

5B

RELIGION

Life 1B



Handling rejection

Before Paul reached Corinth on his second missionary journey, he suffered repeated rejection.

He was beaten and jailed in Philippi, chased out of Thessalonica by a riot, forced to flee Berea, and laughed off of Mars' hill by the philosophers in Athens (see Acts 16, 17). When he came to Corinth (Acts 18), he probably was out of money and out of friends. Paul had left his various coworkers along the way to help lead the new churches (Acts 17:14).

In Corinth Paul worked daily as a tentmaker (Acts 18:3) and tried to present the message of Christ in the synagogue every Sabbath (Acts 18:4). Eventually he had to leave that place as well (Acts 18:5-7).

Since Paul faced so much opposition, what should he do? Should he adjust his message to make it less offensive? Should he use more eloquent oratory? Should he try to impress people with his education or his wisdom? It was a crucial point in Paul's ministry. As Paul writes his first letter to the Corinthians, he carefully reminds them which choice he made.

1. What was the likely frame of mind Paul had upon arriving in the city of Corinth? Why?

Upon his arriving into the city of Corinth, Paul may have been somewhat discouraged to hear that the church of Corinth which was founded by him, had much carnality and immaturity. They were more concerned with the worldliness than holiness. Paul had written this letter to the Corinthians in hopes of them taking their eyes off of the world and the culture around them and to follow after Christ who died for their sins.

2. What was Paul's primary focus when he came to Corinth? Why? (vs 2-3)

Paul came to Corinth to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, who paid the penalty for sin on the cross, to those who were notoriously wicked and worldly. Paul came to Corinth after being beaten and imprisoned in Philippi, run out of Thessalonica and Berea, and scoffed at in Athens (Acts 16:22-24; 17:10, 13, 14, 32), so he may have been physically weak. But in that weakness he was most powerful. There were no theatrics or techniques to manipulate people's response. His fear and shaking was because of the seriousness of his mission. There were no eloquent speeches given or fancy words used, just the gospel of Jesus Christ!

3. What types of wisdom was Paul contrasting in this epistle? (vs 5-7)

First, Paul spoke about wisdom. Please see PAUL/7B

Taking fight to HIV



PHOTO/THE STOCK MARKET

Pastor's mission: Change behaviors, stop disease

By Cheris F. Hodges
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A local minister wants to help lead those who are infected with HIV and AIDS.

Churches reaching out to people with HIV and AIDS isn't new, but Bishop Charlie R. Mayes' approach is.

He said that God gave him a vision to help blacks afflicted with HIV and AIDS. His project, Operation Life to Eternal Life isn't just for members of Jesus Christ Holiness Church Outreach, but for the entire community.

In 2004, the HIV diagnosis rate for black men nationally was seven times the rate for whites; twice the rate for Hispanics and nearly twice the rate for black women, the Cen-

ters for Disease Control and Prevention says. Most infections among men result from gay sex, the CDC says.

"This monster has targeted the African American race of people," Mayes said.

"It fell in my heart for the people that have been contracted with this killer disease and I had this urge to go and reach out to them. It appears to me that the churches are not showing enough interest in trying to rescue these victims."

There are precedents. Gay Men of African Descent was started a quarter-century ago by an openly gay Pentecostal minister to support people with HIV and AIDS. Charles Angel hoped to empower black gay

men, who he felt were marginalized by heterosexual blacks and whites. Today the group is mostly government-funded and had revenue of more than \$1.5 million in 2004, according to its tax filing.

GMAD offers free HIV testing and support group meetings and outreach services like mobile testing and condom distribution. It also helps HIV-positive people disclose their status to family and friends.

This is where Mayes' program is different. He's asking those in the program to follow his plan and change their ways.

"I have a four-step plan that the Lord has given me," he said. "They have everything to gain and nothing

Please see PASTOR/6B



Crouch soars on 'Mighty Wind'

Andrae Crouch
Mighty Wind
Andrae Crouch and
Luther Hanes, producers
Verity/Zomba Recordings



Andrae Crouch has suffered with a debilitating disease for a few years but seems to have it under control. He's released a new CD that should help reestablish him as one of the best songwriters in the gospel music.

Crouch seems to have picked up where he left off with "Pray," his last commercially successful CD. He's written or co-written each of the 14 songs and there's not a bad one in the bunch. Crouch's voice isn't what it used to be but he compensates by asking others to do the majority of the singing. Old Friends Tata Vega, Krystal Murden and Howard Smith come along for the ride, but new friends provide the fire.

Crystal Lewis ignites a lot of that fire on "We Give You Glory," a powerful anthem of praise. Lewis soars over choir and orchestra, giving a heart-felt performance that rivals her most recent solo work. Lauren Evans uses her Whitney Houston-sounding soprano to grace "I Will Bless The Lord" and "Yes, Lord." Marcus Cole's fluid tenor is a perfect match for the soothing "Come Home." Karen Clark-Sheard rips through the classic "Jesus Is Lord" as if she's sung it for years. It's now set to an island rhythm that gives Clark-Sheard room to create her own sound. Marvin L. Winans is absolutely wonderful on "All Because of Jesus."

Crouch is effective on the songs he sings. He and Vega open the CD with "I Was Glad," a traditional gospel foot-tapper "Mighty Wind" brings back Howard Smith and introduces Tachina Danielle. It's the perfect way to end this enjoyable work.

Teacher reprimanded for remarks to students

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — A high school teacher who was investigated for a remark about the bible to a student was instead reprimanded for other revealed complaints, including another remark interpreted as racist.

John Fulkerson, who is also a football coach at Karns High School, was placed on indefinite leave after he admitted telling a student in

his health class to "just read your bible."

But an investigation by the Knox County School District found no evidence that Fulkerson's remark violated the district's policy on religious beliefs, human resources supervisor Mary Lou Kanipe said.

Investigators did uncover two other complaints, alleging that he asked a student a racially inappropriate question and raised his voice dur-

ing a parent-teacher conference on the bible remark.

Fulkerson has been cleared to return to work, but a one-page reprimand will remain in his file, Kanipe said.

The reprimand says Fulkerson admitted asking an African-American student if she got her name from "your three daddies."

In the parent-teacher meeting, Fulkerson stood up and raised his voice.

"At that time, the principal

had to instruct you to sit down and lower your voice," the reprimand said.

"During the meeting, I became abundantly aware of how my comments could have been offensive in regard to her religious convictions," Fulkerson said in a statement also to be kept in his file. "For the act of poor judgment on my part, I humbly apologize and faithfully submit that it was unintentional."

Reggae vibe rocks community in the Holy Land

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TSEELIM, Israel — Young Israelis sporting dreadlocks and wool Rastafarian caps rocked to the beat of home-grown Hebrew reggae bands at a recent music festival, a sign of reggae's steadily increasing popularity here.

Kibbutz Tseelim, a tiny community in Israel's Negev Desert, welcomed 1,600 reggae fans to its second annual Spring Festival—an increase of 25 percent over last year.

"In a country like Israel, with all the stress, this music—the message and

the melody—makes people more relaxed," said disc jockey Tal Grubstein, aka Dr. Reggae, who helped run the sound system at the festival. "When these people all get together at a festival like Tseelim, you can feel the vibe. There's no pushing, no aggression, no violence."

Grubstein became a reggae fan in the late 1970s after hearing some imported records while serving in the Israeli army. He soon made a mission of spreading the sound among Israelis. During his years

Please see ROOYD/6B



The "Reggae Redemption Songs" CD, and many others, feature various gospel reggae artist. Look for your favorite artists' CDs as well.

andreae

Ratings

Classic: ☆☆☆☆☆

Excellent: ☆☆☆☆☆

Good: ☆☆☆☆☆

Fair: ☆☆☆☆☆

Why? ☆

No stars — A mess

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline to have your church announcements added to the calendar is noon on Fridays. Fax your announcements to (704) 942-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com.

June 16

Gethsemane Baptist Church, located at 565 Jetton St., Davidson, will host Youth Explosion. This year's theme is "Let's Be A Threat." The event is free and open to the public.

June 17

Male mentors needed! The Aging-Out Ministry will host a Mentoring Workshop for the Brotherhood Ministry at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church (3301 Beatties Ford Road, Charlotte, NC) on Saturday June 17th at

9:00am. For more information please contact Rev. Marian Cooper at mcooper@friendshipcharlotte.org

July 8

Faith CME Church, located at 457 Wellingford St. Will honor the Rev. Vanesse Burns at 6pm at the Best Western-Uptown. There is a \$35 charge for the event. For more details, call (704) 597-8249.

July 9

Shirley Caesar's outreach ministry will host its 34th annual conference through July 14th in Raleigh at the Mount Calvary Word of Faith Church, located at 3100 Sanderford Road.

To register, visit www.shirleycaesar.com. • Faith CME Church will host a special

musical program as a part of the church's pastor appreciation weekend. The event will be held at 4 p.m. The church will be held at 457 Wellingford St.

July 12

The Youth Council of Tabernacle of Faith Church, Inc. will host a youth empowerment conference through July 14th. The events will be held at the Tabernacle of Faith church in Winston-Salem. The New Life Community Church's psalmist Miranda Curtis will speak on Friday. To register, call (336) 785-2805.

July 14

University Park Baptist Church, located at 6029 Beatties Ford Road, will host comic Jonathan Slocumb at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$13

if purchased in advance and \$15 at the door.

July 22

The New St. Luke Church's Youth/Young Adult Ministry will sponsor UNITY in Praise Fest 2006. This an outdoor event that will take place in the Winchester parking lot, 910 Winchester Ave. Rain location: Winchester Gym (across street).

August 5

The Metrolina Baptist Association will host a Women Reaching Women Conference, sponsored by LifeWay. The event will be held at Carmel Baptist Church, located at 1145 Pineville-Matthews Road. For more information, call (704) 847-8575.