

Enjoy The Abundance Of Joy In Jesus Christ

BY: DR. ERIC FAUST
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CHURCH

"Humph! I laughed once, about 15 years ago!" That was the opening line of my Newsletter article one month. Dare we think about laughter in a time of sadness, bitterness, anger, mourning, threats against neighbors.

Have you laughed lately? Have you noticed how many kinds of laughter and laughers there are around us? From snickers and giggles, to great belly convulsing guffaws. Laughter, from a staccato "Ha!" to a rolling stream of "Heh, Heh, heh's. Try one on for size...(Pause for demonstration)...

Think of the time you were caught in that silly and inept moment: you had just lost the battle with your 9 month old, feeding her/him the favorite cream pie with meringue, when the front doorbell rings. You rush from the kitchen through the living room to answer it, and just as you swing the door open you simultaneously glimpse yourself in the reflection in the storm door glass, and your visitor. "Oh Ho! Ah Hah Hahhh!" You can only laugh, your visitor is Mrs. Stuff E. Shirt, who has never had one hair out of place, let alone meringue all over her face, and there you are. Hee, hee, oh me!

Well, there are laughs and there are laughs aren't there?

I remember going into a hospital room on a dreary, gray, misty, foggy day; a day good only for a nice crackling fire in the fireplace, and a cup of soup, and a great book, one of those kinds of days....

Well I went to visit. My parishoner was a man who never enjoyed his illnesses. He was lying there, his face glum, his chin helping to keep his feet warm. The light was turned off, the shades were drawn, the door was closed. It could have been room 1313 in the House of Gloom.

History Program Slated

Mount Pisgah Baptist Church will hold its annual Black History program on Sunday, Feb. 9th, at 6 p.m.

The guest speaker will be retired professional basketball player George Adams of Kings Mountain, who now resides in Gastonia.

The public is invited to come out and support the culture and history of Black America, said Mary C. Hunter, director, and Charles A. Turner, pastor.

Youth Group To Sing Here

The New Beginning Singers, a youth ensemble, from Mars Hill College, will be singing Sunday, Feb. 9th at 11 a.m. at Second Baptist Church, 120 Linwood Dr., in Kings Mountain and then at Allen Memorial, Grover at 7 p.m. the same day.

The ensemble is under the direction of Clay Ollis, a Kings Mountain resident.

The public is invited to attend either of these services.

Mission Program Slated At Dixon

Jim Dickson, a Clover attorney and member of the Clover Mission Group, will speak on the work of former Kings Mountain doctor Kenneth McGill in Zaire at a Witness Season covered dish supper Sat., Feb. 15 at 6 p.m. at Dixon Presbyterian Church.

Dickson and other members of the Clover group have made many trips to Zaire to assist in construction projects at the Bulape Hospital, where Dr. McGill is chief surgeon.

The public is invited to attend.

As I came in, I did not see his shoes or whatever it was that was on the floor, and I tripped. No, it wasn't a crashing trip, it was that kind where you stumble and lurch forward and try to grab on to something. Well I grabbed on to his table, which of course is on those swivel wheels that never go where you want them to go. Instead of stabilizing my fall, it coasted me along. We skimmed the bed. The paper cup and the drink on the table began to teeter; the box of chocolates with those little brown cuppies to hold the individual morsels, began to totter. We



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were headed straight for the, er, well, the in-room facility.

What a sight! The young pulpiteer, collar askew, arms lunging for a better hold, legs flailing in mid air, hands trying to keep the drink from

spilling, and the chocolates from flying, and we all landed in a thumping sprawl. It could have been worse, ...in the, uh, oh my!

I never heard such a noise, after all of the debris settled. The man was nearly gurgling. He started laughing, several varieties at once. I mumbled a few sheepish "har de har's". The head nurse came storming in, her eyes flashing and ready for battle; only she stumbled too. It wasn't nearly as dramatically done as mine, and thank the Lord she didn't land her amplex on me. But she surveyed the scene,

and her soprano guffaws, his gurgling, my Hey, Heh's soon had us all rolling in side-stitches. Oh, it hurts just to picture that hospital room again.

You know what happened? That afternoon was a turning point for my friend. Darkness and dreariness were driven away. Laughter was a surprise gift and a wonderful medicine.

Sarah began to laugh when she learned that she was going to have a baby, and she only 100 years old. She was so surprised, pleased, overjoyed, and amazed, and maybe even a little embar-

raised that she named her baby LAUGHTER (Isaac).

Proverbs has a great way to put it: "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones." (17:22) Jesus spoke of this and called it JOY: "...that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full." John 15:11.

As you receive the surprise gift of God's Grace given in Jesus Christ, enjoy the abundance of joy and let it pour on you and run over and drip down your beard, and splash in your heart, and slosh in your footprints. Be transformed. AMEN.

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