

Evil at Heart

by Peter B. Councell

On April 16, 2007 Cho Seung-hui, a Korean student at Virginia Tech, brutally and maliciously murdered 32 innocent people. People everywhere are absolutely beside themselves; most share the same "how could someone do this" mentality. Yes, Cho Seung-hui, without a second thought, killed 32 people who did not deserve to die.

However, what I do not understand is the obvious fact that people continue to say that they are shocked that something like this happened: "How could someone kill 32 people? Isn't there some good left in the world?"

I am shocked—no, flabbergasted—that the majority just do not seem to get it. The truth, whether we like it or not, is that every single person on this planet is evil at heart. Every single one of us is sinful by nature. Therefore, every person reading this is capable of committing the most heinous of crimes. We each have the potential to kill 32 people. The difference between Cho Seung-hui and us is the very fact that we have not and hopefully will not make the choice to take lives. However, we are all equally guilty of committing sinful acts that are just as evil as Cho Seung-hui's. Nobody

reading this has probably killed someone, but each one of us has lied, cheated, hated, etc. Sin is sin. God is against all sin.

The point is this: The world is an evil, fallen, and sinful place. We choose to make the world an evil place; we all have to make the choice, each and every single day, to do what is good or to do what is evil. Cho Seung-hui made a bad choice, but remember that we have also made bad decisions. Do not dare think that we are not capable of sin or just as culpably evil as Cho Seung-hui.

Therefore, do not just pray for the families that have lost

sons and daughters, teachers and friends. Do not just pray for the students of Virginia Tech. Do not just pray for others associated or affected by this tragedy, but pray also for Cho Seung-hui and his family. Pray that, somehow, in his last moments, Cho Seung-hui would have known the everlasting grace of God. Pray for his forgiveness.

Are we any better than Cho Seung-hui? Honestly, are you? Am I? No. I also ask that we pray for others dealing with the same issues Cho Seung-hui did. How are we to love one another through alienation? It is quite impossible. Christ said,

"Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34-35). Love the people that suffer, that make bad decisions, and that do wrong. Love them because God loves us in the same manner.

Enough of the stereotypes. Enough of the antiquated and media-hyped "shock." Enough of the misconceptions. It is time for some serious love and prayer.

Soulforce

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I like to think of myself as more on the liberal side of Christianity, but at times I am the biggest conservative hypocrite in the world. Sometimes I see homosexuality as the 'bigger' sin than others. I am so sorry for acting like that towards the homosexual community. Even though I still don't agree with it, it is not my place to judge. All I can do is try not to disrespect homosexuals. Curtis opened my eyes to how much persecution there was in the homosexuality community. I listened to the equality riders and during their presentation I was reminded that our greatest commandment is love. All of us are children of God when we are

saved, and I am not defined by my sins. I am defined through Christ. I don't care if people are heterosexual, homosexual, green, blue, or whatever, because we are all children of God."

"Love is patient, love is kind and is not jealous; love does not brag and is not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly; it does not seek its own, is not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails..." (1 Corinthians 13: 4-8)

Summer Activities 2007

- **Shindig on the Green**
• An enthusiastic celebration of traditional and old-time string bands, bluegrass, ballad singers, big circle mountain dancers, and cloggers on summer Saturday evenings in downtown Asheville. June 30; July 7, 14, 21; August 11, 18, 25; and September 1, 2007. Info: (828)258-6101 x.345 or www.folkheritage.org.
- **Mountain Dance and Folk Festival**
• The 80th annual edition of this three-day event showcases the best of the region's traditional and old-time musicians, ballad singers, cloggers, etc. Thursday through Saturday, August 2-4, 2007, 7:00p.m. nightly at Diana Wortham Theatre at Pack Place box office. Regular: \$15; Children 12 and under: \$8; 3-night package for Adults: \$36; Children: \$24. (828) 257-4530 or www.dwtheatre.com. Info: www.folkheritage.org.

In Memoriam: Cliff Cunningham

by Hannah Fox

On November 15, 2006 the Black Mountain and Montreat communities lost a wonderful servant, teacher, and friend: Cliff Cunningham. Cliff served our Montreat community for a year and a half in the Natural Sciences department as the biology lab coordinator/instructor. His passion for leading young adults was evident in his classroom and in his "Santa Claus" demeanor. Cliff would be the first to admit that he was "new at this teaching thing," but he was absolutely thrilled to have a part in what God what doing on our campus.



About Montreat he said, "I am stunned by the strength, diversity, and compassion of our student body. This group of young people has led in worship, teaching, and singing God's word! They toil and practice not only at their studies, but in the athletic and servanthood arenas as well. These students build relationships with their peers, with children and babies, with older folks, and race or origin isn't getting in the way! These students volunteer their precious free time, to serve those in need, feeding the hungry, helping with their hands. My students realize that they are on a journey, and I try to help them along their way, to get the most out of their lives, as I too am simply a journeyer, who has trod some of the same pathways which they are now exploring for the first time..."

Cliff's servanthood, patience, willingness, kindness, and gentleness made him an easy tool for the Lord to minister to the members of this community. Many can recount the faint sound from across campus of "Amazing Grace" or "How Great Thou Art" from a distant ocarina, while others have memories of a startling "bear hug" that made their face light up to know that he cared so much. The students of Montreat College saw and experienced a rare and precious image of Jesus Christ through Cliff Cunningham. Our community needs to make sure we keep the Cunningham family in our prayers and continue to be servants to them just as Cliff was to us. We are forever grateful to have had such a great blessing to our college. We will never forget.