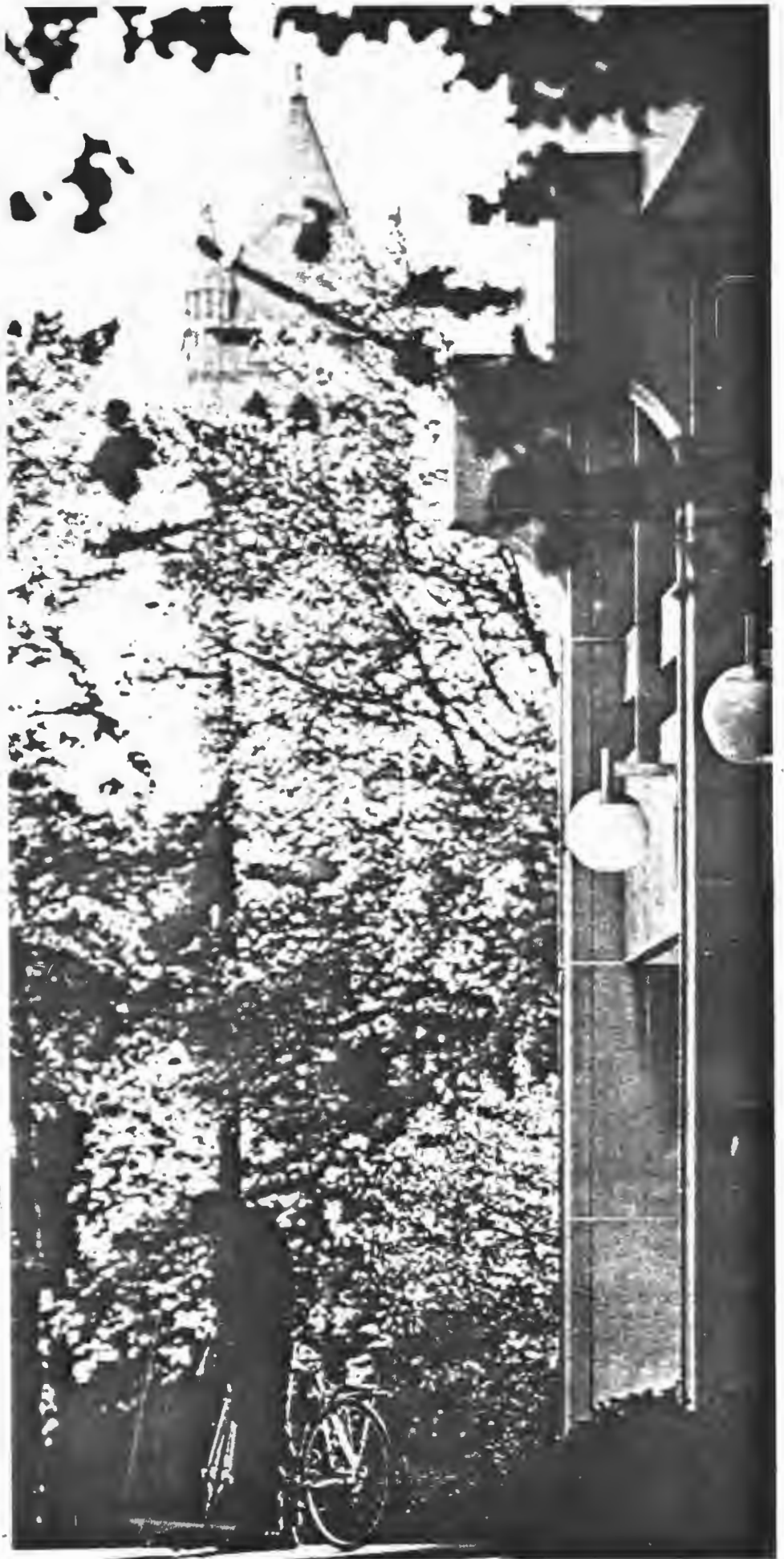
College students today are perhaps the best of what America has to offer. They are the future, striving for a better world, full of dreams and their goals of success.

The goal of Maranatha Christian Fellowships is to help them grow in every area of their lives...from their family life, to responsibility to their country, to faith in God.

Toward that end, Maranatha brings well-known and respected speakers and teachers into colleges and universities across America and abroad.

Some of the most highly-esteemed leaders of our day are part of the Maranatha "family", including parents, theologians, missionaries, ministers, educators, and famous entertainers.

Some of their comments about our ministry follow:



From the famous: The Best Part About Maranatha Christian Fellowships



Ronald & Nancy Reagan

"I am pleased that you were able to be here when I announced my proposed amendment to restore the right of voluntary prayer to our public schools. Your work with the Maranatha Campus Ministries is highly commendable. I know that the young people whose lives you have enriched with your ministry will become splendid citizens and responsible caretakers of our heritage of liberty. Nancy joins me in wishing you much success in your efforts."

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan



Pat Boone

"I'm really delighted with the ministry of Maranatha...I hope and pray that God will arrange it so that every college student in America is confronted with Jesus."

- * Entertainer
- * Christian Author
- * Father of Four



Charles M. Duke, Jr.

"As a parent, former astronaut and Christian, I heartily endorse Maranatha Christian Fellowships. I would recommend parents to encourage their son or daughter to become part of this growing, vibrant campus fellowship. Maranatha kids are the sharpest, most well-rounded students on campus because of their relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ!"

* Astronaut



Rosey Grier

"I think people all over the country should know about what you're doing in Maranatha Christian Fellowships and the love that you're showing."

- * Former NFL football player
- Member of the fearsome foursome of the L.A. Rams
- * Campus Evangelist

↓

Maranatha Foundation Trust

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20009

Thursday the 7th
April, 1983

Mr. Morton Blackwell - 191
Old Executive Office Building
Washington, D. C. - 20500

Dear Mr. Blackwell:

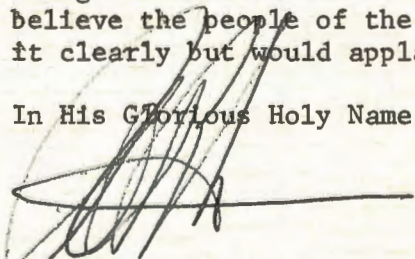
For whatever mystifying reason, people who live in places like Oklahoma think people who live in Washington, D. C. do little more than play palsy with incumbent presidents. Hence the enclosures.

With Carolyn as your secretary -- and your on-going exposure to the international ministries -- it would be difficult to imagine there not being an 'intercessory group in residence' -- if not under the President's desk.

However, so long as there are Americans who believe they are the only ones praying for our national concerns, our President and 'all in authority', we will remain a healthy and productive nation.

Should these things be thought worthy of the President's notice, there is something you might suggest to Mr. Reagan. Nearly all previous depressions and deep recessions have had to be cured by a major war. What Mr. Reagan is seeking to do through an arms build-up would do all the things a war would do -- stimulate the economy, spur new industry and create jobs -- without the horror of a grizzly new conflict to destroy our youth. I believe what he is endeavoring to do is of the Lord -- and, if properly presented, I believe the people of the United States would not only see it clearly but would applaud his efforts.

In His Glorious Holy Name,



Raymond W. Bates, Trustee

To refresh you as to who I am, you very kindly conducted a small group of us through part of The White House one night when the scheduled tour was cancelled. I'm the tall one.

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

February 8, 1983

Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the
President
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Dear Morton,

Enclosed is enough material, I believe, to present a positive answer to the chaplains questions. Please note the statements made by Christian Life Magazine and Charisma Magazine about Maranatha Campus Ministries.

The letters I have enclosed are not all endorsement letters. They purport only to show a friendly relationship existing between persons and/or ministries and Maranatha. Those that are endorsements are quite evident.

The lengthy statement by Joseph Witherspoon of the University of Texas Law School may be of special interest to the chaplains.

May I suggest the chaplains contact Pastor John M. Wilkerson, minister at Bethel Temple Assembly of God. He could supply a cogent view of the overall ministry, and from a local perspective.

Pastor Wilkerson can be reached at (817)457-1111 or 429-2722. His church is located 6801 Meadowbrook Drive, Fort Worth, Texas, 76112.

In the enclosed brochure, we have attempted to present pastors, parents and leaders from many different religious backgrounds in an effort to show the broad support Maranatha enjoys.

Our one goal is to be pleasing to the Lord Jesus and be a unifying, positive force on the campus and in the community.

We have made mistakes, but have tried to right any wrongs. . . and we want to do that with respect to these chaplains, as well. We should be honored to sit down and discuss any specific grievances they or others have with us. We are open and very willing to respond to constructive criticism that we could use to change more into the image of our Lord and Savior.

Morton, I hope this will help you in writing your letter. I appreciate your contacting us and giving me opportunity to share from our perspective. I am thankful that God has placed you where He has. We are praying for you as well as President Reagan. Please call if there is any more I can do regarding this or other matters.

Sincerely in Him,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bob Nolte". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "B" and a long, sweeping underline.

Bob Nolte
Ministry Relations

BN/nb

Enclosures

5
Mabel
Brandon
(*)

file
MARANATHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES
139 C Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

OCT 5 1982

MB
to Mark

September 27, 1982

The President and Mrs. Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President and Mrs. Reagan,

It was such an honor to personally meet you this past Saturday during the School Prayer Day ceremony at the White House. Representing Maranatha Campus Ministries, and our monthly publication "The Forerunner," I hope that my remarks somehow encouraged you concerning America's youth.

I am optimistic concerning the young people of this nation due to my contact with our sixty fellowships located on major university campuses across America. In interviewing some 10,000 to 15,000 students monthly, we are finding that thousands of students cherish the same traditional values which you also hold dear.

Many students in our ministry have become active in raising a godly standard on the nation's universities. They are becoming involved by supporting candidates, holding rallies, writing and phoning their elected representatives on key moral issues, and most importantly, praying for our nation daily. Please be assured that you and your family are the subject of many of these prayers.

We were very pleased to have the opportunity to bring Rosey Grier to the White House and later to participate in the rally. Rosey has a tremendous love for young people and has been working with us on the college campuses. He later indicated to me his encouragement concerning his visit with you.

Thank you so much for your openness and your willingness to take a stand on behalf of morality. If we can serve you in any way, please do not hesitate to contact us. I can assure you of a virtual army of young people committed to help in any way needed. God bless you both.

Sincerely,

Mark Caulk

Mark Caulk
Director

MC:amo

file

MARANATHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES
139 C Street, S.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003
Phone (202)544-6200

December 8, 1982

Mr. Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to
the President
The White House
Washington, D.C.

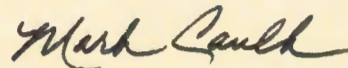
Dear Mr. Blackwell,

Hello. I am writing you concerning an error in the December issue of our monthly periodical, "The Forerunner." If you have read your copy, you may have noticed the "Washington Report" on page 6.

Due to a miscommunication between our Washington correspondent and the Forerunner staff, certain information concerning our attendance of the School Prayer Day ceremony is missing. The article could be interpreted that myself and other members of Maranatha had a private audience with the President. Of course, this was not the case. In fact, we were privileged to participate along with some seventy others, many of whom were able to greet and share briefly with the President and Mrs. Reagan.

Please accept our apology for this error. We are so excited about what God is doing in Washington, D.C., and are encouraged at the results since our arrival in August. God bless you.

Sincerely,



Mark Caulk
Director

MC:amo

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

11-29-82

Dodie:

Morton thinks we should have a Presidential message to this tenth anniversary gathering of Maranatha. If you will return it to me, I will answer their letter for him and send the written message and explain why they can't have a video or the man in person! Thanks

Carolyn Sundseth

Need by 12-10 for program --
earlier if possible so I can get
it to Florida to them by 12-10.

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

September 13, 1982

Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Ave.
Washington, D.C. 20006

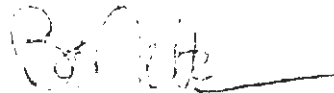
Dear Morton,

Enclosed is the original letter to the President. If it is not strong enough, as you counseled me on the phone...please return it with any suggestions.

I would appreciate it if you would route it to the other assistants and take one of the copies for yourself.

Thank you and have a wonderful day in the Lord:

Sincerely,



Bob Nolte
Ministry Relations

BN/nb

Enclosures

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

September 13, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

Three to five thousand university students from all over the U.S. will be gathering in Fort Worth, Texas, from December 28th through January 1, 1983 to receive spiritual nourishment and "marching orders" on how to bring our nation back to her godly heritage.

As Commander and Chief, I would like to personally invite you to speak to these university students either in person or by videotape.

Many of these collegians worked for your election in 1980, will be working for it again in '84 and this year have worked hard for the election or re-election of Republican lawmakers both in Congress and in their respective statehouses.

In fact, Paul Weyrich said it was volunteers from Maranatha Campus Fellowships that went door-to-door in Republican Congressman Mark Siljander's district that won his primary battle this past August in Michigan.

You would be speaking to these kind of young people, youth who take the initiative - on their own - to campaign for the election of men with principle and conviction to lead our nation.

As you did for the National Right to Life convention in July, we would like to have you speak via videotape that we would play on large screen television. The speech would only need to be 10 to 15 minutes long and be of an inspirational nature to commission university students to become the leaders that God wants them to be in their generation.

Of course, we would love to have you speak live to this group of Christian students. However, I was counseled that perhaps this would be the most feasible arrangement because of your schedule, the Christmas holidays, etc.


For your information, Maranatha Campus Ministries will have Christian fellowships on nearly 100 campuses by the end of this year, representing young people from virtually every state in the union. A number of foreign students from our overseas ministries will also be attending the Ft. Worth Conference.

Thank you for consideration of our request, Mr. President. We will await reply from your staff.

Please be assured of our constant prayers for you, ...daily prayers that we see God answering as you responsibility lead our nation.

By the way, many of our collegians at Kansas State attended your speech last week in Manhattan and said your address was fantastic! Keep up the good work!!

In Jesus' mighty power and love,



Robert T. Weiner
Director
Maranatha Campus Ministries
International

RTW/nb

cc: Morton Blackwell
Special Assistant to the President
Edwin Meese
Counsellor
James A. Baker III
Chief of Staff
William Clark
Assistant to the President
Edwin Harper
Assistant to the President

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

Morton Blackwell
Assistant to the President
Room 191
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C., 20006

Dear Morton,

The President is unable to make a videotape address for our upcoming 10th anniversary conference in Fort Worth. Mr. Sadleir informed us last week of this unfortunate situation, but we are still rejoicing and believing perhaps a Presidential telegram could be sent.

A number of Christian pastors and ministry directors are sending congratulatory telegrams or letters that will be read on Dec. 28 during the conference opening. Many of those letters have already arrived. Others, such as Dr. Pat Robertson of the Christian Broadcasting Network, have been asked to send telegrams on the day of the conference.

Would it be possible for the President to send such a greeting -- not only to wish us God's blessing during the 5-day conference but also a congratulations on Maranatha's 10th anniversary celebration.

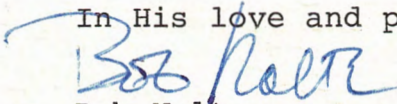
If a telegram would be difficult, perhaps a letter could be sent to our office here in Florida. Staff will be here up until Dec. 22. If a telegram to the conference is possible, it should be sent to:

Bob Weiner
c/o Maranatha Conference/Bob Muni
Americana Hotel
200 Main Street
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

I have enclosed some information on Maranatha for the person in charge of composing a telegram and/or letter. I think it will meet all your needs.

Thanks, my brother, and have a wonderful holiday season with your family.

In His love and power,


Bob Nolte
Ministry Relations

I had an ad. requested one for them & mailed it the day this came. Concl.

Maranatha observing 10th anniversary

Maranatha Campus Ministries International is observing its 10th anniversary with a year-end celebration, December 28 through January 1, 1983. The ministry began in 1972 during a high school

revival in Paducah, Kentucky, when Bob and Rose Weiner began holding Bible studies for students.

Students from around the world will be attending the leadership conference in Fort

Worth, Texas. They will celebrate what God has done in evangelizing campuses of the world. Among the speakers will be Rosey Grier, former National Football League player for the Los Angeles Rams (see October *Charisma* for story on Grier). Students will also hear Jack Hayford, T. L. Osborn, Dick Mills, Winkie Pratney, John Gimenez, Terry Law, Dick Eastman, and other well-known ministers.

Bob Weiner, founder of Maranatha Campus Ministries International, says that many of the young people saved during the early days of the ministry are now preaching the gospel on some 70 campuses where Maranatha has fellowships around the world. The ministry has sent over 300 young people into some form of full-time campus ministry.

The ministry's goal is to reach every university campus in the world with the gospel by December 31, 1985.

Maranatha is publisher of *The Forerunner* newspaper which has a distribution of 100,000 each month on the 70 college campuses. *Charismata continued*

Pentecostals strengthen Cross-cultural commitment

The Church of God, with headquarters in Cleveland, Tennessee, voted to renew its commitment to cross-cultural ministry. The vote occurred at the denomination's 59th General Assembly in Kansas City, Missouri. It presently is working among more than 20 different language groups within the United States.

The editor of Spanish publications for The Church of God, the Rev. Roberto Rivera, told the General Assembly, "The influx of immigrants and refugees into the United

States has opened dramatic new avenues of ministry. People reached by the church in their home countries come to the U.S. with a strong denominational identity. If they can't find a Church of God worshipping in their own language, they start one."

"These churches provide an excellent basis for evangelism," commented the Rev. Bill Rayburn, overseer of metropolitan Chicago. The church also provides assistance to newcomers by helping them find jobs and learn English.

New Home of the International Bible Institute & Seminary

- LOCAL CLASSES
- CORRESPONDENCE COURSES
- ORDINATION PROGRAM
- THEOLOGICAL DEGREES
- ACCREDITED BY THE INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITING COMMISSION FOR SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES



Complete Your Education
A FULL RANGE OF UNDERGRADUATE AND GRADUATE DEGREES CAN BE EARNED EXTERNALLY THROUGH VALID STUDY PROGRAMS AT INTERNATIONAL.



Dr. Glenn Emerson Tyler
Litt D., Th.D., D.D.
President/Founder



Attention Local Residents:

Local classes now in progress on the new campus. Extension classes in 23 locations in the U.S.A. now in session. The new three million dollar campus will be constructed in phases over the next 5 years. Our External Department is able to meet your needs through our 16 programs. The first year basic Ministerial Training Program starts at the 0 credit level for those with no theological background. Graduates of this program can then go on through the Associate of Bible Subjects, 4 Bachelor, 4 Master and 5 Doctoral Programs, to complete the 210-credit level. Remember, we accept transfer credits from other Bible schools, and give credit for life experience in the ministry. An equivalency examination is available for experienced ministers; also an entrance examination is available from those going from a secular to a theological degree program.

WRITE FOR FREE INFORMATION PACKET

STUDY IN YOUR OWN HOME FIRST YEAR COURSE

"BE SUCCESSFUL IN YOUR MINISTRY"

**TRAINING COURSE FOR
MINISTERS
BIBLE TEACHERS
CHRISTIAN WORKERS
LAYMEN
MEN AND WOMEN**

We will train you in:
Theological Subjects
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7 Reasons God
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U.S. Astronaut Tapes Testimony Aimed at Russians

"The only difference between reading the Bible on earth and reading it in the Space Shuttle is that the pages are easier to turn in the weightless environment of space," said Col. Jack Lousma. Lousma, commander of the Space Shuttle Columbia, blasted off from Cape Canaveral March 22. His testimony and explanation of spiritual truths illustrated by facts about space was heard by thousands of radio listeners in the Soviet Union. As part of its RADAS (Radio Academy of Science) program, the Slavic Gospel Association provided the testimonies—translated into Russian—to eight missionary radio stations which beam programs into all 11 time zones in the U.S.S.R.

Today in Russia, propaganda posters often quote the first two Russian cosmonauts as saying they did not see God during their orbit in the heavens.



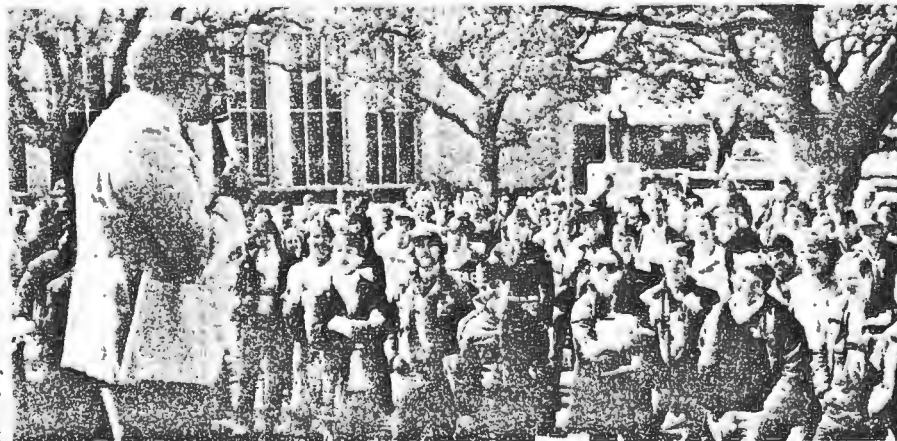
In one of his interviews, Lousma countered this Soviet claim by pointing out that he and his Russian counterparts had seen only a tiny bit of the universe at least 15 billion light-years large, staying closer to Earth than Moscow is to Leningrad. In another program, Lousma described the crucial Columbia guidance system, using it as a parable of how God guides Christians. He invited listeners to contact God personally through Jesus Christ.

Revival Sparked at Texas A&M University

Concerned Christians had prayed for a revival for 25 years. When former L.A. Rams football star Rosey Grier and evangelist Rice Broocks challenged students recently during a month of "Change Your Life" seminars, those prayers seemed to have been answered. The seminars, sponsored by Maranatha Campus Ministries International, led more than 200 students at Texas A&M University to make commitments to Jesus Christ.

While students congregated outside around the speakers, Grier challenged them to be "world changers" and not waste their lives. Rice asked them to join hands and pray with him. Administrators, teachers, members of the Corps of Cadets, and other students joined in praying to make Jesus lord of their lives. Water baptisms followed, along with many expressions of eagerness to spread the Good News to others.

More than 200 Texas A&M students decide to follow Christ (left). Rosey Grier challenges students to change the world (below).



Fundamentalist Christianity Lures California Surfers

"All across the Los Angeles basin," says *Esquire* magazine, "madness has been reasserting itself as the number-one mode of expression." Pedestrians are shot at random from passing cars, unfortunate hitchhikers are raped, tortured and thrown away, and surfers guard their over-crowded beach turfs with chains, knives and broken bottles.

But at Hermosa beach, a tiny Los Angeles suburb, frightened surfers have been turning to Jesus. Baptized in hot tubs or in the ocean, they read Hal Lindsey's book on end-time prophecy and latch onto the absolute fundamentalist Christianity as the only hope for "a world gone mad."

Many of the Hermosa beach surfers now hang out at Hope Chapel, a converted bowling alley with 1500 members and twelve daughter chapels. Says associate pastor Perry Ching, "This church is like a hospital...A lot of people won't touch the beach people. We're not afraid of them."

Nicaraguans Sacrifice for Polish Believers

Nicaraguan Baptists recently proved that numerical size has nothing to do with the size of the heart. When the Baptist World Alliance issued an appeal for help for Christians in Poland, the Convencion Bautista de Nicaragua (Baptist Convention of Nicaragua) responded immediately by sending \$200 toward the Baptist World Aid program. The convention consists of only 5,441 members, 50 churches and 108 preaching places.

"Ours is a poor convention," wrote the convention's secretary, Tomas H. Tellez, "but we send this money as an expression of our Christian concern for our people there (Poland)."

Christian Voice Counters Lear with Celebrity Ads

Speaking against the Christian Right, Norman Lear and People for the American Way recruited celebrities Woody Allen and Muhammed Ali for radio and TV commercials. But now Christian Voice, an evangelical lobbying organization,

John G. ...

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

May 22, 1982

President Ronald Reagan
The White House
1700 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Reagan,

We want to thank you for inviting us to the White House for the announcing of your proposed "school prayer amendment". We want you to know that we stand behind you in this proposal and we appreciate your efforts concerning the restoration of the rights of American school children to pray.

While we were at the meeting we gave you, by way of one of your personal aides, a book entitled God and Government, by Gary DeMar. This book presents the Biblical basis for our Constitution and our civil government. We hope that if you have not had time to read this, you will review it. It contains some invaluable Biblical information for refuting the humanist who is trying to destroy the moral and spiritual principles upon which this nation was built.

We also gave you a book entitled, The American Covenant, the Untold Story, by Marshall Foster. This book contains historical information now discarded by the secular humanist concerning the covenant which our founding fathers made with God upon establishing this nation. This information is vital for those who are working for the restoration of our republic.

Rose and I represent thousands of college students who are all part of Maranatha Campus Ministries International. As of this fall, we will have churches on 100 major university campuses in 36 states. Our ministry is working on the "grass roots level" to restore Biblical and moral principles upon which our nation was founded. As part of our strategy for this restoration we distribute to university students across the U.S. a monthly newspaper, The Forerunner.

It is the purpose of this paper to dispel the negative and pessimistic ideas that are flooding our nation and present instead positive ideas of hope, godliness and prosperity. The Forerunner

is communicating the Christian history of America, calling for a return to our historic Biblical roots, and working for a restoration of a strong republic under God.

As the Berkeley Barb and other underground papers in the sixties spread leftist views across the nation's campuses and did much to plant destructive seeds that tore down our nation, it is our goal to use The Forerunner as a tool to plant seeds of truth and light that will bring forth a national spiritual awakening. We are preaching on campuses across the United States working for a spiritual awakening of our land and calling students back to God. We see a real hunger among university students for spiritual truth.

Mr. President, because of your public acknowledgement of God and your stand for truth, your place of intercession and example as a godly leader is doing much to deter the enemy and pave the way for moral and spiritual revival. Incidentally, the first issue of our newspaper, The Forerunner, printed in May of last year, was dedicated to you, President Reagan. (A copy is enclosed.)

Rose and I are starting a political organization called "United Students of America", (USA) which will be lobbying Congress, on national and state levels. From the outset, we will be active in 36 states on 100 major university campuses from Harvard to Berkeley. We believe there is going to be an unprecedented move by the Spirit of God as great masses across our nation turn back to the ways of righteousness. In correlation, there will be continual and growing support for all legislation that promotes godliness and the restoration of our republic.

One of our greatest concerns at this time is the abortion issue which is a great evil and offense to God. We believe that the scripture explicitly points out that abortion is the root cause of the financial problems that face our nation. Ezekiel Chapter 16 so aptly points out that because the land is full of adultery and fornication and "because you have slaughtered My children...I have stretched out My hand against you and diminished your rations." (Ezek. 16:21,27)

We believe this judgement of God is a judgement toward restoration. God desires to restore this nation and to return financial prosperity, but until abortion is eradicated from our nation and the slaughter of the millions of innocents is stopped, God will continue to resist our economy.

Secondly, we are concerned about the unconstitutional position of the judicial system and their ability to legislate and overrule the elected officials of the people. We would like to see a

President Ronald Reagan
May 22, 1982
Page 3

Constitutional amendment, not only to change the life tenure of the Supreme Court and federal judges to a limited term of office, but an amendment that would also define the historic base of the United States law as the "Judeo-Christian-based Biblical law".

In 1963, the Supreme Court ruled that the Bible was no longer an authoritative source thus throwing out 171 years of historic Judeo-Christian-based law, which was the firm foundation of law in this nation. The judges have substituted, instead, sociological law, deciding what is sociologically good for the society at any given moment.

The Supreme Court, having rejected absolute Biblical law and having no absolute law to which it submits, has moved from the position of being interpreters of the law, to being law makers themselves. This position for the Supreme Court as well as the federal judges of our land is unconstitutional.

As we have a Constitutional amendment that defines "Biblical law" as the historic basis of all of our law and our Constitution, we can rid forever from this nation any tendency to practice sociological law that has proven to be wicked and devastating to human life in the hands of unprincipled and unscrupulous men! We would like for you to review our article on this subject, "Silent No Longer", on page 14 of The Forerunner (June, 1982, which is also included). We are confident that there will be massive grass roots support for this type of an amendment in the next two or three years.

We are praying for you and working with you to establish a stronger America. If we can be of any help or assistance to you in mobilizing this nation's university students for action, let us know.

Sincerely,



Bob and Rose Weiner
Directors
Maranatha Campus
Ministries International
Box 1799
Gainesville, FL 32602

RTW:reb

enclosures

Maranatha Campus Ministries

Post Office Box 1799 • Gainesville, Florida 32602 • (904) 375-6000

May 21, 1982

Morton C. Blackwell
Special Assistant to
the President
Old Executive Office Building
17th and Pennsylvania
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Mr. Blackwell,

On behalf of Maranatha Campus Ministries International, I would like to invite you as a special guest speaker at the month-long Maranatha Institute of Biblical Studies. We would like you to give an educational lecture on your specific service to President Reagan. We would also like you to share with us about the Leadership Institute and how our people can get involved.

You are among 10 nationally-known ministers, writers and lectures who will be speaking to the June 20-July 20 leadership lab. Several hundred campus leaders and university students from within Maranatha Campus Ministries will be attending this significant school.

This letter confirms our invitation for you to speak Saturday, July 17th from 9am to noon. We have scheduled you to fly into Gainesville on July 16th. You would leave Washington National Airport at 5:57pm and arrive Gainesville at 9:35pm. I will be picking you up at the airport and taking you to your hotel room. Flight, hotel and food expenses will be taken care of as well as all transportation. You will be leaving Gainesville July 17th at 1:24pm and arriving back into Washington, D.C. at 4:47pm in time for your evening engagement. Please let me know if you have any questions. I hope to see you again very soon.

I enjoyed our fellowship together in your office and I hope to have another chance to fellowship with you here. Say "hello" to Carolyn for me! Have a wonderful day!

In His mighty love,



Bob Nolte

Host - Institute of Biblical Studies

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Maranatha Ministries

Why Bob and Rose Weiner disciple college students



A charismatic campus ministry

Our cover story finds Maranatha Ministries 'right on target'

The last time I saw Bob Weiner was in the Los Angeles airport as he and Rose and their two children were on their way back East after establishing a new Maranatha Ministries fellowship at the University of Hawaii and visiting several existing fellowships on the West Coast.

I was changing planes in L.A., on my way home from the Philippines; I'd been flying for 24 hours and I was a little groggy as Bob enthusiastically told me of miracle after miracle that was taking place in his fast-growing campus ministry.

Sounds like a good story, I thought to myself, as I tried to overcome jet lag enough to listen attentively.

This month's cover story by Sherry Andrews is the outgrowth of that conversation with Bob in L.A. Since then, I've learned much about Maranatha Ministries. It is a ministry that is obviously blessed by God,

Maranatha . . . provides discipline and structure for college students (and) gives them an opportunity to exercise their idealism.

and is doing an outstanding work on many college campuses.

But I also heard some complaints about Maranatha and its tactics from people who felt some in the ministry were too strong-handed in dictating the lives and actions of the students who participate in the ministry.

When I assigned Sherry Andrews to write the story last fall, I asked her to specifically watch for evidences of legalism. It wasn't that we were looking for problems. But if the problems existed, we knew they must be grappled with in the story. Or if the problems were too great, we might decide not to run the story at all.

But Sherry said she found no evidence of Maranatha Ministries being too legalistic.

"They might be a little too fundamentalist for my tastes, but they certainly aren't unscriptural," said Sherry, who was reared an Episcopalian and who now attends an Assemblies of God church. "I'd heard some people say Maranatha bordered on being a cult. I couldn't find any evidences of that.

"In fact," Sherry went on, "Maranatha is probably right on target for the audience it is geared to serve. It provides discipline and structure for college students who are on their own for the first time. Also, many college students are very idealistic. Maranatha Ministries gives them a wholesome opportunity to exercise their idealism. Generally, I was very impressed with its program."

Sherry was at one time an associate editor of *Charisma*. Since last fall, she has been a free-lance writer, and she has just completed her first book.

You will enjoy her account of this exciting campus ministry beginning on page 20. Then, on page 24, you can read Sherry's personal account of attending a dynamic Maranatha Ministries service.

Welcome, Tim Gilmour!

In the past months I have had the privilege of introducing on this page several key employees we have added to the *Charisma* staff as the magazine has grown and prospered. This month it's an honor to introduce Tim Gilmour who will work with Margaret French and Carol Lockett to help us better serve our advertisers.

We consider the advertising in our magazine to be a ministry, as we do the editorial. Of course the advertising helps us pay the bills. (It also helps the subscription price to be half what it would be if subscriptions alone paid for the costs of producing the magazine.) But more than that, it is an opportunity to allow many thousands of people to learn of conferences, colleges, books, records, church products, audio-visual equipment, and a myriad of other goods and services that they might not otherwise know about. We regularly receive letters from people who say they enjoy reading the ads and benefit from them.

We carefully screen all of our advertisements. This isn't to say that we "endorse"

all of the goods or services offered in the magazine. But you can be sure that we do not allow ads from people who we know have tarnished business reputations or whose merchandise we believe would be



Tim Gilmour

offensive to the majority of our readers.

As in the other areas of the magazine, we want to know your thoughts, both pro and con, on what you think of our advertising.

Tim is a graduate of Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, with a bachelor of business administration degree in advertising. He was formerly an advertising account executive at the *Sentinel Star* in Orlando, Florida. He and his wife, Linda, and daughter, Faith, live in Casselberry, Florida.

Welcome, new readers!

This issue will be the first for thousands of new *Charisma* subscribers. We have just completed our most successful subscription mailing ever and are adding many new readers. The response was so great that during one week alone we added more than the 10,000 new subscriptions.

To these many new readers, we say "welcome." We hope you enjoy *Charisma* and that you will take time to let us know what you like and don't like about our magazine. We sincerely try to publish a magazine that will bring glory to God and which will bless and encourage you. We hope you are a regular reader for many years to come. <

MARANATHA MINISTRIES



Bob Weiner answers students' questions on the Gainesville campus of the University of Florida.

By Sherry Andrews

It's easy to spot the Maranatha Center at the University of Florida. A dignified, white colonial house surrounded by stately oak trees, it sits in the middle of a row of fraternity and sorority houses on U.S. Highway 441, directly across from the main entrance to the university. An enormous banner, stretched across the front porch, announces proudly that "JESUS IS LORD."

Surrounded on all sides by fraternity houses dedicated to the pursuit of a good time, Maranatha House bears witness that Jesus is at the center of all life, including life on a secular college campus.

Since it began in 1972 with one small fellowship at Murray State University in Kentucky, Maranatha Campus Ministries International has become the largest and the fastest-growing charismatic campus ministry. There are now 52 fellowships throughout the United States and in eight foreign countries. The number of fellowships is presently doubling every year.

Maranatha students combine the zeal and enthusiasm of the early Jesus movement with solid teaching and tight discipline. They are out on campus every day witnessing, preaching, praying, and talking with students, holding healing meetings, rallies, and occasionally sponsoring musical concerts.

They are members of student government, fraternities, sororities, athletic teams, band, chorus, and almost any other campus activity you care to name. They are committed to evangelizing their campus and bringing the kingdom of God into every aspect of campus life.

The founder of Maranatha and the man who inspires all this fervor is Bob Weiner, 35, a dynamic evangelist and former youth pastor. Weiner is friendly and outspoken, a natural salesman for Jesus.

Founders Bob and Rose Weiner are discipling students to evangelize college campuses in the fastest-growing charismatic campus ministry in America.

He is also something of a paradox. An avowed charismatic, he is often sharply critical of excesses in the renewal. A fundamental preacher whose rhetoric can at times sound harsh, he says grace is the key to his ministry. Simple in both his teachings and his theology, he is neither simple-minded nor uninformed. He fellowships with anyone who loves Jesus and accepts the Bible as the Word of God, refusing to be drawn into controversies. He strives for balance in his personal life and in the ministry.

Weiner is complemented in both of these areas by his wife, Rose. An attractive blonde, Rose is as intense and passionate about the ministry as Weiner. She takes an active role in Maranatha. In conversations about it, Weiner often defers to her. He calls her a "prophetess" and seems to accept her as a full partner in ministry. The two have co-authored a series of Bible study courses.

The Weiners share a common vision for college students. They believe that this generation is special and that from it an army of young people is going to arise which will bring the nations to Christ.

As Rose explains it: "The Lord told us that He has planted in this generation a sense of dignity, a sense of calling. And if we will just speak to that calling, the young people will respond."

Weiner believes that that call is to bring about a serious reformation in our day.

"In Genesis 1 our commission is to fill the earth, subdue the earth, rule the earth," he says. "I believe that God is still waiting for us to complete that commission. God wants us to get a vision of the whole earth being filled with the glory of God and the gospel of the kingdom preached to the ends of the earth. We are to bring the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven."

Weiner is an intense speaker who likes to be close to the person he's talk-

ing to. He often places his hand on his arm, as if by drawing him into his circle physically, he can draw him into his "vision" also.

"Establishing the kingdom of God on earth may sound difficult," he continues, "but it is very practical. Lenin, the founder of communism, began with 17 university students in Russia earlier this century, and today one third of the world is under communist domain.

"Maranatha has 3,000 solid, committed young people who love Jesus with all their hearts, who are free in the Lord and full of the Holy Ghost. We're going to take those young people and evangelize the campuses, then the nation, and then the world."

Although Maranatha students are a minority on large university campuses, Weiner has taught them how to exercise influence far beyond their numbers. He encourages them to become involved in student government in order to make their vows known and their voices heard. He knows that the majority of students will simply not take the time or the trouble to express their opinions on most issues. Therefore, a well-organized and vocal minority can often set policy for the apathetic majority.

Maranatha students have taken advantage of campus apathy on many occasions to sabotage potential activities they considered immoral or to secure greater freedom for Christians. To cite a few examples:

- Four years ago the state of Tennessee considered liberalizing its policies regarding the use and possession of alcohol on all state university campuses. Fifteen Maranatha students at the University of Tennessee at Martin wrote letters to the chancellor of the university, protesting the change. They were the only students in the entire university system who bothered to express an opinion either pro or con. As a result, the proposal was defeated.

- In Tallahassee, Florida, the Leon County Sheriff's Department had decided to eliminate its part-time prison chaplain. When Maranatha students at Florida State University heard about it, they mounted a letter-writing campaign protesting the action. The chaplain was reinstated, and his position was expanded into a full-time job.

- Flying to Memphis, Tennessee, to visit a Maranatha chapel, Bob Weiner became concerned about the proliferation of cults at the airport. After receiving permission from the airport manager, he had Maranatha members begin working the airport in one-hour shifts, alongside the cults. As soon as a cult member approached someone, a Maranatha student would appear, telling the person he was being victimized by a false prophet. In less than a month the cults had left the airport. The airport manager telephoned Weiner, thanking the students and asking if they would help again if the airport had trouble with cults.

Whenever Transcendental Meditation introductory lessons are held on a college campus, Maranatha students show up. Reading from the Maharishi's own works, they publicly challenge the oft-made assertion that TM is not a religion.

In one TM meeting in Kentucky, a lady who was crippled with arthritis said her doctor had suggested she try TM as a last resort. A Maranatha member stood and offered to pray for her. She was instantly healed and praised God openly in the meeting.

Maranatha members also attend gay rights meetings and publicly offer to pray or counsel with anyone wishing to be freed from homosexuality.

This aggressiveness on the part of Maranatha students is part of what Weiner sees as a larger movement among Christians to reestablish God's authority on the earth.

"We're not running from the enemy

Continued on next page

Maranatha ministries

Continued from page 21

anymore; he's running from us," Weiner says. "Christians need to realize that we are the watchmen over this earth. God gave us this earth, and we're not going to let this world be taken over by evil. It's just not enough anymore to go to church on Sunday, fold our hands, and hope that the world will get better. We're going to have to intercede. We're going to have to stand up in love, knowing what we're talking about, and take some strong action if we're going to save the nation and the world."

Weiner preaches a hard line to young people. He refuses to water down the

they don't stick with it.

"The whole Christian faith that you hear on radio and TV these days is advice on how to get your needs met, it's man-centered," he adds.

"We don't just tell people that God loves them. We tell them that God loves them—but He has created them, and since He created them, He has the right to their destinies. He commands them to repent. There can be no compromising, no serving two masters," Weiner emphasizes. "People are going to have to choose who they're going to serve."

That kind of language inevitably raises the ire of some who see in Weiner's beliefs a form of legalism. Maranatha has been accused of being a cult, of alienat-

It is inevitable that Maranatha would come under such attacks, as openly charismatic and militantly evangelistic, as it is. It also functions as a church and expects members to tithe as they would to any church, but it is not part of a recognized denomination. This threatens some pastors. To some non-Christian parents, even to some who are members of more traditional churches, Maranatha is an unknown and frightening entity.

Maranatha is aware of the problem and goes to great lengths to reassure parents and members of local churches that it is in no way trying to take over the lives of its members or to assert itself as the only church.

To help allay parents' fears, Maranatha holds a "Parent's Day" once a quarter. Parents are invited to the campus to tour the Maranatha facilities, to meet the members and the pastor of that fellowship, and to ask any questions they may have about the ministry. Maranatha hosts a banquet for them that night and presents a slide show explaining the various activities Maranatha members are involved in on campus.

In addition, Maranatha invites parents to visit their children at the Maranatha House any time during the year. "We are an open book, and we invite parents to come and check us out," says Bob Nolte, one of Weiner's executive assistants.

Maranatha is also aware that, in their zeal, new converts can often alienate their parents by trying to preach to them. Therefore each new believer is given a mini-course in how to respond to his or her parents.

"We tell students, 'Go home and make the beds, wash the dishes, and be a silent witness. Let your parents see by your deeds and your life the change in you instead of preaching to them,'" Nolte says.

Maranatha also tries to work closely with other campus ministries. At the University of Wisconsin, Maranatha pastors join with the pastors of every other campus ministry, charismatic and non-charismatic, for a weekly prayer meeting.

At the University of Florida, Maranatha joined with Campus Crusade, the Baptist Student Ministry, and other campus groups to sponsor a Christian concert featuring Barry McGuire.

At the University of Georgia, Maranatha worked with other campus ministries to restore their right to meet in university facilities after the school had refused them access to meeting rooms.

To those who think he is too legalistic, Weiner stresses that his message is



Maranatha member Mark Dillon preaches at "free speech alley" on the Baton Rouge campus of Louisiana State University. Many students have been saved in this kind of gathering.

gospel in any way to accommodate the hedonistic tastes of college students. He teaches 100 percent commitment to Jesus and admonishes students to "count the cost" before making a decision. He is scornful of what he calls "humanistic, man-centered religion."

"There's a deception going around in the land that you don't have to be totally committed and give up immorality to be saved," he says. "Some say you can have immorality and idolatry and still be a Christian. Well, the Bible doesn't say that. The Bible says neither the immoral nor the idolators will inherit the kingdom of God. Many evangelicals and charismatics have laid out a watered-down gospel. They're not telling people to repent and turn to God. They're baptizing sinners and then wondering why

ing students from their parents, and of taking control over their lives. Some of the same type "horror" stories that emerged from the discipleship controversy also circulate about Maranatha.

A mother in Tennessee who has been a church-goer all her life complains that her son no longer considers her a true Christian since he became involved in Maranatha.

A professor at the University of Arizona charges that Maranatha discouraged students from going home over the Christmas holidays for fear they would be influenced by their unsaved parents.

Other parents express concern that their children have become fanatics, spending all their time, energy, and money on Maranatha activities.

always clothed in grace.

"The key to Maranatha is Romans 5:17, '... Those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ,'" he says, then adds, "You can be totally committed, but without grace you're in legalism."

"We preach the truth, but we preach it from a loving, caring heart. God loves these precious kids. They are not rotten sinners. People that go onto campuses and preach a hellfire, 'turn or burn' message really turn kids off. We preach total commitment—but with the grace and the love of God. That's what makes the difference."

Weiner believes so strongly in the importance of a loving attitude that he has initiated a new program for evangelism called "I Care." Students wear "I Care"

"Go home and make the beds, wash the dishes, and be a silent witness. Let your parents see by deeds and your life the change in you."

buttons. Maranatha Houses have banners strung across their front doors proclaiming, "Jesus Cares for You." During the last two home football games at the University of Florida last fall, planes flew over the stadium with banners announcing that "Jesus Cares."

"We want to be a caring influence on our campuses," Weiner says. "On large university campuses, loneliness can be a real problem. It's easy to feel lost in the crowd with 35,000 students. We want students to know that we care about them as people—that we want to meet their needs, not just get them to join our church or become involved in our ministry. We want to reach out to our campuses and be a blessing to them."

Weiner's aversion to legalism stems from his own background. He grew up in a very legalistic church home. As a freshman at Trinity College in Deerfield, Illinois, he rebelled against the church and began to attend wild parties and cut classes. He dropped out of school, joined the Air Force, and was sent to California.

In California he met some of the Jesus people. He was intrigued by their enthusiasm, but he had vowed that he was never again going to become involved in

Sherry Andrews is a free-lance writer from Orlando, Florida. She is a former associate editor for *Charisma*.

organized religion.

However, during his final year in the Air Force, he became friends with a group of students involved with Campus Crusade for Christ. One night they asked him to go out witnessing with them. For a lark, he agreed. Since he had attended a fundamentalist church most of his life, he knew how to share the plan of salvation. Three of the people he talked to that night accepted Jesus.

This presented a problem for Weiner. Campus Crusade requires a "follow-up" visit. But Bob was still noncommittal about Christ. Rather than being hypocritical, he wrote Bill Bright, president of Campus Crusade, described his predicament, and asked Bright to send somebody else to do the follow-up.

But the Holy Spirit was actively pursuing this young man. A few weeks later he attended a Saturday night "Jesus rally" where baseball player Albie Pearson was sharing his testimony. Pearson prophesied over Weiner that night, saying he would be used to reach young people. He asked if Weiner had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Hearing he had not, Pearson invited him to his home the next day.

That same night some unknown friend slipped David Wilkerson's pamphlet on the Holy Spirit under Weiner's door. Bob read it straight through. It created such a hunger in his heart that the next morning he actually ran to the nearest Assemblies of God church. The minister spoke on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and at the end of the service Weiner stumbled to the altar and wept for over an hour. That afternoon at Pearson's house, he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues for an hour and a half.

From that day Weiner became an indefatigable evangelist.

The next afternoon while he was in the library, a boy Weiner had never met approached and asked him to come outside and tell his friend about Jesus. Bob tells the story:

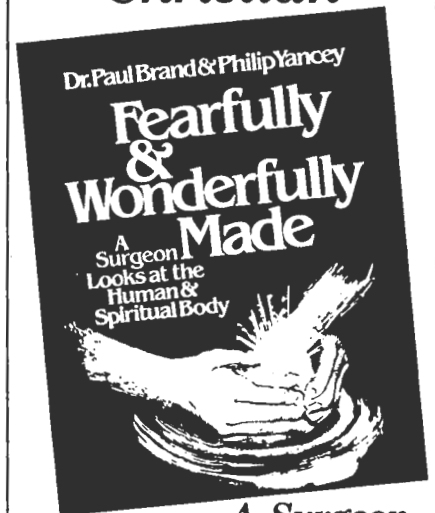
"We hadn't been outside five minutes when the whole library emptied out. I found myself surrounded by almost 60 kids. I began to preach, and 17 of them got saved."

Bob began meeting regularly with young people at the library. He soon opened up a coffeehouse called The Other Door. It was so successful that he and Bob Cording, a youth pastor in the area, formed an organization called Sound Mind, Inc. They began holding Jesus rallies and concerts.

In the fall of 1971, Weiner and Cording closed the coffeehouse, borrowed a

Continued on next page

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76 Years Of Caring

Maranatha ministries

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friend's 1919 Nash touring car, and took off across the country. They visited every major college campus between California and New York and saw 2,000 students accept Christ.

When they returned to California, Cording went into film making, and Weiner accepted a job as youth pastor of the Christian Life Center in Long Beach, working with Wesley Steelberg. While he was there, the youth group experienced tremendous revival, but at the

end of the year, Bob felt the Lord wanted him to leave.

Weiner, who by this time had married, was still uncertain about his purpose in life. He and Rose took six months to pray and seek God's direction. At the end of that time he and Rose traveled to Paducah, Kentucky. While they were there, Weiner preached one night at Broadway Methodist Church—the church Rose's father pastored. Revival broke out. During the next three days more than 150 young people were saved.

At the end of the week, they left on a speaking tour of Sweden and Norway.

But while they were in Europe, Weiner felt God told him to go back to the States and establish a place where young people could come for ministry.

Returning to America, Bob and Rose settled in Paducah. Then they bought two houses at 2500 Washington Street, across the street from Tilghman High School. Tilghman had one of the worst drug problems in the state. Weiner announced he was opening a youth center and drug counseling center. The state granted him a license as a drug treatment facility, and the city provided him with a 24-hour hotline. Bob held early

TURNING THE WORLD UPSIDE DOWN

Maranatha meetings are filled with the joy students need to carry out their commissions

By Sherry Andrews



College students enjoy freedom of worship and joyful praise at Maranatha meetings on campuses.

It is 8 p.m. when I arrive for the Saturday evening session of the regional Maranatha Leadership Training Seminar at the University of Florida. I am late, so I try to slip in quietly and find a seat in the back of the auditorium.

No one notices me because the praise service has already begun and most people are standing, with their hands raised and their eyes closed, worshipping the Lord. On stage, under a blue and white banner that proclaims "I Care," a four-piece band is playing praise choruses. All the members of the band are male except for one girl singer. They are all college students except for the song leader

who looks older. I wonder if he is the pastor of this Maranatha Fellowship.

I join in the singing, which by now has become very lively. All around me people are singing enthusiastically with hands raised or clapping to the music. Some have linked arms and are dancing. There is a festive, joyful air, and I am soon caught up in it.

This meeting brings together Maranatha members from all over Florida. There are representatives from Gainesville, Tallahassee, and Miami. Fourteen other meetings like this one are being held all across the country this weekend. Students will share together what God

is doing on their campuses and will hear teaching—some by speakers flown in for the occasion and some by Bob and Rose Weiner on video tape.

As the praise and worship ends, John Rohrer, the pastor of Maranatha Fellowship in Gainesville, calls for the pastors from Florida State University (FSU) and Miami to join him on stage. The chapter at FSU is relatively new and its pastor was originally a member of Maranatha at the University of Florida. Many Gainesville students helped establish the Tallahassee church, and there is an obvious bond between the two groups. It is a lot like a big family reunion.

The pastor from FSU gives a progress report in that fellowship and then announces good news. Two of the leaders in FSU's fellowship are engaged. He calls them up and asks them to share briefly.

Both testify that they were practicing the Maranatha principle of seeking God for His "perfect choice." They were not dating, but as leaders in the fellowship they had worked together and had gotten to know each other. They were both praying, seeking God's will for their lives, when they felt God tell them that they were to get married. The young man confesses that he had resigned himself to being a "bachelor to the rapture," which draws knowing laughs from the audience. But both say they are sure they are in God's will and are glad they trusted Him to bring them a mate instead of looking for one themselves.

After more testimonies and sharing, the main speaker is introduced. He is Rick Patterson from Jesus Fellowship in Miami. As he begins to speak, students take out Bibles, pens, and pads. They are a serious and attentive audience. There is no moving around or talking.

Patterson is an entertaining speaker who gets people laughing just before he zeros in on their weak points. He is well received by the students.

morning Bible studies before the school day began. His ministry was so successful that within six months the drug traffic was virtually dried up, and hundreds of students were saved.

However, the local churches that had supported his drug program soon turned hostile when they discovered Weiner was praying for the students to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Many of the local pastors refused to accept young people who spoke in tongues into their congregations.

Weiner felt he had no choice but to begin holding church services for those

Following his teaching, John Rohrer gives the evening message. The affection with which he is regarded by the students is obvious by their warm response to his talk. Rohrer gives a little of his personal testimony, including how he became involved in Maranatha; then he talks about the theme of this seminar—"I Care."

Evangelism by itself is not enough, he tells the students. The world is looking for people who will care, who will listen and meet them where they are. The students will hear more about the "I Care" campaign tomorrow morning in a taped message from Bob Weiner.

As Rohrer concludes his remarks, I glance at my watch. I am astonished to see that it is 10:30 p.m. The meeting has been going on for three hours, and it seems to me to have barely begun. As it breaks up, everyone seems reluctant to leave. Students cluster in little groups all around the auditorium, laughing and talking and comparing notes.

I slip out and begin the ten-minute walk back to my hotel. On the way I pass some Maranatha members who are walking back to their dorms. They are singing praise choruses and talking excitedly about how good the meeting was.

I smile to myself as we pass, remembering some of the criticism I've heard from rigid Christians who don't understand the joy—and the radical commitment—Christ has generated in these young people. I wonder if those young men who laid down their nets, forsook all, and followed the Galilean were equally misunderstood.

Those men changed the world. "They are turning it upside down," one critic complained.

I find myself whistling one of the choruses I heard at the meeting. It seems, to me, these young people are doing the same thing. Turning the world upside down for Jesus. ↵

young people on Tuesday and Saturday nights. He refused to compete with the local Sunday church services—a practice he has personally continued to this day.

The experience in Paducah showed Weiner the need for some kind of charismatic ministry for young people, but he still didn't understand that God was leading him into full-time youth work.

In late 1972 he began a campus ministry at Murray State University in Kentucky. Maranatha Ministries was born.

"I really didn't know what I was doing," Weiner says. "I just wanted to get kids saved." Whatever he was doing worked, however. During the next eight years he founded 30 churches on university campuses.

In those beginning days of Maranatha Ministries Weiner did everything. He would move onto a campus and begin preaching. Revival would break out. Students were saved. Then Bob and Rose began discipling them and raising up leaders. For the first few years he worked without a salary, living from offerings received at speaking engagements.

Today, Maranatha is growing so rapidly that Weiner doesn't have the time or the resources to do everything. He has now established an effective team of workers who help develop each new Maranatha fellowship.

When Maranatha decides to open a new fellowship on a campus, Weiner or his assistants find a house, usually an old sorority or fraternity house, to purchase. If the house needs renovating or restoration, Maranatha members from other schools help provide labor.

To solicit members, Weiner sends an evangelist such as Rice Brooks, Nick Pappis, or the husband and wife team of Greg and Helen Ball to the campus. They hold services every day for two to three weeks. Soon a core group of Spirit-filled believers is formed.

That step completed, Weiner himself comes to the campus to teach the students what it means to be under the lordship of Jesus Christ, what it means to be committed to the Word of God, and what it means to be committed to the local Body. He sees his role as that of an apostle, laying the foundation and giving broad oversight.

After Weiner finishes, Joe Smith, who exercises the gift of prophecy, comes in for several days and gives the prophetic vision for that fellowship. Then a pastor is appointed to give daily care. Finally, throughout the year, Maranatha sponsors leadership seminars in which it exposes students to some of the best

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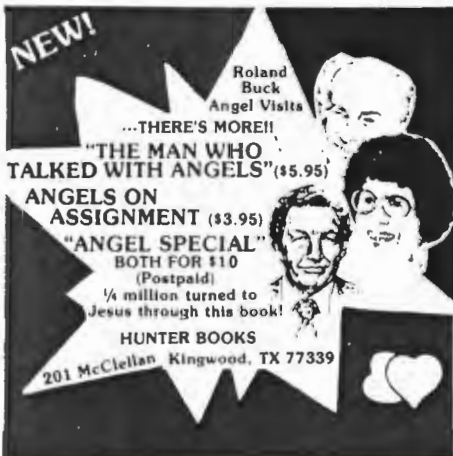
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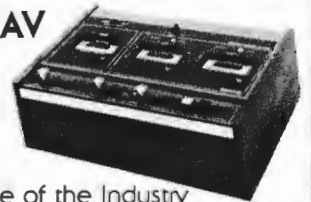
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Maranatha ministries

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charismatic teachers in the nation. Winkie Pratney, Judson Cornwall, DeVern Fromke, Lester Sumrall, and T. L. Osborn have spoken at Maranatha meetings.

Weiner feels he is following the scriptural pattern in his organization process: "And He gave some as apostles, and some as prophets, and some as evangelists, and some as pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of service, to the building up of the body of Christ" (Eph. 4:11).

Weiner has a goal for each Maranatha fellowship to be self-supporting. To accomplish that, each Maranatha House functions as a combination church/dormitory. Downstairs rooms are used as chapel and meeting places. Upstairs rooms are rented to students at the same price or sometimes slightly less than regular college housing.

Rent receipts usually exceed the amount needed for monthly payments and maintenance. The extra money is applied against the downpayment. When it is paid off, any excess money is placed in a general fund to provide seed money for other centers.

In addition to helping defray costs, this arrangement provides Maranatha members with a built-in fellowship and a means of practical discipleship. It also gives new converts a caring environment in which they grow spiritually. Weiner believes this is very important.

"The first two weeks after a person is saved are the most critical," he says. "That's when most people backslide."

To keep casualties at a minimum, Maranatha insists a new convert join a fellowship group as quickly as possible. If a student is saved in one of the open-air preaching meetings held on campus, he is taken back to the Maranatha House and immediately baptized in water. Others then pray for him to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Finally, the elders of the fellowship pray for him, asking God to release His special gifts. That prayer, which is often accompanied by prophecy, is taped and given to the new believer so that he has evidence right from the beginning of God's work in his life.

An older member is then assigned to each new convert for several weeks, helping him with problems and showing him how to become involved in regular Bible study and fellowship.

On most campuses Maranatha students meet weekly in small fellowship groups in addition to attending the larger meetings of the entire body which are

held on Tuesday and Saturday nights.

Weiner's goal, for students who join Maranatha as freshmen, is that by the time they graduate, they will have acquired not only a four-year secular education but also a full Bible college education and four years of practical ministry.

While Maranatha lays down few hard-and-fast rules regarding personal conduct of its members, students are exhorted to keep their lives focused on the kingdom of God and thereby avoid the distractions of the flesh. Weiner believes that sex is the number one idol among college students, and he takes a dim view of many accepted college social practices.

Although he does not forbid students to date, he thinks most dating is based on what 1 John 2:16 calls, "the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life." Instead of dating, he encourages

His plan is to convert many of the more than 300,000 foreign students attending universities and train them as evangelists.

young people to pray and seek "God's perfect choice" for their mates.

"We need only to look at the results of the dating game to see who the author of it really is," he says. "Every guy or girl involved with worldly dating usually ends up with a broken heart somewhere along the way.

"As students commit this area of their lives to God, it frees them from concern and from divided interests. They can fellowship together, pray together, work together, share with each other, and really get to know one another without the pressures that steady dating puts on a relationship.

"The young people who married following this kind of relationship have homes built on the Rock. They sought the kingdom of God first, and God honors their marriage."

Never one to rest on his laurels, Weiner is constantly looking for a new challenge. His goal is to have a Maranatha Center on every major university campus in the world by December 31, 1985. He would like to see one billion souls saved in his lifetime.

He hopes to accomplish his goal largely by developing a new missions program which focuses on converting foreign

students on U.S. campuses. If the gospel is going to be preached in the more than 30 countries that have closed their doors to missionaries, it will have to be through indigenous pastors and layworkers, Weiner believes. His plan is to convert many of the more than 300,000 foreign students attending universities in the United States and train them as evangelists, to reach their home countries.

Although the program started only a few months ago, Maranatha already has 52 evangelists assigned to work with foreign students in universities throughout the United States.

Another relatively new evangelism tool developed by Maranatha is a monthly newspaper, the *Forerunner*. Rose explains the vision God gave her for the paper:

"The Lord opened our eyes to Isaiah 41:15, 'Behold, I have made you a new, sharp threshing sledge, with double edges; you will thresh the mountains and pulverize them.' He told us that double edged sword would be the *Forerunner* and that we were to be a prophetic voice to the nation.

"We were supposed to get this paper into the hands of every college student in the nation, and it would be used in the same way as the *Berkeley Barb* and other underground newspapers were used in the '60s. While they planted seeds of anarchy and rebellion, the *Forerunner* will plant seeds of the coming revival."

Rose continues, "As we began to think of ways to get university students to read this paper, we came up with the idea of running a monthly survey on current political and social issues. We now interview 1,000 students on each campus every month and then publish the results in the *Forerunner*. That's 60,000 students we are interviewing each month, and every one that we question is put on the mailing list to receive the paper and find out the results of the survey.

"We believe that the *Forerunner* is going to enable us to be the voice of American youth. Congressmen and Senators are going to be calling us to find out what American youth are thinking."

What will the Weiners tell them? That American youths are fed up with humanism, materialism, and immorality. That they are seeking spiritual reality. That when they find it, they are going to change the world.

This is the generation prophesied about in Joel 2—the generation of promise—Weiner says. "We want everybody to know," he adds, "that we're taking over. We're going to bring righteousness, peace, and joy of the kingdom of God to this earth." ⇐