

Spring 2008: Writing the Next Chapter

Chaplain Steve Woodworth

I have heard the same story countless times: A young kid grows up in a Christian home, spends his or her life in church; then rebels in the teenage years with drinking and drugs, becomes convicted of hypocrisy, and comes back to faith in college.

That was the story Stephen Jackson shared with me in my office several months ago, and its familiarity was the reason I wanted him to share it in chapel. I wanted him to share it because it is my story; it is the story of so many of our students, staff, and faculty. Some came from worse homes, had less loving parents. Some skipped the abuse of drugs and alcohol, while some entertained far worse things. Every one of us has a story, and the opening chapel this year was



an invitation for everyone here in our community to allow God to write the next chapter of their lives.

For those of us who serve

the school as staff, faculty, and administrators, the opening chapel this year was a powerful reminder of why this college, nestled in a small

valley of the Blue Ridge Mountains, is so important, and why we are all here. Because beyond the small paychecks, the long hours,

and the sometimes thankless students, there are moments when we hear the story of someone like Stephen Jackson or Kate Thacker—and we are reminded all over again that there are students who come through the gates of Montreat every year seeking nothing more than a degree, but who will leave this place as a child of God. What we do every day on this campus, from grading papers to processing check requests to unclogging toilets, has the potential to touch eternity if we allow ourselves to be tools in the hand of the Potter who is about the business of transforming those things which are destined for destruction into something beautiful.



Immersion: Where Have They Been?

Laura Hein

Some of you may have noticed that a few of your friendly Outdoor Education majors are missing from the dorms and cafeteria this semester. Do you know where they are? Well, ten students have embarked on a journey of commu-

nity learning based at the Black Mountain Campus. As a group, they cook their meals, have classes, do homework, and get to travel in the outdoors.

After only one week at the BMC, Immersion took their class on the road (and into the air) to the Big Sky State of Montana. At 4:00AM on Monday, January 14, the ten students and three instructors drove to Knoxville, TN and then flew to Camp Bighorn, MT where they would start their wilderness experience. The experience was four nights and five days in temperatures that sometimes reached below zero.

Todd Yancey says that the highlight of the trip for him was being in five feet of snow in such a remote place of wilderness, and building a quinzee (a shelter made in packed snow). Other aspects of their trip included Telemark skiing,

sharing their life stories, and traveling as a group of students—all in a much different environment than the North Carolina mountains. Julie Hetu expressed that her favorite part of the Montana foundations trip was “growing closer as a group and getting to spend six hours on a solo skiing experience.”

The group is sure to grow even closer during the next months of the semester. They are currently planning the route for their 21-day expedition in February, which is sure to bring the group closer and challenge individuals.

I encourage you to find an Immersion student while they transition between the Montana trip and the February trip, to hear the stories. And stayed tuned for more tales in *The Whetstone* of the Immersion adventures this semester!

P8. **9**



what's **inside** can you fill these shoes?

VERSE of the MONTH

The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Romans 8:16-17