

5B

RELIGION



Keeping promises

The word promise is capable of many shades of meaning. A coach might evaluate a young player by saying, "He shows lots of promise." This implies that the player has potential, in the opinion of the coach. Yet sports fans are well aware that many players who show promise never deliver.

Another form of this word may be seen when a person takes out a loan and signs a promissory note. This indicates an agreement to pay off the loan. If the person defaults on the loan, he or she will still be held accountable and may be forced to pay the money back.

This type of promise speaks of obligation, and such obligation may be involuntarily enforced.

Many parents have encountered a third variation on this word when they fail to meet the anticipation of a demanding child. The parent may be confronted with the guilt-inducing complaint, "But you promised!" In this case the word promise takes on the idea of "expectation." A hazard of parenting is the failure to live up to the expectations of one's children!

Potential, obligation, and expectation are three components in the range of meaning for the word promise. But none of these is adequate to describe the biblical concept of promise when applied to God. God always keeps His promises. God's promises are more than potential; they are assurances. God's promises are not simply obligations; they are vows of commitment. God's promises are far beyond expectations; they are declarations of intention. This week's lesson teaches us that God's promise to one man, David, not only blessed David and his descendants but all who find salvation in Jesus Christ. That includes you and me.

Lesson Background (Historic events of Israel and David) During the time of Samuel, a major shift occurred in the history of Israel. Since the death of Joshua in about 1365 b.c., judges had "run the show" in Israel. These were God-ordained leaders who often acted as military leaders or coordinators in times of national crisis. But there was no central government for the people of Israel. The nation of Israel was actually a confederation of the 12 tribes. Participation in national events was dependent upon the cooperation of tribal leaders. The people of Israel finally rejected this style of government and asked Samuel to give them a king. This turning point was a sad day, for God saw this as a rebuff of Him and His rule over the nation (1 Samuel 8:7). Tragically, the people of Israel demanded this and they could be "like all the nations"

Please see KEEPING/8B

Black, white Masons in South struggle with racial separation



PHOOWADE NASH

Prince Hall affiliated Masons are traditionally black and not recognized by white Masons.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIRMINGHAM—Masons, with their white aprons and architectural symbols, are part of an age-old order that preaches fraternity, service and faith. Mozart was a Mason, and so were George Washington and John Wayne.

But in much of the South, the Masonic bonds of the brotherhood are being strained by race. Groups operate in a separate-but-supposedly-equal system in which whites typically join one network of Masonic groups, called Grand Lodges, and blacks typically join another, called Prince Hall.

Masons have quietly debated their interracial relations for years, and the issue is increasingly coming into public view. In Alabama, some dissident whites have split from the lodge system, and Republican Gov. Bob Riley's membership in an all-white lodge has drawn fire in his campaign for a second term. In North Carolina, white Masons recently voted down a bid to recognize members of the black group as fellow Masons.

White-controlled Grand Lodges in 12 Southern states still have not officially accepted black Masons as their brothers—the Masonic term is "mutual recognition"—and, in some cases, blacks have taken similar stands.

"Only the states of the old Confederacy, minus Virginia and plus West Virginia, don't have mutual recognition," said Paul Bessel, a Maryland Mason who wrote a book on the topic. "There are, I'm sorry to say, some Masons who are racists. But the vast majority don't feel that way."

Grand Lodges and Prince Hall groups coexist with few problems and officially recognize each other in 38 states and the District of Columbia, with members free to intermingle and attend each others' meetings. Frank Chandler, a leader of the black Masonic group in Delaware, was happy to see mutual recognition granted in his state last month.

"The importance of it to me is that this is 2006. If we as black folks and they as white folks can't live together, we're got real problems," said Chandler, a retired Delaware state trooper.

But, Bessel said, the separation in the Deep South is entrenched and remains in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida

Please see BLACK/8B



Haddon enough to satisfy

Deitrick Haddon 7 Days Tim & Bob, Deitrick Haddon, producers Tyscott/Verity Records



Deitrick Haddon is an extremely talented individual who baffles me. He's obviously committed to gospel music but he's also determined to do gospel his way or no way at all.

With each release, Haddon pushes the envelope. His CD "Crossroads" featured "God Is Good," which was nothing more than a reworked version of Michael Jackson's "Baby Be Mine."

Haddon's tops that with "7 Days," which is either a brilliant gospel CD masquerading as an R&B recording or vice versa. I'm on the brilliant gospel CD side.

To push his flamboyant style even further, Haddon uses R&B producers Tim & Bob to shape the sound of this CD. It's as radio friendly as any of the stuff that bobs along on urban radio these days. Haddon even uses two easily recognizable samples - Willie Hutch's "I Choose You" and DeBarge's "Stay With Me" - to give this recording instant crossover appeal.

There's nothing wrong with this concept. Kirk Franklin is as commercial as any gospel artist going. But Franklin seems to be a lot better at integrating things.

There's much to like about this CD. Haddon's voice is a bit odd, but fits whatever style he chooses. This is certain aimed at those who normally wouldn't listen to a gospel record "Help Somebody," "Heaven Knows," "Heavenly Father" and "So Good To Be In Love" resonate with urban chic. "Inspiration" is more Prince-sounding than anything Prince has done lately.

If unconventional gospel is what you seek, this may be the ticket. Traditional fans need not apply or even listen.



ALLELUIA Ratings Classic: Excellent: Good: Fair: Why? No stars - A mess

Ministering to young adults and singles

SPECIAL TO THE POST

The faith community must be part of the solution to domestic abuse.

According to Nancy Nason-Clark PhD, "There is a holy hush hovering over most religious congregations when it comes to talking about abuse."

Nason-Clark will speak at Mecklenburg Ministries' Thursday luncheon on the topic, "Shatter the Silence Now!" Nason-Clark is a Professor of Sociology at the University of New Brunswick, and author of several books including, "The Battered Wife" and "No Place for Abuse." For over 20 years, she has been writing about what happens when abuse strikes

families of faith.

Nason-Clark's creation of the RAVE Project (Religion and Violence e-Learning) is based on her desire to shatter that silence in the faith community.

Space is limited, so RSVP When: Thursday, Oct. 26, 2006 Time: 12 - 1 p.m.

Where: Covenant Presbyterian Church, Fellowship Hall, 1000 East Morehead Street

Cost: Lunch costs \$6 for those wishing to purchase a meal RSVP by calling (704) 347-2404 or e-mail: meckmin@meckmin.org

Catholic bishops to vote on guidelines for outreach to gays at national meeting

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

The nation's Roman Catholic bishops said Wednesday they are developing new guidelines for ministry to gays, reaffirming church opposition to same-gender marriage and adoption by the couples, while condemning discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

The draft document encourages parishes to make gays feel welcome and provide them pastoral support, and

notes that many "are ardently striving to live their faith within the Catholic community so as not to fall into the lifestyle and values of a 'gay subculture.'"

But the authors repeatedly state that any such ministries must be led by people who uphold church teaching on sexuality, and assert that Catholic leaders have a right to "deny roles of service" in the church to people who violate that teaching.

"It is not sufficient for those

involved in this ministry to adopt a position of distant neutrality with regard to Church teaching," according to the document. "Love and truth go together."

The proposed guidelines, in development since 2002, will be put to a vote and possibly amended by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops when they meet Nov. 13-16 in Baltimore.

Last year, the Vatican Congregation for Catholic Education issued an "instruction"

stating men with "deep-seated" homosexual attraction should not be ordained. This latest U.S. bishops' proposal focuses on support for gay Catholics, not whether they should become priests.

The document explains the Catholic view of same-sex attraction as "disordered," emphasizing that sexuality was given as a gift from God to draw men and women together to marry and have

Please see CATHOLIC/7B

CHURCH NEWS

The deadline for announcements is noon on Fridays. Fax to (704) 342-2160 or e-mail your announcement to cheris.hodges@thecharlottepost.com. Please put "church news" in the subject line.

Ongoing We Empower Women For Life At Women of The Harvest Bible Study Wednesdays at 6 p.m. at 6636 Suite L Hickory Grove Business Park.

• Steele Creek AME Zion Church, 1500

Shopton Road, will have Bible study from 12 to 1 p.m.

October 29 "The Hour of Power Worship Service" Part 2 will be held at Trinity Park Baptist Church, 9115 Trinity Road, at 4 p.m. The guest speaker will be Rev. Claude R. Alexander Jr., Pastor of University Park Baptist Church.

November 1 Restoration Apostolic Church of Jesus Christ, 201 South Crigler St., will host appre-

ciation services for Apostle Raquel Broadie-Johnson through Sunday. Services begin nightly at 7:30 p.m. and the closing ceremony is Sunday at 11:30 a.m. For more information, call (704) 399-9100.

November 4 Women of Real Destiny will host its annual prayer retreat. The event will be held at Woodman of the World, 1331 Oakdale Road, from 9 a.m.-2 p.m. For more information call (704) 777-1144.

November 5 The Gospel Choir of Steele Creek AME Zion Church, located at 1500 Shopton Road, will have their annual fall concert. The theme this year is "I Need A Church". The concert will begin at 5p.m. Minister of Music Bro. Stanley McCollough.

November 6 The Good Shepherd Baptist Church will hold revival through Wednesday. Services begin

Please see WOMEN'S/6B