

The Prophet's Column

This is a paid advertisement by J.M. Little

"MYSTERIES OF THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN" PART II BY J.M. LITTLE - TEACHER

"I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish." (Luke 13:3,5). My Lord said this twice in Luke 13. Repentance is a gift of God. What is repentance? Repentance is a godly sorrow over sin, the way you have treated the Lord Jesus Christ. "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death." (II Corinthians 7.10). The repentance wrought in the heart of an awakened sinner leads to salvation in Christ. I'll say without

hesitation that the average religious leader knows as much about true Bible repentance as a doodle bug knows when Sunday comes. I listen to religious folks and weep as I hear them talk about their religious experiences and the lives they lead. They are total strangers to true heartfelt Bible repentance. This is another great mystery of the Kingdom of Heaven. The gift of repentance comes from Heaven. Are you seeing that salvation is of the Lord? You can't repent unless the Lord grants you repentance. When an elect sinner is granted repentance, there comes a change in his entire life, from center to circumference, And, oh, what a change! You, as a repenting sinner, come to hate

the very sins you once loved and wallowed in. Yes, God is giving you a godly hatred for those sins. And to come to hate yourself for living in open rebellion against the Lord God of Heaven. Have you ever repented like that? If not you are not saved, my friend. And you cannot remain where you are. I listen to church folks and it is sickening to hear them laugh about the sins they used to wallow in. Let me tell you something, friend, if you say you are saved, but yet you can laugh about the sins you once wallowed in, hold it, get it now, YOU ARE NOT SAVED!

Now you hold that. You cannot repent over the way you have treated the Lord and wallowed in sin and then laugh about it. You are just on a religious pro-

fession that leads and will damn your poor soul to Hell! As I listen to church members I find no hatred for sin in your heart. But every believer hates sin with a measure of the hatred for which God hates sin. That is so, whether you believe it or not. And I am not giving you my opinion. These truths I am setting forth are so regardless of your unbelief. When you wake up in Hell you'll see then I was being true to your soul and you were a fool for turning the truth down. Now you let that soak in. You are going out into eternity. Where will you spend eternity, friend?

Your Gospel Editor
and Teacher

J.M. Little

Minister finds peace

Continued from page 5B

William Hale's younger brother, Joshua Hale, 21, also pastors an AME Church in Cynthiana. The Hale boys were born after their father, called to the ministry while serving in Vietnam, joined the AME Church. Frederick Hale returned from his tour of duty to work at a United Methodist congregation in Richmond.

But his practice of bringing African-American children to worship services caused friction in the church, so he left. The elder Hale struck up a friendship with a youngster whose grandmother attended St. Paul AME Church in Richmond, and his calling was sealed.

Like his father, William Hale chose African Methodism — but as an outgrowth of a life spent in the all-black denomination.

William Hale grew up a preacher's kid in Richmond, Harrodsburg and Shelbyville. Called to the ministry at age 16,

William Hale preached his first sermon at age 17. He was ordained by the AME Church in 1992. He married his African-American wife, Danna, in 1995.

His first congregation was composed of about 20 women "old enough to be my mother or my grandmother," he said. "They've done a great deal to define who I am in my ministry. I love those people."

Lifelong St. James member Bleuzette Marshall, 27, of College Hill, says that William Hale's abilities have helped him overcome any of the congregation's misgivings.

"I just wanted to make sure the people gave him a chance," Marshall said. "It would truly test people's Christian views if a negative reaction were to result because of race."

"The church is moving on under his leadership," added longtime member William George of Covington.

Greater Gethsemane A.M.E. Zion Church

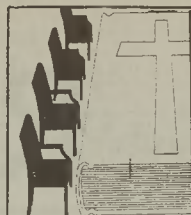
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Church News

Thursday

• Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Chief Dennis Nowicki will lead a discussion on the faith community's response to violence as part of Mecklenburg Ministries' monthly luncheon series. The discussion begins at noon at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 1510 E. Seventh St.

Friday

• Harrisburg United Methodist Church, 4560 Highway 49, will observe the stations of the cross each Friday through April 3 from 3-8 p.m. and on April 10 from 12-8 p.m.

For more information, call 455-2311.

• Simpson-Gillespie United Methodist Church will hold its 1998 Barbecue Friday from 10 a.m.-6 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Dinners and three barbecue sandwich meals are \$6. Delivery available. For more information, call 399-2717.

Saturday

• New Zion Baptist Church, 217 W. Todd St., will honor its first lady, Jessie Robinson, during the first annual "Jessie Robinson Calendar Tea" at 4 p.m. in the church fellowship hall. Music will be provided by Herman Ellis and the Queen City Aires and the FBH Sensations of Mount Holly. For more information, call 399-4181.

• The Statesville District Women's Home and Overseas Missionary Society of the AME Zion Church will present the comedy "The Slabtown District Convention" at McGray Auditorium, 474 North Center St., Statesville. The performance begins at 6 p.m. and will end with the crowning of Ms. Statesville District. Admission is \$7. For more information, call (704) 241-3961.

The First Community Baptist Church, 4236 Glenwood Drive,

will observe the second anniversary of the Rev. Rodney McCorkle. A pre-anniversary concert, featuring the Temple Baptist Church Mass Choir, will be held tonight at 6 p.m. Sunday, the Rev. O.T. McCray of Faith Christian Ministries in Kings Mountain will deliver the 11 a.m. message. Special services will also be held at 4 p.m. featuring the Rev. Anthony Jinwright of Salem Baptist Church, will be the guest minister.

• The Paradise Voices will be in concert at 7:30 p.m. at New St. John Baptist Church, 2000 St. John Church Road.

Sunday

• Services will be held at 8 a.m. and 11 a.m. at New St. John Baptist Church, 2000 St. John Church Road. At 8 a.m., the Rev. Larry Jones will deliver the message. At 11 a.m. the Rev. Robert Leak will deliver the message, "Preparing for the Good Times — The Bad Will Come."

• Friends and Family Day will be celebrated at Shepherd's Fold AME Zion Church, 428 West Blvd. The Rev. J.R. Monrow of St. John AME Zion Church in Raeford, N.C., will be the guest speaker.

• The Men's Choir of Little Rock AME Zion Church, 401 North McDowell St., will be in concert at 5 p.m.

• The West Charlotte High School Gospel Chorus will be in concert at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2020 West Sugar Creek Road at 4 p.m.

Monday

• The Peacemaking Committee of Statesville Ave. Presbyterian Church, 3435 Nevin Road, will hold Lenten Bible Study at 6:45 p.m.

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