

102 QUESTIONS TO DEVELOP SPIRITUAL FRIENDSHIPS

Below you will find questions that may help you grow deeper with a person you are getting to know. As you review the questions, you will see that some would be good in a small group context – others in a one to one time – and that some would be questions you might ask early in a relationship while others would be better asked after some time has elapsed.

2. Where are they from?
3. Church background? Positive or negative?
4. How and when did they become a Christian?
5. What does being a Christian mean to them now – how would they define what it means to be a Christian?
6. What's their life of devotion to Jesus like? (worship life, prayer, Bible Study, etc.)
7. Why did they come to college?
8. What do they hope to do after college and why do they want to do that?
9. Are they a giver? How is this shown? What does that tell you about the person?
10. What are they passionate about? What gets them stirred up and serving?
11. What has their experience with the Spirit been? What is their attitude and experience toward the gifts of the Spirit?
12. What do they want written in their obituaries? On their tomb stone?
13. Who is their hero and why?
14. Have they ever prayed out loud in a group meeting? What about praying out loud for another person one- on-one?
15. Have they ever shared their testimony or given a word of encouragement or exhortation to another person or to their Core, or at the Chia Alpha meeting?
16. What would they most want Jesus to do in their lives personally?
17. Have they ever shared their faith in Jesus with another person? When was the last time?
18. Do they have any non-Christian friends? Do they pray for them?
19. If yes, what do they pray about? Do they ask them to Chi Alpha; Core; Church or other places they might hear the Gospel?

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- 20.If they could receive any fruit of the Spirit which one would they ask for first? Why?
 21. Same as 18, only “gift” instead of fruit.
 - 22.Who would they like to be like ten years from now? Why?
 - 23.What needs to take place in their lives for #21 to happen?
 - 24.How are they doing in school? Their GPA?
 - 25.Are they teachable?
 - 26.Are they confessional?
 - 27.Do they hunger to be like Jesus and to live radically for God?
 - 28.Do they get along with others? Why or why not?
 - 29.What kinds of people bug them?
 - 30.Whom do they ignore and why?
 31. Do they initiate spiritual ministry and care in Core? In what ways?
 32. Why are they in a small group? Why did they start and why have they stayed?
 - 33.Why are they a part of the Chia Alpha group? What drew them and why have they stayed? What does this tell you about them?
 - 34.What is their emotional temperament like? Is this a benefit or a danger to their spiritual well being? How so?
 - 35.Do they sacrifice themselves (risk themselves) for the sake of others or for the sake of the group?
If yes how is this shown
 - 36.Do they relate well to their own sex? The opposite sex?
 37. List six specific areas you think that Jesus would want to deepen them in.
 - 38.For each area in #36 list one or two ways you can help that experience of deepening come to pass.
 - 39.What are their 3 greatest personality/character strengths?
 - 40.Are they sought out by others? For what kinds of reasons?
 41. What bugs them (pet peeves)?
 - 42.What would they say to the question: “What would Jesus say about your relationship to Him presently?”
 - 43.Do they want to learn how to mentor others by leading a Core group? Do you think they should?
Why or why not?

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44. What was your favorite room in your house in junior high and why?
 45. If you were given \$100,000 and must spend it in one week, what would you do with it?
 46. Name two people, other than your parents, who have really influenced your life and tell how.
 47. There is a fire at your house. Everyone is safe. You have time to save three important things. Weight is no problem. What would they be and give them in their order of importance.
 48. What do you like to do with your friends?
 49. What do you like to do with your free time?
 50. If you were to take a vacation with a friend, who would you go with, where would you go, and what would you do?
 51. Describe your ideal house and how you would furnish it.
 52. What is your favorite time of day, or day of the week, or season of the year, and why?
 53. What is one quality you really like about yourself and why?
 54. What are two things you find have the most meaning for you in life? Why?
 55. If you were confined to a bed for a month and could have anyone other than Jesus visit you from history that month to talk with, who would it be and why?
 56. Who are you closest to in your family and why?
 57. What do you think it means to be a friend?
 58. What is one of your best memories?
 59. The pretty frightening experience I have ever had was...
 60. If you knew you could not fail, what are two things that you would like to do or accomplish in the next ten years?
 61. What adjectives could best describe your last week?
 62. What is the purpose of your life at this time? Do you feel like this purpose is being realized? Why or why not?
 63. What does it take for you to be true to yourself? Is it important to you? Why?
 64. What helps or encourages you in your faith?
 65. If you could ask Jesus any one question about yourself and know He would answer completely and clearly, what would it be?
 66. What causes the most problems, conflicts, etc. in your family?

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67. How do you feel about going home?
 68. What areas of your life give you the most problems?
 69. If you had to describe one frustration you have had with this group, what would it be?
 70. Where is it easiest for you to find God?
 71. If this were the last night of your life, to whom would you write and what would you say?
 72. Share a high point and a low point in your life.
 73. Talk about pictures of God. What single words, images, metaphors about God are most meaningful to you? What images or pictures do you find difficult or barriers for you? How does imagery affect your spiritual life?
 74. Consider the Christian community. How does being in the church impact your life in God? What experiences of meaningful community do you have? What are your needs and hopes in this area?
 75. What has been a pit experience in your life? Share a little about how you think God worked through that experience.
 76. If you had one wish for your small group, what would it be? What steps are you taking now to make that come true?
 77. What three words would you use to describe your life before you were a Christian?
 78. What three words would you use to describe your life after you became a Christian?
 79. Is there one word that you would like to become a part of the way you describe your Christian life?
 80. What do you want your children to remember about you after you're dead?
 81. Begin by sharing some of your spiritual history—your autobiography. What have been the high places and low places in your personal spiritual journey? Share one specific memory of feeling close to God—one specific period when you felt distance from God.
 82. Talk about the present. How do you feel about your relationship to God at the present time? What spiritual disciplines do you practice? What are the strengths and weaknesses in your personal use of spiritual disciplines? Where would you like to “go” in this area? What can help you? What hinders you?
 83. Talk about prayer. What is the place and meaning of prayer in your life? Where is it easy and where is it hard? What kinds of prayer are you involved with? Where do you want to learn or grow in your prayer life?
 84. Talk about pictures of God. What single words, images, or metaphors about God are most meaningful to you? Which images or pictures do you find difficult or barriers for you? How does imagery affect your prayer life?

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85. Consider your key relationships? Are you able to pray and share spiritually with your spouse? Why or why not? With your children? What are your deepest desires in your marriage and family? How is it coming? Do you have any key relationships that need healing or forgiveness?
86. Consider the Christian community. How does being in the church impact your life in God? What experience of meaningful community do you have? What are your needs and hope in this area?
87. What helps or encourages you in faith? What hinders or hurts you in your desire to know and follow God?
88. How do you handle suffering and hurt in your life? Who is God for you in such places?
89. Talk about future. What are your goals for yourself in spirituality? How are you going to move toward those goals?
90. What is the purpose of my life at this time? Do I feel that this purpose is being realized? If not, why not?
91. What do I feel guilty about most often? Why? How do I get rid of my guilt?
92. Looking back on my life, do I feel like I have gotten a fair deal? What does that mean to me?
93. What does it mean for me to be free? Do I feel that I am free? If so, why? If not, why not?
94. What is the one quality I really like about myself? Why?
95. What are the things that I find have the most meaning for me in life? Try to explain why.
96. Where is it most easy for me to find God?
97. Which person, or persons, of the Trinity do I find greatest ease praying to?
98. Do I feel God calling me in my heart to any special place with Him at this point in my life?
99. If you had to call on the Fellowship group to commission you to one task that lies ahead, what would it be? (after this you could pray for each other.)
100. If you had one wish for your small group, what would be? (Follow up question) --What steps are you taking now to start making that come true?
101. What was the best gift you ever received as a child?
102. Are you most like a sandy shore, a rocky coast, a thick forest, or a snow capped mountain? (Explain why.)

AUDIO RESOURCES

Class Recordings Available to Order: (All recordings will be in mp3 format)

Make What? - By Brady Bobbink. A Discipleship Class discussion on the command to make disciples and a look at the ambiguity of the idea of being a “Christian” in the modern North American setting. (\$2)

Called to the Kingdom of God! - By Brady Bobbink. A Discipleship Class teaching about the OT prophetic promise of the coming Kingdom and how it has come (and its implications to our lives) in Jesus of Nazareth. (\$2)

Called To Follow Christ: Six Realities - By Brady Bobbink. What are the dynamics and personal implications of being called to follow Christ? We take a look at these realities in this Discipleship Class teaching. (\$2)

Called to a Radical Liberation - By Brady Bobbink. In this Discipleship Class session, we take a look at one of the most liberating words in Jesus’ sermons and probe its implications and relationship to “faith.” (\$2)

Called to Repentant Faith - By Brady Bobbink. This Discipleship Class teaching continues the discussion regarding “radical liberation” by discussing what Jesus and the Apostles mean by “faith.” Paul states that it is by “faith we are saved” but James also says there is a “faith that does not save.” What do each of these Apostolic writers mean by faith and what is the relationship of faith to works? (\$2)

The Revelation of St. John – A Seven Week Study from the book of Revelation by Brady Bobbink. Learn what Apocalyptic literature is all about and discover basic and keen insights into this most controversial of all NT books. Find out about the Beast, the false prophet, 666, and the great whore of Babylon. In this class we will probe why this book would have been a book of deep hope and encouragement to the 7 churches of Asia minor and why it can be a great encouragement to us as 21-century saints. accompany this class. (\$17)

Sex and the City... of God – A Seven-Week Biblical Perspective Human Sexuality taught by Brady Bobbink. Brady’s topics include the Church’s historical view of sex, a study of Genesis 1-3 passages, Feminism, Sex before Marriage, and Homosexuality. The class includes lecture guides and articles. (\$17)

God’s Breath – God’s Fire – A Nine-Week Biblical Study of the Person & Ministry of the Holy Spirit taught by Brady Bobbink. Brady covers the OT Revelation of the Spirit, Jesus and the Spirit, the Gifts of the Spirit and their function, and the Baptism of the Spirit. The class includes lecture guides and articles. (\$20)

Waiting, Dating, & Mating – A Pizza Theology on Relationships by Brady Bobbink. Brady discusses the reasons for waiting to date along with practical attitudes toward dating and marriage. Includes listening guide and notes. (\$10)

Homosexuality – A Pizza Theology by Brady Bobbink. What does the Bible say about homosexuality and our response to homosexuals? Includes listening guide and notes. (\$10)

The Questions Class – The 7 Questions You’re Probably Asking. The staff come together to wrestle through these tough topics: hell, abortion, evolution, women in ministry, suffering, Old Testament genocidal themes, and how to love gay friends & family. (\$10)

Living Wired – A Pizza Theology on following Jesus in a constantly connected world. (\$10)

Mastering Money – A Pizza Theology on how to master money before it masters you... take a look at the theology of money, how to build a budget during & after college, and to be a good steward of what the Lord gives. (\$10)

Women in Ministry — A Pizza Theology on women’s role in the church. What does the Bible say and how should we be interpreting it? (\$10)

Jesus & Politics — Jesus isn’t red or blue, he’s God. Leading up to the 2016 election, Geoff Mumley takes a look at what Jesus has to say about worldly politics and authority. (\$6)

Epic Science, Ancient Faith — Should we dismiss scientific discoveries in order to view God as Creator? Do we have to reject belief in God to maintain scientific integrity? Learn about how science and faith intersect in this Pizza Theology class. (\$10)

Movies — A Pizza Theology on Magic, Monsters, and Mysteries: Why Movies Move Us. Learn to be a critical participant with this form of entertainment. (\$10)

WHY DO THE UCM INTERNSHIP?

by Brady Bobbink

Have you ever been operated on? I have faced that unpleasant but needed experience in life. I was calmed considerably knowing the practical supervised preparation required of my doctor before he was set free to work on me.

Consider the teacher, counselor, pilot, or doctor. All of these fields and many more have long realized the need for supervised “in-field” training. This training (especially in the medical field) is known as an internship, and is considered an essential aspect of credible preparation.

What should we then think when it comes to the field of pastoral ministry? What is the level of expectation we hold for “in-field internship” training for people who believe themselves called to serve God in this way? Do you and I or the churches as a whole see such training as an essential aspect of proper preparation? I have generally found the expectation is much lower than in other arenas of service. This attitude prevails in spite of the fact that the minister (be it campus, church, or missions) is a “spiritual” teacher, counselor, pilot, and doctor.

The campus pastor, missionary, or church minister will be a teacher of eternal truths and will be called on to give counsel to countless numbers of students or other adults. He or she will have to guide (pilot) the Christian community under his/her care through many opportunities. The campus minister is a surgeon of the soul who must learn to rightly use the scalpel of the Spirit.

With these things in mind and in light of Scripture’s concern for the proper testing of leaders (1 Timothy 3:10), one wonders why we place so little stress on meaningful internships in the training of our pastors. It is time we recognize that an internship is not irrelevant, it is essential.

You may be thinking, “I’ve been to the university, or perhaps Bible School, maybe even seminary, so why should I do an internship?” Good question!

Pastoral ministry, like the surgeon, pilot, or electrician, entails much more than simply mastering theological truth and ministry philosophy in a formal classroom. There must also be an extended time of testing one’s character, discovery of one’s gifts, and the development of needed skills in

“real world” settings. If this is to be done realistically it requires “hands-on” experience. It was this conviction regarding hands-on experiential training that motivated me to pioneer the first CMIT program in the nation for Chi Alpha Campus Ministries in 1977.

My experience over the past forty plus years of training interns from Bible schools, seminaries, and secular colleges has confirmed that each and every one of them needed and greatly benefited from the practical and supervised training they received. This need for **practical training** is the first reason to do an internship.

Another significant reason for participating in a campus ministry internship is the need you or I have to adapt to the atmosphere of vocational pastoral work in the **secular campus context**.

A missionary must spend significant time becoming acclimated to his/her new culture before he can hope to become effective. In the same way the perspective campus minister needs the time afforded through an internship to become familiarized with the unique characteristics of campus ministry.

Perhaps we could sum up with the words of a wise intern: “When I came I was confident in myself, but when I left my confidence was in God. When I came I felt I had a handle on most things, but when I left I felt like I had begun to truly grasp essential things. Back then I wondered, ‘do I really need this?’ Now I wonder what I’d have done without it.”

What is a Campus Ministry Internship?

A Campus Ministry In Training (CMIT) internship is a **ten-month long** intensive training program for future Christian ministry. It is our purpose to train interns through their active participation in campus pastoral leadership under the supervision of a veteran campus minister.

Each intern will be afforded the opportunity to receive broad first-hand experience in an encouraging atmosphere before venturing out to establish or help lead a campus ministry.

Is The Internship Only For Those Called To University Ministry?

While some internship centers elect to work with men and women who sense a clear calling to university ministry the internship program in Bellingham has embraced a broader agenda. We gladly, room permitting, welcome men and women whose vision for serving God may be other than the university. Some have come unsure of their calling but desiring to “test” their gifts and vision. Others’ focus is on local church ministry or international missions. Still others simply want to deepen their knowledge and skills before pressing forward into their calling to serve God in the marketplace and the local church. Each is a legitimate motivation for doing an internship and we attempt to accommodate all who desire to “mature in Christ Jesus.”

What Does An Internship Offer?

The ultimate goal of the UCM/CCF internship at Western Washington University is to offer an authentic place of spiritual growth and excellence in preparation for service to our Lord. Rest assured that as an intern you will not be relegated to being a staff person’s gopher or a “special projects” person.

Instead, an intern joins our staff as a co-worker under training. In that position, he takes on the work, experiences, and intensity that each of us face in an ongoing way as campus leaders.

As an intern you will receive consistent and personal mentoring from the staff. At all times you, your sense of calling, and your future will be treated with respect and care by the UCM/CCF staff.

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE UCM/CCF CMIT PROGRAM FOR THE 2014-2015 ACADEMIC YEAR

The UCM program has three primary focal points: [1] the intern’s theological and biblical training; [2] the intern’s character; and [3] the intern’s general ministry skills.

I. The Minister’s Biblical Training

Our goal is to introduce each intern to the world of biblical and theological studies and to concentrate on establishing firm theological foundations. We aim to leave each intern with the skills and knowledge needed to pursue a life-long development of his/her intellect.

Interns can anticipate time being given daily to develop the disciplines of devotion and personal study, as well as group gatherings weekly to discuss the essentials of an evangelical biblical faith.

Each intern will participate in the following study/discussion programs during his/her internship.

Spring and Summer Preparatory Studies

Each intern will be assigned and complete five introductory Berean correspondence courses before the beginning of their internship in September.

The Intern Book Study and Teaching Lab

Fall Term: Each intern will study a NT book using a verse by verse inductive approach. The “Intern Study Lab supervisor” will give weekly assignments guiding the interns through their NT book. Each week the interns and supervisor will discuss the section previously studied.

Toward the end of the Fall term the interns will be introduced through readings, lecture, and discussion to the issues surrounding the art of public preaching. Beyond this each intern will do relevant research and commentary reading on his/her Epistle.

Winter Term: During the winter term each intern will prepare and deliver 4 twenty-minute sermons. These sermons will be given to their fellow interns and lab supervisor who will evaluate each sermon on the basis of sound theology, skill of delivery, and the relevance of the texts’ application to students’ lives. Interns will also be involved in other opportunities in public speaking in dorms, small groups, etc.

Critical Pastoral Concerns (CPC’s)

Fall through Spring Term: The CPC’s are a series of studies addressing practical and biblical issues that confront the vocational minister. Each CPC requires individual preparation followed by a group discussion led by a UCM/CCF senior staff person. Through the CPC’s we address specific concerns such as the ministry of the Spirit, relating in a denominational setting, and various personal/philosophical issues pertaining to ministerial ethics and leadership.

The Advanced Theological Study Labs (ATS)

Spring Term: The ATS lab is an eleven week series of studies aimed at introducing each intern to the sweep of major theological teachings within historic biblical Christianity.

The interns will read various articles and chapters from theological works such as: The Sovereignty of God; The Primacy of Scripture; Man and his nature; the Deity of Christ; the Cross and Its Significance; Salvation by grace and faith; the new birth; personal

holiness; the church; and final judgments. A conversation lab follows each topic.

Interns and the Berean School of the Bible

As already noted each intern will complete a series of 5 Berean School of the Bible (Global University) courses and seminars during their internship. These classes will cover Synoptic Gospels, Acts, Prison Epistles, Introduction to Pentecostal Doctrine, and Assemblies of God History, Missions, & Governance. These courses are completed before the internship begins.

It is the goal of the internship to not only introduce interns to the broad realms of biblical and theological studies, but to also prepare them for credentials with the Assemblies of God for those who so desire. Credentialing is obtained through successfully completing both the Berean course work, the one week “Reach the U” campus ministry conference in June, and the Internship.

Beyond this each intern will have opportunity to participate in classes offered to the student group at WWU.

II. The Minister’s Character

To promote character growth (which is Scripture’s overwhelming concern for pastoral leaders, see 1Timothy 3 and Titus 1), each intern will be personally supervised by a staff person. Each week the intern meets with his/her intern pastoral supervisor (IPS) for prayer and discussions that touch on the ministries, attitudes, and disciplines, of our lives.

It is the staff person’s responsibility to address and train the intern in areas of personal integrity (financial, time, relational, sexual, etc.) and to assist the intern in developing the spiritual disciplines of a growing spiritual leader. (Fasting, confession, prayer, etc.)

Further character formation takes place through living with other interns and staff in one of our “ministry houses.” Here the practical development of our personal relationships and lifestyles are strengthened in a natural and caring environment. Married interns find suitable housing apart from the ministry houses.

III. The Minister’s Skills

Finally, there is the broad area of skills. We are deeply aware and committed to the reality that intellectual knowledge only becomes a helpful skill when that knowledge is allowed to be experienced and applied repetitively in a person’s life. Therefore

an intern can expect not only training but also the opportunity to “do the hands-on work of the ministry.”

Below you will find a partial list of the type of activities each intern will find himself or herself participating in during his/her internship. While this list is incomplete and fails to capture some of the intensity and personal nature of the internship, it does give a reasonable sense of the program.

THE INTERN WILL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO . . .

- a. Participate as a member of the UCM/CCF staff in the weekly staff prayer, planning and administration meeting.
- b. Lead a men’s/women’s discipleship/mentoring group.(Plan and carry out a weekly meeting that incorporates worship, prayer, bible study, personal support for the students, and training in areas of personal life management, bible study skills and evangelism).
- c. Meet one to one with the members of his/her small group each week to encourage personal growth and spiritual friendship.
- d. Be trained and participate in 7+ hours of personal evangelism (book table, contact, follow up work, dorm talks, etc.) each week.
- e. Work with students in his/her area of campus to plan and present evangelistic outreaches to the student population in their dorms.
- f. Befriend an international student one-on-one every week to build a friendship and share the love of Christ.
- g. Learn hands-on time management and prioritizing skills by keeping a time sheet each week of his/her internship.
- h. Each intern will go on various “field trips” in order to be introduced to other models of ministry or attend learning seminars.
- i. Learn how to prepare and send a monthly newsletter to his/her support team.
- j. Participate in the weekly small group leader’s training and support class.
- k. Participate weekly in the main group meeting on Friday nights — actively ministering to people before, during, and after the meeting in various appropriate ways.

- l. Attend one board meeting in order to see how UCM relates and reports out to its overseeing board.
- m. Lead a 10-day spring break missions outreach. The interns will interview, select, and train their teams. Each intern will oversee each and every aspect of his/her team's trip.
- n. Participate in various kinds of biblical and theological studies each week.
- o. Enjoy numerous other opportunities for personal growth and pastoral care.
- p. Administrate and oversee on of our major annual events for the CCF community. Participate in the administration of our campus ministry through weekly office hours.
- q. Attend a mid-year prayer and fasting retreat for reflection and solitude with God.
- r. Participate in the annual May SICM conference (Student Institute of Campus Ministry) held in Bellingham.
- s. Attend the LIGHT Conference - a gathering of Chi Alpha pastors and interns from WA, OR, ID & Canada.
- u. Attend the Discover the Nations conference, where interns will be trained and inspired towards international ministry on their campus.
- v. Have great desserts and hot drinks with various staff.

IV. The Intern's Living Situation

As noted earlier under the section, "The Minister's Character," all single interns live in one of our ministry houses ("The HOME": guys and "the Mansion": gals), while married interns will be assisted in finding appropriate housing.

V. The Intern's Finances

The intern works "full-time" throughout the internship, having raised his/her personal and ministry budget through summer employment and other various forms of fund raising. The intern will work on average about 50-55 hours a week at his/her studies and ministry duties throughout the internship.

Each intern accepted to the program, (with ample help and training from the UCM/CCF staff), is required to raise his/her own support for the internship year. In the same manner as the UCM/

CCF staff, each intern enlists the support of his/her family, church, friends, and past work associates who will pledge their prayer and/or financial support to help make the internship a reality.

There is a one-time \$30 dollar non-refundable processing fee that is required by the national Chi Alpha office at the time of applying for the UCM/CCF internship.

UCM/CCF is a non profit organization and all gifts to the internship are tax deductible.

VI. When Does The Internship Begin and End?

The Internship begins September 1st & ends on June 30th.

VII. Is There Fruit?

Since our first intern came to us in 1977, I have had the joy of seeing over 250 interns participate in the WWU CMIT program. Today over 75 of them are in "vocational" ministry positions around the world. They are ministering from Louisiana to Montana. From California to China, they are campus pastors, church ministers, seminary educators, and cross cultural missionaries.

Beyond that there are a host who came and are now owners of businesses, lawyers, teachers, home-makers, authors, and men and women in all kinds of market-place employment who are seeking to advance the cause of Christ.

But, what is needed today in ever increasing urgency are workers for the expanding mission field. Perhaps Christ is speaking to you about the needs of one hundred million plus college students in the world or perhaps your heart resonates with the vision to be more deeply trained for service to the church and the marketplace. Whatever the vision, doing an internship will only help you accomplish it with skill and success.

Our commitment to you is that we as a staff will endeavor to offer to you a year of first rate training. We aim to offer an experience that is personal and practical. We take your dedication of a year of your life seriously and in all we do we aim to do it with excellence and in a manner that honors our Lord.

Brady Bobbink helped to pioneer the WWU Chi Alpha group as a student. After graduating with his degree in Education (English/Speech), Brady become the ministry's first director and has continued to serve Christ in that position for the past 45 years. In 1977 Brady established the first Chi Alpha internship program. Brady's masters' level studies in Theology have been done at Fuller Theological Seminary and Regent College and he has begun doctoral level work at AGTS.