

On Friendship.....

by Michael Yarbrough

I have always been dependent on someone for just about everything. When I was younger, as with most children, I was dependent upon my parents. As I grew older and began to expand my relationships, I found that I was becoming more and more dependent on my friends.

Dependence on my friends was especially evident when I became a Christian. I found myself looking to other people to direct me in my relationship with God. There is nothing wrong with listening to and learning from others about their experiences with the Lord. My problem was that I listened too much to them and not enough to the Lord Himself. It has only been since I came to Montreat that I realized one cannot depend on friends when it comes to one's personal life with the Lord.

When I first came to Montreat, I had great expectations. I had known about Montreat for many years because of church conferences I had attended here. Each time I was here, I strongly felt the presence of the Lord. Later, when my sister came to Montreat, I became more involved with the college and the students. The love and joy I saw in my sister and her friends were overwhelming. It was because of these observations, along with several other factors, that I decided to come to Montreat.

All summer long, I eagerly anticipated my "new beginnings" at Montreat. Knowing how backslidden I was, I could not wait to get up here. Unfortunately, that was exactly the problem; I was waiting. I was depending on people I hardly knew, or people I didn't know at all, to take on the responsibility of my relationship with God as soon as I arrived. There was a real heartfelt desire to know the Lord as I had never known Him before, but I was too lazy to seek Him myself. I wanted to be "spoon-fed."

Spoonfeeding is something I thought I deserved, for some unknown reason. After all, could I help it if I had been caught up in the evil ways of the world? At least I had the will to become a better person; wasn't that enough? The returning sophomores who had been strong, Christian friends of my sister knew enough about me that I expected them to immediately take me under their wings and nurse me until I was just as "healthy" as they were.

While I spent my summer rehearsing all of my problems, I assumed that my sister's Montreat friends were out witnessing to chain-gang members on the streets, growing every day. Little did I know, in all my self-centeredness, that they were going through problems of their own. As the first few weeks of the semester unfolded, I realized that I was not going to become an instant Billy Graham. My new friends were not quite up to being the "disciples" I had expected them to be. They had not become heathens, by any means. They simply were not trusting in the Lord as they should have been at the time. The Lord decided to take this and use it to show me something.

The Lord revealed to me that I had to stop waiting around for my friends to come through with some profound message or action that would miraculously change my life. He told me that if I was to take my Christianity and do something with it, I would have to ask Him for it, one on One. Sure, I could share experiences and fellowship with others as much as I wanted; this is a necessity. But if I desired a true peace about my life and my relationship with Him, I would have to depend on no one else but Him for that peace.

One might get the feeling that I am bitter towards my friends because I think that they have let me down. It might seem as if I am shunning friendships with people because I have been hurt or disappointed. These feelings could not be more opposite from my own. I love my friends and cherish my time spent with them. They have already helped me and taught me more than they, and probably I, will ever know. The fact is that I have learned not to depend on them for step-by-step guidance in my daily walk with the Lord. There are some things that can only be dealt with strictly between Him and me.

Friends are a very important part of my life and always will be. I am rather particular about who I choose for friends. They must be very strong and dependable. Since being at Montreat, however, I have learned that no matter how dependable and trustworthy my friends may be, I can only lean on the Lord for true peace and fulfillment in my relationship with Him.

The Artist Is You

by Judith Turner

A brand you canvas
awaits you each day.

Numerous colors forming a
spectrum upon a pallet,

Wait for your hands.
What will you paint?

Scarlets, purples, and violets
for words of anger.

Mauves, indigos, and blues
for self-pity and depression

Grey, charcoals, and blacks
for birth of hatred.

But wait!
There are other colors

Bright yellow
for sunny moods.

Fresh green
for hopeful dreams.

Purest white
for trusting faith--

Faith in God
to guide your hand --

That for today
a masterpiece you'll paint.

God is there
the choice is yours.

Make your choice.
What will you paint?

An Open Letter To Montreat

Purpose: to quicken our love for one another; to heal any broken spirit in our people; to help us to embrace only the positive good about and in others.

Problems: not everyone in the Body understands yet that the Holy Spirit is infinite and omnipotent in His work; that He moves in different ways; that He has moved uniquely in every heart and mind since before the beginning of mankind. Therefore if one in the Body has one talent or gift or work to offer it should be utilized to the fullest in love of Him who provided it. It should not be turned away or shunned but nurtured and built up and made like unto a rock.

Not everyone understands yet that as His Spirit stirs within us we are moved to show it in different ways (sometimes not to our liking due to infringements on man-made traditions) such as service on many active committees, cooking, washing

dishes, cutting grass, raising hands in praise, mopping floors, teaching adults about who Christ is, singing in the church choir, praying for one or the whole body, praying in the closet or praying in voice, preaching or teaching the Gospel...or just listening for the still small voice. All these gifts, talents, needs, wants, and expressions of faith, love, and service **must** (and we emphasize "must") be accepted by the whole body at Montreat in love, honor, and humility. **THIS IS WHAT MAKES US VIBRANT AND ALIVE!!!**

In winding it down to zero we maintain that at Montreat we must have leadership that balances the Gospel message with love, care, and nature of its members; the Gospel message with teaching events; the Gospel message with how to cope with various and sundry mundane problems and situations common to us all.....and remain His; the

Gospel message with historical religious facts; etc.

IF WE HAVE NO IN-REACH THEN OUR OUTREACH BECOMES HYPOCRITICAL!!!

There is a balm that will heal the sin-sick and that is the love of Jesus in us to forgive without being asked to forgive, to love without the expectation of being waited upon, and finally allowing the God-given gifts, and talents of the Holy Spirit to exist; then, and only then, may we at Montreat exist together in love as young and old, active and lazy, spirit filled or dead, rich and poor, sweet and sour, clamish and talkative, ugly and pretty, handsome and fat, intelligent and not so intelligent, sloppy and neat, but still all of us believers under the Lordship of Jesus Christ the living Son of God attempting together, as a melting pot, to do His will and not our own.

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"Notes" Around M-AC

F.C.A. got off to a good start Thursday night with Kimsey Koster presiding. The Fellowship of Christian Athletes is the newest club on campus and we urge all to come and enjoy the fellowship!

The Groseclose ladies once again sponsored the annual King of Hearts pageant. During Convoca-

tion Monday, the guys were escorted by the women of Groseclose and introduced to the students. On Wednesday night, the pageant was held, and was filled with talent, song and lots of fun. The contestants were Percy Coleman, Kimsey Koster, Jeff Lewis, "Dank" Duffy, Bobby Turner, Ben Dowling and Trip Rogers.