

# Merry Christmas!

# THE HILLTOP

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## In Pursuit of Purpose

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Staff Writer

How long has it been since students have heard the ringing of the Marshbanks bell? How often has Mars Hill College hosted a well-known contemporary Christian recording artist? When was the last time the entire campus was involved in a single event where everyone was invited to take an active part? All of these infrequent opportunities are coming up early next semester in a single week where Mars Hill College will be turned upside-down. The event is known as Christian Focus Week and entails a four-day adventure like Mars Hill has not seen in many years.

Through a series of concerts, contemporary worship services, pertinent seminars, classroom lectures, and late-night dorm discussions, students will have opportunities to get to know a dynamic team of professionals representing many walks of life and to strengthen their own Christian commitment.

The idea for planning a week to focus on aspects of the Christian life began with a request from the provost last Spring. From that point the proverbial ball had begun to roll and great strides have been made. Under the coordination of Dr. Robert Melvin and the capable leadership of co-chairpersons David Yates and Andy Farmer, nearly 100 students making up twelve committees are already working hard at preparing for this exciting week. The entire event is to be student-organized, student-

oriented, and student-conducted. Dr. Melvin said that it has been fifteen years since a Christian Focus Week of this magnitude has been undertaken.

Many activities are scheduled for this special week and the days leading up to it. Beginning early in February, the bell in the Marshbanks building will be rung at noon each day calling students to prayer. Literature will be prepared to further assist students in spiritual preparation for the event. Christian Focus Week



Ken Medema

itself will be February 20-23. To kick off the week, Ken Medema will be featured in concert on Monday evening.

Ken Medema is a well-known and well-respected recording artist from San Francisco, California. He studied music therapy at Michigan State University, placing particular emphasis on performance skills in voice and piano. Blind from birth, Medema has been writing and performing his own work since 1970. The promotion materials printed by Medema's recording company describe the musician's styles as ranging "...from classical to rock, from ballad to blues, from sacred to profane - always searching for ways people can connect to each other, enabling them to sense the sacred within themselves and in surprising places."

Inspiring worship services will be held Tuesday morning, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, and Thursday morning. The keynote speaker for these services will be Dr. Ralph Langley, a Mars Hill alumnus currently serving as pastor of First Baptist Church of Huntsville, Alabama. Dr. Langley is a popular speaker and was the featured pastor at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center one week this past summer.

Dr. Melvin agrees that the speaker comes highly recommended. "Dr. Langley combines humor, enthusiasm, and sound Biblical preaching. He communicates with young people very, very well."

In addition to the keynote speaker, a whole team of professionals will be

on campus helping make Christian Focus Week a success and a blessing. These people -- many of whom are Mars Hill graduates -- will be leading seminars after the services, lecturing in various classrooms, and sharing in late-night dorm discussions. They represent the fields of medicine, science, business, athletics, and law, and will be offering a Christian perspective on their fields. One particular seminar worthy of note is the courtship and marriage seminar to be led by Mr. and Mrs. Joe David Fore on Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons.

The theme for the week is "In Pursuit Of Purpose" and is designed to provide something for everyone. Whether students are still searching for that purpose, seeking to strengthen it, or trying to find it again, a special blessing through the challenging opportunities awaits them during Christian Focus Week. Anticipation is already mounting among the students involved in preparations.

Dr. Melvin is also looking forward to the week. "Christian Focus Week has the potential for creating a sense of community around a shared experience and thus tremendously enriching our lives," Melvin said. As the week approaches, students will have more and more opportunities to get involved. Students are encouraged to be in prayer for the campus and the special week coming soon.

Anyone on campus who is interested is invited to join committee members on Wednesdays in Belk Auditorium at 5:30 for a brief time of prayer and spiritual preparation. It's always been said of Mars Hill that the college is a community of caring individuals. Christian Focus Week provides the setting for students, faculty, and staff to unite as a strong community of faith under a common goal -- a common purpose.

Remember: The pursuit of purpose is no trivial pursuit.

## Behind the Scenes: Housing and Security

Stan Toney  
Staff Writer

Among the many services that are offered here on campus, some of the most under-used are some of those which are the most vital to the day-to-day operation of the college. The Office of Residential Living and the Office of Safety and Security are two of the campus services that are under-utilized and often ignored. The important thing to realize is that they are here for the benefit of the campus community.

In an interview with Cary Poole, Director of Residential Living, and Steve Woodson, Director of the Department of Safety and Security, several concerns about student response to security on campus were raised. It seems that students have almost a disregard for their own safety, and, in addition to that, have little or no knowledge of the services available to

The first concern raised, and the main topic of this article, is the students' disregard for their own safety. To begin with, the practice of locking the women's dorms at night is, as they should realize, for their own safety. Steve Woodson noted that there have been reports of women propping the outside doors open after they have been locked for the evening. Both

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Woodson and Poole emphasized that this practice is not only dangerous for the person who props the doors open, but also for the other residents in that hall. Security in the halls is compromised when people attempt to circumvent the rules that exist for their own safety.

This propping of the doors is even more unsafe when the recent reports

of a prowler on Women's Hill are taken into consideration. Although stake-outs by security found no one, other than residents, coming around the dorms late at night, the women should still be aware that, if there is a prowler and the doors are left open, there is nothing to stop him or her from coming into the dorm.

"We've heard a lot of things about what's going on, said Poole in regards to the situation on Women's Hill. "There's a peeping Tom--and we've staked the building out, but what we're amazed at, as to what is going on at two and three o'clock in the morning over there, that girls are coming and going unescorted; doors are still being propped open. There's a minimal amount of concern for their

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