



Joan and Freddie Grigg lead session at Trinity Church of the Living God.

New ministry at KM church gives addicts 'City of Refuge'

By GARY STEWART
Editor of The Herald

A unique ministry at the Trinity Church of the Living God in Kings Mountain is helping people recover from addiction to alcohol, drugs, gambling, pornography, and other behavioral problems.

Known as "City of Refuge," the program is patterned after a similar program that Joan Grigg, wife of Trinity's pastor Freddie Grigg, witnessed several years ago while visiting a church in Florida.

The program has adopted the 12-step recovery process of Alcoholics Anonymous and applies it to all addictive situations. The program uses the Bible to support each step of the process.

However, Mrs. Grigg quickly points out, the program is non-denominational and no doctrine of any denomination is ever talked about or practiced in the meetings.

The group, which is usually small, meets every Monday from 7-8:30 p.m. at Trinity Church of the Living God, located at 119 Kristy Lane behind Rick's Ole Country Store.

"We use the 12 steps they use for Alcoholics Anonymous," Mrs. Grigg noted, "but we make it real general so it's for every kind of addiction."

Each participant receives a booklet detailing the format of the program, responsibility of the individual to make a turnaround, and Biblical references to help them reach that goal. Each session is strictly confidential.

"We use the Scriptures to show that Christ can be the spiritual foundation that can give us deliverance, but we have to walk in the freedom once He's set us free," Mrs. Grigg said.

Numerous members of the

church were trained as leaders of the group, and Mrs. Grigg said members of other churches in the area are invited to become leaders as well. People from all walks of life facing any kind of addiction are invited to attend.

Mrs. Grigg said it's often difficult for people to admit their addiction, and even more so to acquaintances or fellow church members. "You really do better with people you don't know," she said. "People have a hard time coming and expressing what they're going through to people they know."

"Really, you just have to have a compassion for people that are hurting and let them know that while we don't condone the activity it is the kindness of Christ to reach out and help those people."

Even though City of Refuge is just now getting established here, members of the group have already been able to minister to persons facing addictions such as pornography, alcohol co-dependency, sexual abuse and compulsive behavior.

The church has printed numerous brochures and other literature to explain what the program is about, and soon will be erecting a sign on Highway 216 North to direct people to the church.

Six members of the church have already signed up as group leaders, including the pastor and a police officer who through his employment has helped rehabilitate citizens with various addictions.

"We have had several people that were on the verge of committing suicide who needed help and found out there was nothing in the way of spiritual guidance for them," Mrs. Grigg said as one of the reasons for

starting the program. "This program is in no way taking away from the power of God but letting people know that we have a responsibility to walk in the freedom where Christ has set us free."

The program has already seen people delivered from tobacco, drug addiction and eating disorders, Mrs. Grigg said. One participant lost almost everything she had to gambling but now "has her life back on target," she said.

"We stress that we can't deliver anybody," she said. "God delivers them but we can help them make the right choices."

The group conducts its own training courses through the help of materials purchased at book stores.

"There really isn't any place that I know of that trains for this," Mrs. Grigg said. "I wish there was. It's like a new frontier."

"We went to Florida to my aunt and uncle's church and saw how their program operates, and they're having an overwhelming response. I know if we can just get the word out we can help a lot of people too."

Mrs. Grigg stressed that persons with loved ones who are addicted are also welcome to attend the meetings.

"Sometimes they need as much help as the ones that are struggling," she said.

CHURCH BRIEFS

KM First Wesleyan Church youth to sponsor soup kitchen Saturday

The youth of First Wesleyan Church, North Piedmont Avenue, Kings Mountain, will sponsor a soup kitchen Saturday, January 26 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. in the youth building.

Gary Crisp, youth pastor, said approximately 30 young people will be serving a good, home-cooked meal to anyone who is homeless or hungry for any reason.

The youth hope to begin sponsoring a soup kitchen at least once a month, especially in the winter time.

"We just feel like there could be a need for this, especially since the times are like they are," Crisp said.

Clyde Dupin Crusade planning banquet set

A banquet to kick off the 2002 Clyde Dupin Crusade in Kings Mountain will be held January 24 at the H. Lawrence Patrick Senior Life and Conference Center.

Tickets are on sale through local pastors or by calling Reg Alexandria at 839-3838.

Rev. Dupin will speak at the banquet. Award winning saxophonist Donnie Haulk will provide special music.

The Dupin Crusade will be held April 14-18 at Kings Mountain High School.

Dupin's last Kings Mountain crusade was in 1987.

The banquet will be an opportunity for persons who are interested in organizing the crusade to meet with Dupin and share their goals for the revival.

Poor man's supper set at Mary's Grove

A poor man's supper and hee haw show will be held January 25 at Mary's Grove United Methodist Church, 1223 Mary's Grove Church Road, Kings Mountain.

Pintos, potatoes, slaw, cornbread, drink and dessert will be served from 4:30-8:30 p.m. You can eat in or dine out. Call in orders may be placed by calling 435-5544. The cost is a donation to the youth fund.

The hee haw show will begin at 7 p.m. in the fellowship hall. Dinner will still be served as the show takes place. Several local groups and individuals will be featured performing bluegrass music, banjo, flute, country music, comedy and puppets.

The cost is a donation to the youth fund.

The youth of Mary's Grove United Methodist Church will sponsor a Valentine dance and spaghetti supper on Friday, Feb. 15 from 6:30-9:30 p.m. The cost is \$5 and includes the dance and meal.

The youth will go on a scavenger hunt for non-perishable food items on Tuesday, Jan. 29

from 6:30-8 p.m. They will go through the community knocking on doors and asking for food for the needy.

Anyone willing for the youth to come to their house is asked to leave a porch light on or have a candle in the window.

For more information call 435-5544 or 739-7024.

Revival scheduled at Cherryville church

Victory Life Assembly of God, Highway 150 West of Cherryville, will be in revival March 3-6. Services are at 10:45 and 6 p.m. on Sunday and 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

Speaker will be Johnny Whichard. For more information call 435-5539.

Crusade pastors' breakfast is Friday

All pastors in the Kings Mountain area are invited to a Clyde Dupin Crusade pastors' breakfast Friday, January 25 at 8 a.m. at Eat Gold Street Wesleyan Church fellowship building, 701 East Gold Street, Kings Mountain.

Dr. Dupin will be at the breakfast to answer any questions and speak about the cru-

sade, which will be held April 14-18 at the Kings Mountain High School gym.

Pastors planning to attend should call Rev. Eddie Gray at 739-3215.

Ham dinner slated at Grace Methodist

There will be a ham dinner Sunday, January 27 from 12:30-2 p.m. at Grace United Methodist Church in Kings Mountain.

The cost is \$6 for adults and \$4 for children under 12.

The public is invited. All proceeds go to missions.

Saturday, Wednesday services at Resurrection

Saturday night worship service is held the second and fourth Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. at Resurrection Lutheran Church, Kings Mountain.

Holy Communion is celebrated each Saturday. Children accompany the singing with guitar, flute and percussion.

The public is invited.

A mid-week Bible study is held each Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A light meal is provided.

The current study is on the Gospel of John. The Wednesday evening time is also used as a time to pray.

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