

### SOME ANSWERS TO PRAYER AT MARS HILL

DELLA HUGGINS

(Note: The following reminiscences contributed by Miss Huggins are a continuation of the article "Prayer in the Building of Mars Hill", which appeared in the last issue of the HILLTOP.)

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you: for every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. Matt. 7:7-9.

In the early fall of 1922 Mrs. C. J. Biggers and nine girls of Mars Hill College, went to the top of Little Mountain at daybreak. Standing on top of this mountain looking down into the valley below, Mrs. Biggers said, "Girls, here lies seventy-five acres of land. This is God's land; Mars Hill is God's school. All of our buildings are crowded on ten acres of land. We need this seventy-five acres of land for our school. Let's pray that God will give us this land".

Then she told how much the boys needed a dormitory; how undesirable and crowded were the old buildings, Rivermont and Treat, and that many boys were having to room out in homes of the town. She asked that this group pray with her that God would give Mars Hill College a boys' dormitory and also a mother to stay with them. Then she said, "I am getting old. I can't do all the work that needs to be done and take care of the sick. Let's pray that the Lord will send us a nurse and give us the second story of the Treat Building for an infirmary." She held in her hand a list of unsaved people in the town and in the school and said, "Mothers and fathers are sending their boys and girls here to school, expecting them to be surrounded with Christian influence." Then she told of a business place in town where the boys were getting whiskey and said, "Let's pray that God will give us a revival that will clean up Mars Hill, especially this place of business, and save the lost in our school."

For more than an hour, with faces buried in our hands, kneeling upon Mrs. Biggers' large shawl spread upon the ground, we poured out our hearts in one united petition to God to grant

these requests. We arose facing the sunrise in the East and marched off

the mountain singing "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow".

Soon after this Brother J. R. Owen, the pastor of Mars Hill Church, Mrs. Biggers and twenty-four of the college girls went back to Little Mountain and prayed again that God would give us this land. As we stood in a circle clasping each other's hands one of the girls began thanking God for land. The circle of prayer was closed with a thanksgiving prayer.

Every request that went to the Throne of Grace from this Little Mountain top was granted.

On April 1, 1923, Mr. John Robert Sams went to Brother Owen's home and said that he would give his interest in the land, which amounted to \$1100.00. Later the same afternoon he came back and said that his daughter, Mrs. John Anderson, had decided to give her interest, which amounted to \$1200. Shortly afterward a deed for all this land was made to Mars Hill College.

Immediately after securing the deed, Mr. M. C. Treat wrote President R. L. Moore that he would give fifty thousand dollars for a dormitory, if the friends of the College would give the same amount. When the North Carolina Convention met the following November, a vote was taken to raise the amount, and it was secured in the limited time.

The buildings, Melrose and Brown dormitories, were completed by the opening of school in the year 1924 and Mrs. Bessie Stapleton of Mississippi came to be the mother for the boys. Miss Nora Kelly, a graduate nurse from the Mississippi Infirmary, felt the call to go to the mountains to nurse. She wrote Dr. A. E. Brown, Superintendent of Mountain Schools, and told him of her call. Dr. Brown sent Miss Kelly to Mars Hill College, and the second story of the Treat dormitory was made into our first infirmary.

In September, 1923, a great revival was conducted by the pastor, J. R. Owen, assisted by Rev. W. L. Griggs.

There were more than eighty professions of faith. Many surrendered their lives to preach the gospel and go out as missionaries among them was Arthur Gillespie, who is now in China.

The man who sold the boys whiskey was deeply convicted and went to the home of the preacher at twelve o'clock one night and was saved. He destroyed his whiskey and went with a group of people at one o'clock in the morning to his place of business and dedicated it to the Lord.

The Lord spoke to Moses out of the burning bush and told him to put off his shoes from off his feet for the place whereon he stood was holy ground.

Surely God has spoken and is speaking to the people of Mars Hill and saying that the place where thou standest is holy ground. Therefore it behooves everyone to bow his head in humble submission to the Lord and seek his divine guidance as we look forward to a larger Mars Hill. Then God will raise up here in this student body great leaders that will lead his people in great undertakings for him.

If this be true, then surely we can hear him say, "Speak to my people that they go forward".

#### Other Examples

In the early fall of 1923 one of the girls came to Mrs. Biggers and told her that her trunk was packed and that she was leaving that morning, for the plans that she thought were made to help her through school had failed and there was nothing for her to do but to go and she wanted to leave quietly. Mrs. Biggers said to the girl, "No you can't go. Come let us talk to the Lord about the matter". They did. About an hour later the girl's pastor drove up to Mars Hill and got out of his car and walked upon the porch of Slipman and spoke to Mrs. Biggers and said, "I don't know why I am here. I was over in Asheville and there seemed to be something pulling me over this way. Mrs. Biggers told him that she knew why he was there, that the Lord had brought him. Then she told him the story of the girl. He told Mrs. Biggers that they couldn't afford to let the girl quit school and that he was quite sure one of the Sun-

day School classes in his church would make it possible for her to stay in school.

The girl did remain in school until she finished. She was indeed a capable and a useful student. I am quite sure that the Clio Literary Society has never had a more capable president than she made.

On January 1, 1925, one of Mars Hill's valuable teachers, Mrs. Wilkins, was operated on for appendicitis. Her appendix was ruptured and she had a very serious case of peritonitis. Dr. Pritchard came out of the operating room and told her pastor, Rev. J. R. Owen, that he had done the best that he could, but that there was no hope for her to live.

Her children (Louise, who was a student in the College and Franklin, eleven years old) sent word by Miss Cornelia Howell to Mars Hill that Mrs. Biggers and some of the girls would pray that their mother would live.

Their faith in our prayers, and our love for Mrs. Wilkins and her children, also with the realization of her valuable life, brought us to our knees. Mrs. Biggers and three girls (Ethel Johnson, Bessie Spillers, and Della Huggins) went in the early evening into the office room. We remembered how Christ had spent the night in prayer. By faith we claimed one

### YE OLD SNOOPER

Asheville seemed to be infested with Mars Hill parasites between semesters.

These Frazer boys are "around here" in every way. Monte came down and right away became accustomed to Southern women. And it seems that he prefers blondes! How did I know? Well, he was seen on the streets of Asheville dragging the net—tie around. At the same time, "big brother Jim" was enjoying his Grub-b's. I can't imagine how Monte happened to meet Ethel, but he did!

They say that all popularity must be deserved. But there's always an exception to the rule. Anyway, Nettie seems to have her share—Lafayette and Keller both. Wow!

And this new Mars Hillian, with those eyes of hers, seems to have captured the hearts of several young men. She can Tran-um, too. If you don't believe it, ask Gullede or Brock.

Annie Long, why would you break a poor boy's heart? Don't you know that a certain blonde who wears glasses might get jealous? In fact, you almost put him in the "Hurst". But there's an old saying: "No one can take the place of the boy back home."

Last Saturday morning, as I was on my way to Asheville, I met a nice-looking young boy carrying a grip. He looked tired and worn-out, as if he could hardly wait to get to Mars Hill. After close observation, I discovered that it was Joe Dickson in person. I have no idea where he had been so early in the morning with a suitcase, but it has been rumored that he was attracted by some dame in Asheville. Oh, by the way! Did you know that Ernestine Hamby spent the week-end in Asheville?

The old fire has been rekindled. At least, that's assumed from all appearances. Neil Hartley has been seen lately talking to someone by the name of Morgan—and I've just heard that she went home between semesters too.

Although Jim Randleman was seen promise after another and we, too, spent the night in prayer.

The next morning Dr. Pritchard and the nurse said that to their surprise she was living.

Three weeks later Dr. Pritchard took three doctors (who were attending a medical conference in Asheville) in to see Mrs. Wilkins. He showed them her wound and told them the story of her case. One of the doctors said, "That is marvelous. This surely is a feather in your cap". Dr. Pritchard replied, "This woman's recovery is not due to any skill of mine, but is due to the prayers of a group of people at Mars Hill College".

on the campus every day between semesters, they say that he was in Asheville by night. It's really a Job-e to keep up with him.

Doris Johnson has those "Smiling Irish Eyes". She also has the ability to appreciate all Shakesperian characters. Shades of "Anthony"! Hand Me a Bromo "Setzler."

"Blondie" and "Red" (whatta contrast!) seemed to enjoy themselves, too. Friday night found a certain boy "Miles" from Mars Hill. And I also believe that one of the Teague boys (not Norwood, either) was attracted to Waynesville for some reason. Oh, well! It's all in a lifetime!

"Kat" Hollowell went to Spruce Pine during the holidays. "Mark" that up on the wall!

It must have been "The Star 'Spangler' Banner" that Ethel Odum heard. Anyway she stood up.

### Sunday School Officers Elected For Spring

On Sunday, January 6, the Sunday School class officers were elected for the spring semester. A meeting of the new officers was held last Sunday afternoon to plan the course of work for the semester.

The newly elected presidents are as follows: **Ruth Class**, Miss Pierce teacher, Ruth Bennett; **Teacher in Training**, Miss Bowden teacher, Mildred Pittman; **Ever Faithful**, Miss Rutherford teacher, Elizabeth Alexander; **Cleaners**, Miss Wengert teacher, Christine Roberson; **Ever Faithful**, Miss Gregg teacher, Huber Dixon; **Berean I**, Mr. McLeod teacher, Neil Hartley; **Berean II**, Mr. Huff teacher, Tracy Church; **Gideon**, Mr. King teacher, Heber Peacock; **Fearless Fighters**, Dean Carr teacher, Raymond Midkiff.

The semester promises to be one of faithful work and cooperation among the classes.

### C-I Class Staff Chosen For Hilltop Issue

Editor, James Thompson; associate editor, J. R. Powell; managing editor, Earle Brockman; society editor, Melba Nanney; religious editor, Heber Peacock; sports editor, Charlie Hurst; poetry editor, Judith Eller; intercollegiate editor, Ethel Hill; business manager, Ed Porter; circulation manager, Ralph Bowen; faculty adviser, Spencer B. King; typists, Jessie Indorf, and Lorina Montisanti.

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