

Voices from a Distance

Soul Food

Julie King from Macon, Missouri is a first-year M.Div. Distance student. She wrote these poems during the August spiritual formation class practice of solitude.

The Distance Education Office has added a new feature to the UDTs Learning site, aka Moodle. Every month a new article or story will be featured for your perusal. Welcome to your J-Term edition of Voices from a Distance. We asked Julie King, a 1st year cohort, to share a few of her beautiful poems with us. - Enjoy!

29's Trees

Under the tree outside Blades Chapel,
 lying on the grass, looking up
 through a canopy of chlorophyll.
 Brilliant green leaves in clusters
 like grapes at the ends of the
 branches.
 Branches that would be great
 for climbing—
 if I was 12.

Too bad.

I remember climbing trees—up
 and up and up.
 No fear.
 Just balance and strength and
 weightlessness
 (I was a toothpick).
 And trust
 that my tree was strong,
 that it would hold me.

The Lord is powerful.
 The Lord breaks the cedars of
 Lebanon and twists the oaks.
 Those strong, sturdy trees.

But the Lord blesses his people
 with peace.

Let me climb high into that
 canopy, to feel the dappled,
 filtered sunshine on my face.
 Sheltered and cared-for, lifted
 up and loved.
 The Lord whose power can

break the cedars will not let me
 fall. I am balanced and strong
 and weightless when I put my
 trust in You.



Julie King

Renovatus

In my dark night I despaired—
 lost, hopeless, disengaged,
 dead.
 With no voice to give my sad-
 ness,
 no name for the hurt.
 Reasons, but no reason at all.
 Demolished.

Remodeling is uncomfortable.
 Messy.
 Inconvenient.

Like tearing out kitchen cabi-
 nets and drywall of the heart,
 pulling up the flooring of my
 soul.

My contractor God painfully
 reshaped me.

I thought it would be easy at
 first—a little paint of scripture,
 a new table for the Lord's work.

But God had something else in
 mind.
 The Holy Spirit's designs for my
 heart and soul and life.
 A brand new home for Himself
 in me.

He still does some home-
 improvement every now and
 again.
 But I'm learning to anticipate
 with joy the project.

Let God's light shine
 through the clean, clear, bright
 glass of new fixtures
 out into the dark nights of the
 world.