The Real Covenant

by Calvin Cummings ’15

Covenant college has not been what I expected. I came in with rose-colored glasses, believing that I could leave my iniquity at the foot of the mountain, and that fulfillment would be waiting for me at the top. I came in thinking I knew much when I actually knew nothing and thinking that my worth and identity came out of the things that I do instead of the things Christ has done for me. Since I arrived here I have been shown something of humanity, something of sorrow, and, most importantly, something of the power of God. This has caused some reevaluation.

Covenant has changed me. This shouldn’t surprise those that are familiar with this place. There’s a fondness we all feel for this campus - an endearment that makes us remember that life is and has been lived on top of this mountain. This life is messy, yet full of gladness. We rejoice here in a very Romans 5 way. A way that doesn’t exclude suffering, encourages honesty, and throughout holds fast to faith that we have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

Covenant has blessed me. In his short work entitled Life Together, Dietrich Bonhoeffer explains how a healthy community thrives: “The more genuine and the deeper our community becomes, the more will everything else between us recede, the more clearly and purely will Jesus Christ and his work become the one and only thing that is vital between us. We have one another only through Christ, but through Christ we do have one another, wholly, and for all eternity.” I see this type of community growing all over campus. I have never been short of people who tell me, “Run to God! Go before you talk yourself out of it!” This encouragement has come from both my professors and friends. These are seen in moments of confrontation, of prayer, and of joy that we’ve all shared together.

Though this institution has blessed me I can still find myself cynical. Sometimes I find myself discontent, and selfish, and believing that my place and circumstance could be “better.” I’ve realized that cynicism is a choice, though. The choice is one of focus—where we shift from examining Christ to examining ourselves. What could we expect but despair when we do this? Without Christ, we have nothing. Covenant is no different. Thankfully, the school recognizes this, embraces it, and lives it. As students, faculty, and staff, we are asked to participate in the school’s mission, and though we cannot do this job perfectly, we are endeared to one another by our efforts that are blessed and used by God. This has been an incredible privilege to live in, and I must respond.

This response will be unique for each member of this community, but will be determined by our commonality of experience. Our response will be decided as we recall the moments when our professors have prayed with us, when our roommates have forgiven us, when our love has been reciprocated, and our foolishness overlooked. We will remember those nights where we stayed up too late talking about that which no longer matters, were valued and cared for, and how we were woven together by the grace of our God. We will remember the dark nights of the soul, and how God met us with the light of the morning. We will remember the ways in which we were torn, that we have been healed; when we were struck down, and then bound up. And we will remember that this happened on a tiny mountain in the corner of Georgia that we never would have expected would change us. In light of this, we will respond.
“Holding fast to Christ’s preeminence in all things, let us, as students, faculty, staff, and alumni, lift up prayers of support and thanksgiving to the One who blessed us with this place. Through our prayers of intercession, we need to seek the will and support of our Lord over Covenant College so that He might have all the glory.”

Andrew Christenberry ’14

“I want to never stop representing where I came from; I want to never stop living out and telling others about the ways that Covenant has challenged and shaped me…all so we can have more Covenant alumni in the world, more thoughtful Christians recognizing, studying, and highlighting the preeminence of Christ.”

Allie Dyar ’13

“How could I not consider myself a huge Covenant College cheerleader after experiencing the four best years of my life there? I refuse to be the silent reason that someone does not know about Covenant College. So whether it’s my sisters’ friends, kids in the youth group, or students at Brandon’s school, I feel compelled to tell them that WE ARE THE SCOTS! WE COME FROM THE MOUNTAIN!”

Casey Snipes ’12

“My prayer is that when you depart from this mountaintop you will find, like me, that a part of your calling is to invest in the next generation of students at Covenant College—keeping alive the vision of proclaiming and recognizing the preeminence of Christ in all things.”

Sarah Jane Creech ’07
“One of the funnest things I did to represent Covenant when I was a young alum was volunteering to staff the Covenant table at college fairs in my area. It was great to be able to share with prospective students how Covenant had shaped me, exciting to see some of those students end up on the mountain, and deeply gratifying to watch as God put those folks to work after their time at Covenant.”

J. Derek Halvorson ’93

“Giving to Covenant through time, money, and prayer allows us to participate in the work God is doing in the community that helped to shape who we are today and our understanding of the gospel. The idea of stewardship is really the bedrock of why we give: what we have—material and immaterial—is not really ours, it is the Lord’s.”

Peter ’12 & Adrienne McCrory ’13

“Prayer is a gift from God, yet I rarely comprehend the magnitude of this opportunity. Join with me in talking to God and praying that the students, faculty, and staff at Covenant would all live mission-driven lives in whatever vocation we are called to.”

Chris Stern ’10

“Alumni who are faithful to give to Covenant are alumni who want you to have the same experiences they had. When you step back and see that there are thousands of people who have felt this way, you will hopefully feel the joy of being a part of continuing that experience for others.”

Michael Pepper ’09

“WE PRAY
WE REPRESENT
WE GIVE
STUDENTS BECOME ALUMNI

PRAY
- Mission
- Students
- Alumni
- Faculty & Staff
- Donors & Resources

REPRESENT
- Center for Calling & Career
- Mentor Students
- Network with Students & Alumni
- Offer Internships & Jobs to Students & Alumni
- Admissions
- Host Admissions Representatives during their travels
- Host Receptions for Prospective Students
- Be a Representative at your Church on Covenant College Sunday
- Refer Students to Covenant
- Alumni

GIVE
- Covenant Fund
- Athletics
- Maintenance
- Scholarships
- Faculty & Staff Salaries
- Endowment
- Scholarships
- Academic & Co-Curricular Programs
- Capital Projects
- New Buildings
- Renovations
- Campus Constructions & Improvements

Organize Alumni Events and Develop an Alumni Chapter in your Area
- Serve on the Board of Alumni Representatives
- Encourage Fellow Scots to Pray, Represent & Give