

Father and Friend

By Dr. Bill Cain, Chaplain

I always wanted a large family. Never did I dream that this family would swell to over 400 people on the Montreat campus of the School of Arts and Sciences as well as those "brothers and sisters" in School of Professional and Adult Studies (SPAS).

As the chaplain, I see this role that God has given to me as being a father and a friend to the Montreat family. I have the privilege of walking beside students, staff, and faculty and encouraging them in their life with the Lord.

Last year I received a note from a parent whose child is a student here. The family had been devastated by the sudden death of a good friend, and I had sought to support this student in the midst of grief. The mother's note simply said, "Thanks for being there, when I could not." That is not a "job"... that is my privilege and call from God.

I have had people ask me, "Bill, what in the world does a chaplain do?" In an age that loves to measure worth by works, I could point to the activities of leading worship, preaching, teaching, recruiting and supporting small group leaders,

arranging for special speakers, developing weekend retreats like S.A.L.T., planning and participating in a spring break missions trip, co-leading a marriage seminar with my wife, and assisting in a major community outreach ministry called Hands and Feet as evidence of my "worth." But my call as a chaplain is tied to encouraging and equipping students to be disciples of Jesus Christ. In that call I am a friend to those who need someone to stand with them and I am a father to those who need the unconditional and extravagant love of God.

I close with a picture that sticks in my mind. I was with 16 Montreat "family members" in the Bahamas...on a mission trip! Only we weren't staying on the fancy beaches of Nassau, we were

in a small cottage that was home to some special children. Many of these children had lost parents to AIDS and many of them were HIV positive. But I saw our Montreat students playing games with them, holding hands with them, listening to them, and I uttered a prayer to our Father: "Thank You for allowing me to be a part of a family of faith called Montreat College."

And thank you for your support and prayers. If you ever need a friend or a father give me a call and I'll walk with you in the name of Jesus Christ.



From The Editor

By Tim Tyson

The summer is long gone, and school has been in full swing for a little over a month. Homecoming

is already upon us, and students have dug in for the long haul. The docket of activities is full, and the Whetstone is here to serve.

The Whetstone is a student-based paper for the students and alumni of Montreat College. This year we are distributing to every student in the School of Professional and Adult Studies and the School of Arts and Sciences (formerly the traditional campus).

The Whetstone has switched over to a completely different format. Whereas before it was printed on stiff paper stock, now we will be on newsprint every issue. The paper is a little late this year because of the change we had in our development process to a new format.

We are a bi-monthly publication chock full of the most current events relative to students in this

relative world. The name "Whetstone" itself is derived from our club's verse Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron, So one man sharpens another" (NASB). A whetstone, according to *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*, is a "piece of stone, natural or artificial, used for... sharpening edge tools."

I strongly encourage students, staff, and faculty to participate in this process of "sharpening" through feedback. This is an interactive publication. Letters to the Editor are always welcome as are volunteer reporters and photographers. With Letters to the Editor, we ask that the author take credit for their words and that no profanity be used. For those interested in submitting articles please type the following link into your web browser www.montreat.edu/whetstone, and click on the "Whetstone" button.

Living Water

By Johanna Wright

God is With Us

"I am God, the God of your father," he said. "Do not be afraid to go down to Egypt, for I will make you into a great nation there. I will go down to Egypt with you, and I will surely bring you back again." Genesis 46:3-4a.

In this passage God is speaking with Jacob to give him confirmation and a promise. Jacob is on his way to Egypt to see his son Joseph and he has no idea what to expect. He was an old man and he left his home and all that was safe and familiar to him to face new situations in a strange new place. Can you imagine what Jacob must have been thinking? He was probably terrified as he anticipated traveling, and curious about how he would be received if he even made it to Egypt alive!

God saw all of this in Jacob and said, "You know what Jacob? You are doing the right thing. I am here with you and I am going to protect you." God confirmed what Jacob was doing and then said, "You don't have to do it alone."

Sometimes we feel a lot like Jacob: alone and afraid. We are easily overwhelmed with schoolwork, sports, activities, trying to make new friends, family pressures, wondering what the future holds for us, and the list goes on for each of us. We try to do all of this on our own, and we forget that we don't have to.

If you have truly trusted in Jesus as your Savior, you are a child of Abraham. Thus, God has made this promise to you too: "You don't have to do it alone." Christian, you have a Father in Heaven who loves you dearly and walks beside you daily. He is waiting to speak comfort directly into your life where you need it. Turn to Jesus and seek what He would have for your life. There is great freedom and power in knowing that our Lord does all things with us, and He wants to prosper us.

Ruth Bell Graham wrote it well in one of her poems:

Lord, when my soul is weary
and my heart is tired and sore,
and I have that failing feeling
that I can't take anymore;
then let me know the freshening
found in simple, childlike prayer,
when the kneeling soul knows surely
that a listening Lord is there.

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