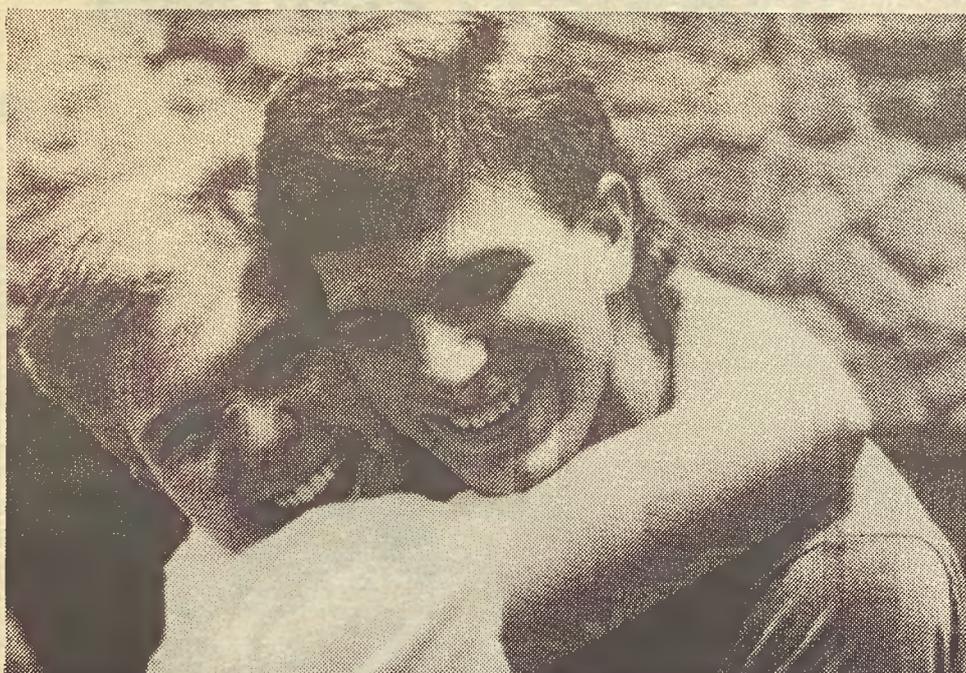


CANDID CLASSIC



Sophomore Ooland Camp gives his sister, Hellen, a big hug before leaving for Mexico this summer. Ooland left from Montreat with other students to do their internships as a part of the Christian Ministries degree program.

WORDS FROM WOODS

ELAINE WIEDMAN

The Reverend James P. Wood, a Montreat Graduate, spoke this past week in Gaither Chapel, highlighting Spiritual Emphasis Week with a five part lecture series.

Wood, after graduating from Montreat, continued his studies at Gordon College and graduated from there in 1975. Later, in 1979, he graduated from Conwell Theological Seminary. Since then Rev. Wood has served churches in New England and is presently pastor of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Atlanta. He is married and has 3 sons.

In his first lecture concerning happiness, I was struck by the accounts Rev. Wood gave of various individuals who seemed to have it all yet were not happy. In particular, I recall Wood's story of the man with \$16 million, who worried about losing \$3 million, lost it all and suffered a nervous breakdown. There was also the millionaire who was on the brink of divorce because his wife wanted to quit her job, buy a house and have children but he objected-- he was afraid of going broke. Here are people who had it all, yet they are not happy. Wood then relayed a story about Nelson Rockefeller who probably said it best when someone asked him, "How much does it take to make a person happy," he replied, "Just a little bit more." It is true. Man, no matter how much he has, always wants more: another car, more money, more clothes, a better stereo etc. Somehow he thinks material possessions will bring him happiness.

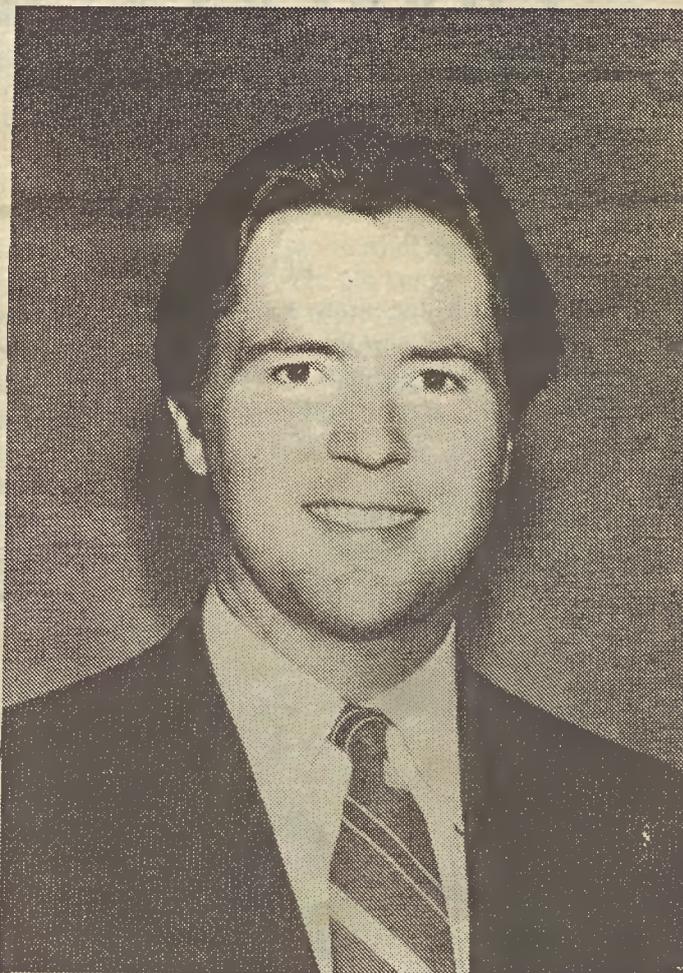
As Rev. Wood commented, we so often get caught up in materialism that we forget Matthew 6:19-33 where Christ tells us not to lay up treasures on earth but to seek first the kingdom of Heaven. Try as we might we will never find anything that will fill our inner emptiness, except Christ. Only by allowing him into our lives can we ever begin to find happiness in our lives. Too much emphasis today is placed on the things of this earth instead of on things above.

Wood's 2nd lecture, "What Are You Going to do About it?" left one with much to think about. In this lecture, the Reverend spoke of standing up for our morals. If we think abortions are wrong, if we think the starvation of millions of people is wrong, if we oppose individuals trying to destroy our religious freedom, Wood challenged, "What are you [we] going to do about it?" I had to stop and think how often we speak against this, that and the other thing but don't really do anything about that which we criticize or oppose. I recall the words of a friend some years ago who said, "Stand for something, lest you fall for anything." Those words have had an influence on my life. I challenge the reader not just to think or talk about something but to do something. I sometimes think the world's condition today is due to the apathy of its people. It is as Jim Wood commented, "There are enough people here today to change the world. The question is not what we believe, but what are we going to do about it?"

"Rated R" was the title of the third lecture. In this, Wood laid down some good advice to follow for "the best possible sex life." He stated that God made sex; He designed it as an expression of love between a man and a woman who are married to each other. He also remarked that abstaining from sex before marriage is necessary in order to build a good foundation of trust in a relationship. In addition, individuals need to stand up to temptation and say "no" to it.

Wednesday evening's lecture, titled "Who Are You?" centered on the unseen spiritual realm. Here Wood emphasized believing in the unseen spiritual realm, the necessity of making a spiritual commitment and the sufficiency of God's provision. His main point was that we need to make a commitment to Christ in order to defend ourselves against the "Enemy." For God promises; "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world." I had to think to myself, "It's so easy to say 'yes' to Christ but how many of us don't do it; how often do we think we can get through life without him?" Yet we wonder why we often end up in trouble. God is always there, all we have to do is reach for him.

In his final lecture, "What Will You do When the Storms Come?" Wood emphasized building the foundation of one's life in Christ in order to be prepared for the "storms" of life. He echoed some of the promises of the New Testament. "My grace is sufficient for thee." "When I am weak then I am strong." "If God is for us who can be against us?" I had to think about my own life and upbringing. The firm Christian foundation I had to draw upon both in good times and bad is something I will always be grateful for.



JIM WOOD, PASTOR, MT. VERNON BAPTIST CHURCH

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR ARE WELCOME!
PUT ALL SUBMISSIONS IN THE ALETHIA
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THE EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO SAY A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO WILLIAM HU, GREG HOWARD, ALI MARTIN, TRACEY AIKEN, DREW BOREN, NANCY BOYEA, AND DR. GRAY FOR THEIR HELP IN A PINCH. THANKS!