

It All Started When...

A sharp looking Camaro was racing down the road at about 100 m.p.h. when suddenly the driver lost control. The car spun as it barely missed a few other cars. Luckily, no one was hurt. Both the driver and passenger had been drinking. Jim Pritchard, the passenger, got out of the car and refused to get back in, so he started walking down the road. A man in a truck gave him a ride. Jim wasn't a Christian at the time, but the man who gave him a ride was one. The man talked about God as he drove to Norfolk, Virginia, Jim's home town. A change started to take place in Jim's life that summer, the summer of 1984. At first, he struggled with the thought of living his life for the Lord because of his friends, but once God came into his life, He led him here to Montreat-Anderson College.

Jim's first and biggest fear about letting the Lord come into his life was, "What's everyone going to think of me. Now, I'm going to have to go and tell my friends that I've been saved." He had alot of friends. Not completely true friends; but buddies that he parted with. His buddies looked up to him because Jim's word meant something. He was a truthful person even without God. But Jim understood later that just being an honest person wasn't enough. He had to live his life for God. He finally realized that most of his friends were insecure and that he could make it without them. Living his life for God became more important than just living for himself and his friends.

Soon, God made it apparent to Jim that He wanted him to come here at Montreat-Anderson College. He was able to get a loan to pay for his first semester in January. His father is retired from

Outstanding

by Karen Jessee

Surely you have noticed the outrageous attire and exceptional hair style of T. Doan, as well as the shy smiles of Tomoko Takahashi. Indeed, Montreat has many new international students; all which are unique and have much to share. Many of these international students dedicate much study to learning and perfecting their English skills; several of them spend class and lab time in Mrs. Hilliard's 'English As A Second Language' class.

T. Doan is a freshman who would like to be a clothes designer one day. Slightly over three years ago, he immigrated to America from Vietnam and has since stayed with a foster family in Greensboro, North Carolina. T's favorite class is College Algebra; and in his spare time he enjoys listening to American hardcore music and skateboarding. So, does he like the Montreat girls?

by Rhonda Hamrick



One-of-a-kind Jim Pritchard

the Navy. His mother did work for a preschool, but during the summer her contract ended. She is now a teacher at a public school where she is getting paid about triple the amount she was getting at the preschool. So, now she is able to pay for Jim's tuition for the four years that he is in college. Jim graduated in 1978 in southern Illinois, and became a roofer after high school. He is now a second semester freshman and resident assistant in Howerton Hall. Last semester Jim had a 4.0 average, working toward a Bachelor of Arts degree in Christian Ministries with emphasis in Child and Family Studies. He said that the reason that he does so well is because he likes to study, plus he has the Lord's help. He is not completely sure as to what the Lord wants him to do after college, but he does know that the Lord wants him here as a witness to His love and grace. He doesn't believe that anyone should push religion on someone. Jim is here as a friend to anyone who needs a friend, as we all should be.

"No doubt about it!" he laughs with a universal grin.

Tomoko Takahashi, better known as "Chico," is also a freshman at Montreat. She came to America from Japan three years ago with a group of students to study at American high schools. Chico enjoyed the opportunity to participate in band and choir during high school and is a fan of rock music. She heard about Montreat through Jackie Beaver, another Montreat student. Chico, like T. Doan, thinks that Montreat students have been friendly and welcoming.

These are only two examples of the special students from abroad attending Montreat this year. I urge each student to reach out and get to know the international students. As Colossians 3:14 says, "Above all these virtues put on love which binds all together in perfect unity."

Eat, Drink,...And Be What?

by Pam Taylor

While reading Charles Swindoll's Bible study on Ecclesiastes, this title caught my eye. I feel that this subject should be considered by everyone. Swindoll writes that the saying of today's generation seems to be "if it feels good, do it!" Sometimes people openly admit to this belief, while others portray this belief in the books we read or the television programs we watch. The "if it feels good, do it" principle is not a new fad, but rather a belief that has been around since Solomon, who lived about three thousand years ago. To review the emphasis Solomon put on pleasure, we will look at all of the steps he took in order to fill the void in his life. Solomon tried to accomplish happiness through education advancement and exploration but at the end of his search, he said it was all vanity and striving after the wind. Solomon said that "all things done under the sun is meaningless, like chasing the wind." Just because Solomon didn't find meaning in life through education and exploration did not mean he would give up his search. He sought happiness in similar ways we seek to find happiness today -- through wild and crazy fun, big homes, swimming pools, entertainment, many wives, slaves, flocks and herds. Solomon did withhold one possible pleasure from his life.

After his search for happiness, through the wildest ways possible, he still felt like everything was meaningless here on earth.

Many people, who read this passage in Ecclesiastes, wonder what hope can this scripture possibly give? Life sounds empty and is compared to "a chasing after the wind" or as I once heard it, "like eating cotton candy." When you bite a piece off, it dissolves in your mouth. Another comparison is "like chasing soap bubbles," searching for something that is not actually there. In any since, life still sounds meaningless. Life can be meaningless if all of your efforts for pleasure are done "under the sun." The main message of this scripture is to question how we are fulfilling our desires. If we are trying to find our happiness through alcohol, drugs, sex, or anything else, then we will eventually see that these pleasures never deliver the satisfaction they promise. We will end up seeing life as Solomon saw it in the beginning of his search -- "All is vanity and striving after the wind; the pursuit of contentment 'under the sun,' (on earth), is purposeless and valueless." If we don't fall into the disillusionment of the so-called "good-life," then we will find true, lasting happiness found in Jesus Christ. Our efforts for pleasure will be done "under heaven" and not "under the sun."



Drinking and America's Youth

by Flipper Hall

There are people who say that drinking is o.k. and then there are people who take the point of view that alcohol consumption in any form is wrong. Drinking has for many, many years been a tradition around the world, yet in today's society there are mixed feelings about this subject. The consumption or the desire for consumption of this drug has recently hit the scene with even more fervor and disagreement because of the fact that there are so many very tough questions that now need to be answered. These questions include: (Pro) I have the freedom to drive and the freedom to move out on my own at the age of 17 or 18 yet I am not allowed to drink. (Con) To what extent does a person have the right to possibly destroy not only his life but the lives of his family, friends, and others that he might not even know. (Pro) I am old enough to fight for my country yet I am not allowed the "right" to drink if I should choose. (Con) It is true that you can be called to fight for your country at the age of 17 but there

is also the question of would you be able to fight because of alcohol dependency or would your abilities to reason be so impaired that you could not think straight?

These questions are just the tip of the iceberg of the questions that can be presented, and because of that fact we should search the scriptures and see what it says about alcohol use and abuse. To start off with, there are at least three references to His chosen people being commanded not to drink (total abstinence) wine, they include: Lev. 10:9; Num. 6:3; Deut. 28:39; Judges 13:4, 7, 14; Isa. 35:6; Mi. 6:15; Luke 1:15. The Bible goes on to describe what wine and strong drink would do to a person, as seen in Hos. 4:18, Ps. 75:8, Pr. 4:17, 31:5. God's Word warns us and because His Word warns us can we then say anything about the U.S. Government trying to insure that our roads and highways are safe and free from drug abuse? Christ has commanded us to be a separated people and because of this command we should let the Holy Spirit guide us in this matter.