

# **Skit Five: The Touch of the Rose**

**by Scott Smith and David A. Waganer**

The Cooperative Program, just as the rose, is comprised of a number of different parts such as the Mission Boards, the seminaries, the universities, the agencies, the state convention needs, the various ministries, etc. Many people, without thinking, prioritize these parts in an order of importance to them individually.

The same ministry can be seen from many different angles. Because it is difficult and not as glamorous as some, it may be seen as the thorn on the rose. Others may see it as the stem, making a foundation and supporting the bloom itself, while those who are recipients of that ministry may see it as the bloom itself.

One such ministry is that of the Baptist Campus Minister at Lander University in Greenwood. Let's look at a typical day in the life of Scott Smith, the Campus Minister. Everything in this day except for the people has been provided through the Cooperative Program.

*(It is 9:00 A.M. in the morning as Scott Smith pulls into the parking lot at the Baptist Student Center. Already there are 6 cars parked there. These are commuters who have already arrived for classes but couldn't find a space on the ever - expanding campus.)*

*(It is 10:00 A.M. and a student arrives to begin making copies for the Dorm Bible study tonight. He is excited because he is expecting 10 students tonight. This is 2 more than last week. The student begins using the phone at The Center to call and make sure the other 8 will be coming. One last check in the Bible Commentaries and a discussion with Scott to make sure he has all the information for the Bible study.)*

*(It is 10:30 A.M. and a professor calls to see if he can buy one of the BSU t-shirts. He has seen them around campus and he would like to wear it as he teaches his Physical Education class. Scott puts one in an envelope and sends a student to deliver it to him.)*

*(It is 11:00 A.M. and a local Baptist minister drops by to play ping pong. It seems that yesterday was extremely difficult at his church. He needs a friend and some physical exertion to relieve the stress. He leaves after about 30 minutes ready to continue the tightrope job he has serving as a minister.)*

*(It is 12:00 Noon and time for the Baptist Young Women to have a Bible Study/Prayer luncheon. Scott and 3 students work diligently in the kitchen making finger sandwiches for the 12 college students who will be coming. The group begins its meeting at 12:30 P.M. by praying for the missionaries.)*

*(It is 1:30 P.M. and students begin streaming into the BSU Center. This is the time to escape and find some friends to talk to. Ed comes in. Ed is having a difficult time because his father lost his job and Ed is having to work two jobs to go to college. It seems that hard economic times do not escape many of these who are so young. Scott listens as Ed shares the worries of home, family, and school.)*

*(It is 2:30 P.M. and two members of the BSU Council come in to make posters and calendars of upcoming BSU events. Others who are around at the BSU Center join in to help fold and stuff the envelopes. There is laughter, discussions, and inclusiveness in even the simplest of things.)*

*(It is 4:00 P.M. and the BSU President arrives and shares about needs on campus. They pray for those who are missing and need a telephone call or note. After 30 minutes of discussion they begin calling and writing students. The President has come to understand that the servant role is not always to be out front. They finish after about one hour.)*

*(It is 5:30 P.M. and a student comes to Scott's office in tears. She has just gotten word that a relative has died. Scott calls Judy (his wife) to tell her he will be late for supper tonight.)*

The life and ministry of a campus minister who is supported through the Cooperative Program might not be your favorite part of the rose. For some it is either the stem or the thorn. However, if you were to ask someone whose life was touched through the work of a campus ministry, it would probably be the bloom of the rose. Recognize that God made the rose with multiple parts, and even the Cooperative Program in all of its beauty is not made-up of just blooms.

*(This skit is based on a story submitted by Scott Smith from Lander University.)*

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