

## Counselor's Commentary

It has been years since the counseling program has written an article describing exactly what is accomplished in the schools. I would like to take a moment at the beginning of this new school year to share with you a little about our program and the direction that it will be going in this year.

First, the counseling program in the private schools was started in 1990 in response to legislation in Des Moines that required all schools to have a guidance program in order to receive state approval. However, since 1996, such legislation was reviewed and private schools were no longer included in this legislation. At that time, many of the Christian schools in the northwest Iowa area opted to drop the program because of the financial obligation. Due to a larger number of students at both Orange City and Sioux Center Christian schools, both schools have continued with the program in order to help serve the emotional needs of their students.

Within these schools that I serve, I try to work closely with the principal/teachers in order to provide the kind of service that is best for the students. There are five things that I pray all students will gain with the help of the guidance program:

1. a positive attitude toward self as a unique and worthy person created in God's image and with a specific task in his kingdom.
2. life planning skills that are consistent with his/her own needs.
3. responsible social skills and an understanding of being a contributing member of society, showing love and kindness to others, helping those in need.
4. an appreciation and understanding of the lifelong process of learning, growing, and changing; yielding to the Holy Spirit's guiding; reflecting the regenerating and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
5. the ability to demonstrate the fruits of the Spirit in their lives.

Secondly, I will continue to meet with students both individually and in small groups as requested by teachers or parents. Also, classroom guidance activities will be provided as determined by each school.

Again, if there is any way that I can help you with any matters related to your children please do not hesitate to call me at 722-0777. Some believe that school counselors can only be called to help with problems that occur at school. This could not be further from the truth. We are a resource to parents for any help they might need with issues that occur at school, at home, or anywhere else.