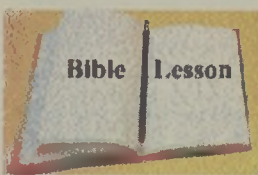


8B

RELIGION



Ready for His return  
I Thessalonians  
4:13-18

The foundation of the New Testament's teaching on Christ's return is God's faithfulness. As things stand, sin and evil are still rampant in the world. Will God abandon his people to this situation? God answers this question with an unqualified no. When Jesus returns, he will bring the final defeat of evil. He will reverse the effects of sin, including death. All of his people, living and dead, will be reunited with him and will remain with him forever.

Assurance of God's Promise (vv.13, 14)

13. Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope.

In Paul's day, it is common to refer to death politely as sleep. This figure of speech is suggested by the similarity in appearance between sleeping people and dead bodies. It does not imply that the dead have no consciousness beyond the grave, what some call "sleep soul." Paul will make clear in verse 14 and in other passages. (2 Corinthians 5:1-10; Philippians 1:20-23).

Paul's remark about grief must be carefully understood. He does not criticize the Thessalonians Christians for the natural sadness that they feel over the death of fellow Christians (cf. Philippians 2:27). Rather, their grief is not to be like that of the pagans, who have no hope of ever seeing their deceased, loved ones again. A Christian's grief is tempered by the assurance that God will reunite them.

14. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

The foundation of this hope is Jesus' own resurrection. By raising Jesus from the dead, God began to fulfill his promise to raise his people from the dead as well (Isaiah 26:16-19). Jesus' resurrection therefore can be seen as a guarantee that God will complete his promise by raising all of his people (1 Corinthians 15:20-23).

Furthermore, Paul says, Christ's resurrection means the defeat of death. It gives us the assurance that he will bring the dead in Christ with him when he returns. Christians who die are with Christ in Heaven and will continue to be with him when he returns.



Pastor Rudolph McKissick Jr. & The Word And Worship Mass Choir  
What A Time  
Troy Sneed, producer  
Emtro Gospel Records

"What A Time" may not be the best title for this CD by the Word & Worship Mass Choir, although it is the best song. There's not enough oomph happening.

Please see WHAT/7B

# Ordered steps for bishop-elect

Jinwright to be consecrated to Episcopacy Tuesday



The Rev. Anthony Jinwright, pastor at Greater Saeim Church in Charlotte, will be consecrated as a bishop by the Episcopal Church Tuesday.

By Cheri F. Hodges  
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For 23 years, the Rev. Anthony Jinwright has been led to save souls in Charlotte. And his passion for the word of God hasn't gone unnoticed.

Jinwright, Greater Salem Church's pastor, will be installed as a bishop Tuesday at the Charlotte Convention Center. The ceremony is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

Being installed as bishop by the Pastors Consortium doesn't happen every day, nor is it an honor Jinwright takes lightly.

"The spirit of the Lord elevated me to this office and man is recognizing it and making it public," he said. Jinwright said he's humbly grateful about becoming a bishop and doing it the right way.

"You have so many people who have the title bishop," he said. "You have someone who starts preaching and then weeks later, they're a bishop."

Jinwright said he believes God is raising men and women to the level of bishop to restore legitimacy to the office.

Jinwright has never been one to seek a higher office, according to those who know him. To become a bishop, other bishops must recognize the pastor, then invite the prospect to go through the necessary training. Then there is also a year-long investigation into the prospect's background.

Jinwright had the qualifications. He has earned several degrees including: bachelor of religious education from Trinity Bible College, master of ministry from Trinity Theological Seminary.

English Standard Version (ESV, Crossway, 2001), a slight reworking of the 1952 Revised Standard Version (itself a reworking of the still-popular King James Version), with "corrections" and updating (no more "thees" and "thous").

Other options include the simplified New Living Translation (Tyndale, 1996) and Good News Bible (American Bible Society, 1976).

The HCSB, ESV and NIV all claim to be accurate yet readable, and were translated by large teams of conservative scholars. The NIV group was committed to "the authority and infallibility of the Bible" and the ESV translators to "the truth of God's Word and to historic Christian orthodoxy."

The HCSB says its people uphold strict "biblical inerrancy," signifying the

Scriptures are totally free of errors in historical details as well as doctrine, morality and spiritual guidance.

One HCSB distinction is militant rejection of gender-inclusive language, to "safeguard the Scriptures from trends toward cultural pluralism, political correctness and drifting theology."

That's a pre-emptive strike against a competitor due next year: an "inclusive" recasting of the NIV called Today's New International Version. Its New Testament section, issued in 2002, was savaged by conservative Southern Baptists and other sticklers on this issue but endorsed by prominent evangelicals.

Despite the HCSB's denominational sponsorship, only half its translators were Baptists and their version isn't particularly baptistic. But there's a Southern Baptist Convention scruple

See ANOTHER/6B

## New Hope's outreach to teens

By Cheri F. Hodges  
cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com

A godly home - and church - can best sway young people from trouble.

At New Hope Missionary Baptist Church on Hawthorne Lane, church administrator Patsy Felton, said it takes everyone to save the youth.

"We're taking the church outside the walls," she said. "We want to be a presence in the community, someone the kids can come to answer questions."

Recent arrests of teenagers for fighting at Eastland Mall and the Charlotte transportation center uptown has people looking at options to give youth other social outlets. Churches are looking into ways to reach out to those teens, who may not be active in the church.

Felton said ministers at New Hope are working on several projects to reach out to young people, which will be up and running by May.

"When you are present in the community, you can draw people into the church," Felton said. However, she said she feels that youth who get into trouble need more than just a church service to show them the right way.

"The church has a role, but it starts with the family," she said. "We have to start teaching parents God's will for the family."

Felton said when teens have a foundation with God; it is easier for them to stand up to peer pressure and stay out of trouble.

Charlotte-area teens have been in the spotlight this year. Police and security forces were called to Concord Mills after young people were involved in a disturbance at the premier of the movie "You Got Served." Then there was the melee at Eastland Mall. A scuffle was reported at the transportation center earlier this month, where one teen was arrested. Another teen was arrested at Eastland Mall after a gun fell out of his pocket in front of an off-duty police officer.

Felton said activities at the church allows young people to make friends with other like minded people and receive the message of God.

Felton said the church plans to start a youth church service, that will not only offer teens a contemporary church service, but will also have activities for teens and children, that include trips to the mall, skating rinks, and other events.

But Felton stresses that having parents who are involved in the church is paramount to keeping children out of situations like those at Eastland Mall.

## Do Christians need yet another Bible written in English? Southern Baptists believe so

By Richard Ostling  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Is this Bible necessary?

That is the question, as the Holman Christian Standard Bible (HCSB) enters the cluttered and competitive market for English translations.

The HCSB is a \$10 million project of the Southern Baptist Convention's publishing arm. (The New Testament portion appeared in 2000.)

Holman says things change so quickly that new Bibles are continually needed, calling this "the first major English-language translation in more than 30 years." That's a surprising fib. Among the versions appearing within the past 30 years, the HCSB's main competitors may be these two, similarly pitched to the huge evangelical Protestant audience:

- New International Version (NIV, Zondervan, 1978), an evangelical best

### CHURCH NEWS

**April 22-24**  
Transfiguration Ministries will hold "Rise, Shine For the Light Has Come" at 2707 Little Rock Road at 7 p.m.

**April 23-25**  
Manna Bread of Life Ministries will host "Empowered Women for the Gospel - We're Not Gonna Play the Game

Anymore." at 2815 Clyde Drive at 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 4 p.m. Sunday.

**April 24**  
Women of Real Destiny will host "Fulfill Your Destiny" at 2707 Little Rock Road at 9 a.m.

Tenth pastoral anniversary

honoring the Rev. Bobby D. Houze & First Family of New Hope Missionary Baptist Church will be held at the Hilton Charlotte at University Place, 8629 JM Keynes Drive.

**April 25**  
New Zion Missionary Baptist Church will hold its Pas-

tor's Aid Anniversary at 3 p.m.

• District III Ushers Day program will be held at 4 p.m. at Saint Luke Missionary Baptist Church at 1600 Norris Avenue.

**April 23-24**  
"Living the Gospel: An Economic Justice Workshop" will

be held at St. Paul Baptist Church, 1401 North Allen St.

**May 1**  
West Asheville Baptist Church and White Dove Chapel are co-sponsoring an evening with Michael Combs. Admission is \$10 and a can food donation.

Please see CHURCH/6B