

Physically Poor, Spiritually Rich

Kameron Werder

We have all encountered the mysterious homeless person on the side of the road, and often times we think to ourselves, "How can I avoid this person at all costs?" While we should be asking ourselves, "What is their story? How do they get by from day to day? Will there ever be redemption?"

A few of my classmates and I were fortunate enough to participate in a poverty simulation last month at the Wade Center in West Virginia. We faced some of the hardships a homeless person deals with on a daily basis, such as sleeping outside, being unsure of our next meal, and feeling worthless. We were given dirty looks, slept on the cold hard ground, and rummaged through dumpsters in search of useful items.

Due to the cold weather, we had to bundle up and stay together for warmth. By the end of the trip, we were not only close in a physical sense, but mentally and spiritually as well. It was incredible how much we relied on each other because we did not have our so called "essentials." I believe that this was the way God intended it to be. Galatians 5:22-23 says, "But the fruit of

the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, good-



ness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control; against such things there is no law." I attest that we all experienced these emotions through the community we gained in only a forty-two hour period by being forced to live together; that is definitely something we lack today in the real world.

Not only did we live as "the least of these," we were also educated on facts that are hard to swallow. Are you aware that as college students, we are considered some of the

wealthiest people compared to the rest of the world? Did you

know that 98% of the world's population do not own a car? These are only two of the several mind-blowing statistics

that reveal how spoiled the USA has become.

This experience not only opened up new perspectives for me, but also brought me closer to the Lord. Although I was missing the material things, I realized how little I actually needed. That weekend, I put my faith in my Lord Jesus Christ and the outcome was unimaginably good. Matthew 6:33 says, "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Because of that weekend this verse has gained an entirely new meaning.

I challenge you to attend the Poverty Simulation at the Wade Center in the spring. It will not only inform you of some of the major problems this world is facing presently, but will also educate you on

what's inside
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how you can make an impact in the future. I believe that the leading limiting factor in our society today is a lack of ambition, not money or food, but an absence of willingness to take a chance.

National Novel Writing Month

Chelsea Bober

Novel-writing is one of the most commonly unfulfilled dreams. Millions of people through the centuries have declared the desire to one day pen "the great American novel," "the great British novel," or "the great Zimbabwean novel." But too often, none of these novels are ever written. November is National Novel Writing Month, and thousands of modern aspiring novelists join together to support each

other in an attempt to each write 50,000 words.

Together with Montreat alumni Laura Cook, Stephanie Cook (née Hosack) and several current Montreat students, I have embarked on this momentous journey of becoming a true "novelist." According to guidelines set in the mid-20th century, 50,000 words is the base length for a novel (albeit a short novel). Reaching that goal in 30 days can be daunting,

because it requires an average of 1,667 words per day, which is about 4-1/2 pages double spaced.

I have been a writer for over half of my life, and only once written to the end of a novel (all you writers out there know too well that "writing to the end" of a novel is vastly different from "finishing" a novel). So, encouraged by the austere Laura, I joined the NaNoWriMo movement

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VERSE
of the
MONTH

Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. In your hands are strength and power to exalt and give strength to all. Now, our God, we give you thanks, and praise your glorious name.

1 Chronicles 29:12-13