

Oral History Interview of Dane Emerick

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Name of Interviewee: Dane Emerick

Name of Interviewers: Randy Miller, Lowell Walters

Transcriber: Grace Peterson

Interview Length: (1:31:55)

Notes: Editing on this transcript was done by Abigail Sattler.

Miller: (0:00:01) Welcome, to this interview in the oral history project of the Liberty University archives. This interview is the second part of an interview and it's being conducted on September 8, 2011. Today we're interviewing Dane Emerick. My name is Randy Miller and I'll be conducting the interview today along with Lowell Walters.

Walters: (0:22) Greetings.

Emerick: (0:23) Hello, Randy.

Miller: (0:24) And as we begin today let's get into the area of student activities. You were as the Dean of Men you were really kind of involved in student activities and it seems like, and you came from a background of being a youth pastor, that when I was growing up we had a youth activity every Friday night. And you know it might be roller skating one year, it might be bowling and it seemed like even in Liberty in those early days that there was a lot more of these very specific targeted activities. Today it doesn't seem like there's quite as much of trying to plan all of these things can you talk about the evolution of student activities through the years?

Emerick: (1:07) Alright, I think back when I first came there wasn't much here in Lynchburg. Sure you had the skating rink and maybe we'd take a trip up to Peaks of Otter and a lot of times in those days there were a lot of cook outs or we'd bring someone in and we'd have a concert out on the well down when I first came we didn't have a yard. But we would do a lot of activities at the church. And basically it was more like what I did when I was a youth pastor, more simple things you know. Now we have a lot of activities and a lot of things going on for students to choose from. Where in those days you didn't have a lot, basically all the students we would have maybe a western night and everybody would go and we'd do a western theme and do something there, or Hawaiian or something like that. But all the students participated, but now I mean what do you have? Every weekend and almost every night there's something going on, some activities

that they can get involved in, so they can pick and choose what activities. Where in those days you had an activity, you had something planned on the weekend and all the students were usually involved into that activity.

Miller: (2:26) And so it was more of a campus wide activity in those days where as now it seems to be they are a little more focused, but you can't get all 12 or 13,000 students to go to any one activity, unless it's a concert or...

Emerick: (2:38) Oh, true, true I mean like a week or so ago they took buses to Washington DC or but also that same weekend they had activities to the Peaks of Otter, they had activities in the gym we have our student center, where we do mini concerts for kids to go to. There's so much, and of course we didn't have much in the way of plays back in those days and now we have our theatre and we have productions, big productions. So there's so much to do here I mean you can get so involved in activities that you forget your homework, and why you're actually here. Where in those days we had something planned everybody went to it, it was a certain period of time, and that was about it.

Walters: (3:24) Do you still have the it seems like there used to be a Christmas banquet and then a senior banquet or something like that did?

Emerick: (3:31) We still have a junior/ senior banquet, you know as far as Christmas banquets and things are concerned each department you know where in those days we would have a big banquet and everybody went to. But like the band has their Christmas banquet, RA's and leadership has theirs, so we're so huge now each department plans their own and there's a number of banquets that goes on. But it's different then back when I first came.

Miller: (3:56) Now I do remember seeing back in some of the old yearbooks, did they used to have a Miss. Liberty, did they have more of a pageant type thing or something like that, was there a homecoming king or queen? I don't know exactly what it was but you would know what.

Emerick: (4:11) Miss. Liberty pageant that was the big thing of the year. I mean we planned it we put it together it was almost like a Miss. America pageant, without the swimming suit contest you know. And we would have we would have a thing where we would put music and the girls would sing, and maybe we would have football players to walk them out on the stage, when they wore their formal wear. And everybody was there we had judges there and it was one of the biggest things that we had in the fall. And whoever won that became Miss Liberty, when we played football she'd come out in a convertible and wave at everybody and everything. And it was huge I mean it was the biggest thing and the biggest production that we would do the first of the year.

Miller: (5:00) So it wasn't like homecoming queen it was a separate pageant that was the activity for the night was the Miss Liberty

Emerick: Yes

Miller: (5:05) Pageant.

Emerick: (5:06) Yes, yes, yes.

Miller: (5:07) And why did that go away?

Emerick: (5:09) I think after a period of time it just sort of got old. It was time to move on; it was time to do something else other than that. And it was very difficult because it became very costly. Especially the way we would put it on and the production, so it just sort of, we had it and then one year it was not there. The decision was you know we needed to just end it now it's run its course and now it's time to move on to something else.

Walters: (5:38) Now you used to have that in the church sanctuary at Thomas Road I remember going to one. I believe...

Emerick: (5:44) When we started it was there and then when Schilling came along that's where we did even the larger productions, was in the Schilling. Where we had a runway coming out and we had an orchestra and we would bring in maybe a really popular female recording artist, Christian recording artist, or we'd bring in a Miss America or Miss Virginia. And we always had somebody there that was special and you know, so it was just really a neat time.

Miller: (6:17) Now is there anything I was just kind of thinking well now is that a southern thing or is there anything that you can identify. You're originally from Pennsylvania so you're more of a Yankee and that. Is there anything that was southern about the activities or as the part of the Dean of Students there that you can think of that kind, I'm thinking of the southern belles and all but I was just thinking is there anything? Liberty hasn't been a particularly southern school they've always had the students from all of the different states and so maybe you can get grits at breakfast or something like that [*laughter*], but that's about the only nod to the south. Is there anything that's really southern here that you've seen.

Emerick: (6:57) No, no, I don't think so I mean I came in and wound up becoming the Dean and I used to handle some of the activities but understand I'm a Yankee so you know a lot of things were not necessarily southern in nature. But the gamut of youth and where youth were and bringing out activities that the kids would be involved with and enjoy so no I think it was you know all types of activities were presented to these kids and they just enjoyed it.

Miller: (7:29) I knew they had some pretty lean years where the students didn't have a lot of money the institution didn't have a lot of money so did you have a budget or did you do inexpensive activities or did students bring three dollars for the activity? How did you go about paying for the activities?

Emerick: (7:46) Oh my goodness, it was difficult we would contact I would contact Christian artists and like I shared yesterday like Carman coming in and he would come in and he would come in just for a love offering. We would book people and then we would pray we would pray that there would be money there to pay them when they would come in. And you know we had a number of artists that were willing to come in. We would pay their expenses where they would make probably quite a bit going somewhere else. But it was amazing how many were willing to come in and they were sold to the very fact of who we are and our institution, you know definitely there were lean years. There were times that we would we would be asked when the paycheck come out could you wait for a few days before you would cash your paycheck. There were times that Doc would come to us and say you know would you be willing to either hold or be willing to even give up a pay because of Liberty, and I'd understand if you'd leave. But you know we were sold on Liberty University, well Lynchburg University Liberty Baptist, all the different names. But we, we sold in and bought into the vision and we believed in the vision and we knew that even though we were going to go through these rough times even though sometimes we were going to have to tighten our belts that God wanted this University to go and grow. And we definitely believed in the school, I remember Mr. Hershey coming down and helping us out. And different business men coming down and we just knew that God would was going to bring us through and He always did. He would bring us through, I know with the PTL situation and everything happening there and a lot of giving and support stopped because you know of everything that was going on with PTL and then also with finances and economy, yeah we were we had lean times, we had lean times. But we would we would find activities that we could do that was inexpensive so that the kids could always, always had activities, and they weren't the big productions like sometimes we have today with you know where you have a concert and there's fireworks going off and everything. But you know I look back now and, and there were times that brought us so close together they brought it brought the staff and the faculty close together because we believed in what we were doing. And we were willing to experience whatever we needed to experience to see the school stay and not close its doors.

Walters: (10:33) You mentioned the drama productions and musicals that were available and Liberty wouldn't allow dancing but yet on a stage we could call it choreography and you have the Miss Liberty pageant. Did you ever run into issues were a production came up and some big supporter financially fussed, or got upset with it and anything like that?

Emerick: (10:59) Yeah well I think you always had someone to complain about something. You got to understand that our productions in those days we did have choreography but you know when you look at it now, which I'm glad that we've moved from the aspect of using the term choreography, a lot of it was like marching you know. As long as it was not swing or anything like that it was ok, as long as it was marching. I remember when Mark Lowery was in "Music Man" and of course you know there was a lot of dance scenes in "Music Man." But since we said "Music Man," march, so all of our movements were like marching. And I mean it was a great production, we really enjoyed it but it was like ok you know they're suppose to be at a picnic and

their suppose to be dancing, dancing and not really marching. I think we've moved on I mean we still hold pretty tight about the aspect of dancing on campus but we've gotten to a place where we said ok you know like we're getting ready to do "Oklahoma", last year we did "Phantom of the Opera", the year before that we did "The Scarlet Pimpernel," great productions. And we have dancing, we have choreography that's dancing and we're looking at it and we're saying ok who said dancing is sin you know, we can pull this stuff in. Living Christmas tree, but also we know at the same time that we've got to be cautious about what we do. I mean understand guys when I was younger I was on Dick Clarkes American Band Stand, and I used to dance on the show, and I love dancing. And it was neat just seeing us as we grew we said you know hey there's nothing wrong with that you know. I mean there are certain dances you don't do but there's nothing wrong with that. And I love the productions we're doing now and.

Walters: (13:02) Did the drama department have to run the slate of potential productions by you or anyone else? Was there a formal relationship between you and the drama department at any one point?

Emerick: (13:16) No, Dave Allison used to do the dramas and he would always make sure and check it out with those that were above him, his people that he answered to. Now Linda Cooper is there and naturally it's bounced off from our chancellor. But we've gotten to a place now we're producing quality productions. You know I remember when Beauty and the Beast came and we had such a small area of venue you know it was just one big room and we now we have a full theater. And but I remember the kids doing Beauty and the Beast and we were the first ones to receive the permission and the rights from Disney to do Beauty and the Beast. So the thing is apart from the university people are recognizing us and saying you know like Phantom of the Opera we were the first college to get the rights to do Phantom of the Opera.

Miller: (14:25) Now, [*clears throat*] we touched a little bit on finances here before I leave that area it seemed as though in the old days that Dr. Falwell had a lot of people, my great Aunt Mary would every month send Dr. Falwell twenty dollars. And it seemed as though there was ways that people could individually sponsor students and so were there students. Can you talk a little bit about students and financial needs and some things that you've seen happen there? The other thing I'd like you to touch in that same regard is I would hear that Dr. Falwell would just if he's out at a restaurant and there's somebody that'd say I can't afford to come to college this semester he'd get out his business card and write on the back here free four years to Liberty University. So could you talk a little bit about donors and students and then also Dr. Falwell in that regard?

Emerick: (15:22) Ok, I don't want you guys getting me into trouble. Ok? [Laughter] Yeah Doc was that way. I remember we had a meeting with Doc one time and he was sharing how Macel would give him an allowance because whatever money he had in his pocket if a kid was hurting and said something he would just he would just give it. That's what made Dr. Falwell unique that's what made him who he was and it was just awesome. But in those days we definitely worked on trying to keep the cost down for students you know we would share the fact that we

want to give it away we want to get them to come here for free but we realized that wish we could but you know we, we had to charge and students had to pay. But we had people that would sponsor students and I remember Doc getting on television and you probably remember back in those days when your aunt or other people would say oh, all he does is ask for money. But people would say...

Miller: (16:28) And that is true with my Aunt, "Oh he is such a beggar but I just really like what he's doing down there." You know what I mean? And that's how she and she said it in a nice way you know um "He's always begging for money but it really seems I really like the vision and the mission that he has."

Emerick: (16:43) Oh my family my family would do the same. I'd go home and go oh he's always but where are we going to get the money? Where are we going to get the finances to keep our tuition down? To give scholarships to kids that couldn't afford it. And you know I look back now and people just did not understand or they did not realize why we had to do what we did. And here was a man that got up and willing in front of people say you know "Hey, right now we need finances, you know we're hurting and if you can just send this you can get a Jesus first pen or a stake your claim stake or a brick in the wall," or anything like that.

Miller: (17:30) I remember getting the complete bible on a little 35 millimeter slide

Emerick: [*Laughing*]

Miller: (17:32) You know that you could you know shine up on the wall and you can read and you know. You have to use a microscope or a slide projector or you couldn't see it.

Emerick: (17:44) It's amazing I you know through the years I had kept all that stuff. And of course the museum asked if any of us had those things. In matter of fact I had a, I had a Donald Duck bottle, from the Donald Duck bottling company, and I gave it to them. Sometimes I wish I had kept it cause it was just unique, having that bottle there. I had everything I had stake your claim, I had all of these things and it would just remind me of what my pastor had to do. You know who likes going begging? But if it has to be done what better man to do it then my pastor and he would reach out. And my family would say oh there he goes again. And I'd say but, but we wouldn't have a college, if we didn't have people like you. Or if we didn't let people know our needs. And I just you know I respected him so much; I probably couldn't have done it. But he could, and he did. And look what we got, look at what we have. Because we had a pastor who had a vision and said I'm willing to if I have to beg, I'll beg.

Miller: (18:55) Were you here for the toilet paper time? Do you remember hearing that story?

Emerick: (18:59) Yeah, I was here for the toilet paper time. But it wasn't as bad as

Miller: (19:02) You know. Explain your recollection of that.

Emerick: (19:06) Well we were running out of toilet paper, and it was the best way to raise money you know [*laughing*]. And say you know

Miller: (19:13) And was the students that went out and went to the Kroger store and bought toilet I suppose it would have Winn Dixie back in those days but

Emerick: (19:19) Yeah, oh yeah that's right oh no Kroger's was still here, but Winn Dixie oh yeah. Students would go out and buy toilet paper; we'd go out and buy toilet paper. Yeah it was we went through some experiences that you know I wouldn't trade them for anything, you know I look back at my life and I'm sitting here I'm 66 you know and I'm going on 67 and all the years I've been here and to see. I mean like the time we were in the snow on our knees praying that God would give us this mountain. And how God provided for us and the time that the barn, the huge barn we had burnt down and everybody went up to see the barn. And we kept all our cleaning supplies in there but some of those cleaning supplies were flammable. And somehow something happened and one caught on fire and it was it was the best firing I've seen in a long time you know. [*Laughter*] The kids were getting marshmallows but we told them they couldn't do it you know. But yeah and I remember, just little stories I remember a lady wrote in the newspaper, here in Lynchburg, that she was upset with the fact that Jerry Falwell was developing an army to take over the United States. And that we had missiles here and she knows that we had missiles because we had silos and she knew in silos they keep missiles. We had an old silo to a barn you know we're going no, no we're not we don't have missiles up here.

Miller: (20:53) Well a more recently Jerry Falwell was quoted as we want to have a salt and light ministry, we want to be the salt of the earth and the light and so that was another we're going to have an assault man. No, no

Emerick: (21:07) It was it was, in those days it was just something that you knew. You know the old saying was in Lynchburg if you mentioned the name Jerry Falwell you either puckered up or you ducked. And it was amazing how people you know being so close to the man I just I just could not understand why people were so much against what he was doing and what we were doing here in campus. First of all for Lynchburg you know what we built here. The ministry throughout the world, mission minded the S.M.I.T.E. team that would go out singing, the coral all these things were so positive and yet people would want to turn them around and make them negative.

Walters: (21:53) Do you remember him Dr. Falwell making potential provision to move the university to Atlanta or somewhere? Do you remember that event or what?

Emerick: (22:05) Oh my gosh, as much as I can remember unfortunately the city was giving us a rough time, the Chamber of Commerce wanted to they wanted the city to help us and not push us out. And I remember a meeting and Doc had mentioned about moving the whole school to Orlando, Florida. And that that there was land, I don't know how true I don't but there was land and that Disney owned that they would you know give us land and we could build a college there

and our kids would have always jobs because of Disney and you know, but I look back now and say you know was it a threat? Well I think that if they didn't we probably we might have we might have moved, I don't know. But this is where Dr. Falwell knew where God had lead us, but boy when he said that you know and we looked all of a sudden the city then got behind us. And the Chamber of Commerce would go to the city and say what are you doing? This is this is so important we have a college hear at Lynchburg, Virginia, we got to hold on to this. And of course we stayed here in Lynchburg.

Miller: (23:27) And today it's a major driving force in the economy of the area.

Emerick: (23:33) I mean who we had no major highway's coming into Lynchburg you know. I mean if you wanted to say ok if I wanted to start a school and hopefully a large university probably Lynchburg would be the last place to build a university. But this is where God called him and you understand when you say Lynchburg, Virginia now people say oh and you'll say oh Liberty University oh yes, yes that's where it is. So Lynchburg is known now because of the University that we have, here in Lynchburg.

Walters: (24:10) What's your perspective of on our relationship with our student body and otherwise with Randolph- Macon well now it's called Randolph College but

Miller and Emerick: Sweet briar

Walters: (24:19) Sweet briar and Lynchburg College. Dr. Falwell himself went to a year at Lynchburg College right, back in the old days before when he was going to be a journalist or?

Emerick: (24:30) There was a point of you know when we started to grow there was a point of competition and but that has been the bridge has been brought into effect. I think we have a very good working relationship with Lynchburg College. For the longest time at Randolph- Macon Women's College there was a statement that they said Jerry made and I won't share what the statement was but it was pretty derogatory towards Randolph- Macon, which Jerry never did. And I remember Doc and I when we went over there to have lunch with students and staff at the college over there. The first question they ask is well "why did you make a statement like that?" And Doc goes "I never made a statement like that. I would never degrade women with a statement like that. He said through the years a rumor was said and they said that I said this. He said "no one has any documentation I said it I did not say." And it was amazing that when he would when you would bring Doc over to these schools; they got to see who he was. And I know the girl's at Randolph- Macon I mean it was amazing we were expecting a few people in their cafeteria and I think the whole school came out to the cafeteria. And we sat at a table he got his food and we sat at the table and it was just the school chaplain was there, faculty was there, students were there and he just opened up for questions. Ask me questions. And he answered them and when he left some of the girl's said well I still don't agree with his religion his philosophy of life and everything but he's an awesome man. And we left and it was just neat to see that.

Miller: (26:29) Why don't we since we're talking about that, talk about females, women on the campus here. And you know back when I went to my little bible college, way back in the day, you go to college to get your MRS. Can you talk a little bit about Dr. Falwell and what his attitude was towards our female students and Liberty does take a complimentary stand so they don't have women in the pastoral department there but, can you talk a little bit about what Dr. Falwell's attitude was towards the female students?

Emerick: (27:06) I you know I think and I from my feeling from my perspective and things that I saw, he saw the importance of women getting an education. I think he saw that because of the wonderful lady he was married to. Mrs. Falwell came to a point where she said I want to go on to get my education, and he encouraged it. You know he had a daughter who now is a surgeon and he encouraged that. He encouraged women, but he also encouraged them too, you know if God can work it out that you start your career but if you have children it's good for you to stay home, and be there when your children are little and then continue on with your career. He didn't put down working moms but he said you know, I remember his message's like you know when their little it's best to put your career on hold you know and don't let somebody else raise your little ones. And then you know when they get older then get back into the mainstream of education or whatever. And it was amazing you know you know we say that about women you know we don't train women pastors but in a sense that's terms. I mean we train women to be youth directors and we train women in women's ministry and we train women in definitely in ministry. How many of our women have gone to the mission field, and how many women we support on the mission field? You know we find that when it came to some of the pioneer missions, going into jungles and places we will find so many more of our women applying and getting on to the mission field. So definitely he pushed education for women.

Miller: (28:59) Well as long as we are talking about that let's go to the next area; the area of race. And in the mid '70's there, there were lots of controversy after the '60's and the civil rights act and all. Can you talk about Liberty University and you were Dean of Students as far as admissions as far as the racial relations and all just if you would address that, and particularly with Dr. Falwell and his view towards that?

Emerick: (29:27) It's amazing how people would bring out that Doc was a racists but he wasn't. And you know at our school there was nothing saying you know color would keep you from coming to Liberty University. You know I know in those days it was in those days. If an Afro-American young man wanted to date a girl that was Caucasian, a white girl, there had to be permission from parents saying it was ok. But that was the tenure of the day, that has changed but we it wasn't like no you can't or no you know. But you know I think as time progressed things have things have changed. And

Walters: (30:22) There was a sensitivity to the parental role, and the involvement that existed...

Emerick: Yes, yes

Walters: (30:25) in society at that time.

Emerick: Yes, yes

Miller: (30:29) And so even though the school is located in the south there's never been a racial issue as such with you working as the Dean of Students. I heard

Emerick: No

Miller: (30:44) A story about him at a major university where they were kind of anticipated him coming and really getting after him for his racial views and he challenged them. Do you recall hearing that story?

Emerick: (31:02) No

Miller: (31:03) It was something along the line of what percentage of your students are African American? And they gave a number and he said well at Liberty it's 11% was a very high and he says I would like it to be even higher. That we would like it to reflect the population of the area that we were in and we're very thankful and no we're not racially discriminatory.

Emerick: (31:26) Well I know that it had gotten to a place where you know people would say that we you know we're racial against our you know how many students we had or our Afro-American students but in the perspective of percentage compared to all the other universities in Virginia percentage wise we had a higher amount percentage wise of Afro-Americans than any other college. And we still do you know our Asian population has grown and we have and our Latino you know concentration has grown here. I mean even to the point that we have a, at our church we have a service for Spanish-speaking Latinos. We have a service for Korean or Asian individuals. I mean we're multi-culture and you know. Maybe at the first you didn't see it as much but that's because of the society we lived in it wasn't that we were we blocked it we wanted to see it grow. And as times went by I mean when I came to Thomas Road it was primarily an all white church. It's not that Dr. Falwell wanted an all white church but it was just that's the way it was and then all of a sudden we were winning within the city a young Afro-Americans coming into our church and becoming a very vital part of our church and, and teaching Sunday school and getting involved. And no I never sensed I never sensed anything that was discriminatory.

Walters: (33:11) Well what I witnessed in the late '80's is the, and the early '90's is the wall was coming down, communism was coming down. We have a lot of eastern Europeans come here mostly Romanians come here, correct?

Emerick: (33:23) Oh my, I remember when the Romanians came. We went and we got them we brought them over they lived here on campus. I had worked with them, in matter of fact some of them are still here and some of them are in administration, which is so amazing you know we have one young man here that was shot and the bullet had gone through the leg and out through

the other leg. And but God brought him here and yes it's amazing to see what God has done here at Liberty University.

Walters: (33:54) Well you had mentioned about you know dating rules with race and all that sort of thing. And we talked about a number of things yesterday in that light as far as rules and student living. The Liberty way since fairly early days has been the lifestyle document for the students to live by on campus, correct? How tell us about the revision of the Liberty way and that process. Was there a whole set of people that Dr. Falwell have to did you run that by him if anything needed changing? Was it revised annually? Tell us about that actual formal process of doing that, if you can.

Emerick: (34:39) I haven't been involved as much lately as I was then but the Dean staff we would meet and we would go over the Liberty way and if we saw some things that we would like to change or maybe some things we'd like to define a little bit better we would do it and then it always went before Dr. Falwell. Dr. Falwell always reviewed it and you know he would send it back and say you know I think that's a good idea or maybe he would say you know I understand where you are coming from but you know I'm going to hold on to this it's just the way I feel it's just you know and we had no problem that. As I said yesterday I guess I'm from the old school, I liked some of the older rules that we had but you know as time went on we kept thinking now wait a minute this can change you know this isn't.

Miller: (35:31) Well clarify that a little bit cause you were all for liberalizing the music rules and the movie rules so which ones would you personally have liked to is it in the areas of dress or what are we talking about?

Emerick: (35:44) No, no, no I appreciated the study hours.

Miller: Ok

Emerick: (35:51) I wish we were as strict about the study hours as we were then. Now I understand you know we have you know young adults here. But some of them you know I mean you walk through the dorms and you know kids say well I just haven't had time to do anything. Or you know I'm just so busy and you walk in and they're on video games and they're on and you know in a way sometimes I wish you know and this is just me that maybe we still said say you know you have to be at a certain time to study and.

Miller: (36:24) Were students always allowed to have televisions in their room?

Emerick: (36:27) No, oh no. No we never allowed televisions in the room. We would have maybe an area where we would have a television.

Miller: (36:34) So they could watch a football game or something

Emerick: Yes. Yes, yes.

Miller: (36:35) In a common lounge area or something but

Emerick: (36:38) But you got to understand ok with computers you don't need to have a television, television. I mean you can do it right on the computer. So you know that was like you know fighting you know a cause that you're weren't going to win anyways and so we went and said ok we can have televisions in the room. That one I would probably maybe we shouldn't have; maybe there's somebody in the room wants to study and the other person wants to watch a television show and it could affect that. But you know it just go to a place where you said ok kid could have a laptop he can get on there anyways you know.

Walters: (37:15) Well I know I had a couple RA's that they had to know that we had a television now I'm confessing but you know they just looked the other way. We only had it out on Monday night, during football season. But anyhow

Miller: (37:27) I hid mine inside of a speaker cabinet you know. You pulled off the front speaker grille, and that's where it was hidden in there. But I happened to have had a monitor that had just such good hearing; he could hear when it was turned on with that high pitched squeal in there.

Emerick: (37:42) Well we used to do we used to do room checks. And I remember I walked into one room and I look at the dresser and I thought something strange about this dresser the drawers. So I looked at it and I took the top handle and I pulled it well the whole thing, the guy was so ingenious he had a piece of wood and he glued the doors unto the wood so that you could lay it down and there would be the TV and then you'd put it up and it'd be the dresser. And I didn't want to give him reprimands because he was so you know creative in what he did. But he still got reprimands.

Miller: (38:17) So now do they still have any form of white glove inspection once a semester or anything like that?

Emerick: (38:21) Yes, oh yes. We still have white glove and

Miller: (38:26) But, but now it's just at the end of the semester to make sure you

Emerick: (38:29) No, but what it is the RA's still check rooms, to make sure the rooms are you know like it's not a pig sty and then...

Miller: (38:37) So does that happen weekly like during convocation?

Emerick: (38:40) Convocation.

Miller: Ok

Emerick: (38:41) They'll walk through and just check rooms to make sure you know hey you doing ok, you keeping it clean. Not spotless but I mean you go into some guys rooms you know

I'm you know I'm sometimes walk in and think if I fall down they'll never find my body, you know. The girl's room's, most girl's are creative and pretty and pink and.

Walters: (39:03) Now when we talk about revising the Liberty way I assume that some some of the suggestions that came out of the students senator SCA [student council association] or SGA, student government association. What was your relationship like with them? Was there anything like that went on that they would pass a resolution or a bill for consideration to change something?

Emerick: (39:25) I think more so in recent years the student government has become more vocal. And you know each dorm has it's senators and you know like right now I you know I think they presented a bill about movies and how then the bill has gone to Vice President Hine and then you know if he disapproves it it ends but if he approves it then it goes on to the chancellor and the chancellor looks at it and says you know either I'm going to approve it or I'm going to turn it down. So you know it's set and I'd say student government has more of a voice on the campus. I think you're seeing that and I'm also thinking that you're seeing more in the area of alumni and their voice.

Miller: (40:19) As far as campus security goes. Now when you first started out here, there was nothing up here on the mountain and we were just out here in the wilderness, so to speak and there was a guard shack there that people would come in there was only one entrance on campus. Can you talk a little bit about campus security, the Liberty University Police Department, just as far as how that's grown and changed through the years?

Emerick: (40:49) Yeah when we first came up here you were you had to go through the check point; we had a check point coming and going.

Walter: (40:56) It's a one way on and off at that point, at that point.

Emerick: (40:57) One way on and off. And you know if you were past curfew you had we don't have that any longer but we have you know we have our cars now we have a police department it's not in a sense a security, it is an actual police department. Our police officers they can arrest, they hold the same the same standing as Lynchburg Police Department does.

Miller: (41:29) So if somebody was speeding on campus they can give them a speeding ticket?

Emerick: (41:33) They can give them a speeding ticket.

Miller: (41:34) It's not just a guy with a flashlight here

Emerick: (41:36) No, no, no. Because in those days it was just you know guys we hired. Now in order to be a part of the LUPD [Liberty University Police Department] you have to go to the police academy. We have regular shifts that drive around on a regular basis; they have a time shift time schedule that they drive around campus. We have a place where you can call if a girl

has to park in a far parking lot she can call and say you know I'm in such and such parking lot and I don't want to walk back to my dorm and we have it set that they can call and someone will be there to drive them to their dorm for safety sake. I would say Rich Hinkley is our Chief of Police. And he's been here almost as long as I have; and very much interested in the safety of our students.

Walters: (42:32) As I watched my older sister come through here, me being the younger brother at the time that was '79 to '83. And Jerry was very involved with politics and she would talk a lot about death threats that he would get and things like that. And I look I can tell a difference between the time she came here and when I came here that she looked at the security force as security for her from the outside world and by the time I came they were looked at as you know these are the COPs, the LU COPs you know. And they were out to get us. Do you remember those years of Dr. Falwell getting death threats or anything? Do you have any stories about that that you can share or maybe you didn't witness that or that's inaccurate or?

Emerick: (43:17) Oh, yeah or as well as stories I you know I know for a fact that he got death threats. I know our police department there always were at least two people to guard, they were trained to look you know like at the church service when he would he would at the end when they would have an invitation you would see them come up with the pastors to watch. Dr. Falwell was very much a pastor and very much a statesmen, and because of his politics and standing up as a statesmen and standing for what was right. Yes, they came on a regular basis. I mean there were times that we would get called and say you know there was a threat against Dr. Falwell but we need to make the campus aware of this. There were times that we would get you know someone would call and say that they're going to plant a bomb on our campus. I don't know we may get those but I don't hear them anymore.

Walters: (44:29) Did you ever feel somewhat insecure physically yourself being near him on the stage or anything?

Emerick: (44:36) No, no I never it didn't bother me you know. I remember one time we had we evacuated the church because someone had said that there was they had put and there was no bomb there. No I never I thought it was exciting you know [*laughter*]. It's a chapter in my book you know.

Miller: (44:54) What about the bullet proof pulpit?

Emerick: (44:57) Yeah you couldn't shoot through that pulpit.

Miller: (44:59) What, was there lead lining or something?

Emerick: (45:02) Well people said that there wasn't any and people said it was there was lining. If it's still over there come with me and try to pick it up. And I believe and you know in my heart I believe it was. Because it would take a number of us to move that pulpit, cause it was

extremely heavy. You know I remember I remember the time that ah an organization supporting gay rights came and I always loved going to Thomas Road, cause I would never know who would be demonstrating you know out in front of the church. And I'll never forget one time there was going to be a gay rights movement coming and demonstrating. So Doc got up and he said you know I taught a Sunday school class over there and Dr. Falwell said "You know hey you know let's get cookies and we'll have coffee and stuff and we'll put it out on the sidewalk, where they're demonstrating. And they all came to demonstrate and we gave them cookies and we had coffee and we had you know something cold for them to drink and..."

Miller: (46:10) Showed them a little love.

Emerick: (46:11) Yeah, and Dr. Falwell told them he came out and he said "You're welcome to come in the church as long as you don't disrupt. And I'll never forget I was teaching a class on Joshua and I had a number of younger kids come in and I taught on Joshua. So when it was over they came up and they go "Uh, why did you teach on Joshua?" I said because that's what I'm teaching on Joshua. They said "Well we figured you guys would all be speaking against gay rights." No.

Miller: (46:42) That's the standard fare every week is that.

Emerick: (46:45) Yes, yes, yes. I remember I remember Doc weeping and coming in and saying "My heart just breaks for these kids." And yet you saw ah the gay rights movement and how even today they still make fun of him on television, put him down, they say he was homophobic all these things. I had a pastor who had a heart for these people.

Miller: (47:14) Well that kind of provides the seg way I want to talk about your counseling ministry and working with young men. So before we go to talking about what we do with counseling with them and some specific things that you've done with your like lust free living classes and that. Could you tell us what was Dr. Falwell's attitude towards the whole gay rights movement, but then specifically as far as it dealt with individual homosexuals? How did he distinguish between those who struggled with same sex attraction and the radical gay right agenda type of thing? Could you talk about that?

Emerick: (47:55) I remember there was a young man that was struggling. And I remember someone had told Doc about this young man, he the kid was a musician and Doc meet with him and Doc called me up and he goes, "Dane do you think we can help him?" You know "He's a sharp kid I love him can you help him?" And I remember bringing him over and spending time with him and working with him. You know I think the thing about three years ago no Doc's been gone longer than that. But the year before he died he went to the big conference for Exodus and I'll never forget he got up to speak, and he was the main speaker for I think it was Friday night, and he got booed. I mean he got booed.

Walters: (48:53) By Exodus?

Emerick: (48:55) By people in Exodus. You know not the staff or anything thing, they loved him. But the kids that were there. And he got up and spoke and shared his heart and you know we're sitting there and were listening to this and we're listening to him share opening up his heart. And I'll never forget at the end, the standing ovation he got. I mean it went on and on, standing ovation. And it was amazing you know people coming up and saying you know "I know you're at Liberty, I never knew that of him. I took everything from what people said about the man.

Miller: (49:38) Could you explain elaborate just a little bit more on that? What was his daily position on the matter?

Emerick: (49:46) He of course he believed scriptures and scripture says no matter how you try to define it activity in this area is sin it's sin, it's there. And he preached that and you know when you preach against sin people are going to take it to you.

Miller: (50:05) That makes the sinners upset.

Emerick: (50:06) Yes. But they didn't see that how much he loved the kids that were caught up into this. Like we talked and I remember one day I talked to him and he said, "Dane how do you feel about this?" And I said I really believe with all of my heart it's so wrong for us to say to a kid who is struggling with same sex attraction, it's your choice. Cause most of those kids say if they had a choice they wouldn't choose this. So somewhere along the line in their lives this entered and in their minds they're saying oh my gosh you know this is what I am this is how God created me. No, we got to investigate; we've got to see where this came from. What happened here? And Doc felt that same way. I remember he was on one of the talk shows on television, and I'm trying to think of what it is so that I can be more accurate but I can't think of what it is. But I remember on the talk show somebody asked Dr. Falwell on the show they were trying to I don't know if it was Bob Marr.

Miller: (51:09) It wasn't way back in the day with Donohue. It wasn't that far back.

Emerick: (51:13) I don't think so

Miller: Ok

Emerick: (51:14) But they asked him that was because his boys were older then, and they asked him, "What if one of your boys came home and said that they were gay? Obviously from what we understand you'd kick them out of the house." And Dr. Falwell said, "Heavens no, they're my sons. I'd keep loving them". And it was like it caught the guy totally off guard. That was my pastor that was his heart. And it was just neat. And so often I'd think these people tried to make him a monster but they, I saw his heart. I saw his family's heart. I'm telling you when we were here and after we moved off campus, we were living off campus and I remember my third daughter had been born and she was in the hospital. And the other two children had the chicken

pox, ok. They called me and told me that my dad was dying, and I needed to come up. I picked up my wife and the baby from the hospital, dropped them off at the house and left for Pennsylvania. My wife calls me and she said “Dane” she said, “I had a knock at the door I opened it up and there was Mrs. Falwell.” And she said, “I didn’t know what to say” and she said, “I asked her to come in”. And she said, “Joan here’s some toys for the children I just went out and bought, here’s a gift card for you and whatever you need give us a call and we’ll be here.” That’s the kind of pastor and pastor’s wife we had. And people some people they just didn’t know them

Walters: (53:00) Some of this I would call it demonizing of Dr. Falwell perhaps, maybe that’s extreme. But some of this these concepts or impressions that the other folks have had so to speak of Dr. Falwell, some of them must be coming from the media over the years but is some of it coming right from within the church itself? An example that some of the more right winged extreme groups they set a reputation and it transferred to Dr. Falwell. Did do you think that’s part of it too or is it the media or where is that coming from other than?

Emerick: (53:37) Oh yeah no, I think it was from both sides. I think it was from the left and from the right, the radicals on both sides the alto conservative church, you know I’d never name to put them down I know. But yet at the same time to judge and to describe him and as you know well this guy’s so liberal and this guy is you know. And I look at it and I’m thinking oh my gosh you know. If there was any man that I could ever trust and there are very few, Dr. Falwell was one of them. And I listened to the you know when you start getting bashed by people who you believed in and that you trusted and that you thought were definitely on your side. And they started to say doctrine, and doctrine, and doctrine; he never strayed from doctrine, strong biblical doctrine. But some things changed in practice and they wanted to make it issues. I believe with all my heart I think now this is me I think a lot of it was jealousy, I think a lot of it was jealousy. You know I’ll never forget Doc got up one day and we had had Billy Graham come and speak and he got up from at the pulpit he said you know he said, “I gotten a lot of calls from a lot of my constituents my pastors that I know that just tore me apart because I had Billy Graham here. And he said, “And I answered them.” And we’re all sitting there going what did you say? And he said “I said when you go to a stadium and you give an invitation and you get that many people coming to know Jesus Christ then maybe you’ll have a right to criticize. But until then well, keep quiet.” But he said something else. You know and I sat there and I thought praise, God, that’s my pastor.

Walters: (55:44) Now I just skipped my just lost my train of thought here. I was going to ask something about

Emerick: [*mumbles*] you’re getting old.

Walters: (55:50) I’m sorry?

Emerick: (55:53) you’re getting old.

Walters: (55:54) Yeah but not as old as you, and I still have more hair at this point.

Emerick: (55:57) But I still remember [*laughter*].

Walters: (56:00) What I was going to say is oh um, who is there a personality, it seemed like he had a he was trying to witness to uh

Miller: (56:13) Bill White?

Walters: (56:14) No, the pornography guy.

Miller: Larry Flynt

Emerick: Oh, Larry Flynt.

Background: Larry Flynt.

Walters: (56:18) And who was did Dr. Falwell have a few people that he took from Saul to Apostle Paul? You know a few people that were prominent that did a complete turnaround and come to Christ and then do a work or?

Emerick: (56:38) Well you know

Walters: (56:40) do you have any of those

Emerick: (56:41) I'm trying to think of names.

Walters: (56:43) Or names that you could say.

Emerick: (56:45) I can't. But I remember some people that were in movies that people knew. That Jack Wyrzten had reached. And they went to Word of Life and wound up coming here. Laurie for one, Laurie McCauley [*ne* Bartram], Laurie was dating Bing Crosby's son, Laurie was in the first Friday the 13th. And Laurie came to know Jesus and went to Word of Life and then I remember Jack calling Jerry and saying "Oh this girl God's going to use, you know we got to get her into Liberty." And Jerry brought her to Liberty and oh my gosh you know this bless her heart she died the same week Dr. Falwell died. Now you talk about a young woman that was on fire for Jesus. Larry Flynt, Larry Flynt is still Larry Flynt. But you know what was so amazing was I'll never forget going to convocation and I walk in cause I always sat on the one side either on the stage or off the stage, and here comes a wheel chair and here comes Larry Flynt and. And you know what was so amazing is Larry Flynt even though he made that movie about Jerry every time they would talk to him he would say "Oh my pastor's is Jerry Falwell." And but you know when you sit and think about it I saw clips from that movie cause you know I wanted to see, it was so amazing how they portrayed our university. In the one scene they had they had them coming onto campus to talk to Dr. Falwell and you saw all the students walking guys walking around in black suits and ties and they all had a prayer book or bible and their walking around

and they would say you know in the movies someone would walk up and say you know where's Dr. Falwell's office. And they'd say oh please wait until I'm done you know I'm sitting here thinking no.

Miller: (58:53) This isn't a monastery.

Emerick: (58:55) Oh my gosh and then and then they'd go to Jerry's office in the movie and the secretary says well he's having devotions right now. And then they walk in and there's Jerry with a family, big huge large print family bible on a pedestal in front of him and he goes I'll be down in a minute. And this guy who portrayed Dr. Falwell I'm sitting there thinking oh my gosh this is and it was so hilarious. And then people would watch that and say oh that's Jerry Falwell. No it wasn't, you don't even know who he was. I mean I rode in his car and I would pray that I would survive driving with him. There was one time I was going over to Randolph- Macon College and Dr. Falwell's sitting in the car. And Kathy Rusk his secretary calls and she said Dr. Falwell there's a guy on the phone that's struggling. And he says that he lost his salvation and you know can I have him call you back and Dr. Falwell goes, "Oh, put him on." So Dr. Falwell was witnessing to him and talking to him about the Lord while he was driving. And we went off the road I don't know how many times, but Dr. Falwell is just witnessing to this guy and talking to him and sharing with him. And I'm thinking wow, what a man; horrible driver, what a man you know.

Walters: (1:00:24) Well we started to go down through the theme of counseling of students and such. And we talked about homosexuality and such and Dr. Falwell and TRBC established the Liberty Godparent home and. Talk to us about what you can about unwed mothers but maybe you know more about did you, seems like the guys part in that whole process seems to get forgotten about too. Counseling of fellows that maybe the girlfriend or the other party had an abortion and such, and tell us about the mechanics of counseling how would you triage that, and deal with that and such with students?

Emerick: (1:01:13) At the Godparent home you know I taught the Sunday school class for some of those girls, sweet, sweet little girls. But we didn't have you know real ministry with the guys, it was with the girls. But from what I understand lately they're moving more in the area of saying ok there's another side to this and so I think they're aimed a little bit more again not more but aimed towards working with the guys. But as far as counseling is concerned Thomas Road would I mean for the longest time we knew that people had issues and I remember Allen [Menager] came and Allen wrote the book "Growth and Demand Hood" and Allen was connected with Exodus, he was the president of Exodus. And we wanted to start a group here in Lynchburg for guys who were struggling with same sex attraction. It really didn't at that point get off the ground. But then we wanted to we realized we needed to have a freedom ministry and Darrell Pitts came along and Darrell had gotten his doctorate in counseling, biblical counseling. Darrell in the past was a drug addict, Darrell had a tremendous testimony, and God delivered him from that. And he set up at Thomas Road Baptist Church a freedom ministry. And in freedom ministry

we have ministry I mean our church is I just love it. Our ministry has in freedom ministry for guys struggling with same sex attraction. They have a work or a ministry for people that were child molested, divorcees, alcohol, substance addiction all of these different ministries. And they would come together and they have a main meeting and then they break off into smaller groups. I saw a need here at Liberty University because I realized that pornography was becoming a very much of an issue, with young men. And you know and taking a survey you know all of a sudden people were surprised I wasn't, with how many young men have been involved or presently involved in pornography and sexual addiction. And so

Walters: (1:03:42) This was before the internet or had?

Emerick: (1:03:45) No, this was after the internet; we didn't have much before that. And I started to work with them and then I started to do a group called lust free living. And it was it's a study by Neil Anderson, and Lowell Seashore. I had gone to a conference at a college and I sat in under the training and then we started that with the guys. And so you know the first year we had like one group and it was a small group. The last three semesters we've been averaging I've been doing three groups and we've been averaging around 35 guys, in each one of the groups. We've seen the Lord work through these we work on the aspect of saying ok you cannot you cannot get victory alone, you cannot get victory alone. God has designed it in such a way that we connect as fighting partners, a band of brothers. And so we work and I have a large group and then we break into smaller groups. Everybody has everybody's phone number and email. If someone's struggling they text right away or they call so that during the week they're not forgotten. And we start working through it. You know I show a clip from Gladiator, when they're out in the arena and remember the, it was the battle of Carthage and the gladiator's are to die and Mel Gibson, who plays Maximus, says to his men "If we stand together we will live, if we stay apart we will die." And when I looked at that I thought you know God doesn't want any lone rangers out there, because if you are, you're going to die. And so we started groups and God has blessed I mean right now even this semester we haven't started the groups, and I have over 150 guys signed up for the groups. So we I'm going to have one on Tuesday night Thursday night.

Walters: (1:05:52) So band of brothers is with lust free living?

Emerick: (1:05:55) No. Band of brothers is separate. Band of brothers are for guys who are struggling with same sex attraction.

Walters: (1:06:01) oh ok

Emerick: (1:06:02) But the same principal plays. When we start the group's we don't even talk about the issue, we talk about who are we in Christ, John 1:12 "For as many who have received him to them gave you the power to become the sons of God". Who are you? And we want we want to stress to these kids that if you know Jesus Christ as your savior you may be struggling in that. That doesn't mean you're lost, that mean you have a struggle in your life that we want to

work through. And I we don't judge I mean what separates us from the love of God, when we know nothing, not even ourselves.

Miller: (1:06:36) "So therefore no condemnation for them which are in Christ Jesus." Now did you ever have the tension we you were the dean of men [*clears throat*] if somebody walked into your office and said pastor I just have to tell you I went out and got drunk last night or I viewed pornography last night. Did you ever have something well I need to punish you for that according to our disciplinary system but then I'll deal with you out of council? Did you have a problem balancing that pastor and patrolmen type of a role there?

Emerick: (1:07:07) No. Oh, on. I mean Dr. Falwell was fine with the fact that if a student came in and basically turned himself in I wouldn't have to judge if he was repentant or not. He came in on his own, and since he was repentant we would in those days we would record it. Now as pastor a kid could come to my office and share with me and it stays there in the office. But I always tell them it would be good if you go talk to a conduct officer, and I'll go with you. Because what I say is if you turn if you come and you self report you don't get any reprimands, you don't get any discipline. But you're required to get into a program to work through those issues. And no even then if someone came in and said I've been out drinking I got drunk did anybody know? Were you going to be reported? No, sir, no, sir it's just been bothering me and bothering me. Ok, self report.

Walters: (1:08:11) There's always a rumor out there, so I'm going to ask were sports kids treated any differently than non sports kids? Athletes, you don't have to answer that.

Emerick: (1:08:23) No.

Walters: Ok

Emerick: (1:08:25) Let's move on [*laughing*]

Walters: Ok

Miller: Um

Emerick: (1:08:28) Probably not. Sometimes, but they would have to go through the same things. And it was just it would be like any other student, where Dr. Falwell would call me and say, you know I always get these phone calls, "Dane," and I knew it was him by his voice. "So, and so has been in to see you do you think we can help him?" Well, you know you can help anybody you know if they're willing to be helped. "Let's see if we can help him pastor Dane, ok?" Sure. But usually if there was three strikes yeah you know we've tried, we've tried.

Miller: (1:09:06) For your philosophy of counseling, didn't back in the old days it was more of the Jay Adam's strictly biblical counseling and has it shifted through the years to more of an integration position? I don't know if you could address that?

Emerick: (1:09:25) I and you know I don't think they use Jay Adams anymore. But you know it's that's what I studied, that's what my textbooks were. And you know of course Neil Anderson, but you've got to understand we have two areas of study. You could get a degree in pastoral or biblical counseling or you can get a degree in clinical counseling. Now clinical counseling we're saying you got to use the word of God but that counseling is you know and of course it's there to work at getting their licensing and working through. So there is a little bit of a difference between counseling. You know sometimes you have to have on the one side were they're saying ok what you're dealing with just like Anthony Weiner. And I guess I can say that because everyone knows about it. You know the man the man was is in sin and but but you know today in clinical counseling we're saying oh he has a mental issue. When guys he had he has a sin issue, and he needs Jesus. Sometimes we get confused like depression and guilt. And I remember I had a student come to my office and they said you know he said I was I'm going through a lot of depression and struggling. And he was a young man that was in our leadership, and you know some counselors met with him and then sent him over to me, and I was sitting there and he's going on I'm going through depression and I pastor Dane and he's going on and on. And I looked at him and I go what sin were you involved in this summer? What did you do this summer? And he looked at me and goes how did you know? Because this isn't depression this is guilt. And you know I look at it and I tell people guilt's good, guilt's good, guilt points to something that needs to change. Shame is wrong cause Christ took my shame on the cross.

Miller: (1:11:34) And so guilt is like if I put my hand on a stove that pain is a good thing.

Emerick: (1:11:38) I'm not going to put my hand on there again.

Miller: (1:11:42) So pain and guilt are good things, but shame is something that

Emerick: Yes

Miller: (1:11:46) We're a child of God and that's a sin that's under the blood.

Emerick: (1:11:52) True. That's right.

Walters: (1:11:53) Do you maybe since you were dealing mainly with male issues but you might not know about this but are the parallel programs and structures set up for lesbians or?

Emerick: (1:12:06) No, we

Walters: (1:12:07) Issues on that side?

Emerick: (1:12:08) Yeah we're seeing a need for that and we're talking about it. But we have counseling we have women counselors on both sides, on the biblical and in clinical counseling side. We're also finding too and I guess I can share this but we're finding that right now there's a program that's out there that's developed by the same people who developed Lust Free Living. And I believe it's called Unveiled and it's for girl's struggling with pornography and sexual

addiction you know at one time it just wasn't there, and it's becoming very strong amongst the females today. And I'm not just saying Liberty I'm just saying everywhere. And you know I have girls come and say Pastor Dane do we have a program. And so last year we started a program for that for young ladies.

Walters: (1:13:11) Well and bisexual issues are just bundled all into all aspects of that?

Emerick: (1:13:15) Oh yea, yeah. We do work closely with eating disorders we work closely with the students that deal with cutting. You know we our department is just you know we know conduct's in our area but student care and the campus pastors office is very much there for the students.

Walters: (1:13:37) Is the occurrence of these issues just massively greater or the issues themselves changing and in your time here since the mid '70's?

Emerick: (1:13:51) I would say you know like in the area in homosexuality when I was growing up and then later on when you guys came along it was so looked down as far as society was concerned that I would make you think before you would even move in that direction. So you didn't see it quite as strong or as prominent. Today's society says if you have feelings towards someone of the same sex, embrace that. That's who you are. You watch television and you know they will show it seems like every sitcom or movie that has a comedy you always have a gay married couple on it. And you know they're really sweet people and everything and they are they are I mean but you always then have a Christian and he is always a bigot and just a nasty person. I think we make it so easy for kids I mean understand kids will experiment when they're young it just experiment. But today society's saying you know if you experiment I mean we got to understand that when we work through these issues and as we develop our counseling department and psych department here that the mental health community is trying to lobby to say in order for you to get your license as a counselor and someone comes in and says that I'm gay, I'm homosexual you can't tell them it's wrong. And they're really lobbying for that. And I didn't realize that until I watched Fox News, and O'Reilly was bringing that out. And I kept thinking you know someday we're going to have a battle.

Walters: (1:15:41) So right now we're experiencing the yield of a no absolute society, is that part of it?

Emerick: (1:15:47) Well true I mean let's look at our Christians today and just general Christian kids sex just seems to be a pre-marital sex is just ramped. And you know I always say sometimes we look at it and say kids are getting saved from the waist up. And I look at these kids and society is just saying well this is just a normal thing, you don't you know purity isn't anything, it's old it's antique it's you know. And I look and see what our kids are looking at and even the most simplest movies that seem to be so wonderful. I mean you look at the movie I got you got mail. You know and everybody said oh what a cute romantic movie, but you got to understand that the characters in there in that movie have been sleeping with everybody else. And what it is

is we get doped into watching these things and they make them so innocent that that and we laugh and we laugh at things that Christ weeps over. And so these kids are seeing this and they're saying well see that's society that's the way we and you know there's nothing wrong with this. But there is and God calls us to purity in 1 Thessalonians. God tells us that we are to stand strong.

Walters: (1:17:10) Now you mentioned yesterday you've done lot's of shifting gears within the counseling and pastoral aspect of things. You mentioned yesterday you do a fair amount of pre-marital counseling and you marry couples. How has that worked since the '70's until now? And how many do you do each year? And you know if a couple wants to get married we assume that the parents have approved or how do the mechanics of that work and how many marriages yeah how many weddings have you performed and such?

Emerick: (1:17:47) At one time we were small enough that I would meet one couple at a time, and right now I have about three that I'm meeting with but starting next week and for the last six semesters I've had what we call celebrating marriage and I do it at Thomas Road but it's opened up for students, and it's mostly Liberty students that come. Like last semester I think I had 56 couples and we do seven sessions. And what we've done is we've realized that a lot of kids are getting married but their homes are not home to go through pastoral counseling before they get married. Most of them get married in June you know and so we started this program for kids and we go through seven sessions and then we end with a Q & A [*questions and answers*]. Because we want discussion so we end with Q&A and I bring in a couple that's been married over 50 years down to a couple that's been married one year. I bring in Jonathon and Sherry Falwell and they sit on it and we have a number of married couples up there. And we say ok there's no questions off limits, ask questions and they can ask questions. And then they all get a certificate and they're pastors can call me and say what did you cover? What did you do? What kind of did you do any personality testing and stuff? Yeah we do. And it's just neat, we just have a great time and this year I did about maybe seven weddings, last year I did fifteen. Because these are kids that you know are here and they want somebody to do their wedding. It's just neat we just have a blast and then I always have a fellowship afterwards and I get them to meet my wife, and things like that. So I think that's one of the groups that I have that is I guess grammatically I'm not right to say this but most fun. Yeah most fun.

Walters: (1:19:53) You've had double and triple weddings?

Emerick: (1:19:51) I did a couple weddings last summer where I did a wedding in the afternoon and then I drove across Lynchburg to do a second wedding. That's why I have to go on a diet cause I'd stay for reception afterward.

Miller: (1:20:09) Well let's switch gears a little bit. The whole area of Christian Service and now they call it Christian and Community Service. Why did they make the switch from Christian service to Christian and Community Service? And were you ever in charge of that area?

Emerick: (1:20:26) No. But I know when I was in seminary I had to do Christian Service. All my kids had to do Christian Service. You know I and I'm not sure but I what I understand because of our accreditation we had to say Christian and Community Service. You know we never changed, it's still the same but you know when you're going for accreditation when you're doing these things you have to maybe change some things and put a different name to it or something, it's just some antics that's just that. But the kids still have to complete you know their freshmen year they don't, where before you had to.

Miller: (1:21:11) They have to take those introductory courses before...

Emerick: Yes

Miller: (1:21:15) they go out. Well then let me ask the question this way, is in the early days you hear some stories about boy everybody was out on knocking on doors just like Jerry Falwell was that he used to knock on a hundred doors a day when he was first starting the church and everything. Was that true of those early was that something that was still happening when you when you were at Liberty in the mid '70's, that there were students just going out soul winning day after day? Or

Emerick: Oh yea

Miller: (1:21:43) Okay, so that was happening a lot but that's not happening today very much.

Emerick: (1:21:46) Well

Miller: (1:21:47) And when did that ever change?

Emerick: (1:21:49) I don't you know I just think again you know the fact that we're dynamic we're always changing. You know I think there's some change there but still like on Saturday's we have what was it? Student serve, and our students go downtown Lynchburg, campus serve, and these kids go and a lot of them are doing it not because of Christian service not because they have to do it but because they want to do it. I think you see you know like different people and our football team go out and do a power thing you know for detention centers and stuff, do things to minister to the kids. I think it the dynamic of the thing or has changed where we have all these different avenues of ministry you know.

Miller: (1:22:47) And so were you involved with the bus ministry, when they introduced the bus ministry over at Thomas Road?

Emerick: (1:22:54) We, my I had a Word of Life club then. Other people were involved in the bus ministry I was involved in Word of Life I had a Word of Life club out in Amherst, we had a lot of Word of Life clubs at the time. I we don't have Word of Life club's now.

Miller: (1:23:11) Well since you mentioned that let's actually ask that question here. Is it seem like and you've mentioned Jack Wyrzten several times. It seemed like Liberty used to have a

very close relationship with Word of Life it was kind up in Shorena Lakeof like they were the junior preparatory college that you could go two years there and then come and transfer everything in. We don't have as many Word of Life students as we used to, is that right?

Emerick: (1:23:43) You'd be surprised how many Word of life students we have, we have quite a few. It's not so I mean we were small then Word of Life when they came in. I think now they just mesh within to the community. A number of our kids have gone through Word of Life, we had to do some changing because of Southern Association of colleges and universities and schools. That ah you know because, because Word of Life was not accredited and such, they were working to say that we would not accept their credits and I remember I'm trying to think of what school brought sort of a law suit against Southern Association and they finally agreed that they would allow us to bring people in from unaccredited schools but they had to prove what they had taken correlates with some of our

Miller: (1:24:37) Comparability between the

Emerick: (1:24:38) Yes, yes. And so we still we still do that. But I remember if you went through Word of Life you got you got a verily good scholarship. Still think I'm not sure but I still think it offers some but not like you know as much as what it was.

Walters: (1:24:54) Now at what point did the Christian community service become formalized, that it became a requirement? When I was a student here you had to have it on your record every semester or you couldn't graduate. When did that come into being or was that the case since 1971 or?

Emerick: (1:25:09) No it's the case since 1971.

Walters: (1:25:12) Okay

Emerick: (1:25:14) Students had to do Christian services in the beginning.

Walters: (1:25:15) And then it expanded to community service that was okay.

Miller: (1:25:22) So if you weren't if you didn't want to do a Christian ministry and you wanted to go work for the Red Cross well then you would go do that as part of the community?

Emerick: (1:25:29) No.

Miller: (1:25:30) No

Walters: (1:25:31) And then was that ever under your direct no, okay.

Miller: (1:25:35) Let's talk about Baptist fundamentalism, 1984. Now we're going back here a few years.

Emerick: (1:25:42) No, I, no, I remember that very vividly. [*Laughing*] It was oh my gosh.

Miller: (1:25:52) What was it? Why did we go? And what part did you have to do with it?

Emerick: (1:25:58) Doc wanted to bring in fundamentalism into the community uh society. He wanted to present Christianity and bring this together. Ronald Regan was going to be there, a number of top speakers and this was oh my gosh, this is when he really working in the area of what was the name of the organization? See my mind uh...

Miller: (1:26:24) You mean the Moral Majority?

Emerick: (1:26:25) Moral Majority. And we went to Washington, now we had to sit down and figure out everything. I was responsible for students going and housing and everything. And I remember going there and it was, it was, it was a nightmare. We got to Washington DC and we went to the hotels, hotel's was to have everything worked out and it was amazing that they had so much messed up. We would send kids to rooms and there'd walk into room and there'd be people in bed, I mean and then we had to try and make sure that they all were getting to the meetings and everything. And yeah I didn't get to any meetings; I was busy with the students. But one hotel felt sorry for me and so they gave me the presidential suite, so it was pretty sweet.

Miller: (1:27:18) Okay, and um so now didn't they have all of the faculty and staff...

Emerick: Oh yeah

Miller: (1:27:24) and all the students, everybody went up there? What were we running at attendance at that time or our enrollment?

Emerick: (1:27:32) I would say at that point and time I mean we oh boy we had a couple thousand at the time. So you know we had to maneuver all the buses we had to work and getting the kids at the meetings and things like that. It was, it was almost as big as when we took 1500 students to Israel.

Miller: (1:27:52) Okay. And we're going to talk about your mission trips in just a moment here but before we leave this Baptist fundamentalism, in the early '80's there we have the fundamentalist journal we were involved with fundamentalism '84 and there were people like Jack Hyles and John R. Rice and that particular group. When did you see through the years Liberty kinda switching from the militant fundamentalist to the conservative evangelical to describing themselves that way? Or maybe Liberty never called themselves militant fundamentalist, maybe they just called themselves fundamentalist.

Emerick: (1:28:28) Yeah, Yeah.

Miller: (1:28:29) Could you talk about that?

Emerick: (1:28:31) I don't think we described ourselves as militant fundamentalist but we made a stand I think again you know when society changes we say okay how can we do the same what would I say? Reaching out to the community bringing them to that point, do we still continue to

do this through our magazines and things like that? Or do we do it different avenue or different venue to do it? And I think I think that we changed to the point where we saying okay that was how we did it then, now how do we do it now? And of course then we pulled away from the moral majority, it was big I mean let's look and say Ronald Regan you know. We had a major part in seeing that man take office. We haven't pulled away from the very fact from what believe

Miller: (1:29:28) Fundamentals of the faith

Emerick: Yes

Miller: (1:29:32) But as far as the term of fundamentalism and kind of incorporated within that, is the idea of separation they Liberty took more of the conservative evangelical stance rather than the separatist stance.

Emerick: (1:29:47) Yeah I mean I love America Crusades back in the late

Miller: (1:29:52) The bicentennials, '76

Emerick: (1:29:54) '70's, yeah going to all the capitals of every state and singing on the steps of the capital and doing rally's and I mean that was affective then.

Walters: (1:30:05) Did you go on those trips?

Emerick: (1:30:07) I only went on one, with them. But I remember Robby getting up singing and Mack Evans, Don Norman and all the guys Eddie Dobson speaking. And we had quite a in road into where we were directing the United States and saying you know we need to still hold strong to the fundamentals.

Walters: (1:30:34) Did your kids come through LCA?

Emerick: (1:30:38) My oldest daughter didn't, my other three did.

Miller: (1:31:42) Well I think we're going to try to do one more interview then with you Dane and talk to you for a couple more hours and get some other perspective's here. But for today we'll let that conclude today's interview with Dane Emerick. This has been part two of our series with him. This interview has been conducted as part of the oral history project of the Liberty University archives.

[End of Interview]